

Written statement of a key decision

Cabinet member housing, regulatory services, and community safety

Title	Empty Property and Development Capital Budget
Decision maker	<p>Cabinet member housing, regulatory services, and community safety</p> <p>Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</p>
Date of decision	4 August 2021
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>
<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.</p>	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	<p>To approve the Empty Property and Development Capital Budget allocated to Strategic Housing.</p> <p>The grant funding will be made available to enable housing solutions to be found to meet the identified needs of vulnerable households and to provide grant assistance to property owners to bring their empty property back into</p>

<p>Decision</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>(a) the Empty Property and Development Capital Budget of £1.8m is approved</p> <p>(b) Authorisation to expend this budget and make grant awards be delegated to the Director for Economy & Place in accordance with the priorities listed in table 1, following consultation with relevant cabinet members and the Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>(c) Authorisation to expend this budget on council led schemes be delegated to the Director for Economy & Place in accordance with the priorities listed in table 1, following consultation with relevant cabinet members and the Chief Finance Officer; and</p> <p>(d) Authority to be delegated to the Director for Economy & Place to amend the allocation of the budget between the identified priority needs in table 1 to best meet housing needs within the overall budget allocation, subject to consultation with the cabinet member and S151 Officer.</p>
<p>Reason for the decision</p>	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50034941</p>
<p>Options considered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing. This is not recommended as the council has a statutory duty to house those who are homeless. 2. Not approve the grant, this would be in conflict with the council's County Plan 2020 – 2024 and the Corporate Delivery Plan 2020- 2022 to bring empty properties back in to use and increase the numbers of affordable accommodation. 3. Utilise the grant to support the delivery of 2500 council owned properties, however, this will not meet the identified needs of immediate vulnerable individuals who require a solution to either their exiting property or require a housing solution immediately.
<p>Declarations of interest (see below)</p>	
<p>Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)</p>	<p>10 August 2021</p>

Councillor:

Date 4 August 2021

Cabinet member housing, regulatory services,
and community safety (Councillor Ange Tyler) /

- 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.