



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 6 March 2026

Report by: Director of Governance and Law

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To consider motions received on notice.

Recommendation

THAT: the motion listed at paragraph 6 is 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.

Key considerations

- 2 The constitution provides that members of Council may submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by the proposer and seconder and submitted not later than midday on the seventh working day before the date of the meeting. A member cannot propose more than one motion on notice per meeting and a maximum of three motions will be debated at meetings of full Council.
- 3 Motions must be about matters for which the council has a responsibility or which affect Herefordshire.
- 4 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

- 5 Up to one and a half hours will be allocated to debate motions on notice but that time may be varied at the discretion of the chairman.
- 6 One motion has been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motion for debate is set out below:

Motion 1 – Reinstatement of Hereford, Ross and Gloucester rail link

(Proposed by Councillor Loluis Stark, Seconded by Councillor Ed O'Driscoll)

Proposal

We should position Herefordshire early to take advantage of this move towards more local control of rail in shaping our rail strategy. That should include making a central pillar of the upcoming rail strategy, a bold, ambitious and visionary commitment towards the reestablishment of the Hereford, Ross and Gloucester rail link. This can then become one of our fundamental goals of rail devolution in the Midlands, as well as forming a more rounded transport infrastructure offering to Govt. for funding. As a first step, this motion proposes carrying out an initial feasibility study.

Local Context

Council agreed the 5th Local Transport Plan in December which aspires under Policy TN10 on rail to work with partners to enhance rail services across Herefordshire as well as long distance rail services with London and B'ham. The Cabinet lead said that this would be underpinned by a supplementary Rail Strategy.

Wider context

The Govt, laid landmark legislation, the Railways Bill, before Parliament last November which will fundamentally alter the rail landscape in Great Britain. The Bill aims to nationalise trains and reform the railway, so it better serves passengers unveiling the new look Great British Railways, bringing track and train back together. It represents a new railway, focused entirely on delivering a proper public service for passengers. Mayoral strategic authorities (MSAs) will be able to apply for full statutory and financial responsibility for local rail services, infrastructure and/or control of stations (full devolution), where this accelerates improvements for passengers and supports a more integrated network.

Benefits

Establishment of a strategic rail corridor from the edge of England to the heart of London, Bristol and the South.

Reestablishment of the rail link between two of the oldest English cities and the birthplace of British tourism.

Provides an additional rail link from London and Bristol to South and West Wales, including ferry ports, avoiding the Severn Rail Tunnel.

Enabling inward investment and a step-change in economic growth through strategic infrastructure investment in rail.

Supports the pro-choice travel goal of LTP5 as well as its aim for equity of transport access for the less advantaged.

Represents a modal shift in travel across the County and beyond.

Allows the Council to present a much more balanced package of transport infrastructure measures

to the Govt for funding.

Enables the start of an enhance partnership with Gloucestershire, an important neighbouring authority.

Puts Herefordshire at the heart of the emerging revolution in delivery of rail services.

The resolution

This Council instructs the Executive to take five actions:

- 1) Enter early discussions with Gloucestershire County Council on the possibility of a joint feasibility study on the reestablishment of the rail link.
- 2) Write to the Secretary of State for Transport to set out our stall and see the likely support and possibility of funding for a feasibility study.
- 3) In parallel, test the market for any private finance interest in backing a feasibility study.
- 4) Engage with relevant partners and the engineering sector to seek specialist expertise for writing and scoping a feasibility study, including costs.
- 5) Report back on progress to Council within 12 months.

Updates – outstanding resolutions

- 7 The constitution provides that the report to Council, containing notices of motion on hand, will also include detail of progress of all outstanding resolutions. There are outstanding resolutions with respect to motions considered at earlier meetings of full Council; updates of progress against these resolutions are provided below:

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
7 March 2025	Minor Injury Units	This was discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2025 with health partners and it was confirmed that the approach to Minor Injuries Units would form part of the emerging development of the neighbourhood health model.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Supports the reinstatement of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire as soon as possible to alleviate pressure on A&E services and improve access to urgent care for residents across the county; and · Calls upon the Executive to work with NHS partners and other stakeholders to facilitate the reopening of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire. 		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Securing Herefordshire's Role in the UK and European Defence Industrial Strategy	<p>Updates on elements of the motion:</p> <p>Resolution 1 - COMPLETED – Defence prospectus finalised in November 2025</p> <p>Resolution 2 - COMPLETED – letter sent on the 19th November</p> <p>Resolution 3 - COMPLETED – included in the letter of 19th November. Westminster reception event being planned for early 2026.</p> <p>Resolution 4 - Business as usual – regular engagement with local defence businesses. Inward Investment website to launch in January 2026.</p> <p>Resolution 5 - Business as usual - Herefordshire Skills Board considers all growth needs and opportunities. Herefordshire Skills Strategy including focus on defence and security due to be established in 2026.</p> <p>An executive response will be published to provide a formal response to the motion.</p>
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This Council resolves to ask the executive to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Herefordshire Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Prospectus, highlighting the county's strategic readiness to host defence-related investment, including a munitions facility, with a focus on clean and sustainable manufacturing. 2. Formally write to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade, urging them to consider Herefordshire as a location for one of the planned new factories and associated supply chain investment. 3. Call on the Government to support rural areas like Herefordshire by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Prioritising infrastructure upgrades in strategic industrial zones; o Establishing an investment support scheme modelled on Enterprise Zones; o Fast-tracking planning for clean-tech and defence-linked developments. 4. Engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, particularly for dual-use and green defence technologies. 5. Work with FE and HE providers to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector. 		

6. Ensure that all defence-linked investment is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Housing Targets	The motion has been noted in respect of housing targets and will be taken into consideration as part of plan preparation. The Council has recently issued a 'call for sites' and this is the first stage in plan preparation to see what land is potentially available for development. If there is insufficient land to meet the requirements of the county over a 20 year plan period, a lower level of growth can be justified (a lower housing requirement). This will not be known until the 'call for sites' process has been concluded and all sites have been assessed.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Whilst this council will – as requested by government – “make every effort to allocate land in line with our housing need, as per the standard method”, this Council fully supports our officers and our Cabinet in their actively seeking to “justify a lower housing requirement than the figure the method sets, on the basis of local constraints on land and constraints on delivery”.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
10 October 2025	Child Friendly Herefordshire	<p>Resolved – Child's Voice Friendly Herefordshire Launch to Partners 4th March 26</p> <p>Lead Service Manager for Participation appointed and Participation Strategy completed with action plan for 26/27 in place</p> <p>Annual progress report will be presented October '26</p>
<p>Council resolves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To adopt a formal policy of Child Friendly Herefordshire, embedding the principle of putting children and young people's safety and wellbeing at the heart of all decisions. To ensure children and young people have meaningful opportunities to shape decisions that affect them, both now and in the future. 		

3. To ask the executive to work with partners across public services, schools, health, business, transport, community groups, and voluntary organisations to create a county-wide partnership for Child Friendly Herefordshire.
4. To ask the Leader to report annually to Council on progress towards making Herefordshire a county where all children and young people thrive.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
10 October 2025	Improving access to employment, education and leisure for young people aged 16–19 through bus provision	Provision has been made in BSIP funding to undertake a feasibility study in the 26/27 financial year to look at a pilot proposal for subsidised transport for 16 to 19 year olds. The study will include a review of financial viability both for a pilot and for wider roll out of a pilot in future years.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Council resolves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support in principle the expansion of affordable, accessible bus travel for 16–19 year olds in Herefordshire to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve access to education, employment, and training 2. Reduce social isolation 3. Enhance health outcomes 2. Request the executive prepare proposals for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The provision of a pilot extension of the transport assistance scheme for 16-19yr olds in education to enable travel on evenings, weekends and holidays. This pilot would include evaluation of impact. b. Identification of potential funding sources, including BSIP revenue grant and the Local Transport Grant revenue allocation; anticipated savings in other service areas (e.g., Economy, Public Health); and bus operator partnership or sponsorship opportunities. 3. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging support for pilot schemes and action on the Transport Committee’s recommendation to explore national free or discounted travel for young people, alongside long-term, devolved funding for bus services. 		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
5 December 2025	Charter for the River Wye	An executive response to the motion is being prepared.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Council resolves</p> <p>This Notice of Motion calls on the executive to support the following charter for the River Wye and tributaries:</p> <p>The Right to Flow and Perform Natural Functions</p> <p>To maintain its natural course and seasonal rhythms without obstructions or extractions that detrimentally affect ecological function of any part of the river system.</p> <p>The Right to Biodiversity</p> <p>To good biological health through the existence of balanced, diverse, and viable, populations of native species and habitats specific to the Wye and its tributaries.</p> <p>The Right to Be Free from Pollution</p> <p>To exist in a state of ecological health and not be subject to detrimental levels of known and emerging pollutants that adversely affect the life of the river.</p> <p>The Right to be Supported by a Healthy Catchment</p> <p>To flow through environments which support the river as a balanced, sustainable, and resilient aquatic ecosystem.</p> <p>The Right to Regenerate</p> <p>To recover to full ecological function through natural processes and for this to be supported by intervention, where necessary, to halt the decline in biodiversity and abundance and to increase both over time.</p> <p>The Right to Representation</p> <p>To be represented and have these intrinsic rights recognised in the determination of matters that directly affect the river's health now and in the future.</p>		

Community impact

- 8 Herefordshire Council's adopted code of corporate governance provides the framework for maintaining high standards of corporate governance in order to achieve the council's vision of "people, organisations and businesses working together to bring sustainable prosperity and well-being for all, in the outstanding natural environment of Herefordshire."
- 9 In accordance with the code, the long-term nature of many of Herefordshire Council's responsibilities mean that we should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the council's purpose, contribute to intended

benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.

Equality duty

- 10 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.
- 11 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. If any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action, the cabinet will have regard to the equality duty when determining its response to the request.

Resource implications

- 12 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Legal implications

- 13 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Risk management

- 14 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the risks associated with such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

Consultees

- 15 None.

Appendices – None

Background papers – none identified