

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.