

**Supplement to the agenda for**

# **Council**

**Friday 13 July 2018**

**10.00 am**

**The Council Chamber - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square,  
Hereford, HR1 2HX**

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**Please note that the wrong version of Chief Executive's Announcements were published with the agenda. Please now find below the correct version for full Council on 13 July 2018**

**Chief Executive's Announcements – 13 July 2018**

- We have appointed 2 care leavers into new Adults Wellbeing apprenticeships as part of our commitment to corporate parenting.
- Website launch for Care Heroes on 16 July - raising the profile and targeting the recruitment of care workers across the care sector.
- Herefordshire Council's model of adult social care is receiving wider recognition for its work: a production company will soon be creating a film for universities to use as an example of great social work practice, tackling the issues around an ageing population.
- The council launched its budget consultation on 5 July, which will run until 21 September, allowing plenty of time for residents and businesses to have their say on how the council should budget for 2019/20.
- Over 8,500 people visited the council's Home Front Herefordshire campaign, thanks to a significant contribution from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This campaign, which ran from 14 March to 29 April 2018, commemorated the county's significant contribution to the war effort during the First World War.
- Herefordshire Council has won the top national prize at the Connected Britain awards in London, taking the Superfast award for Fastershire, recognising the progress made in Herefordshire towards optimum full fibre provision. Just over 85% of premises in the county can now order fibre broadband from a position of less than 1% in 2012. The coverage is set to continue with the second phase of delivery to be one of the most fibre connected counties in the country.
- The council's website has retained an overall 4 star rating, one of only six English unitary authorities to achieve a 4 star Better Connected rating. Better Connected is an independent annual audit of council websites, with websites being ranked overall 1 to 4 stars, with 4 stars being the best.
- On 28 June the Council formally entered into legal agreements with two developers, Engie Regeneration Limited and Keepmoat Homes Limited, to deliver the council's Development and Regeneration Programme within the county over the next 10 years and potentially beyond.
- Following a successful trial in 2017, the council's public meetings are now even more accessible with the introduction of live audio streaming. Once a public meeting closes, the streaming converts into 'audio minutes' and are available for people to playback at their convenience.
- In 2017, 86.3% of young people in Herefordshire achieved level 2 qualifications by the time they reached 19 years of age - exceeding the England average of 83.6%, and ranking 30 nationally, this placed Herefordshire in the top quartile of all LA's nationally. 57.9% of Herefordshire's young people were qualified to level 3 in 2017, again exceeding the England average, and up on 2016.
- For pupils eligible for Free School Meals the attainment gap has narrowed significantly: in 2017 the level 2 attainment gap in Herefordshire fell to 15.7% –

sharply down from 24% in 2016 and well ahead of the England average of 20.1%. Herefordshire is now ranked 31 nationally and in the top quartile for this measure.

- The attainment gap at level 3 for pupils eligible for Free School Meals also fell significantly, from 32.9% in the previous year, to 23.9% in 2017. The gap across England was 25.2%. Herefordshire was ranked 50 nationally and in the second quartile.
- In recent months, we have experienced an increase in the number of children who are looked after. The council is meeting the needs of some large sibling groups and children who have come into our care due to long term neglect. We are evaluating what more we can do to support children, young people and families before the need for the courts to agree to the council looking after the children. As part of this we have recently established a direct link with Staffordshire to learn from their approaches.
- We were inspected by Ofsted from 4 June to 22 under the new Inspection of Local Authority Children Services framework, introduced in 2018. Herefordshire is one of the first local authorities to be inspected and the report will be made public on 23 July 2018. The verbal feedback we received during and at the end of the inspection has been detailed, comprehensive, and assists the directorate on its improvement journey. Ofsted have recognised both positives and weaknesses, overall broadly matching our self-evaluation. Ofsted have given us a period of time to demonstrate improvement and they will be coming back fairly soon as the inspection framework anticipates regular visits by Ofsted.
- I'm very pleased to announce that Lisa Fraser has taken up the post of Assistant Director, Education, Development and Skills for 12 months and Liz Elgar joined us from 4th June as our permanent Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Family Support

**Capital Programme Update**

**Correction to recommendation (f)**

The recommendation published with the original Capital Programme Update report quoted incorrect paragraph numbers. The corrected recommendation is provided below:

- (f) the changes set out at paragraphs 37 and 38 to funding streams for Ross Enterprise Park and Childrens Wellbeing projects and adjustments across directorate projects with an overall reduction of £476,000 be approved;**

