

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	WITHDRAWAL OF ARTS COMMISSIONING GRANTS
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, J Millar, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), GJ Powell, PD Price.
Date of Decision:	23 January 2014
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on-</p> <p>Two or more Wards or electoral divisions;</p> <p>One Ward (unless the number of those affected is very small or it is impractical to treat this as a key decision).</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To approve the withdrawal of the Arts Commissioning Grants to external organisations from 2014-15.
Decision:	THAT: the payments of Arts Commissioning Grants made by Herefordshire Council to external arts organisations are withdrawn from April 2014
Reasons for the Decision:	To make a saving of £65,296 in 2014-15 to support the corporate financial strategy and enable Council resources to be focussed on priority services.
Options Considered:	<p>The payment of Arts Commissioning Grants is continued.</p> <p>The Council's financial position is such that, to enable essential services for its most vulnerable residents to be maintained, it must reduce both the range and the level of services provided to the minimum necessary whilst meeting statutory requirements, unless there are clear reasons to do otherwise.</p> <p>If the Arts Commissioning Grants are not withdrawn the Council will have to make further reductions elsewhere in its service provision.</p> <p>The payment of Arts Commissioning Grants are continued but at a reduced level, for example a 50% decrease in the total funding available for 2014-15, reducing to zero funding by end of 2015-16. This would enable organisations to plan for adjustments to</p>

	<p>their funding and to mitigate the impact on their activities.</p> <p>In relation to the potential disproportionate impact upon groups with Protected Characteristics an option would be to maintain 50% of the funding and commission it to organisations which focus their activity on these groups.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):</p>	
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>29 January 2014</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSONDate: 23 January 2014 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.