

Written statement of a budget and policy framework decision

Title	2026/2027 Draft Budget - Revenue
Decision maker	<p>Cabinet on 20 January for recommendation to: Council on 13 February</p> <p>* 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</p>
Date of decision	20 January 2026
Report exemption class	
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with 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 present the draft 2026/27 revenue budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy. The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a Budget and Council Tax in advance of the new financial year. The 2026/27 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30 will be recommended to Council in February 2026
Decision	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approves the 2026/27 draft revenue budget, which includes the key pressures for each Directorate and savings proposals, for consultation with Members, the council's relevant scrutiny committees, business rate payers and the public; and b) acknowledges that the funding assumed in this draft budget is an estimate of expected funding; to be confirmed following publication of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27 expected in February 2026. 2
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50053728</p>

Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is open to Council to recommend alternative spending proposals or strategies; however, given the legal requirement to set a balanced budget, should additional expenditure be proposed compensatory savings proposals must also be identified. If it is proposed to spend less, the impact on service delivery of the proposed reduction should be considered. 2. Council can agree a council tax increase above the referendum principle levels. This is not recommended as doing so would require the increase to be subject to a local referendum, incurring additional costs to the council.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date	<p>Budget and policy framework item</p> <p>Under part 4, section 3 of the constitution, this decision is not subject to the usual call-in procedure as it is a budget and policy framework item and therefore must be decided at a meeting of the full Council.</p>

<p>Councillor:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leader of the Council (Section 9E) (Councillor Jonathan Lester)</p>	<p>Date 20 January 2026</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.