

Written statement of a key decision
Marches Joint Committee

Title	Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Transfer Agreement
Decision maker	<p>Marches Joint Committee</p> <p>Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</p>
Date of decision	7 March 2024
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
<p>A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	For the Marches Joint Committee to consider and approve the Marches LEP transfer agreement, following government's decision to transfer all LEP functions to Local Authorities from April 2024.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Marches Joint Committee approve the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Transfer Agreement; b) The Marches Joint Committee delegate to the respective constituent Local Authority's Corporate Director for Economy and Environment/ Executive Directors:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To make any minor amendments in finalising and to sign the Transfer Agreement on behalf of their respective council, ii. To extend the Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to include determining arrangements for ongoing oversight and management of the transferring functions and projects iii. To enter into a further agreement to reflect that the benefit and obligations under the Transfer Agreement are shared equitably between the councils from the Transfer Date based on the principles in paragraph 10 of this report AND provides a framework for future collaboration for economic functions should the Joint Committee require it.
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50047620</p>
Options considered	<p>1. To not agree the Transfer Agreement – following a government decision to transfer LEP functions to Local Authorities in 2023, the Marches LEP is due to cease operations at the end of March 2024. Failure to agree the Transfer Agreement would result in functions not being transferred, significantly disrupting services to businesses and leaving publically funded assets and contracts at risk. This option is not recommended.</p> <p>2. Not to enter into the further agreement – due to the short time frame to avoid the risk of extended negotiations between the councils before the Transfer Agreement is signed, the benefit and obligations will fall on Shropshire only (being the accountable body and signatory to the Transfer Agreement). This has been agreed but on the expectation that a fair sharing of benefits and obligations will be agreed by the councils within 30 days of the Transfer Date.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	13 March 2024

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Leader of the Council (Councillor Jonathan Lester)</p>	<p>Date 7 March 2024</p>
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.