

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget

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| Title | Framework agreement for the provision of children's legal advocacy |
| Decision maker | Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget 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 | 29 February 2024 |
| 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 | The purpose of this report is to seek authority to award a framework contract governing the use of solicitor agents and barristers in the future. |
| Decision | That: a) Authority is delegated to officers to progress a tender exercise for a framework contract for the provision of children's legal advocacy work; and b) The award of contracts to successful suppliers is delegated to the Director of Governance and Law |
| 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=50047486 |
| Options considered | The council could decide not to proceed with this framework agreement and continue with current arrangements which involves |

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| | securing 3 quotes from chambers and solicitor agents for specific pieces of work or hearings. This is not recommended as the sums of money being paid to certain suppliers can be substantial over a year. A more robust procurement process is required to ensure the council has undertaken proper due diligence checks on its regular legal suppliers. |
| Declarations of interest (see ▪ below) | |
| Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply) | 6 March 2024 |

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| Councillor: | Date 29 February 2024 |
| Cabinet member corporate strategy and budget/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.