

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Corporate Director – Economy & Environment

Title	2025/26 Capital Investment in Managing Ash Dieback in Herefordshire
Decision maker	Corporate Director – Economy & Environment
Date of decision	17 January 2025
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To authorise the spend/ investment in a programme of work in 2025/26 to help ensure the safety of the public by mitigating the Ash Dieback risk in Herefordshire. This decision follows the Council’s resolution at the Full Council meeting of 10 February 2023 to approve the Capital Programme for 2023/24 through to 2026/27.
Decision	That: a) The Capital Investment of £367k in 2025/26 be drawn down for the mitigation of Ash Dieback risk in Herefordshire, removing trees where required. b) Authority be delegated to Delivery Director – Infrastructure to expend the funding and take all operational decisions in delivering recommendation (a) including authorising the procurement of services and award of any associated contracts
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=50050710
Consultation	
Options considered	Not to invest in removing the diseased trees in the county, this has been discounted as the evidence from ongoing surveys have highlighted the issue. The funding is required to ensure the tree stock on the highway networks remain healthy. Enhancing public safety and mitigating risk where and when necessary, will ensure safety for all users of the road network.

Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	23 January 2025

Officer: Date 17 January 2025
Corporate Director – Economy & Environment
(Ross Cook)