

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet member roads and regulatory services**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Public Realm Services Annual Plan –2026/27</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services 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	10 March 2026
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 confirm the Public Realm Services Annual Plan for 2026/27.
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b> (a) the Public Realm Services Annual Plan is approved as the basis for service delivery to 31 May 2026 by Balfour Beatty Living Places, within the capital and revenue budgets as detailed in Tables 1 and 2 and; (b) the fees and charges as set out in Appendix A of this report are approved and effective from 1 April 2026 and; (c) the Major Contracts Programme Director is authorised to agree, through the new Public Realm Contract governance

	<p>arrangements, the Annual Plan as the basis for service delivery from 1 June 2026, within the capital and revenue budgets as detailed in Tables 1 and 2 and;</p> <p>(d) the Major Contracts Programme Director is authorised to spend the Department for Transport Highway Maintenance Block (Baseline) and Highway Maintenance Block (Incentive) Local Highways Maintenance Funding Allocations for 2026/27 of £23.697m in accordance with the Highway Asset Management Plan and Highway Maintenance Plan and;</p> <p>(e) the Major Contracts Programme Director be authorised to spend the Highways Infrastructure Investment, Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways, Public Rights of Way, Ash Die Back and Play Area Investment Council capital budget of £13.985m as detailed in Table 1 and;</p> <p>(f) the Major Contracts Programme Director be authorised to agree, through the Public Realm Contract governance arrangements, final adjustments to the entire 2026/27 programme, as set out in Appendix B, and budget allocation and any in-year adjustments to the plans, within the overall budget; including the Council capital budget and;</p> <p>(g) the Major Contracts Programme Director be authorised to spend up to £945,000 from ear marked reserves to support the delivery of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme, Parish Public Rights of Way Scheme and Parish Drainage Scheme as detailed in paragraphs 14 and 15 and;</p> <p>(h) the Major Contracts Programme Director be authorised to spend up to £290,678 from the commuted sum reserve to fund the maintenance of public realm assets as detailed in paragraph 17.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50053626">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50053626</a></p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not to approve the programme and delivery arrangements. This is not recommended as operating without approved delivery arrangements may put the management of budgets, performance and contract management arrangements at risk.</li> <li>2. If in-year changes to the service as detailed in this annual plan are required, then these can be best managed from the baseline position established in the annual plan, through the change management processes that are in the Public Realm Services contracts and managed through the council's Highways team.</li> <li>3. To approve alternative delivery arrangements for 2026/27; this option is not recommended as the development of the delivery plans have gone through a robust process with Balfour Beatty Living Places and the council's client team to ensure effective prioritisation and asset management have been applied within the overall budgets available.</li> </ol>
Declarations of interest (see below)	

Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	16 March 2026
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Councillor: ..... Cabinet member Cabinet member roads and regulatory services (Councillor Barry Durkin)	Date 10 March 2026
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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.