

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	Transition of Functions from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
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	26 October 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 establish required arrangements to transition functions from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to commence from April 2024, following government's announcement in August 2023 that they will no longer provide funding to LEPs with functions to be alternatively led by Local Authorities.
Decision	a) That a Joint Committee is established with Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council to (i) oversee, manage and distribute the assets, functions and responsibilities of the Marches Enterprise Partnership during the transition period and (ii) exercise executive functions as required to enable the transition of LEP functions.

	b) Delegate to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to agree the final Terms of Reference with partner councils.
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=50046341
Options considered	As per the letter from government (Appendix 1), the councils could ask the LEP to continue to deliver the identified sub-regional functions. However, as per the letter from the three Leaders of the respective councils (Appendix 2) to the LEP Board this is not considered to be the most efficient and effective route to engaging and supporting businesses locally. This option is not recommended.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	1 November 2023

Councillor:	Date 26 October 2023
Leader of the Council (Councillor Jonathan Lester)	

- 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.