

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Shire Hall Phase 2 Refurbishment Work</b>
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: <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</a>
Date of decision	22 April 2025
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	Approval to spend allocated capital budget to deliver phase 2 of the planned Shire Hall refurbishment
<b>Decision</b>	<p><b>a) To approve the drawdown and spend of £1.0m for the purpose of bringing forward phase 2 of the refurbishment work proposed for the Shirehall building; and</b></p> <p><b>b) The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing be authorised to take all operational decisions to deliver the works described in (a) above and to spend within the budgets defined.</b></p>

Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50051073">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50051073</a>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not to invest the identified funding to progress phase 2 of the Shirehall refurbishment. Phase 1 of the Shirehall project is limited in scope to those works essential to the creation and opening of a new Library and Learning Centre facility. Phase 2 represents the next stage in the longer term strategy to properly restore the building. If the investment is not made then further improvements to maximise the performance and use-potential of the building will not be realised and those elements of the building not addressed in phase 1 will continue to deteriorate, with the eventual costs to remedy then being substantially higher. The poor condition of the building would also risk a negative impact on perceptions of the new Library.</li> <li>2. To defer investment until a future date. This would be uneconomic as the deteriorating building along with inflation would make the future cost much higher. Investing now also allows phase 2 to be procured and delivered along with phase 1 with the efficiency savings this allows.</li> </ol>
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	28 April 2025

Councillor: .....  Cabinet member community services and assets (Councillor Harry Bramer)	Date 22 April 2025
--	--------------------

- 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.