

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	WEST MERCIA ADOPTION BUSINESS CASE
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, RB Hamilton, PM Morgan, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, PD Price (Deputy Leader).
Date of Decision:	Thursday 19 September 2013
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
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.	
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.	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to explore the potential of a West Mercia collaboration for the delivery of Adoption Services in Herefordshire.
Decision:	THAT: (a) the key objectives and outcomes of the project be approved; (b) the potential options for the new service be noted; and (c) delegated authority be given to the Director for Children's Wellbeing to explore the opportunity to establish a shared adoption service across Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire and Shropshire
Reasons for the Decision:	The overall aim of the project is to develop a single West Mercia Adoption Service which delivers a more efficient and effective service to a wider range of children. The recommendation at this stage is to agree that Herefordshire pursue this, working collaboratively to reach consensus about the best option to deliver the services across the region.
Options Considered:	Herefordshire could continue to operate their own Herefordshire Council Adoption Service. The service is currently operating well

	<p>and delivering good outcomes for children. Its last inspection judged the service to be good with outstanding features. However, this is a very small service with limited opportunity to make efficiency savings due to the scale of the operation. There is a need to develop more innovative approaches for hard to place children which may be more fruitfully pursued regionally.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):</p>	
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>27 September 2013</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSONDate: 19 September 2013 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</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 by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.

<p>To be completed by officer:</p>	
<p>Date consent received from Chairman of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in:</p>	<p>This Decision was not called in</p>
<p>Was the decision modified?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:</p>	
<p>If no any comment(s) to be noted</p>	
<p>Date original decision took effect:</p>	<p>27 September 2013</p>