

Published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This item is subject to the special urgency procedure. It is proposed to take a key decision on the decision date shown below. It would be impracticable to defer the decision and it is not possible to proceed under the general exception procedure by virtue of the date by which it is proposed to take this decision. The chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee has agreed to the use of the special urgency procedure in this case.

Publication date: 4 June 2020

Issue reference: I50034212

Title	Decision on arrangements for the Discretionary (Covid-19) Business Grant Fund
Purpose of decision	The UK government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy has directed local authorities to operate a Discretionary (Covid-19) Business Grant Fund for businesses and charities that were not eligible for either the Small Business Grant Scheme or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme. This report will look to approve the expenditure of government funding provided for the Covid 19 Herefordshire Discretionary Grant Fund and approve the approach to delivering the Discretionary Grant scheme which will award eligible businesses grants of up to £10,000.
Decision maker(s)	Cabinet member environment, economy and skills 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
Decision due (on or after)	Friday, 12 June 2020
Reason why it is impractical to give 5 days' notice	The Covid-19 situation is having a significant impact on numerous businesses across the county. The council have already distributed a considerable amount of government funding to businesses via the Small Business Grant and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant schemes. the government has awarded the council additional funding to allocate via a grant process to some businesses who were not eligible for the initial funding. the government is expecting councils to be making financial awards to businesses in June and the council are expected to report back to government on the level of grant awards made. There is a clear urgency to support Herefordshire businesses with grant awards to assist in their recovery from the Covid-19 situation, and a similar urgency to demonstrate to government that awards are being made.
Reason for being a key decision	Expenditure and strategic nature / impact on communities

Ward(s)	All Wards
Expected exemption class (see note B below)	Open
Lead cabinet member(s)	Cabinet member environment, economy and skills
Lead director(s)	Director of Economy and Place
Lead officer(s)	Nick Webster, Economic development manager nwebster@herefordshire.gov.uk
Background papers (see note C below)	

Notes

A Key decisions are defined as:-

- (a) Any decision in relation to an executive function which results 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.
- (b) Any other decision which in the opinion of the monitoring officer is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on:
 - two or more wards or electoral divisions
 - one ward (unless the number of those affected is very small or it is impractical to treat this as a key decision)
and having regard to:
 - the strategic nature of the decision
 - whether the outcome will have an impact, for a 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 affected.
- (c) Any substantive decision made by the cabinet to bring forward proposals to council to amend the policy framework (not being subject to call-in).
- (d) Any substantive decision made by the cabinet to amend the policy framework where council has granted the cabinet power to do so (being subject to call-in).

B Expected exemption class:-

- a) For items identified as 'exempt', it is anticipated that the report will contain exempt (confidential) information. In these circumstances, notice is served in accordance with Part 2, Section 5(2) (Procedures prior to private meetings) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that consideration of this item may take place in private because the report may contain exempt information if and so long as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

C Background Papers are defined as:-

Those documents (not including draft documents) other than published works, that:

- a. relate to the subject matter of the report or, as the case may be, the part of the report; and
- b. in the opinion of the proper officer:
 - (i) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
 - (ii) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the report.

Copies of background papers may be inspected on the council's website and at the customer services centres, during their normal opening hours, at:

Hereford: Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford HR1 2LX

Bromyard: 1 Cruxwell Street, Bromyard, HR7 4EB

Kington: 64 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ

Ledbury: The Master's House, St. Katherines, High Street, Ledbury, HR1 1EA

Leominster: Leominster Library, 8 Buttercross, Leominster, HR6 8BN

Ross-on-Wye: Ross Library, Cantilupe Road, HR9 7AN

Other documents relevant to the decision may be submitted to the decision maker. Copies of these may be inspected on the council's website and at the customer services centres above. There may be a charge for posting, copying or other necessary charge for transmission in respect of any hard copies requested.