

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Spend the accepted Stronger Towns Funding for Library and Learning Resource Centre</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets 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	23 January 2023
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 acceptance of the Stronger Towns £3m funding, and to approve the full expenditure of £3.5m related to the completion of the design stage of the project, the appointment of a Design and Build contractor following procurement, and the implementation of the library and learning resource centre project.
Decision	<b>That:</b> <b>a) To accept the £3m (capital) of Stronger Towns funding offered by government,</b> <b>b) To approve the full £3.5m of expenditure required to complete the design stage and implementation of the library</b>

	<p>and learning resource centre,</p> <p><b>c) Authority is delegated to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Deputy Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member Commissioning, Procurement and Assets, to make all operational decisions required to complete the design stage of the project, appoint a Design and Build contractor following the conclusion of the procurement process, and to implement the delivery of the library and learning resource centre project</b></p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50043299">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50043299</a></p>
Options considered	<p>1. Not to progress the project, or implement the decision to spend in relation to funding which has been awarded to Herefordshire Council by Stronger Towns. This would mean the significant economic challenges identified in the Hereford Town Investment Plan would not be addressed.</p> <p>2. The project is scaled back to a reduced funding envelope. It is unlikely the scale of change required could be achieved from a project so significantly reduced in scale.</p> <p>3. The council could seek alternative funding. The council has already approved the submission of the Stronger Towns business case and funding has been awarded. In addition, the council has amended the capital programme and approved a £0.5m funding contribution from capital receipts reserve. No other funding routes of the scale required are available at this time.</p>
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	27 January 2023

<p>Councillor: .....</p> <p>Cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets (Councillor Gemma Davies)</p>	<p>Date 23 January 2023</p>
--	-----------------------------

- 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.