

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member economy and growth

Title	Merton Meadow Flood Alleviation Scheme
Decision maker	Cabinet member economy and growth 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	23 September 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>
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.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for spend up to £800,000 of the Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) grant fund previously awarded by government for the Merton Meadow sites in Hereford. The grant funding will be utilised to masterplan the area including the detailed flood alleviation design required to enable these key city centre sites to come forward for development
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>a) The Service Director for Economy and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and</p>

	Growth, to be given delegated authority to spend up to £800,000 of the Brownfield Land Release Fund Grant to procure and award a contract to complete the masterplanning and detailed design stage of the proposed Merton Meadow development up to the end of RIBA stage 4 including seeking planning approval for the works.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50049614
Options considered	Not to proceed with the release of the grant to be used for the delivery of the flood alleviation works. This option is not recommended as the council will fail to adhere to the terms of the grant (such as spending the grant by the end of 2025) and thus the grant will be retracted, all monies will need to be returned, and the area will continue to be blighted by flooding and thus no development/regeneration of these key strategic sites will be possible.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	27 September 2024

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member economy and growth (Councillor Graham Biggs)</p>	<p>Date 23 September 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.