

Supplement to the agenda for

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 22 July 2025

2.00 pm

**Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane
Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Pages

3 - 36



Title of report: Work programme 2025/26 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: 22 July 2025

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To consider the work programme for Herefordshire Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The committee agree the work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee contained in the work programme report attached as Appendix 1.**

Alternative options

1. The committee could decline to agree a work programme for its future committee meetings. This would likely result in unstructured and purposeless meetings.

Key considerations

2. A fundamental part of good scrutiny is planning and agreeing a programme of work for the committee to undertake. A well-considered work programme:
 - a. identifies priorities for the committee's work that align with corporate and partnership priorities, as well as reflecting community concern;
 - b. ensures that each identified topic has clear objectives that focus the committee's work;

- c. creates a timetable for the committee's programme of work so that the committee carry out its work at the optimal time; and
 - d. provides officers and partners with requirements for evidence that will support the committee in providing evidence-based scrutiny
3. To prepare this work programme, the committee chair has met with officers of the council to identify potential priority areas of work for the committee. These priority areas have been scheduled within the work programme to ensure the committee considers topics when it is most useful to do so. A draft of this work programme has then been circulated to the council's corporate leadership team and other key senior directors, alongside committee chairs, for further comment and refinement.
 4. The most recent Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee work programme was published July 2025 and is attached as Appendix 1.
 5. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.
 6. Attached as Appendix 3 to this report is the table of recommendations made by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee September 2023 - March 2025

Community impact

7. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern. Overview and scrutiny is a key part of the council's governance arrangements and provides accountability and assurance, as well as a vehicle for elected councillors to contribute to policy development and review. Scrutiny committees have the overall aim of driving improvement to services to the local community.
8. As well as scrutinising the council's own services, scrutiny committees have the power to look into the provision of local health services and issues which affect the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the county.
9. The proposed work programme reflects – as widely as possible – key local priorities within this context.

Environmental impact

10. This report contains no direct environmental impacts. However the work that the committee will undertake resulting from agreeing this work programme may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

Equality duty

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. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However the reports and issues that the committee will consider may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

Resource implications

12. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However agreed topics in the work programme, in particular any requests for bespoke research or the involvement of outside experts or community groups, may incur resource costs. These will be contained in any reporting or planning of agreed topics within this work programme.

Legal implications

13. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
14. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

Risk management

15. There are no risks identified in the committee agreeing an effective and timely programme of work. However there is a risk to the council's reputation if committees fail to set a work programme, or set a programme of work that does not address local authority, partnership or community priorities.

Consultees

16. In drafting this work programme, consideration has been given to:
 - a. The previous work of scrutiny committees;
 - b. Priorities suggested by members of the committee; and
 - c. Work with Herefordshire Council officers to develop topics and agree optimum timings to bring items for consideration.
17. This work programme is subject to ongoing review, which may involve additional consultees.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee work programme July 2025

Appendix 2 - Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 11 July 2025

Appendix 3 - Recommendations made by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee September 2023 - March 2025

Background papers

None



SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Committee Meeting

16 September 2025 **report deadline 4 September 2025** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC**

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Youth Justice Objectives to be agreed	Evidence to be agreed	Lorna Tilley, West Mercia Police - Gareth Boulton, Chief Executive West Mercia Police and Crime Commission - Youth Justice Board team manager - Herefordshire
Pursue Prevent Protect Prepare Objectives to be agreed	Evidence to be agreed	Tina Russell - Director of Children's Services Kayte Dixon-Thompson – Community Resilience Manager Vicky Leader Service Manager Early Help and Prevention Holly Powell – Team Manager, Get Safe Niall Crawford – Lead Officer for Education Safeguarding Social Inclusion and Elective Home Education Christine Wellington – Head of Service, Children in Need of Support and Assessment

Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual review of effectiveness Scrutinise the partnership's work for 2023-2024.	Evidence to be agreed	Kevin Crompton – Independent Scrutineer, Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Angela Wilson – Safeguarding Partnerships Business Manager Board Partners Tina Russell, Director of Children's Services Leanne Lowe Natalie Solomon Sub Group Chairs - Heather Manning - Dylan Harrison - Christine Wellington - Liz Farr
Work programme Review work programme	Draft work programme	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*The Corporate Director, Children and Young People and Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People, both have a standing invitation to each committee meeting. It is assumed that the portfolio holder will attend each meeting.

Committee Briefings

The committee will carry out a number of briefings, dates to be agreed

Topic	Objectives
Fostering	Update to the committee following its scrutiny in June 2025
Complaints	Update to committee following its scrutiny in July 2025
School Capital Programme	Provide an overview to the committee on the current programme and its priorities
Families First Programme	Overview of funding origins, purpose and delivery

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN



This document, known as the Forward Plan, sets out the decisions which are expected to be taken during the period covered by the Plan by either Cabinet as a whole, or by individual Cabinet Members. The Plan is updated regularly and is available on the Herefordshire Council website (www.herefordshire.gov.uk) and from Council Offices. This edition supersedes all previous editions.

The council must give at least 28 days' notice of key decisions to be taken. A key decision is one which results in the council incurring expenditure or making savings of £500,000 or more, and/or is likely to be significant in terms of the strategic nature of the decision or its impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the council to a significant number of people living or working in the locality affected.

Current cabinet members are listed below. For more information and links papers for Cabinet meetings please visit <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251>

Councillor Jonathan Lester	Corporate Strategy and Budget (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst	Environment (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Carole Gandy	Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Ivan Powell	Children and Young People
Councillor Harry Bramer	Community Services and Assets
Councillor Graham Biggs	Economy and Growth
Councillor Pete Stoddart	Finance and Corporate Services
Councillor Barry Durkin	Roads and Regulatory Services
Councillor Philip Price	Transport and Infrastructure
Councillor Dan Hurcomb	Local Engagement & Community Resilience

Documents submitted in relation to each decision will be a formal report, which may include one or more appendices. Reports will usually be made available on the council website at least 5 clear working days before the date of the decision. Occasionally it will be necessary to exempt part or all of a decision report from publication due to the nature of the decision, for example if it relates to the commercial or business affairs of the council. Other documents may be submitted in advance of the decision being taken and will also be published on the website unless exempt.

To request a copy of a decision report or related documents please contact governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01432 261699.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead officer and lead cabinet member	Directorate	Notice of decision first published / ID	Issue Type and exemptions
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	-------------	---	---------------------------------

FORWARD PLAN FOR 1 August 2025 ONWARDS

The following information is provided for each entry in the Forward Plan:

Heading	Contains
Report title and purpose	A summary of the proposal
Decision Maker and Due date	Who will take the decision and the date the decision is expected to be made
Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	The cabinet member with responsibility for this decision and the officers producing the decision report.
Directorate	The directorate of the council responsible for the decision.
Date uploaded onto plan	The date the decision was first uploaded and the notice period started for key decisions.
Decision type, exemptions and urgency	Whether the decision is a Key or Non-Key decision, if the report is expected to be fully open, partly exempt or fully exempt and if urgency procedures are being followed.

Decisions to be taken by Cabinet at a formal meeting are listed first, ordered by date, and include both Key and Non-Key decisions. Decisions to be taken by individual Cabinet Members are then listed, grouped by portfolio area and sorted by date. These include Key and Non-Key decisions.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
--------------------------	-----------------------------	--	-------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------------

Cabinet decisions by date (Key and Non-key listed)

Children and Young Persons' Improvement Plan - Phase 3 The purpose of this report is to present cabinet with the Phase 3 Children's Services Improvement Plan for endorsement. The plan agreed by the multi-agency improvement board May 25. Amends have been made following that board meeting	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Maxine David, Executive Support Officer, Tina Russell, Corporate Director Childrens and Young People maxine.david@herefordshire.gov.uk, tina.russell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260044, Tel: 01432 260 267	Children and Young People	4 July 2025	Non Key Open
Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire 2025 to 2028 To approve the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire 2025 to 2028, in accordance with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Kayte Thompson-Dixon, Contracts officer Kayte.Thompson-Dixon@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260727	Community Wellbeing	4 July 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Procurement Strategy for the Hereford Western Bypass -Phase 1 This report is seeking approval of the procurement strategy and authority to procure and award a contract, to a contractor through a two-stage procurement process utilising a Pre-Construction Services Agreement for design and enabling works with the option to accept a bid from the contractor for the construction works under NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract subject to further governance and budget. The report also seeks to inform members of the land acquisition strategy for the land required to construct Hereford Western Bypass Phase 1.	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Steve Smith, Western Bypass Consultant, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure steve.smith@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Part exempt
Herefordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy To approve, for publication, a new Suicide Prevention Strategy (2024-2029) for Herefordshire	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Lindsay MacHardy, Public Health Principal, Kristan Pritchard, Public Health Lead - Mental Health Lindsay.MacHardy@herefordshire.gov.uk, Kristan.Pritchard@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260554, Tel: 01432383144	Community Wellbeing	4 July 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Local Walking and Cycling Plan adoption To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Local Walking and Cycling Plan	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
West Midlands Safe Centre To approve the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and agrees for Herefordshire to join the SPV and be part of a formal partnership with other local authorities in the West Midlands in terms as set out in the report.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Tina Russell, Corporate Director Childrens and Young People tina.russell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260 267	Children and Young People	4 July 2025	KEY Part exempt
Local Transport Plan 5	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
New care facility To consider and agree the business case to invest in and develop the council's own care facility in Herefordshire to meet future demand	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	4 July 2025	KEY
Cabinet Member Decisions (Key and Non Key decisions)					
Portfolio: adults, health and wellbeing					
Reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services To approve the reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services, by way of an open tender process.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 28 November 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing John Burgess, Senior Commissioning Officer John.Burgess3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: children and young people					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Alternative Provision Procurement Framework To approve proposals of an Alternative Provision [AP] Framework of commissioned providers to deliver alternative curriculum provision, for children who are not able to attend school and those needing additional support, increasing choice, quality and value for money.	Cabinet member children and young people 20 August 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Jane Morse, Senior Commissioning Officer, Residential and Nursing, Jade Richards Jane.Morse@herefordshire.gov.uk, jade.richards2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260985,	Children and Young People	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: community services and assets					
Ross Enterprise Park Phase 1; Construction Phase To approve the expenditure of up to £7.229m of allocated capital funding to progress delivery of Ross Enterprise Park (phase 1) into the next phase of construction, and to undertake procurement for a main contractor and other essential suppliers to deliver those works.	Cabinet member community services and assets 18 July 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets David Jones, Programme Manager David.Jones2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383320	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Play Area Investment The purpose of this report is to set out how the £1 million for Play Area Investment is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member community services and assets 31 July 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets Leigh Whitehouse, Group Manager-Streetscene, Public Rights of Way and Traffic Management leigh.whitehouse@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Retaining of the swimming pool at Peterchurch Primary School To approve the retention of and structural improvements to the swimming pool at Peterchurch Primary School	Cabinet member community services and assets 20 August 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk	Children and Young People	4 July 2025	Non Key Open
Portfolio: economy and growth					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Hereford Enterprise Zone Retained Business Rates – Herefordshire Growth Programme To approve the expenditure of the retained business rates from the Hereford Enterprise Zone, to deliver a county wide business growth, skills and inward investment programme	Cabinet member economy and growth 25 July 2025	Cabinet member economy and growth Roger Allonby, Service Director Economy and Growth Roger.Allonby@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260330	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Merton Meadows Flood Alleviation - delivery of construction works To seek approval to spend the remaining £1.2 million of the £2 million Brownfield Land Release Fund grant awarded by the government for a flood alleviation scheme on the Merton Meadow sites in Hereford to enable them to be released for development. The grant funding will be utilised to deliver the physical flood alleviation works.	Cabinet member economy and growth 25 July 2025	Cabinet member economy and growth Stephen Holland, Interim Head of Housing Development stephen.holland@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: environment					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Wye Valley National Landscapes - acceptance of grant funding This report seeks approval to accept a number of confirmed and indicative funding awards, allocations and bids from National Grid, DEFRA, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales for the future management and duties of the Wye Valley National Landscape, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This report also seeks approval to delegate the review of the AONB Management Plan and the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding between the 4 constituent local authorities, on account of the complex nature of the cross-border designation.	Cabinet member environment 23 July 2025	Cabinet member environment Ben Boswell, Head of Environment, Climate Emergency and Waste Services bboswell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261930	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Solar Car Ports at Plough Lane To approve the scoping and construction of solar car ports at Plough Lane	Cabinet member environment 31 October 2025	Cabinet member environment Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager, Rosanna Willmott, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk, rosanna.willmott@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192, Tel: 01432 261749	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Portfolio: finance and corporate services					
Portfolio: roads and regulatory services					
City and Market Town Public Realm Investment To approve the 2025/26 £1.2m City and Market Town Public Realm Investment.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services 25 July 2025	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: transport and infrastructure					
Road Safety Schemes The purpose of this report is to set out how the £3.0 million for Road Safety Schemes is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 23 July 2025	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Capability and Ambition Fund 2025/26 allocation The purpose of the report is to confirm what Herefordshire Council will deliver with the Capability and Ambition Fund grant	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 25 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	Non Key Open
Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation The purpose of this report is to set out how the £2.055 million for Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 25 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Steve Hodges, Directorate services team leader sthodges@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261923	Economy and Environment	4 July 2025	KEY Open



Appendix 1 Recommendations made by Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee September 2023 – March 2025

26 September 2023			
Early Help			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	The council will make full use of school information collection to plan and deliver early help support.	Accepted	Noted
New Herefordshire Local Transport Plan			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Director of Children's Services and improvement partner to deliver workshop on restorative/relational practice.	Accepted	This took place during 2024. Committee member received the opportunity to attend one of a series of training sessions on relational practice.
14 November 2023			
Co-opted member recruitment update			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Recommends to full Council that the candidates in paragraphs 12 to 18 of this report should be appointed to the Committee.	Accepted	Resolved
2	Agrees the suggested amendments and recommend to full Council to change the Constitution with regard to the recruitment of co-opted members.	Accepted	Resolved
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	For a training session around youth provision to be arranged.	Accepted	Resolved
Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Action Plan			

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	The executive ensure that early intervention in schools is funded adequately in Herefordshire Council's 2024-2025 budget.	Accepted	No response received

23 January 2024			
Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Annual Report 2022/23			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That a workshop be held including all data analysts from across the partnership.	Unclear	This was not actioned. As the recommendation is now more than a year old it will not be pursued further.

Task and Finish Group - Children and Young People Directorate Budget			T a s k a n d F i n i s h G r o u p - C h i l d r e n a n d
--	--	--	--

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Financial performance data to form part of the 'measures that matter' and performance dashboard data, and should be reported back to staff teams so that they are aware of the financial consequences of the service performance alongside other measures.		Noted
2	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to examine how SEND Transport demand and costs are managed, including a review of operations in other rural local authorities.	Accepted	Action. Resolved - added to list of potential items for inclusion in future meetings

3	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise work to step children down from residential care, and to reunify families where children have become looked after.	Accepted	Action. Resolved - added to list of potential items for inclusion in future meetings
4	Dedicated financial resource to continue to be embedded within the children and young people directorate to provide challenge and assurance that day-to-day costs are being captured and forecast correctly.	Accepted	Noted
5	Each monthly financial outturn report for the Children and Young People directorate, and weekly Children's Service Analysis Tool (CHAT) be provided to the chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.	Accepted	Noted
6	The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee undertake a piece of work to examine the robustness of the council's data and management information supporting the children and young people directorate.	Accepted	The committee has yet to undertake this work.
7	Savings as proposed to be targeted for Children's directorate to deliver in 2024-25 but assured funding to be found from elsewhere to balance the council's budget.	Accepted	Cabinet acknowledged recommendation - 25 January 2024

12 March 2024**Corporate Parenting Service**

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Review the future schedule of rates for Section 106 as contained in the Supplementary Planning Document on Planning Obligations dated 1st April 2008 to ensure they reflect current costs, and are updated annually.	Accepted	To consider how the future schedule of rates for Section 106 as contained in the Supplementary Planning Document on Planning Obligations dated 1st April 2008 can be reviewed to ensure they reflect current costs and are updated annually.
2	Introduce interim arrangements for Section 106 funding to ensure changes to schedules of rates can be updated rapidly, while a decision on adopting Infrastructure Levy is reviewed.	Accepted	To consider how the interim arrangements for Section 106 funding to ensure changes to schedules of rates can be updated rapidly, while a decision on adopting Infrastructure Levy can be reviewed.

Corporate Parenting Board

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
3	Add a visit to the virtual school for consideration as part of the work programme.	Accepted	The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have added this topic to their work programme long list, and will decide in due

			course whether or not to scrutinise this topic, and how best to approach this work should they decide to do so.
4	Herefordshire Council to suggest proposals to make Corporate Parenting Board meetings more accessible to elected members and the public	Accepted	Herefordshire Council will develop a Corporate Parenting Board executive summary to be disseminated after each Board in the form of a newsletter
5	Herefordshire Council to extend opportunities to write letters and cards celebrating the success of its looked after children.	Accepted	The Corporate Parenting Board and Corporate Parenting Service welcome the proposal to write to care experienced children and young people and congratulate them on their achievements and successes. It is proposed that corporate celebration cards are designed for this purpose so that these can be completed and sent by senior leaders, including the Leader of the Council, Lead Member, the Chief Executive and members of the Corporate / Directorate Leadership Team.

7 May 2024

Introduction to fostering

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That Herefordshire Council appoints and promotes an elected member champion for foster carers.	Partially accepted	This would need to be discussed with the Leader of the Council as it is within his gift to appoint a champion for foster carers. If agreed, a remit/role descriptor would need to be produced and governance would be able to advise of process.
2	That Herefordshire Council works with the Diocese of Hereford to promote fostering to families who had accommodated Ukrainian families.	Accepted	Meetings with the Diocese of Hereford have already taken place and further meetings are planned. An information event with the Diocese will be held on 7 October is going to be held with the Diocese about fostering to all multi-faith groups will be invited as well which will take place on 7 October.
3	That Herefordshire Council works with the Diocese of Hereford to learn lessons from their successful accommodation of Ukrainian families.	Accepted	A lessons learnt exercise with the Diocese of Hereford has already taken place and has been built into the promotion of foster carers.
4	That Herefordshire Council provides an account of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee of 7 May 2024 to social workers in the fostering service.	Rejected	Meetings of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee are publicly available on the Council's YouTube channel.
5	That Herefordshire Council provides a permanent home for the fostering panel and related activities	Rejected	The fostering panel and related activities have been consistently held at the Shell Store, together with meetings with foster carers. At the current time there are no plans to change this approach given that it is a preferred venue for the foster carers.
6	That Herefordshire Council amends its internet pages to ensure that the council encourages recruitment of foster parents from a diverse range of foster carer households.	Accepted	A task and finish group which includes foster carers is in place to refresh the fostering web pages to ensure that the council encourages recruitment of foster carers from a diverse range of foster carers. We are exploring with the Diocese further meetings with multi-faith groups.
7	That Herefordshire Council appoints and promotes an elected member champion for foster carers.		[this would need to be discussed with the Leader of the Council as it is within his gift to appoint a champion for foster carers. If agreed, a remit/role descriptor would need to be produced and governance would be able to advise of process etc]

13 June 2024			
Workforce Challenges in Children's Services			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That Herefordshire Council identifies measures of success for each of the strands in the children and young people workforce strategy.	Accepted	Accepted
2	That Herefordshire Council makes clear the links between the council's corporate workforce strategy and its children and young people workforce strategy.	Accepted	Accepted
3	That Herefordshire Council builds links with and invests in local schools and voluntary organisations to encourage people to consider children's services as a career.	Partly Accepted	Accepted in part – It is recognised that investing in activities that encourage people to consider children's services and local government as a career is important, particularly with local schools and colleges.
4	That Herefordshire Council encourages people to consider switching careers to Herefordshire Council's children and young people directorate.	Partly Accepted	Accepted. It is recognised that investing in activities that encourage people to switch careers could be important and this forms part of our corporate work
5	That Herefordshire Council ensures that the voice of children informs the children and young people workforce strategy.	Accepted	Accepted
6	That Herefordshire Council describes the link between activity, outputs, outcomes and impact of the workforce strategy in terms of a theory of change.	Partly Accepted	Accepted in part. It is accepted that this is an approach which could be beneficial. The children's workforce strategy has been 12 months in the making and to adopt a radically different model would mean starting the process from scratch. This model will be considered for future strategy development.
7	Additional information required: Number of agency staff who have become permanent members of staff.	Rejected	The Statutory Scrutiny Officer has requested this information from the service and has received no reply. Due to the time elapsed since these recommendations were made, and given the nature of these recommendations, the Statutory Scrutiny Officer will not pursue them unless as part of a future piece of work agreed by the committee.
8	Additional information required: Number of permanent staff living in the local area, split by job type.	Rejected	The Statutory Scrutiny Officer has requested this information from the service and has received no reply. Due to the time elapsed since these recommendations were made, and given the nature of these recommendations, the Statutory Scrutiny Officer will not pursue them unless as part of a future piece of work agreed by the committee.

30 July 2024

Children's Services Complaints

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That Herefordshire Council review and revise the information on its website concerning complaints, to include information on the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman process, and information on where to seek assistance.	Accepted	https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/7#:~:text=If%20you%20are%20still%20unhappy,or%20call%20024%207682%200000 The link gives the Ombudsman details and explains their role.
2	For the children and young people service to report to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee within six months on the demand, flow, and timeliness of complaints. The report should include an analysis of those complaints and the ongoing development of the complaints process.	Accepted	Further data and analysis of complaints and compliments to be presented at scrutiny within the QA reporting Sept 25
3	That scrutiny recognises the work undertaken in partnership with Leeds City Council around complaints and asks that consideration be given to • having an independent professional investigate and document the complaint and desired outcome • understanding the demographics and protected characteristics of people making complaints and • ensuring that children's young people's and families' views are incorporated into that review.	Accepted	Point 1 completed – Semi Independent investigators in place Nov 24 and now managed through QA services. New process for management of complaints piloted Dec/Jan 25 and revised for final March 25. Point 3 completed – new process ensure all complaints are met with at the beginning of the stage 1 in person to ensure they have shared their view and preferred outcomes. Point 3 will be incorporated into compliment and complain analysis reports 25/26

Families' Commission Update

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That Herefordshire Council provide analysis of funding provided through the Police and Crime Commissioner and My Family, My School, My Community to demonstrate that funding and resources are focused on delivering sustained early help and support for families and communities.	Accepted	Accepted – All funded project are underway with evaluation on outcomes being completed March – June 25. This was one off funding and all providers were aware of the need to exit plan in 2025. PCC and LA have agreed a 25/26 Early Help and Prevention joint funding pot to consider future projects/services that we might fund / support or fund in part. NB this is in addition to the LA funded early Help provision agreed through tendering process 2025 costed £400k

2	The funding available to support development of a child-friendly Herefordshire is distributed as rapidly as possible.	Rejected	There is no funding for this work
---	---	----------	-----------------------------------

30 July 2024

Quality Assurance

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Adopt Unique Children's Services Values: Children's Services should adopt their own set of values and principles, separate from the corporate council values. These should be displayed on a child- and family-friendly page on the Herefordshire Council website alongside a user-friendly guide to the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), ensuring the framework and values are publicly accessible and reinforcing the strengths-based, restorative approach to cultural change.	Accepted	Children's Service and the partnership have worked together on a vision that will set for the Children and Young People plan 2025. This will be consulted on as we consult on the CYPP. A child friendly / service user guide to our QA framework and Restorative Practice approach, developed through Phase 2, will be produced as part of the improvement plan Phase 3 work. Both documents will be available within the Children's Section of the Council Website. We will consider the ability to develop a separate child friendly website page
2	Child and Young Person Involvement in Audits : The service should explore ways to involve children and young people in the analysis associated with the auditing process, ensuring their experiences and feedback contribute to service improvement.	Accepted	Engagement of CYP in our case audits is in place. We will however continue to develop this further in the service area QA programmes
3	That the service explores Quality Circles as a means of getting staff feedback.	Accepted	We have developed the social work health check, are development in 25/26 a Children Services workforce feedback survey to tie into the council workforce survey and we have developed Restorative Practice group sessions and a group based management programme that all provide opportunities for staff to feed back their view and experiences of Herefordshire Council and its Children's services as an employer.

Improvement Plan

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	Publicity Campaign for Feedback: Cabinet should endorse a publicity campaign to ensure maximum feedback from children, young people, and families on	Accepted	Noted. A number of session booked - one successfully attended by families. This work is now completed.

	the "Working Together Consultation" concerning Right Time, Right Place thresholds and managing risk.		Further public engagement will now be led through our implementation of the Families First programme
2	That Herefordshire Council identify a means to report publicly on progress in delivering the improvement plan for children's services.	Accepted	An outcome report will be made available against Phase 2 as we implement Phase 3 – June – Sept 25

26 November 2024

Including children's voices in council policy

Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	That Herefordshire Council Review and promote good practice in soliciting, capturing and sharing the voice of the child across the service areas of the council, partners and stakeholders, ensuring that: a) this practice builds on the good examples of engagement and consultation which have been developed in some areas of council business and by outside organisations; b) this practice builds on the good examples of engagement and consultation which have been developed in some areas of council business and by outside organisations; c) their ideas and wishes are adopted where possible, and where not possible the reasons for that are explained, and; d) it engages with other services, town and city youth councils and other youth projects to ensure it understands perspectives children and young people have articulated.	Accepted	Officers from Children's Services and Corporate Services are working together to develop and deliver a range of improvements that will importantly be shaped co-productively with children and young people themselves. The proposed improvements are: 1) developing consultation and engagement guidelines for all council services in collaboration with children and young people to ensure that there is a meaningful and consistent whole-council approach. 2) Redesigning the council webpage and intranet to ensure that consultation activity and responses are made accessible to all Directorates, maximising the work we undertake and sharing the views of children and young people across the council. 3) Developing a newsletter that captures recent feedback from children and young people on a range of topics and sharing this across the organisation. This will not be a children's services newsletter, letter but one that reflects CYP feedback etc into wider council business 4) Developing a Children and Young People's Council as a transformational improvement to the way in which children and young people participate in, and shape, the working of the council and public services in Herefordshire. We are in the process of establishing a project group and work plan to take this forwards early this year and will share the detailed action plan with Committee in February.
2	Ensures that its scrutiny committees embed the need to consider the voice of children and young people when carrying out its work.	Accepted	

21 January 2025			
Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Yearly Review of Effectiveness Report 2023-24			
Rec.	Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Response
1	The partnership ensures that recommendations from the 2024-25 annual review of effectiveness onwards have an identified partnership lead and an indicative timeframe for completion;	Accepted	Noted and will be incorporated into business plan 25/26
2	The partnership appends an implementation plan for the recommendations in its 2024-25 annual review of effectiveness; and	Accepted	Noted and will be created for the business plan agreed for 25/26
3	Herefordshire Council's director of children's services and director of governance and law provide guidance to elected members on their corporate parent responsibilities in the event of a significant incident, or death, concerning a care leaver under the age of 25.	Accepted	The role of members as Corporate parents: The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that when a child or young person comes into the care of the council, or is a "qualifying care leaver" (someone who between 16 and 25 and was looked-after by the authority for at least 13 weeks after their fourteenth birthday), the council becomes their corporate parent. This means that they should: • act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people • encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, • make sure they have access to services • make sure children and young people are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work • promote high aspirations and try to secure the best outcomes for them • prepare them for adulthood and independent living. All councillors and officers are corporate parents. It is therefore every councillor's responsibility to make sure that the council is meeting these duties towards children in care and care leavers. Children can be in care in a range of different settings, with the authority acting as corporate parent to all of them. This includes foster care, children's homes, secure children's homes, young offender institutions, secure training centres and some types of kinship care. Every councillor and officer within a council has a responsibility to act for those children and young people as a parent

			would for their own child. Lead members, those on corporate parenting panels, and overview and scrutiny committees will have particular responsibilities, but for all councillors, there is a role of being the “eyes and ears of the community”. The role of the council in child deaths The death of a child is a tragedy, and subsequent enquiries / investigations should keep an appropriate balance between forensic and medical requirements and the family’s need for support. There is a strict statutory framework to be adhered to following the death of a child, this is led in Herefordshire by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) under strict legislative guidance, and the Council does not have a role independently in such matters. Statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines child death review partners as “local authorities and any Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) for the local area as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017”. The HSCP therefore has a legal duty to undertake reviews of serious cases (Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews) where a child has died or suffered serious harm, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. When a child dies, in any circumstances, it is important for parents and families to understand what has happened and whether there are any lessons to be learned. HSCP must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area and, if they consider it appropriate, for any non-resident child who has died in their area. Key scrutiny responsibilities in children’s services Through legislation, scrutiny committees have several critical roles: • Examining Children's Services Performance: They assess whether local authorities and partners are effectively delivering services such as social care, education, and youth support. • Scrutinising Safeguarding Practices: Ensuring that child protection measures, multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and social work interventions are effective. • Monitoring SEND Services: Reviewing how well councils and health partners implement the SEND reforms and improve outcomes for children with disabilities. • Assessing Children’s Health and Well-being Services: Overseeing
--	--	--	---

			the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), public health initiatives, and early intervention programmes. • Reviewing Education and Skills Provision: Evaluating school performance, alternative provision, post-16 education, and how councils support vulnerable learners. Limitations Despite their statutory powers, scrutiny committees have limitations in scrutinising children's services, particularly where other statutory processes are already in place. The Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation outline that scrutiny committees cannot duplicate or interfere with statutory decision-making processes. This restriction affects their ability to intervene in certain cases, including: • Individual Casework and Complaints: Committees do not have the power to scrutinise individual cases of child protection, SEND disputes, or social care interventions, as these matters are subject to separate statutory complaints and appeals mechanisms, such as the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) or the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. • Regulated Inspection Processes: Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Ofsted has a statutory role in inspecting children's services, including safeguarding and SEND provision. Scrutiny committees cannot override or replace the findings of Ofsted or direct the regulatory body's work. • Judicial and Tribunal Matters: Matters that are subject to legal proceedings, such as care proceedings in the Family Court under the Children Act 1989, are beyond the remit of scrutiny committees. They cannot influence court decisions or interfere in ongoing legal cases. Statutory Safeguarding Boards: The Children and Social Work Act 2017 established Local Safeguarding Partnerships, replacing Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Scrutiny committees cannot take over or interfere with the statutory duties of these multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including serious case reviews, which have legal responsibility for protecting children at risk. They can, however scrutinise the safeguarding partnership itself.
--	--	--	--

