

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member community services and assets

Title	Shirehall Phase 1 Refurbishment Work and Care Leavers Base
Decision maker	Cabinet member community services and assets 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	21 February 2024
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 allocation and expenditure of £3.1m approved in the capital programme to bring forward phase 1 of a proposed refurbishment programme for the Shirehall and to secure enhancements to the adjacent Care Leavers Base
Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To approve the expenditure of £3.0m for the purpose of bringing forward phase 1 of the refurbishment work proposed for the Shirehall building and £0.1m to secure improvements and enhancements to the existing Care Leavers Base, as approved in the current 2023/24 capital programme; and b) The Director for Resources and Assurance be authorised to take all operational decisions to deliver the projects

	described in (a) above and to spend within the budgets defined.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50047471
Options considered	Alternative options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to invest in refurbishment of the Shirehall. The building is in poor and worsening condition, and falls short of both the practical and statutory standards necessary for safe use and occupation. If no investment is made then the condition will continue to deteriorate and the eventual cost to remedy will be higher, while maintenance and upkeep costs will continue, but with no corresponding value from the built asset in use. The parallel project to install a new Library and Learning Centre in the Shirehall under the Stronger Towns grant programme would not be able to proceed, and the council would be seen as failing in its obligations as custodian of an important historic and listed building. 2. Not to invest in the improvements to the Care Leavers Base. This facility plays a key part in supporting the council's commitment to Corporate Parenting by supporting Care Leavers and is viewed as investment which will improve the offering for this important area of work.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	27 February 2024

Councillor: Cabinet member community services and assets (Councillor Harry Bramer)	Date 21 February 2024
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- 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.