

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member environment and economy

Title	Marches Energy Grant (formerly Clean Growth Marches Programme)
Decision maker	Cabinet member environment and economy 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	11 April 2023
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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	This report seeks to approve external allocations for the implementation of the Marches Energy Grant (formerly the Marches & Worcestershire Clean Growth Programme); which will be delivered in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as the lead partner. This programme is set to replace the outgoing Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) and the completed Marches Renewable Energy (MarRE) programme.
Decision	That: a) Herefordshire Council becomes a partner in the Marches Energy Grant Programme (formerly the Marches & Worcestershire Clean Growth Programme) with the partnering authorities, led by Worcestershire County Council as the Managing Authority; b) The Council as a partner of the programme, accepts the grant allocation of £525,000 to be held by Worcestershire County Council, from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership to implement the Marches Energy Grant; c) Utilise the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation £176,333

	as match funding to the Marches Energy Grant; d) Delegate all operational decisions relating to the implementation of the Programme to Interim Service Director Highways and Transport.
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=50043451
Options considered	1. Not to participate in the programme. This is not recommended as it will not result in the provision of business assistance, technical support and capital grants to Herefordshire. This assistance will support businesses increase competitiveness, to minimise their utility costs and to reduce their carbon emissions. This will result in a risk of not achieving the council's strategic objectives within the Core Strategy, Carbon Management plan, Marches LEPs Energy Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan. 2. Not to utilise the dedicated Climate Reserve to match fund the programme should the UKSPF allocation not materialise. This would place an unbudgeted risk on the council as the UKSPF allocations are yet to be confirmed by central government. This would result in both reputational risk as the council would be forced to leave the Programme and financial risk as the match funding requirement becomes a revenue pressure.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	17 April 2023

Councillor:	Date 11 April 2023
Cabinet member environment and economy (Councillor Ellie Chowns)	

- 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.