

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member Infrastructure and transport

Title	West Midlands Rail Ltd - proposed governance change
Decision maker	Cabinet member Infrastructure and transport 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	14 December 2020
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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 agree the Council's response to proposed changes in the governance of West Midlands Rail Limited (WMRL) and make a decision as to whether to support those changes.
Decision	That the Cabinet member: (a) Supports the changes to the governance of WMRL set out in this report and: (b) Instructs the Council's representative to vote in favour of the amendments to the company's Articles of Association as set out in Appendix B at the Extraordinary Meeting of the company on 19 January 2021 (or such other alternative date fixed for that purpose)

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=50035817
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six alternative options have been reviewed by the West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) to seek to address governance issues and political accountability. These are set out in Appendix A to this report and includes commentary of the benefits and dis-benefits of each option. The WMRE has confirmed a preferred option – the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority chairs the West Midlands Rail Limited Board with no voting powers or directorial position. 2. The cabinet member does not support the changes proposed to the WMRL governance. This is not recommended as the proposed changes would increase the likelihood that WMRL will not be able to successfully lobby DfT for greater powers and funding. In addition, the proposal includes proposals which will retain the balance of interests between rural partners (such as Herefordshire) and the metropolitan partners through the creation of two more powerful Vice Chair roles one of which will be allocated to a rural county.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	18 December 2020

Councillor:	Date 14 December 2020
Cabinet member Infrastructure and transport (Councillor John Harrington)	

- 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.