

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

This item is subject to the general exception procedure. It is proposed to take a key decision on the decision date shown below. It would be impracticable to defer the decision. This notice has been issued to the chairman of the relevant scrutiny committee.

Publication date: 13/03/26

Issue reference: I50054467

Title	Digital financial platform for the Crisis and Resilience Fund
Purpose of decision	To seek cabinet member approval to implement a compliant digital financial platform to effectively deliver the Crisis and Resilience Fund, enabling a 'cash first' approach to financial support for Herefordshire residents experiencing financial shock, and ensuring compliance with DWP requirements.
Decision maker(s)	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 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)	Wednesday, 25 March 2026
Reason why it is impractical to give 28 clear days' notice	An exemption from the standard 28-day notice period is requested on the grounds of urgency to enable the implementation of the e-voucher platform required to administer Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) payments from 1 April 2026. This will ensure the council can deliver timely cash-first financial support to residents in financial hardship and meet Department for Work and Pensions delivery requirements.
Reason for being a key decision	Strategic nature / impact on communities
Ward(s)	All Wards
Expected exemption class (see note B below)	Open
Lead cabinet member(s)	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
Lead director(s)	Corporate Director - Community Wellbeing
Lead officer(s)	Nikki Stroud, Talk Community Children and Families Lead nikki.stroud@herefordshire.gov.uk

Background papers (see note C below)	
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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. Katherine's, 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.