Herefordshire Council

Title of report: Leader's report to Council

Meeting: **Council**

Meeting date: **Friday 7 March, 2025**

Report by: **The Leader of the Council**

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To provide an update on the work of the Cabinet since the meeting of Council held on 6 December 2024.

Recommendation(s)

That:

(a) the report be noted.

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options; the constitution requires the Leader to provide Council with reports on the activities of the executive.

Key considerations

2. It is a constitutional requirement for the Leader of the Council to provide a report to the council meeting, other than the budget and annual meeting, on the work of cabinet since the last meeting. The leaders report is set out in appendix 1.

3. The report includes a summary of the matters decided by the cabinet and the cabinet members, any decisions taken under the urgency provisions and those subject to call in.

4. It is customary for all of the decisions to be listed in an annex to this report (please see appendix 2). These decisions have been made available on the council's website, with the exception of two decisions taken by the Shareholder Committee on 14 October, 2024. These reports were restricted by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. All

councillors and members of the public have the opportunity to review all of the executives fully open decisions as they are being made.

5. Of the decisions taken since my last report no decision have been taken under the general exception provisions (giving more than five but less than 28 calendar days' notice) and no decisions were taken under the urgency provisions (less than five days' notice).

6. Included in my report is a summary of what I consider the most significant priorities, as well as some additional subjects that I hope will be of interest.

Community impact

7. The decision taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members are guided by the objectives set out in the adopted Council Plan, 2024 to 2028.
   a. **People** - enabling residents to realise their potential, to be healthy and benefit from communities that help people to feel safe and supported.
   b. **Place** - Protecting and enhancing our environment and ensure that Herefordshire remains a great place to live. We will support the right housing in the right place and do everything we can to improve the health of our rivers.
   c. **Growth** - Creating the conditions to deliver sustainable growth across the county; attracting inward investment, building business confidence, creating jobs, enabling housing development along with providing the right infrastructure.
   d. **Transformation** – an efficient council that embraces best practice, delivers innovation through technology and demonstrates value for money.

8. The Delivery Plan 2024-2025 outlines how the council's priorities and objectives will be achieved and what will be delivered in this 2024/25 municipal year. The Delivery Plan will be reviewed annually and progress will be reported on a regular basis through each directorate's service delivery plans.

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. Reporting to Council the activities of the executive demonstrates the council's commitment to the code of corporate governance principle of implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

Environmental Impact

10. The environmental impacts 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. Reporting to Council the activities of the executive demonstrates the council's commitment to the council's environmental policy commitments and aligns to the objectives set out in the Council Plan (2024 to 2028) which include.
    a) Valuing nature and upholding environmental standards to minimise pollution and maximise biodiversity;
    b) Reducing waste, increasing reuse and recycling;
    c) Working towards reducing county and council carbon emissions, aiming for net zero by 2030/31, and
    d) Working with partners and communities to make the county more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Equality duty

11. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

12. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this report provides a summary of activity undertaken, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty. These considerations are set out in each of the relevant reports informing the decisions listed at appendix 2 and will inform any future decision making.

Resource implications

13. There are no new resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The resource implications of any decisions of the executive listed at appendix 2 have been set out within the relevant decision report and considered at the time the decision was taken and will inform any future decision making.

Legal implications

14. The council and committee, and cabinet rules within the constitution require the Leader to provide a report to Council on the work of the cabinet since the last meeting of Council and, at the first meeting to follow the annual meeting of Council (except in a year when there are ordinary elections), on the priorities of the cabinet and progress made in meeting those priorities. This report ensures these requirements are met.

15. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The legal implications of any decisions of the executive listed at appendix 1 have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

Risk management

16. There are no risks arising from the recommendations of this report. The risks of any decisions of the executive listed at appendix A have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken and will inform future decision making.

Consultees

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Leaders report to Council, 6 December 2024

Appendix 2: Executive decisions taken since 29 November 2024 to 27 February 2025

Appendix 3: Cabinet member portfolios

Background papers:

None Identified