

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	3 March 2017
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 December 2016.

Recommendations

THAT: 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 30 November 2016 and 10 February 2017) is provided at appendix 1. No decisions were taken under either of the urgency

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

provisions or were subject to call in.

- 4 I am delighted that, after its lengthy but necessary closure, the library and museum in Hereford has reopened and is now hosting an exhibition about the life and work of Herefordshire's celebrated artist Brian Hatton. I would like to place on record my thanks to all those staff who maintained a service from the Town Hall throughout the period of closure, and to all those loyal library users who have continued to support the service and the development of plans for a future model of delivery. Work has now begun on improvements to the Old House which will re-open in April as the Black and White Museum
- 5 The Destination Hereford project has successfully secured £1.5m funding from central government which will support a range of measures to encourage cycling and walking. These measures as an essential element of our overarching local transport plan for the county as well as contributing to improving health and wellbeing and air quality in the county.
- 6 We were pleased to support a 'Keep Herefordshire Warm' event in High Town on 15 February where people could obtain advice and support on affordable ways to heat their home. Whilst hopefully spring will bring us warmer weather its important that in our communities we keep an eye on those who may find colder temperatures a problem – there is a wealth of information available on the website at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/energyefficiency/>
- 7 Following Council's adoption of the economic vision in December we are planning a suitably targeted launch event in late spring with the aim of showcasing the county's vision and investment opportunities to businesses and investors. We are also working with stakeholders and communities to develop a project pipeline for future iterations of the vision; in the meantime if you become aware of potential projects I would encourage you to raise them with the economic development team.
- 8 Last July we took the decision to apply to join the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) as a non-constituent member and requested that scrutiny undertake a review of the devolution options open to us. There is a statutory process to be followed to become a non-constituent member and the WMCA have advised that this process cannot begin before May 2017. In the meantime we attend meetings as observers; anyone wishing to find out more about WMCA can access meeting papers and minutes at the following website: <https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/>

Community impact

- 9 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.

Equality duty

- 10 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

- 11 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

- 12 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

- 13 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

- 14 None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive decisions taken

Background papers

- None identified.