

Recommendation No. 1	The recommendation is that HC should continue to seek non-constituency membership of the WMCA.			
Executive Response	<p>ACCEPTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is now the understanding that the new Parliamentary Order, which would be required if Herefordshire Council were to be admitted as a non-constituent member was not expected to be submitted by WMCA in the next four years. Meantime, Herefordshire Council (HC) sits at the WMCA Board as an observer and is expected to pay an annual membership of £25,000 (or £21,000 if HC pays at the start of the financial year); The change in national approach which meant that the council's application to become a non-constituent member would not be considered for a further four years, meant that the requirement for the council to pay non-constituent membership fees for that period should be renegotiated. 			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Following consultation with the LEP partner authorities, and having regard to the contribution the council can make to the regional economy and clarification of any potential benefits accruing to the county from the regional strategic approach whilst an observer rather than a non-constituent member, conclude negotiations with WMCA re fees to be paid by councils with only observer status	D of ECC	end March 2018	Reduced observer fee and/or clarification that benefits accruing to observers are analogous to that accruing to non-constituent members	
Recommendation No. 1b	It is important that Herefordshire Council and the Marches LEP partners work in a coordinated way in the future and consult each other before making decisions in relation to WMCA			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – Maintain good working relationship and consult with the Marches LEP, Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin on decisions in relation to WMCA.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Commence discussion with LEP partners and set and agree working arrangements with WMCA.	D of ECC	March 2018	Marches LEP and its partners agree on how they will work with WMCA.	
Recommendation No. 1c	Herefordshire and the Marches LEP need to articulate to the WMCA their potential contributions to the West Midlands functioning economy and the WMCA.			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC together with SC, TWC, and Marches LEP to submit a list of their potential contributions to the WM functioning economy and the WMCA.			

Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Herefordshire, Telford and Shropshire Councils and Marches LEP to develop and submit a list of “killer projects” to WMCA as their contributions to the WM functioning economy.	D of ECC	End of March 2018	“Killer list” submitted. WMCA made aware of LEP’s contributions to the WMCA functioning economy.	Discussion in progress with Marches LEP, Shropshire and Telford Councils.
Recommendation No. 1d	Herefordshire Council and the Marches LEP need to explore their “Ask” which may include skills, transport and possibly tourism in a document separate from the WMCA devolution deals			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC and the Marches LEP to submit its “Asks” to WMCA.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Marches LEP together with Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford to prepare its Local Industrial Strategy, which may be used as a lobbying paper to WMCA, Midlands Engine and Midlands Connect.	D of ECC	December 2018	Some of the Marches projects considered in the future devolution deals.	
Recommendation No. 1e	Herefordshire Council engages with the non-constituent members in defining their role in the WMCA and how they can demonstrate to the WMCA their economic geographies can contribute to the delivery of the WMCA SEP, devolution deals and the Midlands Engine for Growth			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC is part of the WMCA non-constituent group which holds regular dialogue on how non-constituent members and observers will contribute to the delivery of the WMCA SEP, devolution deals and Midlands Engine for Growth.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Agree and implement strategy for inputting into WMCA, SEP and Growth and devolution deals.	D of ECC	Ongoing	Engagement with WMCA will result to inclusion of Herefordshire’s priorities in future deals.	
Recommendation No. 2	Herefordshire should seek to form partnerships and relations with other local authorities and their LEPs			

Executive Response	ACCEPTED - HC will continue to explore and form partnerships and relations with other local authorities and their Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that the council is in the best possible position to continue to secure government funding to support the growth aspirations of the county whilst maintaining the flexibility needed to fully explore the implications of greater engagement in a combined authority. These partnerships can be built from past and current partnerships in the West Midlands, Gloucestershire and Wales. Likewise, it will explore establishing partnerships with non-contiguous LEPs and local authorities.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Instigate joint working with other LEPs, local authorities, including non-contiguous LEPs and local authorities in delivering funding programmes, e.g. broadband programme.	D of ECC	June 2018	HC together with other LEPs and local authorities to deliver programmes e.g. broadband programme, etc.	
Recommendation No. 2a	Herefordshire should strive to avoid being isolated.			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED - HC engages with partners and networks in the West Midlands to get the best possible deal for Herefordshire in terms of funding.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
To attend meetings with WMCA, Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect, Marche LEP to establish and strengthen relationships and gain access to government funding to deliver local priorities.	D of ECC	Commence June 2018	Additional government funding secured to deliver its Strategic Economic Plan.	
Recommendation No. 2b	It is strongly recommended that Herefordshire Council explores and forms partnerships and relationships with local authorities and their LEPs. These partnerships can be built from past and current partnerships e.g. the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire partnership in delivering rural broadband. The Marches LEP should be nurtured as it may continue to be our major source of funding			
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC to maintain current partnerships with public, private and voluntary sectors in order to access resources to deliver its strategic economic plan. It will also explore other forms of partnerships and network with non-contiguous areas with shared values and interests to attract funding to the county.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Continue actively engaging with the Marches LEP, Shropshire and Telford Councils as well as other LEPs and local authorities.	D of ECC	Ongoing	Partnership with Gloucestershire generates funding to deliver broadband priorities in the county.	

Recommendation No. 2c	The council should be cognisant of options for partnership working with Wales and these should be explored. There was a recognition that the Marches LEP was involved in cross border work with Wales. In the past the West Midlands and central Wales signed a memorandum of understanding aimed to achieve effective cross border collaboration on all aspects of policy development and service delivery which impacted on social, economic and environmental well-being and sustainability in central Wales and the rural West Midlands. It is suggested that this possible partnership should be revisited				
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC will explore partnerships with Wales.				
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress	
Initiate meetings with Welsh partners to explore partnerships to agree and deliver cross border priorities.	D of ECC	June 2018	Cross border working and collaboration established with Welsh partners.		
Recommendation No. 3	Keep a watching brief on WMCA.				
Executive Response	ACCEPTED – HC will continue to engage with WMCA.				
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress	
Continue engaging with WMCA to deliver its SEP and ensure that HC priorities are adopted by WMCA.	D of ECC	September 2018	HC priorities are included in future devolution deals.		