

Written statement of a key decision

Cabinet

Title	Annual review of Earmarked Reserves – 2025/26
Decision maker	Cabinet 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	5 February 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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 note and review the earmarked reserves held by the council.
Decision	That: <ol style="list-style-type: none">The earmarked reserves and balances held by the council at 31 March 2025 are reviewed and confirmed as prudent to meet future financial commitments and risks; andThe Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2026/27 is approved and forecast balances to 31 March 2027 are noted.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50053681
Options considered	1. There is no alternative option to undertaking a review. Alternative use of earmarked funds could be proposed, this

	is open for Cabinet to determine. However should that mean that funds required for an earmarked purpose are no longer available an alternative method of funding would need to be secured. Not all earmarked funds may be redirected for use – for example funding received from external sources for a specified purpose may not be able to be redirected if doing so would amount to a breach of funding conditions.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	11 February 2026

Councillor:	Date 5 February 2026
Leader of the Council (Councillor Jonathan Lester)	

- 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.