

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	Review of New Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre Location
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	20 July 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 present the outcome of the Review of Potential Locations (Appendix 2) for the Library and Learning Centre and to recommend a preferred option for consideration by Cabinet.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>a) Cabinet agree that following the strategic review conducted the preferred new location of the Library and Learning Centre is the Shirehall;</p> <p>b) The decision to relocate the Library and Learning Centre to the Maylord Orchards site is paused during the</p>

	<p>development of a Full Business Case for the Shirehall proposal;</p> <p>c) A full business case for the Shirehall development to be progressed (to include the library works and all enabling works) and reported back to Cabinet in October 2023 where these will be considered against existing plans for Maylord Orchards; and</p> <p>d) Delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Assets to take all operational decisions (within a to c above) and as is necessary to develop the Full Business Case, and to submit the Project Adjustment Request to the Hereford Towns Board and the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), if required.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50045388</p>
Options considered	<p>1. Cabinet could consider one of the alternative sites, including the existing proposal to relocate the Library and Learning Centre to Maylord Orchards, set out in the appended review document. This is not recommended. Following the review a preferred location, Shirehall is considered to represent a stronger case for investment when considered against the criteria applied to all of the locations considered. The supporting evidence is set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>2. Cabinet could decide to not proceed with the project to relocate the city library. This is not recommended as the library relocation is necessary to allow the Hereford Museum & Art Gallery (HMAG) project to proceed. The HMAG project will provide a valuable world class museum to the city of Hereford which will increase the footfall, support economic growth and help increase skills levels within the county. If the library relocation was not to proceed the funding already secured for HMAG would be lost.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	26 July 2023

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Leader of the Council (Councillor Jonathan Lester)</p>	<p>Date 20 July 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.