

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	Herefordshire Children's Services Transformation
Decision maker	Cabinet 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	31 March 2022
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)	No
Purpose	<p>To request the drawdown from the Financial Resilience Reserve, a total of £11.49m to support the ongoing delivery of the Children's Services Improvement Plan.</p> <p>This further investment will build on and maintain the pace of improvements already delivered in 2021/22 and provide the foundations for a more secure and resilient service for the future. This funding is recommended to be allocated in two tranches, with £5m in tranche one from April 2022 and a further £6.49m from July 2022 when detailed progress against plans will also be reported.</p> <p>The staffing resource asked for equates to an additional 122.75</p>

	FTE (2022/23) reducing then to 82 (2023/24) followed by further monitoring and review, against a currently approved base budget of 429 FTE (2021/2022).
Decision	<p>This decision approves the drawdown from the Financial Resilience Reserve, a total of £11.49m to support the ongoing delivery of the Children's Services Improvement Plan.</p> <p>This further investment will build on and maintain the pace of improvements already delivered in 2021/22 and provide the foundations for a more secure and resilient service for the future. This funding will be allocated in two tranches, with £5m in tranche one from April 2022 and a further £6.49m from July 2022 when detailed progress against plans will also be reported.</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <p>a) The drawdown of up to £11.49m from the Financial Resilience Reserve, in two tranches as laid out above, is approved to support resourcing the transformation stage of children's services; and</p> <p>b) Cabinet note the increased base budget requirement for 2023/24 onwards.</p>
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=50040856
Options considered	1. Cabinet could decide not approve the drawdown from the Financial Resilience Reserve. This option is not recommended as the increased capacity put in place during 2021/22 and improvement made in this period could not be sustained and the ability to deliver services would be seriously compromised.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	6 April 2022

Councillor:	Date 31 March 2022
Leader of the Council (Councillor David Hitchiner)	

- 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.

