

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

Title	Alternative Provision Procurement Framework
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: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	20 August 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 proposals of an Alternative Provision [AP] Framework of commissioned providers to deliver alternative curriculum provision, for children who are not able to attend school and those needing additional support, increasing choice, quality and value for money.
Decision	<p>a) Approval for the establishment of a new flexible framework under the Procurement Act 2023/ Light Touch Regime, to have elements of a common service specification and terms with successful providers who will provide the service</p> <p>b) The framework agreement is split into three lots,</p>

	<p>enabling potential providers to demonstrate how they can meet the council's requirements, needs, and quality measures to deliver successful outcomes.</p> <p>c) There is no contract or contractual obligations or commitment to a single provider. All purchases will be made using call-off contracts for individual children and young people by a referral process to the local authority's Starting Well Broker Team.</p> <p>d) To approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council procures an open framework with multiple suppliers split across 3 lots: Lot 1 Education and Engagement activities, Lot 2 Mentoring and/or Lot 3 Tuition to provide alternative education services. • Cabinet delegates authority to Service Director, Education, Skills and Learning to carry out the procurement and award framework agreements to successful bidders that meet the criteria. • Cabinet delegates authority to Service Director, Education, Skills and Learning to take all necessary operational decisions to deliver recommendations a and b above.
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/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50052349</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option 1 - Do nothing: This option is not recommended as there is a statutory duty to provide this service. 2. Option 2 - Continue to spot purchase: This is not recommended. Continuing to spot purchase with no oversight is not cost effective and risks poor service delivery and lack of quality assurance for each purchase. It would also be a lost opportunity to improve outcomes for children and young people and to develop the market with AP providers. 3. Option 3 - Single provider through a restrictive tender: A block contract is a time limited contract created in advance, which will define the volume of provision for specific activities to the council for a pre-determined and set price. This option is unlikely to provide the diversity of provision and be able to manage demand required. This option is not recommended. 4. Option 4 – Multiple providers through a restrictive tender: This option would involve awarding a number of separate contracts relevant to the different provision categories. This approach, whilst securing knowledge and expertise, could be difficult to ensure full coverage of provision and manage effectively in the event of any changes in needs and demand. As such this option is not recommended.
Declarations of interest (see	

▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	27 August 2025

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)</p>	<p>Date 20 August 2025</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.