

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet member children and young people**

<b>Title</b>	<b>High Needs Budget 2025/26</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member children and young people 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	24 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	To approve the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) high needs budget for 2024/25 as recommended by Schools Forum.
<b>Decision</b>	<p><b>That the Cabinet:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Notes the High Needs forecast outturn position for 2024/25 (as at Q3, December 2024).</b></li> <li>b) <b>Considers the recommendations of the Schools Forum held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (Option 2 for the SEN Protection scheme, &amp; the details in Appendix 3); and</b></li> <li>c) <b>Approves the High Needs Budget of £45.7 million for</b></li> </ul>

	<b>2025/26 noting the funding gap in 2025/26 of £20.2 million (253% higher than the funding gap agreed for 2024/25).</b>
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?IId=50050399">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50050399</a>
Options considered	<p>1. The Budget Working Group (BWG) &amp; Schools Forum have been consulted on the proposed budget plan and options considered are included at Appendix 3. The Children and Families Act (2014) requires the Council to ensure that the needs of pupils are met and the Council is required to adhere to the Department for Education's (DfE) prescribed arrangements for school and Local Authority as set out in regulations.</p> <p>The Budget Working Group (BWG) &amp; Schools Forum have also been consulted on affordability options for the SEN Protection scheme, with Option 2 being recommended by Schools Forum for approval by Cabinet.</p> <p>A Political Group consultation also took place on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 the views of which can be found in the consultees section of this report.</p>
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	30 April 2025

Councillor: ..... Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)	Date 24 April 2025
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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.