

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing

Title	Education and Skills Funding Agency Grant for Adult and Community Learning
Decision maker	Cabinet member young people and children's 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
Date of decision	18 August 2017
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)	Yes
Purpose	To approve the acceptance of grant funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the delivery of the council's adult and community learning plan. To ensure effective spend of the ESFA grant against relevant government and Herefordshire Council priorities, the report proposes delegating authority to the Director for Children's Wellbeing to complete the contractual arrangements needed to accept the funding and to do so in future years that this grant funding remains available. All funds received will be directed to meet the priorities in the council's adopted Adult and Community Learning Plan, utilising providers on the council's established framework and in accordance with any grant conditions

	which may be set nationally. See Annex 1 ESFA funding allocation letter.
Decision	That (a) the ESFA grant of £509,945 for the delivery of adult and community learning for the academic year 2017/2018 be accepted; and (b) the Director for Children’s Wellbeing be authorised to complete the necessary contractual arrangements in order to access the ESFA adult and community learning grant in 2017/18 and in future years.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50022928
Options considered	The council could choose not to accept the funding. This option is not recommended because the use of external funding enables the council to continue to successfully deliver adult and community learning across Herefordshire as per the council’s Adult and Community Learning Plan 2015 – 2018, approved by Cabinet on 15 October 2015. There is also no guarantee that this funding would be reallocated to another provider in Herefordshire and could result in a loss of £509k per academic year to invest in funding education and training provision in our most deprived wards and with our most disadvantaged residents. It would also mean a loss of funding to sub-contractors, the majority of whom are local voluntary and community organisations, which in turn would lead to job losses. Furthermore there would be associated redundancy costs to the council.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	25 August 2017

Councillor:	Date 18 August 2017
Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing (Councillor JG Lester)	

- 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.