

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Energy Rebate Discretionary Fund</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</a>
Date of decision	26 May 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	To approve the Energy Rebate Discretionary Funding scheme and the criteria for the allocation of the funding.
<b>Decision</b>	<p><b>a) The Energy Rebate Discretionary Fund scheme and the criteria for the allocation of the funding is approved; and</b></p> <p><b>b) That all operational and budgetary decisions regarding this scheme be delegated to the director of resources and assurance.</b></p>
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at

	<a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50040984">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50040984</a>
Options considered	<p>1. Not to approve criteria for the Energy Rebate Discretionary Fund scheme. This is not recommended. If the allocation criteria were not approved and published then the discretionary funds would not be able to be distributed and the funds would need to be returned to government.</p> <p>2. To target households in fuel poverty and living in low energy efficient properties. This was considered but rejected, as it would require an application process with potentially at least 14,000 households eligible. Feedback from similar schemes indicates that an online application process is not straightforward, and may not benefit the most disadvantaged. It is also more costly to administer. If payments are made of £150 per household these would need to be made on a first come first serve basis which again raises concerns that those who are more disadvantaged may not benefit. If it was felt to be more equitable to make awards on the basis of the number of potential households which fall into this category, awards would need to be capped initially at £25.</p> <p>3. To target low-income households (residents on universal credit with income below free school meal entitlement / free prescription level). This was considered but rejected, as again it would require an application process with the same issues as above. It is also reliant on data from Department of Works and Pensions, which has some limitations in practice, which adds to the complexity of the application process. Therefore, whilst approximately 6,000 households would meet the qualifying criteria, there is a high administrative burden and may not benefit the most disadvantaged.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	1 June 2022

Councillor: ..... Leader of the Council (Councillor David Hitchiner)	Date 26 May 2022
---	------------------

- 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.