

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

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.