

Written statement of a non-key decision
Cabinet member community services and assets

Title	New Lease Edgar Street Football Ground
Decision maker	Cabinet member community services and assets Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	5 July 2024
Report exemption class	Part exempt
A notice was served in accordance with Part 2, Section 5(2) (Procedures prior to private meetings) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Further notice was served in accordance with Part 2, Section 5(4) of the same regulations.	
Purpose	<p>The purpose of this report is to approve the grant of a new lease for a term of forty years from 1st August 2030, interim arrangements are to surrender part of the existing lease and grant a short term lease until the 31st July 2030 over the Merton Meadow end (northern part) of the site.</p> <p>The new lease arrangements will support the Hereford football club (HFC) in drawing down funding to enable new floodlights to be put up. In addition, the surrender part of the existing lease will facilitate the demolition of the Blackfriars end of the site.</p>
Decision	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A new lease for a term of forty years is granted from 1 August 2030 surrender of part of the existing lease and short term lease at the northern end of the site, in accordance with the agreed key terms in Appendix 2; b) Finalisation of the heads of terms for the new lease, interim arrangements and all operational decisions relating to the above recommendations be delegated to the Director for Economy and Environment in consultation with the cabinet member for community and assets
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at

	http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50048668
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing: This is not recommended as the current length and terms of the existing lease does not allow for HFC to take advantage of external funding opportunities as they become available. There is currently opportunities for funding through the football foundation who require security of a long lease. The length of the new lease confirms Herefordshire Councils commitment to retaining football in the city council and enables long term investment of the remainder of the facilities' 2. Renew lease on the same terms: This is not recommended as the current length and terms of the existing lease is not sufficient to take advantage of external funding opportunities as detailed above 3. Not renew the lease: Although termination will give the council vacant possession of the site, This is not recommended because the council is committed to supporting the retention of football in the county and without an alternative location being identified the decision to not renew the lease would impact the ability of the club to meet the tenure requirements of future funding opportunities as detailed above
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	11 July 2024

Councillor: Cabinet member community services and assets (Councillor Harry Bramer)	Date 5 July 2024
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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.