

Economy, Communities and Corporate

Geoff Hughes - Director

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Our Ref: Council - 15 July 2016

Please ask for: Tim Brown

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7 July 2016

Dear Councillor,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the meeting of the Herefordshire Council to be held on **Friday 15 July 2016** at the Council Chamber, The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX at **10.00 am** at which the business set out in the attached agenda is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely

C Ward

**CLAIRE WARD
DEPUTY SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL PEOPLE AND REGULATORY**

AGENDA

Council

Date: **Friday 15 July 2016**

Time: **10.00 am**

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

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

Governance Services

Tel: 01432 260239

Email: councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk

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Agenda for the Meeting of the Council

Membership

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Councillor DB Wilcox

Councillor PJ McCaull

Councillor PA Andrews
Councillor JM Bartlett
Councillor TL Bowes
Councillor CR Butler
Councillor MJK Cooper
Councillor PGH Cutter
Councillor PJ Edwards
Councillor DW Greenow
Councillor J Hardwick
Councillor EPJ Harvey
Councillor JA Hyde
Councillor AW Johnson
Councillor JLV Kenyon
Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes
Councillor RI Matthews
Councillor MT McEvelly
Councillor PM Morgan
Councillor FM Norman
Councillor RJ Phillips
Councillor AJW Powers
Councillor P Rone
Councillor A Seldon
Councillor WC Skelton
Councillor D Summers
Councillor LC Tawn
Councillor SD Williams

Councillor BA Baker
Councillor WLS Bowen
Councillor H Bramer
Councillor ACR Chappell
Councillor PE Crockett
Councillor BA Durkin
Councillor CA Gandy
Councillor KS Guthrie
Councillor DG Harlow
Councillor EL Holton
Councillor TM James
Councillor JF Johnson
Councillor JG Lester
Councillor MN Mansell
Councillor RL Mayo
Councillor SM Michael
Councillor PD Newman OBE
Councillor CA North
Councillor GJ Powell
Councillor PD Price
Councillor AR Round
Councillor NE Shaw
Councillor J Stone
Councillor EJ Swinglehurst
Councillor A Warmington

AGENDA*(The meeting will be preceded by prayers.)***Pages**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
	To receive apologies for absence.	
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
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	To receive questions from members of the public.	
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	To consider Notices of Motion.	
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	To approve the treasury management outturn for 2015/16.	
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9. NEW MODEL IN TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING (NMITE) UNIVERSITY		73 - 76
	To agree and recommend measures to support the development of a university for the county.	
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12. FORMAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN UNDER STANDING ORDERS		
	To receive any written questions from Councillors.	

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- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
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- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
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The Chairman or an attendee at the meeting must take the signing in sheet so it can be checked when everyone is at the assembly point.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Council held at Council Chamber, The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on Friday 20 May 2016 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor DB Wilcox (Chairman)
Councillor PJ McCaull (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: PA Andrews, BA Baker, WLS Bowen, TL Bowes, H Bramer, CR Butler, ACR Chappell, MJK Cooper, PE Crockett, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, PJ Edwards, CA Gandy, DW Greenow, KS Guthrie, J Hardwick, DG Harlow, EPJ Harvey, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JLV Kenyon, JG Lester, MD Lloyd-Hayes, MN Mansell, RI Matthews, RL Mayo, MT McEvelly, SM Michael, PM Morgan, PD Newman OBE, FM Norman, CA North, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, AJW Powers, PD Price, P Rone, AR Round, A Seldon, WC Skelton, J Stone, D Summers, EJ Swinglehurst, LC Tawn, A Warmington and SD Williams

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

(Councillor DB Wilcox declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item.)

Councillor AW Johnson proposed and Councillor TM James seconded the nomination of Councillor DB Wilcox.

RESOLVED: That Councillor DB Wilcox be elected Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

(Councillor DB Wilcox in the chair.)

Councillor Wilcox made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

Councillor Wilcox thanked Members for the confidence they had placed in him and assured them that he would seek to uphold the council's good name and promote the county.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

(Councillor PJ McCaull declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item.)

Councillor RI Matthews proposed and Councillor TM James seconded the nomination of Councillor PJ McCaull.

RESOLVED: That Councillor PJ McCaull be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors JM Bartlett and NE Shaw.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The chairman advised that members had received a dispensation in relation to item 8 and that this would be explained by the solicitor to the council at that item.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting 4 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted the Chairman's announcements as printed in the agenda papers.

The Chairman went on to highlight the civic events that had taken place over the last year. These included:

- Visits by HRH the Duke of Kent, HRH the Duke of Gloucester and HRH the Countess of Wessex.
- The 300th anniversary of the Three Choirs Festival which had been held in Hereford Cathedral.
- The 900th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.
- That Hereford Cathedral School's Cantabile Choir won the 'Songs of Praise' School Choir of the year and that Hereford Sixth Form College had been chosen as the inaugural winner of the 'Sixth Form College of the Year', a national award in recognition of its innovative provision and impressive student outcomes.
- That the new Hereford Football Club would be playing at Wembley in the finals for the FA Vase Trophy. The team were also Midlands Football League Champions, HFA Challenge Cup Winners and Polymac Packaging Cup Winners.

7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(Councillor AW Johnson declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item.)

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor H Bramer seconded the nomination of Councillor AW Johnson.

RESOLVED: That Councillor AW Johnson be elected Leader of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The solicitor to the council explained that any members who had been nominated for positions which attracted a special responsibility allowance under the councillors' allowances scheme had a pecuniary interest in that item. Following a written request she had granted a dispensation and therefore those members who were affected could participate in the discussion, remain in the room and vote on all of the recommendations in item 8. She advised, however, that members should refrain from voting in respect of recommendation (h) where they were nominated for an individual appointment.

Council considered appointments to the Committees of the Council and outside bodies in line with the rules of political proportionality.

The chairman presented the report. He said that it had been suggested that recommendations a-f as printed in the agenda papers should be considered and voted upon as a whole. A separate vote should then be taken on recommendation g which provided for the suspension of the rules of proportionality for a number of specified bodies. Leaving recommendation h on the appointments to the positions of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for which several nominations were expected to be considered.

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor RJ Phillips seconded a motion that recommendations a-f as printed in the agenda papers be approved.

This motion was carried with no one voting against it.

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor A Seldon seconded a motion that recommendation g as printed in the agenda papers be approved.

This motion was carried with no one voting against it.

Council was advised that appointments to the positions of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen would be determined by named vote where there was more than one nomination for the position.

The consideration of each appointment was as follows:

Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor PGH Cutter seconded the nomination of Councillor BA Durkin.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Durkin was therefore appointed

Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor BA Durkin proposed and Councillor PM Morgan seconded the nomination of Councillor FM Norman.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Norman was therefore appointed

Chairman of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor AW Johnson proposed and Councillor P Rone seconded the nomination of Councillor WLS Bowen.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Bowen was therefore appointed

Vice-Chairman of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor RJ Phillips seconded the nomination of Councillor CA Gandy.

Councillor A Seldon proposed and Councillor FN Norman seconded the nomination of Councillor AJW Powers.

A named vote was held.

For Councillor Gandy (31): Councillors PA Andrews, BA Baker, WLS Bowen, H Bramer, CR Butler, MJK Cooper, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, DW Greenow, KS Guthrie, DG Harlow, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JG Lester, RL Mayo, PJ McCaull, MT McEvelly, PM Morgan, PD Newman, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone, WC Skelton, J Stone, EJ Swinglehurst, DB Wilcox and SD Williams.

For Councillor Powers (18): Councillors TL Bowes, ACR Chappell, PE Crockett, PJ Edwards, J Hardwick, EPJ Harvey, JLV Kenyon, MD Lloyd-Hayes, MN Mansell, RI Matthews, SM Michael, FM Norman, CA North, AR Round, A Seldon, D Summers, LC Tawn, A Warmington.

Councillor Gandy was therefore appointed.

Chairman of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor ACR Chappell proposed and Councillor EPJ Harvey seconded the nomination of Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes.

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor AW Johnson seconded the nomination of Councillor PA Andrews.

Councillor Chappell and Councillor Morgan spoke respectively on the qualities of their nominees.

A named vote was held.

For Councillor Andrews (31): Councillors BA Baker, WLS Bowen, H Bramer, CR Butler, MJK Cooper, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, CA Gandy, DW Greenow, KS Guthrie, J Hardwick, DG Harlow, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JG Lester, RL Mayo, MT McEvelly, PM Morgan, PD Newman, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone, WC Skelton, J Stone, EJ Swinglehurst, DB Wilcox and SD Williams.

For Councillor Lloyd-Hayes (18): Councillors TL Bowes, ACR Chappell, PE Crockett, PJ Edwards, EPJ Harvey, JLV Kenyon, MN Mansell, RI Matthews, PJ McCaull, SM Michael, FM Norman, CA North, AJW Powers, AR Round, A Seldon, D Summers, LC Tawn, A Warmington.

Councillor Andrews was therefore appointed.

Vice-Chairman of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor RJ Phillips proposed and Councillor P Rone seconded the nomination of Councillor J Stone.

Councillor AJW Powers proposed and Councillor FM Norman seconded the nomination of Councillor PE Crockett.

Councillor Powers questioned whether, as a matter of principle, it was appropriate for members of the controlling political group to hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman on either of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, suggesting this deviated from national guidance and previous practice.

Councillor Morgan and Councillor Powers spoke respectively on the qualities of their nominees.

A named vote was held.

For Councillor Crockett (19): Councillors TL Bowes, ACR Chappell, PJ Edwards, J Hardwick, EPJ Harvey, JLV Kenyon, MD Lloyd-Hayes, MN Mansell, RI Matthews, PJ McCaull, SM Michael, FM Norman, CA North, AJW Powers, AR Round, A Seldon, D Summers, LC Tawn, A Warmington..

For Councillor Stone (30): Councillors PA Andrews, BA Baker, WLS Bowen, H Bramer, CR Butler, MJK Cooper, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, CA Gandy, DW Greenow, KS Guthrie, DG Harlow, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JG Lester, RL Mayo, MT McEvelly, PM Morgan, PD Newman, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone, WC Skelton, EJ Swinglehurst, DB Wilcox and SD Williams.

Councillor Stone was therefore appointed.

Chairman of the Planning Committee

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor JG Lester seconded the nomination of Councillor PGH Cutter.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Cutter was therefore appointed

Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor PGH Cutter seconded the nomination of Councillor J Hardwick.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Hardwick was therefore appointed

Chairman of the Regulatory Committee

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor JLV Kenyon seconded the nomination of Councillor DW Greenow.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Greenow was therefore appointed

Vice-Chairman of the Regulatory Committee

Councillor JLV Kenyon proposed and Councillor TL Bowes seconded the nomination of Councillor SM Michael.

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor H Bramer seconded the nomination of Councillor BA Baker.

A named vote was held.

For Councillor Baker (32): Councillors PA Andrews, WLS Bowen, H Bramer, CR Butler, MJK Cooper, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, CA Gandy, KS Guthrie, J Hardwick, DG Harlow, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JG Lester, RI Matthews, RL Mayo, MT McEvelly, PM Morgan, PD Newman, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone, AR Round, WC Skelton, J Stone, EJ Swinglehurst, DB Wilcox and SD Williams.

For Councillor Michael (15): Councillors TL Bowes, ACR Chappell, PE Crockett, PJ Edwards, EPJ Harvey, JLV Kenyon, MD Lloyd-Hayes, MN Mansell, FM Norman, CA North, AJW Powers, A Seldon, D Summers, LC Tawn, A Warmington.

Abstentions (2): Councillors DW Greenow and PJ McCaull

Councillor Baker was therefore appointed.

Chairman of the Employment Panel

Councillor PM Morgan proposed and Councillor RI Matthews seconded the nomination of Councillor AW Johnson.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Johnson was therefore appointed

Vice-Chairman of the Employment Panel

Councillor H Bramer proposed and Councillor RJ Phillips seconded the nomination of Councillor PM Morgan.

There were no other nominations

Councillor Morgan was therefore appointed

Resolved:

That:

- (a) the list of ordinary committees listed at paragraph 8 be confirmed with their current terms of reference;**
- (b) the number of seats on each committee and the allocation of those seats to political groups as set out at paragraph 9 be approved;**
- (c) the allocation of seats on outside bodies to political groups as set out at paragraph 10 be approved;**
- (d) it was noted that all other representation on outside bodies be decided by the chief executive, following consultation with the group leaders, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution;**
- (e) the appointment of five co-opted members of general overview & scrutiny committee be approved as follows:**
 - one representative as nominated by the diocese of Hereford**
 - one representative as nominated by the archdiocese of Cardiff**
 - one parent governor as elected from the primary school sector**
 - one parent governor as elected by the secondary school sector**
 - one parent governor as elected by the special school sector;**
- (f) Mr Richard Stow be appointed as independent person for a term of four years;**
- (g) the suspension of the rules of proportionality in respect of the regulatory sub-committee, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board, the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee be approved; and**
- (h) the appointment of committee chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees as set out below be approved**

Committee	Position	
Audit & governance committee	Chairman	Councillor BA Durkin
	Vice-chairman	Councillor FM Norman
Employment panel	Chairman	Councillor AW Johnson
	Vice-chairman	Councillor PM Morgan
General overview & scrutiny committee	Chairman	Councillor WLS Bowen
	Vice-chairman	Councillor CA Gandy
Health & social care overview & scrutiny committee	Chairman	Councillor PA Andrews
	Vice-chairman	Councillor J Stone
Planning committee	Chairman	Councillor PGH Cutter
	Vice-chairman	Councillor J Hardwick
Regulatory committee	Chairman	Councillor DW Greenow
	Vice-chairman	Councillor BA Baker

9. CONFIRMATION OF DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY OFFICER (MONITORING OFFICER)

(The solicitor to the council left the chamber for this item)

Council noted a report on the confirmation of the designation of the statutory officer (Monitoring Officer).

The Leader presented the report and said that he supported the recommendation as the solicitor to the council had done an excellent job in the role, shown outstanding qualities and had effectively developed relationships with Members.

A member expressed concern that the combination of the two roles and questioned whether there was a conflict between the role of solicitor to the council and monitoring officer. The Chief Executive replied, and said that this matter had been considered but that it was believed to be manageable; the two roles were combined in many councils across the country.

Resolved: That the post of solicitor to the council be designated as monitoring officer for Herefordshire Council.

The meeting ended at 11.36 am

CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES of the meeting of Council held at Council Chamber,
The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on Friday
20 May 2016 at 2.00 pm**

Present: Councillor DB Wilcox (Chairman)
Councillor PJ McCaull (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: PA Andrews, BA Baker, WLS Bowen, TL Bowes, H Bramer, CR Butler, ACR Chappell, MJK Cooper, PE Crockett, PGH Cutter, BA Durkin, PJ Edwards, CA Gandy, DW Greenow, KS Guthrie, J Hardwick, DG Harlow, EPJ Harvey, EL Holton, JA Hyde, TM James, AW Johnson, JF Johnson, JLV Kenyon, JG Lester, MD Lloyd-Hayes, MN Mansell, RI Matthews, RL Mayo, SM Michael, PM Morgan, PD Newman OBE, FM Norman, CA North, RJ Phillips, GJ Powell, AJW Powers, PD Price, P Rone, AR Round, A Seldon, WC Skelton, J Stone, D Summers, EJ Swinglehurst, LC Tawn, A Warmington and SD Williams

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors JM Bartlett, MT McEvelly and NE Shaw.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 5: Local Transport Plan

Councillor A Seldon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Director of Bromyard Community Transport.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A copy of the public questions and written answers, together with supplementary questions asked at the meeting and their answers, is attached to the Minutes at Appendix 1.

13. ADOPTION OF THE WESTON-UNDER-PENYARD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ADOPTION OF THE COUNTYWIDE POLICIES MAP AND DELEGATION OF FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO CABINET MEMBER INFRASTRUCTURE

Council was asked to adopt the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood development plan as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire; to adopt the policies map which accompanies the Herefordshire local plan together with the required consequential amendments in connection with the adoption of the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood plan; and to approve arrangements for future efficient adoption of future neighbourhood development plans and policies map amendments.

Councillor H Bramer, local ward member, congratulated Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council and its Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group on their thorough and professional work to produce the NDP, which at the referendum on the Plan had commanded the support of 96% of respondents. He also thanked Herefordshire Council and its officers for their support.

Councillor Powers, speaking on behalf of It's Our County Group, added his congratulations to Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council and the NDP Steering Group. He did, however, comment that some other NDP Steering Groups had expressed reservations about the capacity of the Council to provide timely advice to them. He sought an assurance that there was capacity to support the many other NDPs in progress and avoid unnecessary delay in progressing them. He added that it would be critical to ensure that a 5 year housing land supply was in place to enable the NDPs to recognise their full value.

A number of other members congratulated the Parish Council on completing the NDP.

The cabinet member – infrastructure commented that there was capacity within the planning service to support the NDP process. Capacity would also be needed within the Council to manage the associated referendums. He clarified that any community infrastructure levy money raised through development could only be spent by parish councils on infrastructure and infrastructure projects but noted that money could be shared with neighbouring parishes for such purposes.

Councillor Price moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Bramer.

RESOLVED;

- (a) to 'make' the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood development plan, as published on Herefordshire Council's website as referenced at paragraph 14 of the report, and adopt it as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire;**
- (b) the Herefordshire local plan policies map, as published on Herefordshire Council's website as referenced at paragraph 16 of the report, be adopted; and**
- (c) authority be delegated to the cabinet member infrastructure to undertake future adoption of neighbourhood development plans, and to approve any consequential amendments to the countywide policies map.**

14. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Council was asked to adopt the local transport plan (LTP) (2016-2031).

Councillor PD Price, cabinet member – infrastructure, presented the report. He commented on:

- The purpose of the Local Transport Plan and its importance, including its role in the direction of resources and attraction of additional funds.
- Key points about the Plan, including: its co-ordination with the core strategy and support of the strategy for economic growth – including new homes and jobs; its proposals for key enabling infrastructure required for housing and growth and employment land development; and its proposals and policies for the market towns and wider rural area.

- How the Plan had been finalised including a summary of improvements resulting from consultation.

In the debate the following principal points were made:

- There was significant congestion on the A465 Belmont road to the detriment of local residents. It was important to provide a link between the A465 and the A49 joining to the Rotherwas Relief Road via a new bridge. Any road infrastructure needed to be supported by Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). An assurance was sought that the South Wye transport package would deliver improvements supported by TROs.

The cabinet member – infrastructure gave an assurance that the intention was to secure improvement and deliver sustainable travel in the location and obtain the necessary funding. However, provision of sustainable travel in the City was dependent on removing freight and through traffic from the City.

- The cabinet support member – business development highlighted the concerns businesses had about traffic congestion and the support of the business community for a Hereford Bypass and City link road.

The cabinet member – infrastructure commented that he was aware of that support. Growth in Herefordshire was dependent on providing supporting infrastructure.

- In relation to securing the provision of a 5 year housing land supply the cabinet member – infrastructure commented that the provision of road infrastructure would enable the Council to develop its strategic housing sites and secure a 5 year housing land supply within a reasonable timescale.

- Insufficient account had been taken of the large reduction in traffic in the City during school holiday times. Sustainable travel to schools should be given greater weight in the LTP.

The cabinet member – infrastructure commented that he had sought to encourage the education sector to consider sustainable travel options. The provision of infrastructure to move traffic outside the city centre would free up space for sustainable travel measures in the City.

- The importance of maintaining the existing highway network should not be overlooked. The cabinet member – infrastructure commented in response that the council would continue to maintain the existing network. An asset management tool was being used to prioritise maintenance and it also provided a good evidence base for seeking additional funding from government if resources became available.

- The cabinet member – transport and roads acknowledged concerns about the TRO process and the wish to speed it up. He commented that a policy of packaging TROs was being developed within the City. It was also proposed to work with parish councils and local ward members to develop a consensus about what traffic measures were required and prioritise those measures. In response to a suggestion that yellow lines be provided at every junction he commented that this was not a solution. Regard had to be had to Department of Transport guidance.

- A question was asked about providing a river crossing to link Rotherwas to the Ledbury Road. The Cabinet Member – infrastructure commented that the Core Strategy and LTP supported a bypass west of the A49 with an extension to the Worcester Road after 2027. Whilst he acknowledged there were demands for an eastern bypass, this had no priority and funding in current plans.

- It was suggested that the southern link road would simply move traffic from the A465 to the A49. Statistics showed it would bring a 13% reduction in traffic on the A465 but a 15% increase in traffic on the A49.

The cabinet member – infrastructure commented that achieving sustainable travel in the City would mean moving traffic onto the A49. However, the southern link road was the first phase of a bypass linking to the western relief road.

- The provision of road infrastructure was critical to the sustainable future of the County and the provision of jobs, along with the provision of Broadband.
- Concern was expressed about the management of freight traffic and its impact on rural villages exacerbated by the increasing size and length of HGVs. This would need further consideration in future planning.
- A view was expressed that the city link road would simply lead to increased congestion.
- A member asserted that an eastern bypass allied to a dual carriageway link to the M50 was the best option for achieving the successful development of the Enterprise Zone. The western bypass was opposed by the County's MPs and businesses. There was technical advice that an eastern route was deliverable and affordable, costing far less than a western route. The cabinet member – infrastructure responded that he did not agree. He added that Highways England had no interest in considering a dual carriageway from Rotherwas to the M50. However, there were discussions as to whether the A465 should be retrunked within the County. The administration's infrastructure plans had to be submitted through the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Funding had currently been secured to support those plans and could not be re-allocated to other schemes. If the council did not proceed that funding would be lost.
- The cabinet member- economy and corporate services expressed his disappointment that opposition to the administration's plans had delayed the development of infrastructure that would have supported new houses and new jobs which in turn would have generated income from council tax and business rates. By 2019/20 Council funding would be reliant on income from those two sources. Any further delays in providing the infrastructure to support growth would impair the Council's ability to deliver essential services.
- Because of financial pressures community transport organisations would be needed to transport people to park and share locations. However, unless funding improved, organisations such as Bromyard Community Transport would no longer exist.
- A number of members expressed the view that, given the years of discussion about a bypass, efforts should be made to proceed with the current road infrastructure plans with all speed.
- Whilst the plans for the City were important, account should be taken of the need to bear in mind the requirements of the County as a whole, including rural areas and businesses.
- A statement was read on behalf of Councillor Bartlett as Green Group leader. In summary this raised the following principal points:
 - The LTP offered nothing innovative. It was devoted to a single growth model, where road building was seen as the driver of economic growth. This was alien to Herefordshire with no regard to the County's strengths. The Plan was also almost wholly focused on the City. The County needed dedicated enterprise, business growth, good housing and infrastructure, but delivered in a sustainable and county wide way
 - The Plan did not take account of the Government's Public Health briefing that set out the benefits of active travel and the need for a rebalancing of the travel system.

- There was a mistaken belief that disproportionate investment in the City and Rotherwas enterprise zone would benefit the rest of the county. Only some 254 net jobs out of a potential 4,000 target had so far been created, despite investment to date of some £10m. It was questioned whether this was better value for money than other options such as supporting rural enterprise.
- The southern link road was now being advanced as a solution that would enable the Enterprise Zone to succeed. However, the road would be detrimental to the countryside, which in itself was a major driver of economic, social and environmental sustainable growth.
- Tourism did not receive a specific mention in a single LTP policy. However, according to the Marches LEP, overnight tourist and day visitor spending, produced more than £1 billion for the local economy a year’.
- Air pollution, the cost of repairing local roads as a result of use by large lorries such as those serving the intensive poultry industry and the economic and environmental costs of highly polluted water courses were also concerns.
- The cabinet member – transport and roads agreed to look into a concern expressed by a Member about a lack of signage to a number of locations when approaching the City Centre.
- Councillor Powers, speaking as IOC Group Leader, commented that he did not consider that the meeting had the will to consider any more detailed evidence and argument. He expressed the hope that the administration had therefore taken account of his Group’s response to the LTP consultation. That response had outlined a plethora of 21st century solutions to the County’s transport problems. IOC was not opposed to growth and infrastructure development provided that the need was properly evidenced, cost effective and supported by a sound business case. There were many examples across the Country where road building had not provided a solution to traffic congestion.
- Attention was drawn to the submission to the LTP consultation by Gloucestershire County Council. It was suggested insufficient account had been taken of this response and its comments on freight movements.
- The map at page 60 of the agenda papers appeared to identify a new road for Ledbury, but there was no text in the document that related to it. The Cabinet member – infrastructure agreed to seek clarification.
- In contrast to the previous LTP the document contained no quantified targets to enable progress to be evaluated. The cabinet member – infrastructure stated that targets would be built into the Plan.
- A member commented on the provision and cost of bus travel and the implications for congestion, given planned housing growth, in the City, with the attendant complications of pollution and adverse effect on quality of life.
- The cabinet member- transport and roads invited Councillor Kenyon as mayor of Hereford to join him in promoting walking to work and walking to school. Councillor Kenyon indicated he would be willing to participate.
- The cabinet member – infrastructure concluded the debate by stating that if the Council wished to continue to deliver services into the future it should follow the

approach advocated in the LTP which would secure income for the benefit of the County.

- A Member sought clarification on the treatment of two recommendations by the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which it was understood had been accepted by the executive but did not appear to be reflected in the text of the LTP. The cabinet member – infrastructure responded that it was his understanding that these were reflected in the Plan and he would ensure that this was the case.

Councillor Price proposed the motion which was seconded by Councillor AW Johnson.

There were 38 votes in favour of the motion, 5 against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the local transport plan strategy (at appendix 1 to the report) and policy (at appendix 2 to the report) be adopted.

The meeting ended at 3.59 pm

CHAIRMAN

Public questions to Council – 20 May 2016

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton**Question 1****Local transport plan**

The local transport plan has been updated to recognise the potential for a new university in Hereford. The National Travel Survey of 2014 (ONS) shows that 21% of people aged 17-20 live in a household with no access to a car, and for those who live in a household with access to a car 51% do not drive. With such a high proportion of young people unable to drive, what transport infrastructure is being specifically proposed to support and encourage those aged 17-21 to study in Hereford and enable them to access the range of services and opportunities the county has to offer?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The local transport plan recognises the exciting prospect of a new university being developed in Hereford and the council is working closely with the university promoters to support its development close to the city centre.

New infrastructure, including a Hereford bypass, is essential for the growth that is planned in the city, including the new university. The city centre transport package and South Wye transport package will deliver improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport in the city centre and south wye area of the city. The future provision of a Hereford bypass will enable the delivery of a further package of measures within the city to improve provision for sustainable modes of transport which will be identified as the detailed proposals for the Hereford Package are developed.

Young people attending colleges already offering further and higher education opportunities, as well as a new university and student accommodation based within the city centre will benefit from all these measures and will also be well located to enable students to take advantage of the national rail network and the county bus network which radiates from the city which together provide sustainable transport options for journeys to a wide **range of destinations within and outside the county.**

Supplementary Question

When over 51% of student aged young people do not drive would Councillor Price explain why a bypass around Hereford is essential for the development of a new university within the City Centre, when it will be increasingly hard for students to access Hereford by Rail?

Answer by Cllr P Rone - cabinet member – transport and roads

All rail services running in the West Midlands franchise area were up for renewal and the Council would take part in negotiations to seek to increase the frequency and capacity of trains.

Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton**Question 2****Local transport plan: cycling and walking**

The Government's cycling and walking investment strategy is out for consultation until 23 May 2016. The key element of the strategy is that cycling and walking should become the natural choice for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey.

What part of this element would be fulfilled by the building of the southern link road (SLR) with no cycle or walking pathways, and no apparent funding of the complementary measures which,

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according to cabinet minutes 18.12.14, “will be outlined within the planning submission for the SLR element” of the south Wye transport package? Furthermore, there is still no sign of the complementary measures appearing within the planning submission for the SLR element and yet, in accordance with Government policy, the funding of the SLR is conditional on these complementary measures being delivered at the same time, or in advance of, road building.

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The local transport plan makes clear that the southern link road forms part of the wider South Wye transport package. Planning matters relating to a specific application are not a matter for debate in this forum but will be considered by the planning committee in due course

There are already direct and convenient walking and cycling routes between the urban areas of south-east and south-west Hereford and a range of active travel measures will be delivered on the existing network in the South Wye area to support the southern link road and deliver the South Wye transport package objectives. A long list of potential sustainable transport schemes has been identified and considered following a process of reviewing previous studies, assessing existing transport conditions, site visits, and feedback from public consultation on high level South Wye transport package sustainable transport options in summer 2014. From this a number of interventions and schemes have been retained for further consideration and consultation which include shared use footway/cycleways, 20mph limits on residential streets across south Hereford, signing, behavioural change programmes and landscaping public realm improvements. I currently anticipate consultation on these measures will take place before the end of this calendar year, including public exhibitions in the South Wye area in a number of venues.

Supplementary Question

What is the justification for defaulting on the pledge to include complementary sustainable transport measures within the planning application for the southern link road?

Answer by Cabinet Member – Infrastructure

The planning application, if approved, would provide authority to proceed with the road and enable funding to be secured. The road could not be provided without complementary sustainable transport measures. There would be time to develop these before the road could be delivered. It was intended to consult on sustainable transport measures later in the year.

Question from Mr J Perkins, Hereford**Question 3****Local transport plan: traffic lights**

In the local transport plan strategy for Hereford page 12 the document says “The system which controls traffic signals is aging and also prone to instability which further impacts on the effective management of traffic passing through the network.”

In recent months there have been a number of occasions of traffic lights failing in Hereford where traffic, in some cases moved more smoothly, where others specially those involving pedestrian crossings south of the river caused total disruption. Andrew Jones, the Road Safety minister has recently advocated the removal of lights, as also proposed by Hereford Transport Forum as long ago as 2012.

Would the cabinet member please provide details of the cost of making improvements to the traffic

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signals in Hereford and when they are scheduled to happen, and would he also consider some of the proposals outlined in this question?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

Hereford's traffic light system is jointly managed with Highways England which is responsible for the management of the A49 through the city. The council and Highways England have recently implemented minor improvements to ensure the existing computer system is resilient and supported pending wider improvements. Options for further improvement will be considered with Highways England over the coming period as proposals for the Hereford transport package are developed. The cost of any improvements will be determined as part of this process.

Highways England has considered the potential for the removal of traffic lights at major junctions in the city. However, they have concluded that such an approach would not currently be possible given the current high traffic volumes which need to be safely accommodated whilst balancing the needs of pedestrians needing to cross. The provision of a Hereford bypass as part of a Hereford transport package may enable this to be considered in the future as part of a package of measures to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists within the city, once the bypass has been delivered.

Supplementary Question

A government minister has recommended that traffic lights be taken out of cities because of the queues they are considered to cause.

Answer by Councillor Price

We have considered this in relation to Hereford. Highways England are not prepared to remove lights at main junctions. I agree with their view. Removal of lights would be dangerous for those walking and cycling who would not be able to cross roads easily.

Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger**Question 4****Local transport plan: consultation**

The local transport plan was a public consultation, in which many stakeholders and public bodies engaged. For any other public consultation conducted by Herefordshire Council the public responses have been made available for public examination. As transport affects every resident in the county, why have the consultation responses received during this local transport plan consultation earlier this year been treated as confidential and not been made available for public examination?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The local transport plan consultation responses have not been treated confidentially and are available for viewing at council offices on request and I understand members of the public have already made such requests and viewed the responses. I have asked for copies to be made available on the website for ease of access.

Public questions to Council – 20 May 2016

Supplementary Question

When are the responses going to be available on the website and have all Councillors been able to view them, for example the response from Gloucestershire County Council?

Answer for Councillor Price

The responses can be viewed at Plough Lane and will be made available on the web as requested.

Question from Mr R Palgrave, How Caple**Question 5****Local transport plan: Hereford/Worcester connections**

Just over a year ago Cllr Philip Price backed Worcestershire's plans to improve the Carrington Bridge in Worcester, the main route to the M5 from Herefordshire, and was reported as saying, "Congestion on the bridge puts significant strain on businesses who cannot avoid using the A4440 to transport their products to various parts of the country".

Page 24 of Herefordshire's local transport plan shows a western relief road connecting the A49 both north and south, by 2027, but with no connection to the A4103/A465 Worcester Road. Would the cabinet member Cllr Philip Price please explain why the latest version of the local transport plan shows no intention to improve connections between Hereford and Worcester?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The map on page 24 of the local transport plan accords with proposals set out in the approved core strategy, and demonstrates that is the longer term (post 2027) intention of the council to make the further connection between the A49 and the A4103. The local transport plan also recognises the need to lobby for and engage in franchising discussions in order to improve rail connections.

Question from Dr N Geeson, Hereford**Question 6****Local transport plan: conformity with core strategy**

In Herefordshire Council's adopted local plan core strategy we read that "Policy SS7- Addressing Climate Change" states "***Development proposals will be required to include measures which will mitigate their impact on climate change. At a strategic level, this will include:***

- ***delivering development that seeks to reduce the need to travel by private car and which encourages sustainable travel options including walking, cycling and public transport;***
- ***designing developments to reduce carbon emissions and use resources more efficiently***".

If the road schemes proposed in the local transport plan (LTP) are built ahead of sustainable transport options, these roads are shown to increase overall vehicle emissions, which would result in the LTP not being in conformity with the adopted core strategy. Would the cabinet member responsible please confirm that there is provision to ensure the LTP does conform with the core strategy, and that the LTP needs to measure and assess performance of overall vehicle emission changes across the county?

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Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The draft local transport plan is in accordance with the core strategy. It includes proposals for the infrastructure required to support the development identified within the core strategy, measures to reduce the need to travel by car and to encourage sustainable modes of transport.

National legislation determines vehicle emission standards and national policy would therefore have to address any requirement to reduce emissions at source.

However, the council does have a duty to review and monitor air quality across the county, including those originating from traffic. In compliance with this, the environmental health service currently monitors nitrogen dioxide at a range of locations next to our roads. These are used to give us monthly averages which in turn are used to give annual figures to compare against the national air quality objective. This is reported on an annual basis to Defra and the information is also used to determine the effectiveness of the air quality action plans in place for the county's two air quality management areas in Hereford and Leominster.

There are also plans to use the data from a continuous real time monitoring station along Victoria Street to assess trends in both nitrogen dioxide and particulate pollution along the A49 corridor in Hereford.

Question from Ms D Toynbee, Ruckhall

Question 7

Local transport plan: statutory obligations re passenger transport

The Local Transport Plan (2016-2013) Consultation Report says:

"We received a number of responses with comments about specific bus services and routes. The council is continuing to review passenger transport with the aim of protecting the most important services and honouring our statutory commitments whilst having to make significant reductions in revenue spending for each of the next 4 years."

What are the statutory commitments that the council has in regard to passenger transport?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The local transport plan provides the policy basis to enable the council to meet its statutory obligations in relation to passenger transport. The key statutory responsibilities are set out in section 63 of Transport Act 1985 sets out the following duties for local transport authorities:

- to secure the provision of such public passenger transport services as the council consider it appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would not in their view be met apart from any action taken by them for that purpose; and
- to formulate from time to time general policies as to the descriptions of services they propose to secure under paragraph (a) above.

The council is also required to reimburse operators for the cost of travel by users entitled to free transport under the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

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Question from Ms K Sharp, Hereford**Question 8****Local transport plan: walking and cycling routes**

Other counties recognise how lucky Herefordshire is in having some of the highest quality (to walk and cycle) lanes in England. These lanes and byways, which include Sustrans National Cycle route 46, play an important role in supporting the tourism offer to the county whilst minimising the carbon footprint of tourists to the area. Would the cabinet member please explain why the local transport plan omits any map of these walk and cycle routes and why they are offered no recognition or protection within the transport policies?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The council does recognise the value for of its extensive rural highway and public rights of way network for leisure and tourism including cycling. The network is indeed so extensive that inclusion of a map in the local transport plan would not be practicable; however a map showing the key rural cycle routes is available on the council's website at:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7609921/rural_routes_2014.pdf and a map of the public rights of way within the county is at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/online-map-of-public-rights-of-way>

The cycle network is recognised in the local transport plan policy including at:

- LTP AT1 – this policy supports extension to the cycle network, better integration between cycling and public transport, use of traffic regulation orders to promote increased cycle use, providing clear and concise signage and identifying improvements in cycle provision within routine maintenance programmes (page 43)
- Asset Management Vision statement - Public places that are safe to enjoy, for recreation and travel on foot, bicycle and by public, community or school transport and car. (page 12)
- LTP AM10 – to maintain a safe and efficient network – including cycle ways (page 17)
- LTP PT7 – which seeks to integrate rail with cycle networks and to improve cycle parking at stations (page 35)

Question from Ms A Lagoutte, Eaton Bishop**Question 9****Local transport plan: eastern Hereford congestion**

The Amey 2010 report (Hereford Relief Road - Study of Options – para 4.2.17) highlighted that many of the overcapacity road junctions were on the eastern side of Hereford. The Hereford transport package map (page 24 of the transport strategy) only shows park and choose sites or improved cycle routes for the west of the city. For example, there are no park and choose sites for the Rotherwas enterprise zone (REZ), despite the council owning land in this area, and having invested millions in the new Connect 2 walk/cycle bridge connecting the REZ with the city.

With housing growth already happening across the city (north, south, east and west) and in villages and parishes all around Hereford, what provision is being made to tackle congestion across the eastern side of Hereford over the next 15 years and improve transport choice for these residents?

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Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

Significant improvements to improve transport choice and reduce congestion have already been implemented within the eastern side of the city over recent years. As the questioner highlights this has included the Hereford Greenway (Connect 2) scheme which provides a direct link between the enterprise zone and east of the city. Investment has delivered traffic calming and 20mph zones to improve safety and encourage walking and cycling in the vicinity of schools on Barrs Court Road, Venns Lane, Folly Lane and in Tupsley.

Whilst not included on the map on page 24, a park and choose site is in place on Vincent Carey Road at Rotherwas and is shown on the map on page 25 of the document which shows all current and proposed sites for the city.

The development of the Hereford transport package will enable consideration of improvements which may be required and the local transport plan provides the policy context which will enable further improvements to be made as new housing developments come forward.

Question from Ms C Palgrave, How Caple

Question 10

Local transport plan: measures of success

The local transport plan proposes to measure the percentage of the population who are active.

Herefordshire is recognised as having a growing elderly population, like many other rural counties. The local transport plan proposes to measure just the percentage of the whole population who are active, which risks setting up the council to fail. Would the cabinet member agree that if it measured separately the proportion of school age, working age populations, retired, etc. taking part in active travel, the council may be better able to show success via its local transport plan proposals?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The health indicators proposed in the local transport plan are in line with nationally available indicators and use data already collected we see the local transport plan as making an important contribution to the council's broader responsibilities for public health. Annual monitoring will provide an opportunity to review these indicators when necessary and where specific schemes are brought forward it will be possible to consider appropriate monitoring of their effects in more detail, having regard to the costs of data collection and any additional value of additional or alternative indicators.

Question from Mr S Wegg-Prosser, Breinton

Question 11

Local transport plan: freight policy

The freight rail head at Moreton-on-Lugg Business Park takes tens of thousands of heavy freight movements every year off the local road infrastructure and onto rail, improving road safety and reducing road maintenance costs. Many rural parishes responded to the LTP consultation asking for Herefordshire Council to consider the impact heavy goods vehicle movements were having on villages such as Pembridge, Lyonshall and Eardisley. Would the cabinet member please explain

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why the freight policy statement (LTP FR1, p.29) has no accompanying LTP4 strategy and no freight route map to show the impact freight has on rural residents and the historic environment of our county?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The freight policy statement and LTP FR1 was updated following the consultation. It now includes a clear commitment to develop a freight strategy which will take into account the findings of the Marches Strategic Transport Corridors Study, work with partners including Highways England and engagement with local communities impacted by freight movements to develop and agree suitable mitigation measures.

Question from Mr N Morawieki, Hereford

Question 12

Local transport plan: objectives

Of the five main aims of the local transport plan one is “enable economic growth – by building new roads linking new developments to the transport network and by reducing short distance car journeys”. Building new roads is not a direct enabler of economic growth and in fact has been shown to **increase** short distance car trips as a result of “induced demand”. 20% of all households have no access to a car, and this increases to 30% of all households aged 70 years or older (National Travel Survey 2014). In this and earlier transport consultations in Herefordshire, investment in good public transport was rated the top priority. Good public transport is a more cost effective enabler of economic growth than building new roads, and improves access to jobs and services for all households, whether or not they possess a car.

Would the cabinet member agree with the consultation respondents and the Government’s 2011 white paper (Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Growth Happen) which stated that a transport objective – “Economic Growth - reducing congestion and enabling access” is a better transport objective for Herefordshire than “building new roads”?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The local transport plan does not include a transport objective of “building new roads”.

The objectives of the plan include: “To enable economic growth”. Building new roads is an enabling mechanism; we need a Hereford bypass together with a package of measures to support active travel options within the city in order to achieve the objectives. The plan is very clear that both these elements are essential and I do not agree that a change to the plan’s objectives is necessary.

Question from Mr R Stowe, Rowlestone

Question 13

Local transport plan: cost benefit analysis of the southern link road

An eastern link road would link the enterprise zone at Rotherwas to the A438 Ledbury road via a new bridge over the River Wye. Whilst the southern link road will just shift traffic from the A465 on to the A49, an eastern link road could significantly reduce city centre congestion.

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The southern link road depends on £27m of provisional funding from central government via the local enterprise partnership (LEP), but will require a full business case to be presented to the Department for Transport.

Central government has confirmed that “LEPs will be permitted to exercise flexibility to substitute other projects if they have been rigorously assessed and offer comparable or better value for money”.

Jesse Norman MP has promoted an eastern link road for several years, and has repeatedly requested since 2014 that the council produce a cost-benefit analysis of the southern link road against an eastern link road.

Given the confirmed flexibility in LEP funding, the council's duty to demonstrate value for money in its use of public funds, and the repeated requests from Jesse Norman MP, would the cabinet member please explain why the council has not carried out a cost-benefit analysis of the southern link road against an eastern link road?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The Department of Transport has retained oversight of the South Wye transport package project and its funding. The funding is specifically for the delivery of the South Wye transport package and cannot be used for alternative schemes. If the scheme were not to progress in accordance with agreed funding profiles then the funding be lost to Herefordshire and the Marches.

The relative merits of a western or eastern by-pass have been extensively reviewed over many years, alongside consideration of deliverability and on the evidence of those reviews there is no justification in expending further resources on further analysis.

Question from Ms S Bell, Rowlestone

Question 14

Local transport plan: southern link road justification

In August 2014 the Highways Agency advised the council in writing that ‘the building of new road infrastructure could only be justified in policy terms when other avenues such as travel planning and sustainable travel modes had been developed and shown not to address the transport needs and issues identified’.

Would the cabinet member please explain why the council has completely failed to follow this Highways Agency guidance with respect to the southern link road?

Answer from Cllr P Price, cabinet member infrastructure

The council has not failed to follow guidance.

Highways England have been engaged throughout the process and confirmed their support for the southern link road as part of the South Wye transport package. A number of possible options that could address the problems and objectives of the South Wye transport package were considered and appraised in accordance with criteria used by the Department for Transport, which is the responsible body for this scheme. Options considered included: ‘traffic max’, ‘sustainable transport max’ and a new link road. The traffic max option aimed to reduce the amount of congestion along the A465 whilst the sustainable transport max aimed to reduce severance, promote physical, reduce accidents and reduce congestion through modal shift. Assessment indicated that none of

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the three approaches in isolation satisfied all of the scheme objectives but that a combination of a new southern link road with elements of the sustainable transport max approach best met the objectives of the South Wye transport package. This appraisal work is set out in detail in the South Wye transport package preferred option report (November 2014) published on the council's website.

Chairman's Announcements – 15 July 2016

Events attended by the Chairman/Vice-Chairman of Herefordshire Council since the last Council meeting on 20th May 2016

- 23rd May Civic Reception in honour of Hereford Football Club's achievements.
- 27th May Royal Agricultural Three Counties Show – Launch
- 6th June Mayor Making – Ross-on-Wye Town Council
- 10th June Queens 90th Birthday charity sponsored swim – Wye Leisure
- 11th June Queens 90th Birthday/Civic Service – Hereford Cathedral
- 12th June Reception held by the Dean – The Deanery - Hereford Cathedral
- 13th June Citizenship ceremony – Town Hall
- 17th June Royal Agricultural Society – Three Counties Showground
- 20th June Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony – Shire Hall
- 21st June NSPCC AGM – Bishop's Palace
- 25th June Armed Forces Day – Centenary Commemoration Day – Ledbury
- 25th June WW1 Centenary fund-raising concert – Ledbury
- 26th June Civic Heads luncheon – Powys CC – Llandrindod Wells
- 30th June WW1 Vigil – Hereford Cathedral
- 11th July Citizenship ceremony – Town Hall.



MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	15 July 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	Questions from members of the public
REPORT BY:	Governance manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To receive any questions from members of the public deposited more than eight clear working days before the meeting of Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Members of the public may ask one question of a Cabinet Member or Committee or other Chairmen at any meeting of Council, subject to the exceptions in the paragraph below. Written answers will be circulated to Members, the press and public prior to the start of the Council meeting. Questions subject to a Freedom of Information request will be dealt with under that separate process.
- 2 No questions from the public will be considered at the Annual Meeting of Council which Council has agreed will concentrate on the civic and ceremonial role of the Annual Council meeting. No questions from the public will be considered at the Budget (February) meeting of Council except on those items listed on the agenda.
- 3 Standing Order 4.1.14.4 of the Constitution states that: a question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by electronic mail to the Monitoring Officer no later than midday eight clear working days before the day of the meeting (ie the Monday of the week preceding the Council meeting where that meeting is on a Friday). Each question must give the name and address of the questioner and must name the person to whom it is to be put.
- 4 A questioner who has submitted a written question may also put **one** brief supplementary question without notice to the person (if s/he is present at the meeting) who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original request or reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds for rejecting written questions (as set out in paragraph 5 below), or if the question is too lengthy, is in multiple parts or takes the form of a speech. In any event, any person asking a supplementary question will be permitted only **1 minute** to do so.
- 5 A question may be rejected if it:
 - Is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the County or a part of it;
 - Is illegal, scurrilous, defamatory, frivolous or offensive or otherwise out of order;
 - Is substantially the same as or similar to a question which has been put at a

meeting of the Council in the past six months or relates to the same subject matter or the answer to the question will be substantially the same as the previous answer;

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information;
- Relates to a planning or licensing application;
- Relates to an employment matter that should more properly be dealt with through the Council's human resources processes.

6 There will be a time limit of a maximum of 30 minutes for public questions and of 30 minutes for Members' questions. There will normally be no extension of time, unless the Chairman decides that there are reasonable grounds to allow such an extension, and questions not dealt with in this time will be dealt with by written response. The Chairman will decide the time allocated to each question.

QUESTIONS

7 Eight questions have been received and accepted by the deadline and they are attached at Appendix 1.

Background Papers

- None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 15 JULY 2015

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 1

Street works register

Herefordshire Council has adopted both its Core Strategy and Transport Plan without any policies regarding completing and correcting our highway records (the Street Works Register reference LAF Blue Book for Roads viewable at https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/4753074/blue_book_for_roads_v8.pdf), which must surely be a fundamental requirement, leading to an unrecorded verbal discussion reported in FOI IAT 11614 deciding to register our unadopted roads on the upgraded Local Street Gazetteer as being without any highway dedication status, even those leading to public places, with public paths branching off them, in regular public use including those with public street lights !

However I am also advised under FOI IAT 11812 that Herefordshire Council proposes to make a representation to the Department for Transport shortly regarding envisaged problems, and also that the 1950's parish submissions are presently not available due to being scanned, so may I please ask if Herefordshire Council will raise a plan to address completing and correcting the Street Works Register complete with an Evidence Base of what has been done in previous years; that is open, transparent and an understandable way forward that may be undertaken in the most effective, efficient and economic manner ?

Question from Mrs V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton

Question 2

Local Growth Fund / Large Local Major Transport Development Schemes

The budget for the Southern Link Road (SLR) is overspent (£2.164 million as against the budgeted £1 million for development). Incurred costs reported by the Council are £1.712 million, and the Marches LEP has complied with the Council's invoice and paid over £2.164 million. The Council has failed to allocate any money in its Medium Term Financial Strategy for the sustainable transport / active travel elements in the South Wye Transport Package (of which the SLR is a part). The consequence of this action is that the Local Growth Fund conditional funding of £27 million (minus the £2.164 million already advanced) is the only funding available to the Council to complete the South Wye Transport Package. Furthermore, the Council, through the Marches LEP, is seeking an additional £2.65 million for development costs of the Hereford Transport Package (aka Hereford bypass), and pledging from the Council £600,000 of tax payers' money towards these costs.

Could the Cabinet member responsible for infrastructure, Councillor Philip Price, please explain why he has confidence that the sustainable transport / active travel elements within the SWTP will be delivered alongside the SLR, and that the £2.65 million in the Marches LEP bid document (ref. 160531) will be forthcoming via the DfT Large Local Major Transport Development Scheme to kick-start the Hereford Transport Package?

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton

Question 3

Five year housing land supply

Herefordshire currently does not have a 5 year housing land supply, meaning that any development that can show it is "sustainable" can be granted planning permission anywhere in the county. As the Western Relief Road corridor prevents housing development on the grounds of prematurity along the length of Kings Acre Road, until the route is defined, housing in Three Elms will not come

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forward in accordance with the approved Core Strategy Local Plan, and the shortfall will increase at a rate of 100 dwellings pa. What steps are being taken to review the housing targets of the Core strategy, and to assess infrastructure that will actually bring forward sustainable housing in Hereford, maximising the use of active modes of travel, such as that proposed by the Destination Hereford project?

Question from Ms K Sharp, Hereford

Question 4

Enterprise zone jobs and investment

With Rotherwas Enterprise Zone having created 254 new jobs (net) at the REZ up to the end of 2015, when does the Cabinet Member anticipate the 4,000-6,000 new jobs anticipated will be created in Hereford at the REZ and what investment by Herefordshire Council is needed to make these jobs a reality?

Question from Dr N Geeson, Hereford

Question 5

Relief road and congestion

The Western Relief Road corridor has recently prevented development of 75 new homes just off Kings Acre Road. (See Appeal ref 3137770). The proposed Western Relief Road may also run through the Strategic Urban Extension at Three Elms Urban Extension. Would the Cabinet member please explain how the Western Relief Road will reduce congestion into Hereford City from this large development site, improving sustainable connections with schools, colleges, hospitals, shops and employment sites and other services in the Centre of Hereford and so bring forward development of these new homes?

Question from Ms D Toynee, Eaton Bishop

Question 6

Enterprise Zone investment and business rates

Please would the Cabinet member detail how much in business rates from the REZ has been paid to the Marches LEP since the creation of the Zone, and how do these payments compare, year on year, with the investment Herefordshire Council has put into REZ?

Question from Mrs C Protherough, Clehonger

Question 7

Three Elms trading estate

With Herefordshire council purchasing the Three Elms Trading Estate as an investment for the local taxpayer, would the Cabinet member please confirm:-

1. How much this investment has cost to date, including renovations and business rates payable on unoccupied units;
 2. How much rental income has been received by Herefordshire Council;
 3. How many new jobs have been created, or lost, on this employment site?"
-

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Question from Mr R Palgrave, How Caple

Question 8

Hereford livestock market

In a period of austerity, services such as supporting homeless young people, Citizens Advice, and tourist information can no longer command a subsidy from Herefordshire Council. Rural bus services are under continual threat of closure. No Council money is being provided to help Hereford's City of Culture bid.

The local taxpayer invested at least £12million to provide a brand new, purpose built Livestock Market for local auctioneers. Would the Cabinet member please explain how the new Livestock Market is performing as an investment for the people of Herefordshire, in particular:-

- i) how much annual rent is received from the auctioneers and when was this last reviewed?
- ii) how much is paid in rates for the site?
- iii) who receives the benefit of any rates on this site?
- iv) is the return on investment achieving the level expected at the time the Livestock Market was built?



Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Motions on notice
Report by:	Monitoring officer

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To consider motions received on notice.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the motions as listed at paragraphs 7 and 8 are debated and determined by Council.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options to the recommendation; the constitution makes provision for motions on notice to be debated and decided by Council.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the provisions of the constitution.

Key considerations

- 3 The constitution provides that members of Council may submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by at least one member and submitted not later than midday on the seventh working day before the date of the meeting.
- 4 Motions must be about matters for which the council has a responsibility or which affect the area.

- 5 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, to a maximum of three, unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it. motions exceeding three are not listed on the agenda and will be held over for listing on the agenda for the next meeting in the order they were received.
- 6 A maximum of 1½ hours will be allocated for dealing with notices of motion but that time may be extended at the discretion of the chairman.
- 7 Three notices of motion have been received and are set out below:

Motion one – national planning policy framework

(Proposed by Councillor BA Baker)

The Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (HLPCS) lays out in detail how this county will develop, up to the year 2031 and includes planned domestic housing growth of 16,500 units within the plan period.

However, in accordance with national policies and guidance, the personal circumstances of our residents cannot form part of planning policy and may not be taken into consideration when determining a planning application as defined under policy RA3.

We are a caring Council and it's important that we continue to be seen as such by our residents. However, people living with any number of long term medical conditions, or other special needs, are having their needs and special circumstances ignored by the planning system, through no wish of this council.

Indeed, the draft HLPCS sought to remedy this, but that element was removed at the request of the inspector to comply with national policy and enable the HLPSC to be found sound. We have no remedy open to us locally within the current system.

I therefore call upon this council to resolve that:

The executive be requested to consider lobbying central government for a change to the national planning framework to enable local planning authorities to take personal circumstances into account as material planning considerations where proportionate residential development is considered necessary for a person suffering from a serious disability, or some other unusual or exceptional circumstances, and is supported by professional medical or other evidence, to enable that person to maintain and enjoy an acceptable quality of life.

Motion two – Mental Health Day

(Proposed by Councillor D Summers)

Mental health is an issue that affects many of us whether it be from personal demons or from watching a family member or friend suffering in its vice like grip.

Poor mental health can affect us at any stage in our child or adult life, but the stigma still attached to it is a source of shame or embarrassment for many. This leaves individuals more isolated and much less likely to seek the help they need at a time they need it.

Anyone who has been in a personal crisis is well aware that talking helps as long as they do not feel judged.

Anyone suffering from mental health whatever their age needs someone to listen to them with impartiality.

There is a wealth of support available already in the county, and to highlight that support as well as to raise the profile of mental health across the whole community I call upon Council to resolve that:

The executive be asked to consider the establishment of an annual designated mental health day to be called 'Lets Listen Herefordshire' and to be held every 'blue Monday' (that being the third Monday of each new year) from January 2017 onwards.

Motion three – Support of *Count Them In*

(Proposed by Councillor MT McEvilly)

I ask members of Council to note:

- a. The obligations its owes to the Armed Forces community within Herefordshire as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
- b. The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Herefordshire. This includes serving regular and reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
- c. That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Herefordshire.

In light of the above, I therefore call upon Council to resolve that:

The executive be requested to support and promote the Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community; and to call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community.

- 8 Where a critical local situation arises a motion signed by two members may be permitted in addition to the maximum of three if accepted by the chairman in consultation with the monitoring officer. Following the outcome of the recent EU referendum concerns have been raised nationally and locally about a rise in the levels of race hate crime; the chairman, having consulted with the monitoring officer, has permitted the following additional motion to be listed for Council to debate:

Motion four: combating racism

(Signed by: Councillors JM Bartlett, TM James, RI Matthews, PM Morgan and AJW Powers)

This Council resolves that:

This council wishes to state unequivocally that Herefordshire welcomes people from all walks of life - and will continue to do so.

We want Herefordshire to be known for being a diverse and tolerant society. Unkind speech and acts of prejudice have no place in our county or our country.

This council continues to promote and celebrate difference and we condemn all forms of racism, xenophobia and hate crime . We encourage respect for one another in all that we say and do, and wish to reassure all people visiting and living in this area that they are welcome and valued members of our community.

Community impact

- 9 None arising from the recommendation; if any motions results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Equality duty

- 10 None arising from the recommendation; if any motions results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet

Financial implications

- 11 None arising from the recommendation; if any motions results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Legal implications

- 12 None arising from the recommendation; if any motions results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Risk management

- 13 None arising from the recommendation; if any motions results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the risks associated with such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Consultees

- 14 None.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

- None identified.



Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Treasury management outturn 2015/16
Report by:	Leader of the council

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To approve the treasury management outturn for 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT:

(a) the treasury management outturn (at appendix 1) for 2015/16 be approved.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as the report provides factual outturn information, and approval of the outturn is reserved to Council.

Reasons for recommendations

2. To approve the treasury management outturn for 2015/16, cabinet considered the outturn on 16 June and recommended it to Council for approval.

Key considerations

3. The treasury management budget for 2015/16 overspent overall by £0.1m due to a combination of the following:
 - An additional voluntary minimum revenue provision contribution to repay debt balances early, saving on future interest costs;
 - Less revenue interest costs being capitalised due to less capital scheme spend being funded by borrowing;
 - Partially mitigated by short-term variable interest rates being lower than expected resulting in an interest cost saving.

4. The external borrowing as at 31 March 2016 totalled £196.5m, an increase of £31.9m since 1 April 2015 due to capital investment in the following:
 - Energy from waste plant loan, £17.4m, to be financed by future loan repayments
 - Road investment of £5.2m, to be financed by revenue maintenance cost savings
 - LED street lighting investment of £4.0m, to be financed by energy cost savings
 - Investment in leisure centres of £2.8m, to be financed by rental charges
 - Purchase of three elms trading estate, £1.8m, to be financed by rental income
5. Appendix 1 provides the outturn report and includes a detailed analysis in line with the CIPFA code of practice on treasury management.
6. The council has complied with its prudential indicators for 2015/16 approved by Council on 6 February 2015 as part of the treasury management strategy statement, these are provided in annex 1 to appendix 1.

Community impact

7. The recommendations do not have a direct community impact however the effective management of resources enables the council to direct those resources to support corporate plan priorities.

Equality duty

8. The recommendations do not have any equality implications.

Financial implications

9. None arising from the recommendations as the outturn report is a factual summary of performance in 2015/16. Treasury management includes debt repayment and interest charges. Using debt to finance capital investment is subject to separate approval by Council and is generally recommended when the cost of borrowing can be funded from the revenue savings generated by the capital investment.

Legal implications

10. The council complies with all relevant treasury management activity guidance and statute as detailed in the Prudential Code.

Risk management

11. The council is required to approve the treasury management outturn position under financial reporting requirements with monitoring reported to cabinet throughout the year.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Outturn 2015/16

Background papers

- None identified.

Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's code of practice on treasury management (the code). Before the start of every year the code requires local authorities to produce prudential indicators and a treasury management strategy statement detailing the policies and objectives of the council's treasury management activities for the forthcoming year. This outturn report compares actual activity to those policies and objectives.
- 1.2. The council borrows and invests substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of these risks are central to the treasury management strategy.

2. Economic background

- 2.1. **Growth:** Economic growth (GDP) in 2015/16 fell steadily from an annual rate of 2.9% in quarter one 2015 to 2.1% in quarter four.
- 2.2. **Inflation:** During 2015/16 forecasts for inflation have been repeatedly revised downwards. Annual CPI rose to 0.5% for the year to March 2016, the highest level since December 2014.
- 2.3. **Labour market:** In February 2016 there was an unexpected increase in UK jobless numbers for the three months to February, the rate of unemployment was unchanged at 5.1%. Wages rose at the slowest rate in a year at 1.8%.
- 2.4. **UK monetary policy:** The Bank of England's MPC maintained interest rates at 0.5% during 2015/16. Market expectations for the first increase in bank rate moved considerably during 2015/16 from quarter three in 2015 to quarter two 2018 at the end of the year.
- 2.5. **Market reaction:** The sharp volatility in equity markets during the year was reflected in sharp volatility in bond yields. However, the overall dominant trend in bond yields since July 2015 has been for yields to fall to historically low levels as forecasts for inflation have repeatedly been revised downwards and expectations of increases in central rates have been pushed back. In addition, a notable trend in the year was that several central banks introduced negative interest rates as a measure to stimulate the creation of credit and hence economic growth. The ECB commenced a quantitative easing programme of purchases of Eurozone government and other bonds starting in March at €60bn per month. This put downward pressure on Eurozone bond yields. As for America, the economy has continued to grow healthily, the first increase in the central rate occurred in December 2015.

3. Borrowing

- 3.1. The council continues to access lower cost short-term loans from other local authorities rather than more expensive longer term debt due to the differential between short and longer-term interest rates. This policy is expected to continue until 2018 but should this differential decrease and short term borrowing costs increase, the council will begin using more fixed long term debt to fund its borrowing requirements.
- 3.2. In 2015/16 the weighted average interest rate paid on council borrowing was 3.42% (3.43% in 2014/15). The weighted average cost of long term borrowing was 4.14% compared to 0.56% for short-term borrowing (being the gross cost including brokers' commission of between 0.01% and 0.10%). This demonstrates that if the council had secured fixed term borrowing instead of short term the additional fixed term borrowing could have totalled £27.5m which could have been at an additional annual interest cost of £1.0m.

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3.3. It is council strategy to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels by using “internal borrowing”, utilising usable reserves. This maintains borrowing and investment balances to a minimum.

3.4. The actual movement in gilt yields meant that the trend in the public works loan board (PWLB) rates during 2015/16 saw an increase in rates during the first quarter followed by sharp volatility since July 2015 but with an overall trend for rates to fall to historically low levels by the end of the year. This enabled the council to replace some short-term loans with longer-term finance. In 2015/16 the following longer term loan was taken out from the PWLB:

Amount Borrowed	From	To	Period	Type of loan*	Interest Rate
£13m	17/02/16	17/02/28	12 years	EIP	1.64%
*EIP = Equal Instalments of Principal, where loan is repaid in equal instalments every six months over the period of the loan.					

3.5. The premium charged by the PWLB for the early repayment of PWLB debt remained too expensive for existing loans in the council's portfolio to be repaid and rescheduled. No rescheduling activity was undertaken in 2015/16 and this will continue to be constantly considered.

3.6. Borrowing activity during the year is summarised below:

Borrowing activity in 2015/16	01/04/15 balance £m	New borrowing £m	Debt maturing £m	31/03/16 balance £m
Short-term borrowing	19.0	141.0	(113.5)	46.5
Long-term borrowing	145.5	13.0	(8.6)	150.0
TOTAL BORROWING	164.5	154.0	(122.1)	196.5
Other long-term liabilities*	26.6	0.3	(1.3)	25.6
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	191.1	154.3	(123.4)	222.1
<i>*Other long term liabilities represent existing commitments under PFI arrangements included in the medium term financial strategy</i>				

3.7. Total borrowing increased by £31.9m representing capital spend financed by borrowing, which included the following:

- Energy from waste plant loan, £17.4m, to be funded by future loan repayments
- Road investment of £5.2m, the cost of borrowing to be financed by revenue maintenance cost savings
- LED street lighting investment of £4.0m, to be financed by energy cost savings
- Investment in leisure centres of £2.8m, to be financed by rental charges
- Purchase of three elms trading estate, £1.8m, to be funded by rental income

3.8. The council's underlying need to borrow is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). As at 31/03/2016 this totalled £264.8m. The difference of £42.7m between the CFR and total external debt represents internal borrowing from usable reserves and working capital.

3.9. The council's capital financing costs in 2015/16 were as follows.

Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16

Capital financing costs for 2015/16:	Budget	Outturn	Over / (under) spend
	£m	£m	£m
Minimum Revenue Provision (provision for repayment of loan principal)	9.8	10.4	0.6
Interest on existing longer-term PWLB and bank loans	5.8	5.7	(0.1)
Interest on short-term variable rate loans	0.9	0.2	(0.7)
Less capitalised interest	(0.3)	(0.0)	0.3
Total	16.2	16.3	0.1

3.10. The variances to budget have arisen from:

- An additional voluntary minimum revenue provision contribution to repay debt balances early, saving on future interest costs;
- Short-term variable interest rates being lower than expected resulting in an interest cost saving;
- Less revenue interest costs being capitalised due to less capital scheme spend being funded by borrowing.

4. Investments

4.1. The council invests significant funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. During 2015/16 the council's investment balances averaged at £16m and ranged from £36m in July 2015 to £7.6m in March 2016.

4.2. Security of capital remained the council's primary objective. Investment income remained low due to the continued low interest rate environment and the reduction in investment maturity limits in the treasury management policy which are set for each financial institution following advice from the council's treasury adviser, Capita asset services.

4.3. Investments held at the start and end of the year were as follows:

Investments	01/04/15 balance £m	Investments made £m	Maturities/ withdrawals £m	31/03/16 balance £m
Instant Access Accounts	2.6	349.0	(346.5)	5.1
Notice Accounts	0.2	2.3	-	2.5
Term Deposits	-	2.5	(2.5)	-
Total	2.8	353.8	(349.0)	7.6
Increase in investments				4.8

Annual Treasury Management Report 2015/16

4.4. Interest received during the year was as follows:

Month	Average amount invested		Average rate of interest earned		Budget £000	Interest earned £000	(Surplus) /deficit £000
	Actual £m	Budget £m	Actual %	Budget %			
Apr-15	19.5	30	0.52	0.40	10	8	2
May-15	16.9	30	0.59	0.40	10	8	2
Jun-15	16.1	30	0.58	0.40	10	8	2
Jul-15	22.7	30	0.54	0.40	10	10	-
Aug-15	15.5	30	0.60	0.40	10	8	2
Sep-15	12.5	30	0.63	0.40	10	6	4
Oct-15	13.8	30	0.60	0.40	10	7	3
Nov-15	12.5	30	0.60	0.40	10	6	4
Dec-15	15.7	30	0.56	0.40	10	7	3
Jan-16	15.9	30	0.58	0.40	10	8	2
Feb-16	16.6	30	0.58	0.40	10	7	3
Mar-16	10.4	15	0.65	0.40	5	6	(1)
Outturn					115	89	26

4.5. The interest received in the year was below budget due to lower balances being maintained, reducing the need to borrow.

4.6. The average interest rate achieved during 2015/16 was 0.59%, higher than budgeted. This compares favourably with the generally accepted benchmark of the average 7-day London Inter-Bank Bid (LIBID) rate of 0.36%.

4.7. During the year the provision of loan finance to the waste disposal PFI provider generated loan interest payable to us of £0.8m which will be recharged through the PFI.

5. Compliance with prudential indicators

5.1. The Council complied with its prudential indicators, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices for 2015/16, approved 6 February 2015, see Annex 1. A prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

Performance Indicators

1. Treasury management indicators

The council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

1.1 Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the council's exposure to interest rate risk. The indicator sets upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest rate exposures, expressed as the proportion of net principal borrowed.

	2015/16 approved limit	2015/16 maximum exposure
Upper limit for fixed rate exposure	100%	100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure	50%	22%

The above indicator relates to net debt, if the council has variable rate investments at the same level as its variable rate debt it is deemed to have no variable rate exposure (all council investments are regarded as being at variable rate because no investments are for more than one year). For 26 days in the year the council's investments exceeded its variable rate short-term borrowing.

1.2 Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing

This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing	Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %	Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/03/16 £m	% Fixed Rate Borrowing 31/03/16
Under 12 months	0%	20%	8.5	5%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	20%	5.5	4%
24 months and within 5 years	0%	20%	16.2	11%
5 years and within 10 years	0%	20%	24.1	16%
10 years and within 20 years	0%	40%	34.5	23%
20 years and within 30 years	0%	40%	11.9	8%
30 years and within 40 years	0%	40%	21.3	14%
40 years and within 50 years	0%	40%	28.0	19%
Total			150.0	100%

Two LOBO ("Lenders Option then Borrowers Option") bank loans of £6m each are repayable in 2054 however if the lenders seek to increase the interest rate charged, currently 4.5%, the council has the opportunity to repay the loans.

1.3 Upper limit for total principal sums invested over 364 days

The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of financial loss that may arise as a result of the council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

Upper limit for total principal sums invested over 364 days	2015/16 Approved £m	2015/16 Actual £m	2016/17 Estimate £m	2017/18 Estimate £m
Total	5	0	5	5

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During 2015/16 no long-term investments were made for a period exceeding 364 days.

2. Prudential Indicators

2.1 Estimates of capital expenditure

This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on council tax.

Capital Expenditure	2015/16		31/03/17 Estimate £000	31/03/18 Estimate £000
	Estimate £000	Actual £000		
Total	77,089	77,047	75,075	50,701

Capital expenditure has been and is expected to be financed or funded as follows:

Capital Financing	2015/16		31/03/17 Estimate £000	31/03/18 Estimate £000
	Estimate £000	Actual £000		
Capital grants	30,267	39,148	24,343	35,873
Capital receipts	5,763	5,691	7,900	6,400
Revenue funding	250	350	0	0
Salix loan	-	-	300	
Prudential borrowing	40,809	31,858	42,532	8,428
Total	77,089	77,047	75,075	50,701

Generally prudential borrowing finance is provided where the return on the investment exceeds the debt financing cost.

3. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Estimates of the council's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2015/16 to 2017/18 are shown in the table below:

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/16 Approved £000	31/03/16 Actual £000	31/03/17 Estimate £000	31/03/18 Estimate £000
Total CFR	285,109	264,838	316,677	310,744

Total debt is expected to remain at or below the CFR during the forecast period.

4. Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit or authorised limit. This is a statutory limit which should not be breached.

The operational boundary is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but reflects the most likely, prudent but not worst case scenario without the additional headroom included within the authorised limit.

The Section 151 officer confirms that there were no breaches to the authorised limit and the operational boundary during the year; borrowing at its peak was £201.5m.

	2015/16 approved operational boundary £m	2015/16 approved authorised limit £m	Actual external debt as at 31/03/16 £m
Borrowing	270.0	280.0	196.5
Other long-term liabilities	30.0	40.0	25.6
Total	300.0	320.0	222.1

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5. Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	2015/16 Approved %	2015/16 Actual %	2016/17 Estimate %	2017/18 Estimate %
Net revenue stream	141,318	141,993	147,979	142,925
Financing costs	18,502	16,272	16,607	15,622
Percentage	13.1%	11.4%	11.2%	10.9%

6. Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

This indicator demonstrates that the council has adopted the principles of best practice.

The council has incorporated the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* into its treasury policies, procedures and practices.



Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Leader's report
Report by:	Leader of the council

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To receive a report from the leader on the activities of cabinet since the meeting of Council in March.

Recommendations

THAT:

- (a) the report be noted.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options; it is a requirement of the council's constitution.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To ensure members are aware of the activities of cabinet.

Key considerations

- 3 A list of the decisions taken by cabinet and cabinet members since the last report to

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Councillor T Johnson, leader of the council on Tel (01432) 260494

Council (covering the period between 12 February and 30 June) is provided at appendix 1; five were taken under the general exception provision (less than twenty-eight but more than five days' notice) and the relevant overview and scrutiny committee chairman was notified. None were taken under the urgency provision (less than five days' notice). One decision, in relation to supported housing services for young people was subject to call-in; following robust questioning of the cabinet member and relevant professional officers the committee were satisfied that the decision was not outside the budget and policy framework and that the equality impact assessment had been properly considered. However, the committee were concerned that cabinet had not been fully sighted on the proposals submitted by SHYPP and recommended the original decision was reviewed in light of the proposals submitted. Having reviewed the additional information, cabinet confirmed its original decision.

- 4 In line with the framework for assessment agreed by the employment panel, the annual personal performance and development programme for the chief executive has been undertaken in consultation with group leaders. A summary of the agreed objectives is attached at appendix 2 for information.
- 5 I have made some minor changes to the cabinet member portfolios, and welcome Cllr Harlow to the cabinet team; for information the revised portfolios are attached at appendix 3. There are a number of ways in which cabinet members try and ensure that all members are informed about decisions which affect their wards including the forward plan, the ward member update, and briefings to all members. If there are any issues of concern about a particular issue, or if members would like to know more about a forthcoming decision, or have a view to put forward I would encourage them to raise this with the relevant cabinet member.
- 6 The result of the recent referendum, whatever individuals' views of the outcome may be, has undoubtedly lead to a period of uncertainty not least in relation to future national economic policy. We will continue to work with our local government association and other partners to seek to influence developing policy and ensure the best possible outcomes for Herefordshire's residents. Similarly the result has also heightened awareness of and concern about rising levels of hate crime; we have no tolerance for such behaviour in Herefordshire. In 2009, Herefordshire Council committed to the Herefordshire Equality and Human Rights Charter. We believe that the residents of Herefordshire wish to live in peaceful and harmonious communities, no matter an individual's country of origin and will continue to work with our employees, partners and residents of Herefordshire to ensure our communities are happy, healthy, safe and respectful of every member of our community.
- 7 Exploration continues of the options for ensuring the council is in the best position to secure the benefits of any devolution deal, including continued access to any future government growth funding. Group leaders have been kept informed of discussions which are taking place with the West Midlands Combined Authority about the potential for Herefordshire to become a non-constituent member and a report on the outcome of those discussions will shortly be considered by cabinet.

Community impact

- 8 The community impact of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Councillor T Johnson, leader of the council on Tel (01432) 260494

Equality duty

- 9 Cabinet and cabinet members have paid due regard to the public sector equality duty in their decision-making, as set out in the relevant decision reports.

Financial implications

- 10 The financial implications of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

Legal implications

- 11 The legal implications of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

Risk management

- 12 The risks associated with any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

Consultees

- 13 None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive decisions taken

Appendix 2 – Chief executive's objectives 2016/17

Appendix 3 – Cabinet member portfolios

Background papers

- None identified.

Executive decisions taken between 13 February and 24 June 2016

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Schools admissions criteria 2017/18</p> <p>To approve Herefordshire Council's proposed admissions arrangements for 2017/18.</p>	26 February 2016	Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing
<p>Rutland</p> <p>To agree the approach to cooperation with Rutland in delivery of ICT services</p>	3 March 2016	Cabinet member corporate strategy and finance
<p>West Midlands regional foster care framework</p> <p>To note the joint procurement exercise undertaken with the 13 other local authorities of the west midlands region led by Birmingham City Council and approve the awarding of contracts to preferred providers of independent foster care placements for Herefordshire's third fostering framework agreement.</p>	3 March 2016	Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing
<p>Museum and archives</p> <p>To consider initial options for future operation of museums and archives service</p>	10 March 2016	Cabinet
<p>Approval of strategic housing documents</p> <p>To approve the housing strategy for Herefordshire, the homelessness prevention review and strategy, the allocations policy and the tenancy strategy.</p>	10 March 2016	Cabinet
<p>Faster City</p> <p>To consider support for and allocation of funding to the Faster City broadband project.</p>	10 March 2016	Cabinet member economy and corporate services
<p>Redesign of housing related support service contract: Norfolk House, Leominster</p> <p>To assess the future delivery arrangement for the housing related support service contract</p>	11 March 2016	Cabinet member health and wellbeing
<p>Community infrastructure levy (CIL) - consultation on preliminary draft charging schedule (PDCS) and CIL timetable to adoption</p> <p>Approve 6 week public consultation on the CIL-PDCS, associated communications and timetable for adoption of CIL</p>	11 March 2016	Cabinet member infrastructure

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Public realm service - depot rationalisation</p> <p>To approve the investment in the improvement of the public realm service operational delivery</p>	15 March 2016	Cabinet member transport and roads
<p>Agreement of section 75</p> <p>To agree a six month extension to the original section 75 agreement between the council and clinical commissioning group (to 30th September 2016).</p>	17 March 2016	Cabinet
<p>Direct award: health visiting and school nursing services</p> <p>To agree direct award of contract in 16/17</p>	17 March 2016 (general exception)	Cabinet
<p>Public health shared services agreement</p> <p>To approve a shared service for the provision of professional services including the role of director of public health.</p>	17 March 2016	Cabinet
<p>Housing related support service contract: homelessness prevention – supported housing for young person’s project (SHYPP).</p> <p>To confirm future delivery arrangements for the young persons’ housing related support services contract (SHYPP).</p>	17 March 2016	Cabinet
<p>Enterprise Zone capital interventions phase II</p> <p>To seek Cabinet Member approval for further capital interventions in 2015/16 to make Zone land ready for investment</p>	21 March 2016	Cabinet member corporate strategy and finance
<p>Adoption of the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood development plan, adoption of the countywide policies map and delegation of future neighbourhood development plan adoptions to cabinet member infrastructure</p> <p>To recommend the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood development plan to council for adoption as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire; to recommend to Council the adoption of the policies map which accompanies the Herefordshire Local Plan together with</p>	30 March 2016 (general exception)	Cabinet member infrastructure

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p> <p>the required consequential amendments in connection with the adoption of the Weston-under-Penyard neighbourhood plan; and to recommend to Council arrangements for efficient adoption of future neighbourhood development plans and policies map amendments.</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>The Care and Support Charging Policy Consultation</p> <p>To implement changes to the care and support charging policy</p>	30 March 2016	Cabinet member health and wellbeing
<p>Fastershire baseline changes</p> <p>To agree revised baseline for the Fastershire project.</p>	1 April 2016	Cabinet member economy and corporate services
<p>Disposal of Whitehouse Public House and surrounding land</p> <p>To seek approval to dispose of the former Whitehouse Public House and associated land to a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) to secure the delivery of a community facility as part of an affordable housing development</p>	8 April 2016	Cabinet member contracts and assets
<p>Completion of sale of Brockington</p> <p>To approve the sale of Brockington to Prime (UK) Developments Ltd and IE Developments Ltd</p>	18 April 2016 (general exception)	Cabinet member contracts and assets
<p>Housing related support service contract: homelessness prevention – supported housing for young person’s project (SHYPP)</p> <p>To confirm future delivery arrangements for the young persons’ housing related support services contract (SHYPP)</p>	14 April 2016	Cabinet
<p>Corporate delivery plan 2016/2017</p> <p>To agree the projects and measures within the 2016/17 corporate delivery plan</p>	14 April 2016	Cabinet
<p>Approval of smallholdings disposal plan</p> <p>To approve the smallholdings disposal plan</p>	14 April 2016	Cabinet
<p>Additional temporary classrooms at Marlbrook school</p> <p>To approve capital expenditure for addition temporary classrooms at Marlbrook School</p>	14 April 2016	Cabinet

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Local transport plan</p> <p>To approve the draft local transport plan for consideration by full council</p>	14 April 2016	Cabinet
<p>Reduced all day tariff on 22 May 2016 in Merton Meadow car park for those cars parking before 8am</p> <p>To agree a reduced £1 all day tariff in Merton Meadow car parks for cars parking, before 8am on 22 May 2016, to assist those travelling by coach to support Hereford FC in the FA Vase final at Wembley</p>	3 May 2016	Cabinet member transport and roads
<p>Lengthsman/P3</p> <p>To approve the Lengthsman and P3 Schemes for 2016/17 onwards</p>	29 April 2016	Cabinet member transport and roads
<p>Hereford library and museum</p> <p>To consider the response to the proposals submitted by Hereford Library Users Group regarding the future operation of Hereford library and museum.</p>	9 May 2016 (general exception)	Cabinet
<p>Unified residential and nursing contract between the council and Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), fee increase for care homes and change in payment process.</p> <p>To endorse the approach to develop and implement a unified contract between the CCG and the council, agree to change policy to pay gross instead of net and agree the care home rates for 2016/17</p>	9 May 2016 (general exception)	Cabinet
<p>Support services for Syrian refugees in Herefordshire</p> <p>To approve the procurement of orientation and support services for Syrian refugees settling in Herefordshire</p>	9 May 2016	Cabinet
<p>Approve the proposal to seek further CCTV grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and other relevant parties</p> <p>To approve the submission of a grant application the PCC</p>	17 May 2016	Cabinet member economy and corporate services
<p>Home care rate increase for 2016/17</p> <p>To seek approval to increase rates for 2016/17</p>	16 May 2016	Cabinet member health and wellbeing

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Balfour Beatty Living Places public realm annual plan</p> <p>To confirm the annual plan for the public realm services contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places</p>	11 May 2016	Cabinet member transport and roads
<p>Revised sandbag policy</p> <p>To approve the revised policy for dealing with the issue of sandbags to parishes, communities, businesses and individual property owners</p>	16 May 2016	Cabinet member transport and roads
<p>Adult and community learning provider framework and sub-contracting policy 2016 - 2019</p> <p>To note the submission of recent bid to the Department of Transport (DfT) Transition Fund and if successful seek approval to accept the grant award of £419,000 to deliver a one year programme of walking and cycling promotions across the county in 2016/17.</p>	19 May 2016	Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing
<p>To extend the Wall Street shared housing scheme for adults with disabilities contract delivered by Livability, whilst a re-procurement exercise is undertaken</p> <p>To approve a 12 month extension to the current Wall Street shared housing for adults with disabilities contract, up to and including the 31 March 2017, to support a full service review and re-procurement exercise.</p>	19 May 2016	Cabinet member health and wellbeing
<p>Debt recovery policy</p> <p>To review and agree the updated debt recovery policy.</p>	20 May 2016	Cabinet member economy and corporate services
<p>Funding submission to DfT local transport majors fund</p> <p>To approve submission of one or more bids to the local transport majors fund.</p>	31 May 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Award of contracts for learning disability services</p> <p>To award four contracts for the provision of residential and supported living services for people with learning disabilities, following a competitive procurement process.</p>	2 June 2016	Cabinet member health and wellbeing
<p>Funding submission to the Department for Transport local transport majors fund</p>	27 May 2016	Cabinet member infrastructure

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>To approve a request to the Marches local enterprise partnership (LEP) that they make a submission to the local transport majors fund for a contribution towards the development of an outline business case for the Hereford transport package.</p>		
<p>Joint customer services hub</p> <p>To approve the development of Blueschool House as a shared customer service hub.</p>	2 June 2016	Cabinet member contracts and assets
<p>Annual report of the Marches Enterprise Joint Committee 2015/16</p> <p>To agree the content of an annual report on the activities of the Marches Enterprise Joint Committee to the three partner councils</p>	31 May	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Marches LEP growth deal skills capital funding: results of the advanced manufacturing hub skills capital tender</p> <p>To approve the allocation of funding under the Marches LEP growth deal skills capital fund to address skills needs for the advance manufacturing sector.</p>	31 May	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Marches accountability and assurance framework</p> <p>To consider the amendments to the Marches accountability and assurance framework recommended by the LEP board.</p>	31 May	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Development partnership project</p> <p>Agree partnership model and site selection that will be issued for the procurement of a development partnership for the council.</p>	16 June 2016	Cabinet
<p>2015/16 year-end corporate budget and performance report</p> <p>To report the revenue and capital outturn for 2015/16 and performance in delivery of the corporate plan.</p>	16 June 2016	Cabinet
<p>Hereford relief road (HRR)</p> <p>To consider route appraisal and route to planning.</p>	16 June 2016	Cabinet

Decision and purpose	Decision date	Taken by
<p>Marches investment fund allocation</p> <p>The allocation of marches investment funding against loan applications received by the local enterprise partnership</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Growth deal skills capital projects</p> <p>To consider and approve application for further education capital from the local Growth fund</p>	15 February 2016	Marches enterprise joint committee
<p>Adoption of the Eardisley Group neighbourhood development plan and consequential updates to the countywide policies map</p> <p>To adopt the Eardisley Group neighbourhood development plan and the consequential changes to the countywide policies map as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire.</p>	13 June 2016	Cabinet member Infrastructure
<p>Adoption of the Staunton on Wye neighbourhood development plan and consequential updates to the countywide policies map</p> <p>To adopt the Staunton on Wye neighbourhood development plan and the consequential changes to the countywide policies map as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire.</p>	13 June 2016	Cabinet member Infrastructure
<p>Revenue support for New University green book business case development</p> <p>To seek approval for the council to contribute revenue funding towards the creation of a Green Book compliant business case for the New Model University in Technology and Engineering and to act as accountable body for any public funding that may be secured from external sources.</p>	14 June 2016	Cabinet member corporate strategy and finance
<p>New university support: governance</p> <p>To agree governance arrangements to support effective partnership working between Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire Tertiary Education Trust</p>	20 June 2016	Cabinet member corporate strategy and finance
<p>Adoption & maintenance of new public open space</p> <p>To approve the change to the council's guidance to developers on adoption and future maintenance of public open space associated with new development to recognise that the council will no longer normally adopt or take on the maintenance of new public open space, play or sports facilities that form part of new developments.</p>	24 June 2016	Cabinet member Infrastructure

Chief executive's agreed objectives 2016/17

Objective 1 To maintain the council's focus on strong financial control and planning. Consider all appropriate options to develop a sustainable council through the next four years. Consideration should be given to longer term strategic direction for the council, i.e. beyond the challenges of the next four years.

Objective 2 Lead the development of strategic plans aimed at addressing the next few years' challenges – to provide the council with the most sustainable course for local key service delivery. This should include full consideration of devolution and combined authorities as national policy development.

Objective 3 Progress the relationship with health, e.g. through sustainability and transformation plans, to lead new approaches to joint-working which will deliver improved use of resources in health and social care.

Objective 4 Take forward in the next 12 months the development of an economic master plan (EMP) to set out clear economic development priorities for the county – in order to address some of the fundamental weaknesses of Herefordshire's economic position and prospects.

Objective 5 Lead the development of plans and approaches to continue to drive improved outcomes and performance in children's safeguarding, placing 'working within budget' as a high priority.

Objective 6 Lead the development of plans and approaches and work with other leaders, to raise the prospect of improved educational attainment within the county. Establish attainment and aspirational links with the developing university project.

Objective 7 Work closely with adults and wellbeing to embed change and seek to manage within the demands and constraint of changing national policies, placing 'working within budget' as a high priority.

Objective 8 Oversee this year's elections in May and June, to ensure they are well run, efficient, fair and if possible good-natured.

Objective 9 Ensure that the workforce is engaged in understanding council performance, its core challenges and priorities and its developing strategic direction – with a view to seeing an improvement in the staff survey measurement of employee engagement.

Cabinet member portfolios – June 2016

Leader (corporate strategy and finance): Councillor Tony Johnson

External liaison support: Councillor Roger Phillips

- Corporate policies and strategy
 - Agreeing and leading the process for recommending the budget , council tax and NNDR to Council
 - Recommend to Council the policy framework
 - Key partnerships and external relationships
 - Local government issues
 - Financial policy and financial control
 - Council tax benefits
 - External liaison
 - LGA/CCN
 - European, national and regional matters
 - Local enterprise partnership
 - Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
 - Any initiative not specifically allocated to any other portfolio
- Supported by Cllr Phillips

Contracts and assets: Councillor Harry Bramer

- Major contract negotiation
- Commissioning (strategic)
- Oversight and management of contracts
- Council assets/property
- Waste
- Common land
- Community services
 - Parks and countryside
 - Leisure services
 - Cultural services
 - Libraries
 - Heritage services
 - Archives
 - Public conveniences
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Economy and corporate services: Councillor David Harlow

Support member: Councillor Nigel Shaw

- Community engagement & development
- Economic development & regeneration
- Enterprise zone
- Broadband
- Customer services
- Equalities and human rights
- Emergency planning and business continuity
- Risk management
- Performance management and improvement framework
- Research
- Modern records
- Legal & democratic services
- Land charges
- Registration services
- Coroner services
- Communications strategy
- HR
- Shared services
- Bereavement services
- Gypsies and travellers
- Animal health & welfare
- Licensing
- Environmental health
- Trading standards
- Market and fairs
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Health and wellbeing: Councillor Patricia Morgan (deputy leader)

Support member: Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst

- To provide leadership and ensure coordination across the range of local authority adult social care services, and through engagement with partners
- Services for vulnerable adults
- Adults' safeguarding
- Strategic housing, homelessness, housing allocation and condition
- Public health
- Leadership of health & wellbeing board, and partnership working with the health services
- Lead member for health and social care in accordance with the Health & Social Care Act 2012
- Community safety
- Member development and training
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Deputise for the leader of the council in his absence
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Infrastructure: Councillor Philip Price

- Transport and highways (policy and strategy)
- Core strategy
- Land drainage, flood alleviation, rivers and waterways
- Planning, conservation and land use strategy
- Environmental promotion, protection & sustainability
- ICT strategy
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Transport and roads: Councillor Paul Rone

- Transport and highways (operations)
- Public rights of way
- Streetscene design, policy and delivery
- Traffic management
- Car parking policy and services
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Young people and children's wellbeing: Councillor Jonathan Lester

Support team member: Councillor Jenny Hyde

- To provide leadership and ensure coordination across the range of local authority children's services, and through engagement with partners, with a particular focus on children and young people's health & wellbeing, safeguarding, education and attainment
- Services for vulnerable young people/children/families
- Children's safeguarding
- Youth offending services
- Lead member for children's services in accordance with the Children's Act 2004
- Leadership and support for schools across the authority
- Post 16 education and training
- Corporate parenting
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, localities development, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader



Meeting	Council
Meeting date	15 July 2016
Title of report	Council support for the New Model in Technology and Engineering (NMiTE) university
Report by	Leader of the council

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide.

Purpose

To approve an amendment to the capital programme

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) provision of £300k be made in the current year's capital programme to support the development of the new university.

Alternative options

- 1 The council could choose to make the funding available by way of a grant. This is not recommended given that the likelihood of recovering the investment remains and therefore a loan arrangement offers the best use of public resources.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To continue to respond to the resolution passed by Council in 2014 to support the creation of a university for the county.

Key considerations

- 3 It is anticipated that a new university in Herefordshire would have the following transformative economic benefits both locally and regionally:
 - With up to 5,000 students there would be an immediate and direct benefit to the Herefordshire economy;
 - There would be value added by local firms benefitting from knowledge transfer, research and access to university expertise;
 - 10-40% of students are likely to remain in the area either as employees or starting their own businesses;
 - Over 25 years the university will add some 7,000 economically active residents which is about a third of the estimated 20,000 needed to make the county sustainable as a separate entity: and,
 - With some 500 well paid staff the university will help raise average wages in the county.
- 4 In his autumn statement in 2015 the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, pledged that Government support will be provided to secure launch funding to create the NMiTE university and said “I hope this will allow the institution to start teaching the engineering students of the future that our country needs before the end of the parliament.”
- 5 Funding of circa £18m is earmarked for this launch funding but access to this is dependent upon HTET submitting a sound Green Book business case, the Office of Government Commerce’s recommended standard for the preparation of business cases, and it being approved by BIS.
- 6 Key elements of the case will be:
 - the commitment from the council to work in partnership with HTET;
 - tangible evidence of how and where the teaching, administration and student accommodation will be located;
 - connection with and impact of those university buildings with the city/county; and,
 - the soundness of the financial and economic business case and the associated wider benefits.
- 7 Officer support is being provided to HTET, which is leading the project, to develop the Green Book business case. However, the successful establishment of the new university is dependent upon the development of a detailed business plan to give confidence to funders and stakeholders regarding the delivery and sustainability of NMiTE’s university model for Herefordshire.
- 8 In order to achieve this HTET have requested the council to provide loan support of up to £300k, repayable once government and/or private funding is secured. The cabinet member has given in principle approval to this request for loan funding subject to Council approval of the amendment to the capital programme and to a number of conditions to be determined by the joint university project board, established following cabinet member approval (see: <http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4309>). The council will remain the accountable body for the funding.
- 9 The university project is an extremely significant opportunity for Herefordshire and the council has committed to support its implementation due to the positive impact the university would have in meeting a number of the council’s strategic objectives.

Community impact

- 10 Development of the higher education proposals, included in the council's corporate plan, would enable both residents and businesses to have much needed access to higher education and be a catalyst for learning progression in Herefordshire. The new university would also help address the challenge around raising average wage levels in the county.

Equality duty

- 11 Supporting the establishment of a university for Herefordshire is totally compatible with our general duty under section 149.

Financial implications

- 12 The £300k loan facility will be added to the approved capital programme, financed by prudential borrowing and provided to HTET following the meeting of the loan conditions. HTET will be charged interest on the loan balance at the council's weighted average interest rate, currently 3.42% per annum, ensuring the loan repayment reimburses all costs incurred.

Legal implications

- 13 The council may, under the general power of competence set out in s.1 Localism Act 2011, do anything that individuals generally may do.
- 14 Paragraph 4.7.21.5 of the council's Financial Procedure Rules states that loans to third parties will only be made in exceptional circumstances.
- 15 Full council resolved at its meeting on 7 March 2014 to request that the executive identify the most appropriate way for the council to assist in securing the future of higher education in the county. The loan of £300k is in line with this resolution.
- 16 The terms upon which the loan is made would need to be negotiated and agreed to ensure the council protects its financial position and mitigates against the possibility of the loan not being repaid.

Risk Management

- 17 There is a risk that should the new university fail to attract sufficient non-council resources then the loan payments would not be repaid. This risk will be monitored and managed by the joint university project board in the course of developing the business case and associated submissions for Government funding.

Consultees

- 18 None.

Appendices

- 19 None

Background papers

- None identified.



Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Appointment of Chairmen of Committees
Report by:	Monitoring officer

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To exercise powers reserved to Council to appoint chairmen of committees.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Council:

- a) **appoint a chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee; and;**
- b) **confirm Councillor PM Morgan, being Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing, as the chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

Alternative options

- 1 Council could decide not to appoint a chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee. in this event the vice-chairman would take the chair for remaining meetings during the municipal year.
- 2 The terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as approved by Council, state that the chairmanship of the board should be held by either the cabinet member, health and wellbeing, or the cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To fill a vacancy in the appointments made by Council in May 2016. The appointment of chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees is reserved to Council under the council's Constitution.

Key considerations

- 3 In May 2016 Council considered appointments to committees. It also elected chairmen and vice-chairmen of those committees. The position of chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee has been vacated with effect from 15 July 2016 and a replacement appointment is sought.
- 4 When appointments were made in May to the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of committees, the position of Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board was inadvertently omitted from the report to annual council.

Community impact

- 5 There are no implications.

Equality duty

- 6 There are no implications.

Financial implications

- 7 Budgets are in place to cover allowances for any appointment made.

Legal implications

- 8 The constitution reserves to council the function of appointing chairman of committees.

Risk management

- 9 Failure to appoint to chairmanships carries minimal risk of challenge; the recommendations in this report mitigate that risk.

Consultees

- 10 None

Appendices

None

Background papers

- None identified.



MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	15 July 2016
TITLE OF REPORT:	Annual Reports from Committees
REPORT BY:	Governance Manager

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the following annual reports:

- a) Audit and Governance Committee
- b) General Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- c) Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- d) Health and Wellbeing Board
- e) Planning Committee
- f) Regulatory Committee

Recommendation

THAT: the annual reports from committees be noted.

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
D Penrose, Democratic Services Officer, on Tel (01432) 383690

Key Considerations

- 3 The annual reports appended to this report summarise the work of Committees since the annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2015.
- 4 Copies of agenda papers and Minutes for all meetings of these Committees are available on the Council's website:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings>

Background Papers

- None identified

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the audit and governance committee
Report by:	Chairman: audit and governance committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform council of the work undertaken by the audit and governance committee for the municipal year 2015/2016.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as the report is for information.

Reasons for recommendations

2. To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.

Key considerations

3. The audit and governance committee is responsible for overseeing the council's corporate governance, audit and risk management arrangements. The committee is also responsible for approving the statement of accounts and the annual governance

statement. The functions of the audit and governance committee are set out in section six of the constitution. This report summarises the work of the audit and governance committee for the year 2015/16.

4. The committee has met on six occasions in the year 2015/16. During this period the committee has assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers, internal audit and the external auditors Grant Thornton. The committee has sought assurance that action has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have been identified by auditors during the period. The principal areas of business considered are summarised below.

External audit

5. The committee noted a review of the council's audit findings report for 2014-15. The auditors reviewed the financial resilience, value for money and statement of accounts of the council by looking at key indicators of financial performance, its approach to strategic financial planning, its approach to financial governance and its approach to financial control.
6. The overall conclusion was that adequate arrangements are in place in all of these areas, the same as 2013/14.
7. The audit findings report included an action plan to implement improvements to support the earlier sign off of the accounts and the records held on the councils asset register. These actions were been agreed and were progressed during 2015/16
8. The committee noted the annual audit letter for 2014-15 from Grant Thornton. The letter set out the unqualified audit opinion on both the financial statements and value for money conclusion. The external auditors issued an unqualified opinion on the statement of accounts for 2014/15 and reported improvements in both the quality and timeliness thereof. An unqualified conclusion was issued in respect of value for money. The external auditors were satisfied that the council has proper arrangements in place securing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The external auditors highlighted two recommendations for the council to focus for the coming year; the closedown process and property assets. Improvements are already being progressed in these areas.

Internal Audit

9. SWAP (the South West Audit Partnership) continued as internal auditors for the council and in accordance with their charter which was agreed in 2014.
10. The internal audit charter for 2015/16 was approved, the key points of which are: that internal audit will be objective and independent; that the committee will receive at least four reports each year plus an annual report on the risk environment; that the chair of the committee is invited to participate in approving SWAP's accounts and agreeing its future work programme.
11. The committee approved the internal audit plan for 2015-16. SWAP work with external auditors, Grant Thornton, to co-ordinate audit activity and to maximise resources. Where common themes are found, best practice will be shared amongst partner authorities in order to make improvements.

12. Progress reports were provided in September, November, January and April. It was noted that for the audits completed to November, none were assessed as partial or no assurance.

Budget management

13. In support of its assurance role regarding the effectiveness of budget management processes the committee received six monthly reports on the projected outturn for 2015/16.

Annual governance statement and statement of accounts

14. The committee approved the annual governance statement and associated action plan and the annual statement of accounts meeting the revised statutory timetable for doing so. The committee reviewed progress in delivery of the annual governance statement during the year and received a presentation from the chief executive on progress made in key areas identified through the employee opinion survey.

Energy from waste (efw) loan update

15. The committee received assurance on the status of the efw loan arrangement. The committee was informed that the loan arrangement is progressing to plan with the financial implications being reflected in the medium term financial strategy approved by council in February 2015.

Corporate risk

16. The committee is responsible for assuring the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements. The committee were advised of the risks on the corporate risk register and actions to ensure that risks were being managed effectively.
17. An audit of risk management was concluded in January 2015 when the audit opinion provided reasonable assurance, where most of the areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. The audit found that generally risks are well managed but some systems required the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives. Since the audit, the corporate risk register is routinely reviewed by cabinet and management board as part of the quarterly performance and budget report.

Community governance review

18. The committee considered the case for undertaking a community governance review (cgr) of parish council electoral arrangements. The committee resolved that a series of targeted cgrs be progressed focussing on the parishes/issues identified in the report. In addition, it was requested that draft terms of reference for such a review be drafted for full council consideration.

Whistle blowing

19. The audit and governance committee has the responsibility to review and approve the whistleblowing policy on a biennial basis.
20. The committee reviewed and approved the revised policy effective from 1 October 2015.

21. In addition the committee received assurance that actions following the external audit report following a public interest disclosure had been implemented.

Annual report of the monitoring officer

22. The committee noted the monitoring officer's annual report for the municipal year 2014-15. Key reporting areas included data regarding adherence to the members' code of conduct, with 11 complaints alleging a breach of the code received. Of those complaints, 3 were resolved informally and 0 resolved by panel recommendation. The remaining 8 allegations were not upheld.

23. The report also included data on complaints, freedom of information requests, whistleblowing and information governance issues which will be used as a baseline for future trend analysis.

24. In terms of corporate governance, during 2014-15, there had been two occasions where the public had been excluded from meetings in order to allow the discussion of confidential or exempt material. Once relating to regulatory subcommittee and once relating to the employment panel. There were 18 occasions where it was not possible to publish notice of decisions to be taken within the statutory 28-day period, and these were reported to the relevant scrutiny committee. There were two decisions called-in by the general overview and scrutiny committee.

25. During the year 2014/15 the general overview and scrutiny committees made a total of 50 recommendations to the executive. Of these 35 were accepted in full, ten accepted in part, and five rejected.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the general overview and scrutiny committee 2015/16
Report by:	Chairman: general overview and scrutiny committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the general overview and scrutiny committee during the municipal year 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.
- 3 The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011.

Key considerations

- 4 Since the annual meeting of Council, the general overview and scrutiny committee has met in public on 9 occasions.

5 A summary of the committee's work is provided below.

Task and finish group reviews

The following in-depth scrutiny reviews have been completed or are in progress:

- Development management (planning)
- Smallholdings estate (county farms)
- Community infrastructure levy

Committee reports

The committee has considered the following items:

- Executive responses to reviews of
 - lease restructuring with Hereford United (1939) Ltd
 - Balfour Beatty Living Places – public realm services (BBLP)
 - recommendations on school examination performance
 - task and finish group review of development management (planning)
- Update on waste performance
- The development of a schools capital investment strategy
- Revisions to the council tax reduction scheme
- Corporate plan 2016-20
- Budget and medium term financial strategy – draft prior to funding announcement
- Proposed capital programme 2016-17
- Update on home to school transport provision
- Local transport plan
- Herefordshire community safety partnership strategy and related performance
- Overview of strategic housing documents
- School examination performance
- Marches local enterprise partnership

Call-ins

There were no call-ins during the year.

Briefing Notes

In addition to the committee reports above, briefing notes have been provided to committee members on the following topics during the year:

- Balfour Beatty Living Places Statistics
- Development planning control
- Public rights of way
- Parish councils and public rights of way
- Executive response to recommendations on the smallholdings estate (county farms)
- Food strategy and linkages to schools
- School places and travel plans

- Update on development Management (planning)
- 6 I would like to thank committee members, co-opted members and the internal and external contributors who have participated in the work of the committee. I would also like to thank the members of the public that have attended committee meetings during the year and for the many interesting questions that have been submitted.
- 7 I also thank those who participated in the work programme workshop in May 2016. This was considered a useful, interesting and involving exercise and it is intended to build on this approach in future years.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee 2015/16
Report by:	Chairman: health and social care overview and scrutiny committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To inform full Council of the work undertaken by the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee during the municipal year 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that full Council will receive annual reports from committees.
- 3 The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011.

Key considerations

- 4 Since the annual meeting of full Council, the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee has met in public on eight occasions with a further meeting held jointly with the general overview and scrutiny committee for pre-scrutiny of the budget and corporate plan.
- 5 There have been many subjects brought before the committee throughout the year.

These included the children and young peoples' plan for 2015-18 which set out the priority areas for partners to focus on and make improvements, with oversight from the health and wellbeing board via the children and young people's partnership. Also considered by the committee was the proposal for a new information and signposting hub, now known as WISH, which was launched in early 2016. The committee also learned about the new provider of alcohol and substance misuse services, Addaction, which began its contract to provide services from December 2015.

- 6 Accountability sessions, which were created in light of the Francis Enquiry and Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust have continued. These sessions are for members and members of the public to question the major health bodies on their performance over the past year and their future plans. During this year, the committee held two accountability sessions, one with West Midlands Ambulance Service, and one with public health services.
- 7 The committee also continued to receive reports from Wye Valley NHS Trust after the Trust was put into special measures by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), in order to continue the monitoring of how the situation was being addressed. The committee was attended by both the trust's chief executive and the chairman.
- 8 Periodic updates are received from partners, either to review performance or to provide progress reports on service delivery. In 2015-16, the committee heard updates regarding the stroke pathway project, the urgent care pathway, and on performance in children's safeguarding activity and adults and wellbeing services. The committee also considered regular updates from Healthwatch Herefordshire with the aim of highlighting areas of concern in health care provision in order to identify possible topics for further scrutiny. This year, issues around mental health services, in particular for children and young people were a theme, and Healthwatch reports prompted future work that included scrutiny of 2gether NHS Foundation Trust following their CQC inspection.
- 9 The committee commissions task and finish groups in order to undertake more detailed scrutiny work of services. In 2015-16, scrutiny members took part in two such groups. One group undertook an urgent review of the short breaks and respite care services for children with disabilities in response to concerns raised by members and members of the public regarding decisions made that affected the ongoing provision at 1 Ledbury Road. The task and finish group made a number of recommendations for consideration by the executive and continues to receive updates on this service. Another task and finish group has been looking at the provision of early years services and children's centres and is due to report back to the committee this month.
- 10 Towards the end of the municipal year, committee members exercised their right to call-in for scrutiny an executive decision in relation to changes to the contract and funding for supported housing for young people project (SHYPP). Call-in members believed that key information regarding counter proposals had not been taken into account when cabinet agreed proposed changes. The matter was referred back to the executive to reconsider the decision, requesting that the information be taken into account.
- 11 The chairman of the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee would like to thank members of the public and partners for their continued participation in the work of the committee over the year.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the health and wellbeing board 2015/16
Report by:	Chairman: Health and wellbeing board

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform full Council of the work undertaken by the health and wellbeing board (the board) during the municipal year 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirements in the council's constitution that full Council will receive annual reports from committees.

Key considerations

- 3 Since the annual meeting of full Council in 2015, the board has met in public on seven occasions.
- 4 Within its terms of reference, the board has a role of approving certain items for implementation. A number of topics were brought to the board for consideration,

including:

- The joint strategic needs assessment 'Understanding Herefordshire', the key document which informs business planning, decision making and commissioning for the county for the year ahead
- The health and wellbeing strategy, identifying action and performance indicators to address seven priorities across health and social care
- Pharmaceutical needs assessment for publication, which guides the commissioning of community pharmacy and pharmaceutical services
- The Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18 for implementation by the Children and Young Peoples' Partnership
- Quarterly submissions on performance and delivery of the Better Care Fund and its annual plan to NHS England, the approach for which was approved in 2014/15
- Engagement gateway, which aims to facilitate closer communication by providers and commissioners with the public on service provision

- 5 In the closing quarter of the year, the board was briefed on, and asked to consider, the emerging issues presented by the NHS five year sustainability and transformation plan (STP). The STP, driven by NHS England, has divided the country into operational geographic areas, or footprints, in order to decide how best to deliver NHS related services within those areas. Locally, the footprint covers Herefordshire and Worcestershire. This is still in the initial planning stages and no formal recommendations have yet been reached. The board has already participated in two informal STP workshops one of which included the programme director for the local footprint, and it is anticipated that there will be some joint working with the health and wellbeing board in Worcestershire in the coming municipal year.
- 6 The board receives regular updates on developments and progress throughout the year on aspects of the health and wellbeing strategy and related topics. In 2015/16, this included:
- Health protection
 - Adult's safeguarding performance
 - Children's safeguarding performance
 - Children and young people's plan
 - Updates on progress against the health and wellbeing strategy: mental health; urgent care pathway
 - NHS Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's commissioning intentions 2016/17
 - Herefordshire Council's corporate delivery plan 2016/17
- 7 The chairman of the board would like to thank partner members who have given their time and energy to the successful running of the board over the year.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the planning committee
Report by:	Chairman: Planning committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the Planning Committee from 27 May 2015 to 20 May 2016.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.

Key considerations

- 3 This report summarises the work of the Planning Committee between the annual Council meeting held on 27 May 2015 and 20 May 2016.
- 4 The committee has continued to operate on a three week cycle throughout the year. It has met 19 times during the reporting period (inclusive of 3 times when the committee met both in the morning and the afternoon.)

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
T Brown, Democratic Services Officer, on Tel (01432) 260239

- 5 The committee dealt with the applications referred to it at its meetings from 16 June 2015 to 18 May 2016 as follows
- approved as recommended – 46
 - approved contrary to recommendation – 9
 - refused as recommended – 2
 - refused contrary to recommendation – 14

Appeals

- 6 The committee has received information reports in respect of the determination of appeals. There were 87 appeals determined in the period between the annual Council meeting on 27 May 2015 and 18 May 2016. Of these 51 appeals were dismissed, 28 were allowed, 8 were withdrawn. One involved a split decision with the decisions being allowed in part.
- 7 Applications for part award of costs in respect of the appeals were awarded to the appellant on three occasions and refused on eleven occasions. No costs were awarded to the council.
- 8 The external cost for defending appeal payments of total costs against the council for the last financial year 2015/16 has been calculated at £42,627.68. This includes Planning Consultants and Specialist Consultants together with facility hire when no Council accommodations was available. In addition Barristers were engaged at a cost of £59,198.

Background papers

- None identified.

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title:	Annual report of the regulatory committee
Report by:	Chairman: regulatory committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the regulatory committee for the municipal year 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as the report is for information.

Reasons for recommendations

2. To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.

Key considerations

3. This report summarises the work of the regulatory committee between the periods 23 May 2015 to 20 May 2016.
4. The committee's role under the constitution is very much a strategic one with much of the day to day work being undertaken by the regulatory sub-committee or under officer delegation in accordance with the functions scheme.

5. The committee itself met once in the reporting period. The committee at its meeting on 14 October 2015 received the detailed 2014/15 annual report on regulatory activity by environmental health and trading standards including the activity of the regulatory sub-committee. This report is available on the council's website at the following link.

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=262&MId=5554&Ver=4>

The current 2015/16 annual report on regulatory activity by environmental health and trading standards is available at

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=262&MId=5878&>

6. In particular the committee welcomed the continued strong performance in the results of the business satisfaction survey 2015-16. The survey measured the satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulatory services and had recorded a 100% satisfaction rating. This compared with a satisfaction rating of 99% and 100% for the previous two years.
7. During the year 2015/16, the sub-committee has met on 21 separate occasions and has dealt with 26 cases presented by the Licensing Team. This compares to 16 occasions and 22 cases in the previous year. These were mostly licensing applications and reviews, but also included matters relating to taxi vehicles and drivers. This work also included three expedited reviews
8. The reporting period has seen some particularly complex cases which have required adjournments and rehearing.
9. Members should be aware that, based on police data, the number of licensing reviews undertaken in herefordshire far exceed those carried out by the licensing authorities in other areas of the west mercia's police force, which demonstrates the close partnership working developed between herefordshire council's licensing team and west mercia police. As a consequence, the local police are reassured that Hereford's night time economy is still the safest in their region which indicates to members the good and effective work undertaken by the regulatory subcommittee.
10. The committee wishes to place on record it's thanks to all those committee members who stood as members of the various regulatory sub committees where much of the operational business is conducted.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.