

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member finance and corporate services

Title	Household Support Fund 6
Decision maker	Cabinet member finance and corporate services 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	7 November 2024
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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	To accept the Household Support Fund allocation from the Department of Work and Pensions. To also approve the local eligibility approach for allocation of the funding for the Household Support Fund.
Decision	That: a. The Household Support Fund allocation of £1,329,601.78 grant funding from the Department of Work and Pensions for October 2024 to March 2025 is accepted; b. The local eligibility principles for allocation of the funding, as set out in paragraph 8, are approved; c. Application of the principles of local eligibility as set out in this report is approved

	<p>for any further extensions of the Household Support Fund, subject to any additional guidance issued by central government; and</p> <p>d. All operational and budgetary decisions in accordance with the local eligibility criteria regarding this scheme be delegated to Talk Community Lead.</p>
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/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50050006</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to accept the allocation and a local eligibility framework and approach for the Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme. This is not recommended. The HSF is to be used from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025, to support vulnerable households. This is a key decision as the council will be incurring expenditure over £500,000 and it will impact on a significant number of residents within the county. Approval is therefore required for the framework and approach. Without approval, the council will be unable to incur the expenditure of the grant allocation of £1,329,601.78 for Herefordshire 2. To use all the funding allocation exclusively on those identified through means-tested benefits identified through data from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). This is not recommended. The expectation is that the HSF should be used to support households in the most need, particularly those who are not eligible for the other government support recently made available, but who are nevertheless in need. The flexibility of the HSF and the local eligibility framework will enable support to be provided to those on low incomes who do not qualify for means-tested benefits. 3. To use all the funding allocation exclusively on those who are on non-means-tested benefits. This is also not recommended. There may be those on means-tested benefits, who despite the level of support received through the government's cost of living package of support, are vulnerable to rising prices, for example large families with children of all ages, households with a disabled family member or single income families.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency)	13 November 2024

provisions apply)	
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Councillor:	Date 7 November 2024
Cabinet member finance and corporate services (Councillor Pete Stoddart)	

- 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.