

Corporate Support Centre
Paul Walker - Chief Executive

To: All members of the Council

our ref: Council - 3 March 2023
contact: Matthew Evans, Democratic Services
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23 February 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Herefordshire Council to be held on **Friday 3 March 2023** at the Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE at **10.00 am** at which the business set out in the attached agenda is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely
Claire Porter



Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

Council

Date: **Friday 3 March 2023**

Time: **10.00 am**

Place: **Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4
0LE**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting. Please access the following link for the live webcast of the meeting:

[Council - Friday 3 March 2023 10.00 am](#)

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Matthew Evans, Democratic Services on 01432 383690 or e-mail matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Council

Membership

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Sebastian Bowen

Councillor Kema Guthrie

Councillor Graham Andrews

Councillor Polly Andrews

Councillor Chris Bartrum

Councillor Dave Boulter

Councillor Ellie Chowns

Councillor Clare Davies

Councillor Barry Durkin

Councillor Elizabeth Foxton

Councillor John Hardwick

Councillor Liz Harvey

Councillor Kath Hey

Councillor Phillip Howells

Councillor Terry James

Councillor Tony Johnson

Councillor Mike Jones

Councillor Jonathan Lester

Councillor Bob Matthews

Councillor Jeremy Milln

Councillor Roger Phillips

Councillor Ann-Marie Probert

Councillor Nigel Shaw

Councillor John Stone

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst

Councillor Kevin Tillet

Councillor Ange Tyler

Councillor William Wilding

Councillor Paul Andrews

Councillor Jenny Bartlett

Councillor Christy Bolderson

Councillor Tracy Bowes

Councillor Pauline Crockett

Councillor Gemma Davies

Councillor Toni Fagan

Councillor Carole Gandy

Councillor John Harrington

Councillor Jennie Hewitt

Councillor David Hitchiner

Councillor Helen l'Anson

Councillor Peter Jinman

Councillor Graham Jones

Councillor Jim Kenyon

Councillor Trish Marsh

Councillor Mark Millmore

Councillor Felicity Norman

Councillor Tim Price

Councillor Paul Rone

Councillor Louis Stark

Councillor David Summers

Councillor Paul Symonds

Councillor Diana Toynbee

Councillor Yolande Watson

Agenda

Pages

(The meeting will be preceded by thought for the day.)

NOLAN PRINCIPLES

9 - 10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.

3. MINUTES

To approve and sign the Minutes of the budget meeting of Council held on 10 February 2023.

11 - 28

4. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Chairman's and Chief Executive's announcements.

29 - 32

How to submit questions

The deadline for submission of questions for this meeting is:

9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Questions must be submitted to councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk. Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted.

Accepted questions and the response to them will be published as a supplement to the agenda papers prior to the meeting. Further information and guidance is available at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved>.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To receive questions from members of the public.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

To receive questions from members of the Council.

7. 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX SETTING REPORT

To set the council tax and precepts for 2023/24.

33 - 52

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

To make appointments to the committees of the Council and outside bodies in line with the rules of political proportionality.

53 - 58

9. APPOINTING DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

To appoint all Electoral Services Office (ESO) staff with limited powers as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DERO).

59 - 62

10. LEADER'S REPORT

To receive a report from the leader on the activities of the executive (cabinet) since the meeting of Council on 9 December 2022.

63 - 90

11. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS

To consider Notices of Motion.

12. FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2023/24

The next meeting is the annual meeting of Council on 19 May 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

Council is asked to approve the schedule of full Council meeting dates in 2023/24 as below:

28 July 2023

13 October 2023

8 December 2023

9 February 2024 – Budget meeting

8 March 2024

24 May 2024 – Annual meeting

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

In view of the continued prevalence of covid-19, we have introduced changes to our usual procedures for accessing public meetings. These will help to keep our councillors, staff and members of the public safe.

Please take time to read the latest guidance on the council website by following the link at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings and support us in promoting a safe environment for everyone. If you have any queries please contact the Governance Support Team on 01432 261699 or at governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk

We will review and update this guidance in line with Government advice. Thank you very much for your help in keeping Herefordshire Council meetings a safe space.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

Recording of meetings

Please note that filming, photography and recording of this meeting is permitted provided that it does not disrupt the business of the meeting.

Members of the public are advised that if you do not wish to be filmed or photographed you should let the governance services team know before the meeting starts so that anyone who intends filming or photographing the meeting can be made aware.

The reporting of meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the reporting to ensure that they comply.

The council may make an official recording of this public meeting or stream it live to the council's website. Such recordings form part of the public record of the meeting and are made available for members of the public via the council's web-site.

Public transport links

The Herefordshire Council office at Plough Lane is located off Whitecross Road in Hereford, approximately 1 kilometre from the City Bus Station. The location of the office and details of city bus services can be viewed at:

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1597/hereford-city-bus-map-local-services>,

**The Seven Principles of Public Life
(Nolan Principles)**

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Minutes of the meeting of Council held at Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 10 February 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor Sebastian Bowen (chairperson)
Councillor Kema Guthrie (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Polly Andrews, Jenny Bartlett, Chris Bartrum, Christy Bolderson, Dave Boulter, Tracy Bowes, Ellie Chowns, Pauline Crockett, Clare Davies, Gemma Davies, Barry Durkin, Toni Fagan, Elizabeth Foxton, Carole Gandy, John Hardwick, John Harrington, Liz Harvey, Kath Hey, David Hitchiner, Helen I'Anson, Terry James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Jim Kenyon, Jonathan Lester, Trish Marsh, Bob Matthews, Mark Millmore, Jeremy Milln, Felicity Norman, Tim Price, Ann-Marie Probert, Nigel Shaw, Louis Stark, John Stone, David Summers, Elissa Swinglehurst, Paul Symonds, Kevin Tillet, Diana Toynbee, Ange Tyler, Yolande Watson and William Wilding

In attendance: Councillors Peter Jinman and Roger Phillips*

Officers: Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Director Governance and Law, Corporate Director - Economy and Environment*, Corporate Director - Children & Young People*, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing*, Head of Legal Services and Democratic Services Manager

* denotes virtual attendance.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennie Hewitt, Phillip Howells, Peter Jinman, Tony Johnson, Roger Phillips and Paul Rone.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9 December 2022, subject to the updated appendix of public questions, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted the Chairman and Chief Executive's announcements as printed in the agenda papers.

52. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 9 - 18)

A copy of the public questions and written answers, together with supplementary questions asked at the meeting and their answers, is attached to the Minutes at Appendix 1.

53. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON SECOND HOMES AND EMPTY PROPERTIES

Council considered a report by the Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning to determine proposed changes to Council Tax liabilities with regard to second homes and empty properties.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning proposed the recommendations and introduced the report.

The Leader seconded the recommendations for approval.

Council debated the report.

A named vote was held to agree the proposed changes to Council Tax liabilities set out in the report. The proposed changes were carried unanimously.

FOR (47): Councillors Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Polly Andrews, Bartlett, Bartrum, Bolderson, Boulter, Bowen, Bowes, Chowns, Crockett, Clare Davies, Gemma Davies, Durkin, Fagan, Foxtan, Gandy, Guthrie, Hardwick, Harrington, Harvey, Hey, Hitchiner, l'Anson, James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Kenyon, Lester, Marsh, Matthews, Millmore, Milln, Norman, Price, Probert, Shaw, Stark, Stone, Summers, Swinglehurst, Symonds, Tillet, Toynebee, Tyler, Watson and Wilding.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED: That

a) Council approves the following additional Council Tax premiums be applied from 1 April 2024, subject to the referenced legislation being approved:

- **100% premium for second homes;**
- **100% premium for properties which have been empty and unfurnished for a period of between 1 and 2 years.**

54. 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Council considered a report by the Leader to agree the council tax reduction scheme for 2023/24.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning proposed the council tax reduction scheme for 2023/24 and introduced the report.

The Leader seconded the council tax reduction scheme for 2023/24 for approval.

Council debated the report.

A named vote was held to agree the council tax reduction scheme set out in the report. The scheme was carried unanimously.

FOR (47): Councillors Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Polly Andrews, Bartlett, Bartrum, Bolderson, Boulter, Bowen, Bowes, Chowns, Crockett, Clare Davies, Gemma Davies, Durkin, Fagan, Foxtan, Gandy, Guthrie, Hardwick, Harrington, Harvey, Hey, Hitchiner, l'Anson, James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Kenyon, Lester, Marsh,

Matthews, Millmore, Milln, Norman, Price, Probert, Shaw, Stark, Stone, Summers, Swinglehurst, Symonds, Tillett, Toynbee, Tyler, Watson and Wilding.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED:

That: a) The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24, with the same parameters as the existing scheme, be approved.

55. 2023/24 CAPITAL INVESTMENT BUDGET AND CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE

Council considered a report by the Leader to approve the 2023/24 capital investment budget and capital strategy update.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning moved the report and proposed the recommendations.

The Leader seconded the report and the recommendations.

Council debated the report and the following actions were raised:

- To provide a written response regarding potential delays to the capitalisation of projects in the capital programme and the impact on the revenue budget;
- To provide a written response with detail of the number of rough sleepers currently in Herefordshire.

The 2023/24 capital investment budget and capital strategy update was put to the recorded vote and carried unanimously.

FOR (47): Councillors Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Polly Andrews, Bartlett, Bartrum, Bolderson, Boulter, Bowen, Bowes, Chowns, Crockett, Clare Davies, Gemma Davies, Durkin, Fagan, Foxtton, Gandy, Guthrie, Hardwick, Harrington, Harvey, Hey, Hitchiner, l'Anson, James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Kenyon, Lester, Marsh, Matthews, Millmore, Milln, Norman, Price, Probert, Shaw, Stark, Stone, Summers, Swinglehurst, Symonds, Tillett, Toynbee, Tyler, Watson and Wilding.

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED:

That Council:

a) Approve the proposed capital programme from 2023/24 attached at appendix C; and

b) Approve the capital strategy at appendix D.

56. 2023/24 BUDGET SETTING

Council considered a report from the Leader to set the 2023/24 budget. Council noted the following supplements published following the despatch of the agenda:

- Budget Council meeting procedure 2023 published on 3 February;
- Addition of recommendation to the 2023/24 Budget Setting report published on 9 February [j) *the additional government grant of £680k confirmed in the final local government settlement announced on the 6th of February to fund:*
 - *£480k For Phosphate Commission to deliver a robust process to achieve scientific, legal and regulatory certainty on river restoration and achieve earliest lifting of the Lugg catchment development moratorium; and*
 - *£200k For parish grants to fund PROW (Public Rights of Way) structures (bridges, gates, styles, etc.) installation, in liaison with Herefordshire Council’s PROW team];*
- Budget amendments 2023/24 published on 9 February; and
- Additional S25 opinion of the S151 officer following the publication of budget amendments published on 9 February.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning introduced the report and moved the budget.

The Leader seconded the report and the budget.

Councillor Ellie Chowns, as Group Leader of The Green Party Group spoke on the budget.

Councillor Bob Matthews, as Group Leader of the True Independents Group spoke on the budget. Councillor Matthews confirmed the withdrawal of his proposed budget amendment.

Council debated the budget.

Councillor John Harrington, as Group Leader of the Independents for Herefordshire Group spoke on the budget.

Councillor Terry James, as Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group spoke on the budget.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning closed the debate.

(There was an adjournment at 12:30 p.m.; the meeting reconvened at 12:44 p.m.)

Amendment 1 – Proposed by Councillor Nigel Shaw and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Lester

Extra Funding for Rural Roads and Herefordshire Athletics

This amendment seeks to allocate the additional £611,909 Rural Services Delivery Grant to the Highways Capital Investment Budget within the capital budget. This sum to be effectively “ring –fenced” to be spent on u and c rural roads in recognition of the source of the funding. The aim will be to support the extra cost of delivering services across rural areas by improving the road infrastructure which is so necessary for service delivery.

The amendment also seeks to match the funding allocated by Hereford City Council to support the refurbishment of Herefordshire’s County

Athletics track, to retain a quality facility to the benefit of those living in the whole county.

Currently this funding is being allocated to the general reserve. To put this money in reserves would send the wrong message to civil servants and the HM Treasury, namely that Herefordshire doesn't need the funding.

Councillor Shaw proposed the amendment.

Councillor Lester seconded the amendment.

Council debated the amendment.

The Cabinet Member Finance, Corporate Services and Planning, as the mover of the original motion, spoke before the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was put to the recorded vote and was lost by a simple majority.

FOR (21): Councillors Polly Andrews, Bartrum, Bolderson, Clare Davies, Durkin, Gandy, Guthrie, l'Anson, James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Kenyon, Lester, Matthews, Millmore, Price, Probert, Shaw, Stark, Stone and Tillett.

Against (23): Councillors Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Bartlett, Boulter, Bowes, Chowns, Crockett, Gemma Davies, Fagan, Hardwick, Harrington, Harvey, Hey, Hitchiner, Marsh, Milln, Norman, Summers, Symonds, Toynbee, Tyler, Watson and Wilding.

Abstentions (3); Councillors Bowen, Foxton, and Swinglehurst

The 2023/24 budget and associated medium term financial strategy, treasury management strategy and minimum revenue provision, as recommended by Cabinet, was put to the recorded vote and was approved by a simple majority.

FOR (24): Councillors Graham Andrews, Paul Andrews, Bartlett, Boulter, Bowes, Chowns, Crockett, Gemma Davies, Fagan, Foxton, Hardwick, Harrington, Harvey, Hey, Hitchiner, Marsh, Milln, Norman, Summers, Symonds, Toynbee, Tyler, Watson and Wilding.

Against (22): Councillors Polly Andrews, Bartrum, Bolderson, Clare Davies, Durkin, Gandy, Guthrie, l'Anson, James, Graham Jones, Mike Jones, Kenyon, Lester, Matthews, Millmore, Price, Probert, Shaw, Stark, Stone, Swinglehurst and Tillett.

Abstentions (1); Councillors Bowen.

RESOLVED:

That: Council approves:

- a) the council tax base of 71,073.11 Band D equivalents in 2023/24;**
- b) an increase in core council tax in 2023/24 of 2.99%;**
- c) an additional precept in respect of adult social care costs of 2% applied to council tax in 2023/24 resulting in a total council tax increase of 4.99%, increasing the band D charge from £1,701.70 to £1,786.61 for Herefordshire Council in 2023/24;**

- d) the balanced 2023/24 revenue budget proposal totalling £193.3m, subject to any amendments approved at the meeting, specifically the net spending limits for each directorate as at appendix C;
- e) the revenue budget includes £4.0m for All Ages Social Care to fund edge of care and prevention services for all ages and the continuation of support for low income households;
- f) delegates to the section 151 officer the power to make necessary changes to the budget arising from any variations in central government funding allocations via general reserves;
- g) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2026/27 at appendix A;
- h) the Treasury Management Strategy at appendix D be approved;
- i) the revised methodology used to calculate the annual MRP charge, noted in appendix D, be approved; and
- j) the additional government grant of £680k confirmed in the final local government settlement announced on the 6th of February to fund:
 - £480k For Phosphate Commission to deliver a robust process to achieve scientific, legal and regulatory certainty on river restoration and achieve earliest lifting of the Lugg catchment development moratorium; and
 - £200k For parish grants to fund PROW (Public Rights of Way) structures (bridges, gates, styles, etc.) installation, in liaison with Herefordshire Council's PROW team.

57. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council considered a report by the Chairperson of the Employment Panel to approve the pay policy statement for 2023 – 2024.

The report and recommendation was moved by the Leader (as chairperson of the employment panel) and seconded by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy (as vice-chairperson of the employment panel).

The pay policy statement was put to the vote and approved by a simple majority.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) the pay policy statement at appendix A is approved for publication.**

58. PERMANENT REPLACEMENT OF ONE POLLING STATION

Council considered a report by the Returning Officer to approve the addition of one new polling station.

Councillor Sebastian Bowen proposed the recommendations in the report. Councillor Barry Durkin seconded the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and were carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The Marden Community Centre which is no longer available for use is closed, and**

b) Council agrees that the Marden Links Community Hub, Walker Green Marden, Hereford, HR1 3DN station be approved.

The meeting ended at 2.05 pm

Chairperson

Appendix 1 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mr Stinton, Leominster	My question is how can it be ok for a council tax monthly bill be equivalent to almost a one weeks wage at minimum wage? Not to mention having to pay NI tax and other bills. You need to think of other ways to create revenue, this area is not a high paying region.	Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning
<p>Response: Thank you Mr Stinton for your question.</p> <p>The Council relies on income from Council Tax, alongside other funding sources from Government, to deliver services across the county. The Council recognises the challenging financial climate and its impact on individuals and we have increased to £1.7m the additional funding we are targeting to support households in hardship.</p> <p>In addition, this budget ensures that Council Tax Reduction Scheme continues to provide support to those most in need with more than 11,500 households expected to receive 100% discount on their council tax through this scheme – paying no council tax at all. The scheme provides support to eligible households regardless of their council tax banding.</p> <p>The 2023/24 budget includes additional sources of income generation activity to further limit the pressure on local tax raising and to manage our financial challenges internally as much as possible.</p>			
PQ 2	Mr Goulding, Hereford	<p>I am a tradesman working regularly in Hereford City and have to park with my vehicle for access to tools etc. When on a job that could perhaps take me 2 to 3 hours I find myself having to rush to keep within the maximum 2 hour pay and display limit on “parking restricted zones”. I know I could buy £15 day permit but for a 3 hour slot is not cost effective. Couldn't it be possible for trades people to buy 1 hour slots beyond the 2-hour limit as and when needed?</p> <p>This parking restriction is making our jobs impossible.</p> <p>I am not asking for free parking, I recognise that parking income plays an important part in the budget to be discussed today, just a little flexibility to allow me to do my job and provide a service.</p>	Cabinet member infrastructure and transport

6

Response:

I thank Mr Goulding for his question, which is well reasoned. Tariffs are applied in the most central Hereford streets in order to manage the turnover of parking spaces, and encourage drivers to park further out where they can. Dispensations are available to trades people across the county that have a need to leave their vehicle in contravention of a parking restriction, and where approved a permit will be issued. The Parking Team can be contacted on the telephone number displayed on the front of the machine for specific assistance on the day, and members of the public are encouraged to do this. If someone needs a full day then a permit is the best answer at £15. We are looking at a half day permit and also looking at further variations when we go to virtual permits, but at present, someone like Mr Goulding is best advised to ring the parking team to make arrangements – on the day or in preferably in advance of starting a job.

PQ 3	Mr Stevens, Ledbury	Outsourcing services to private companies is expensive. Given the dangerous failures on Hereford roads and pathways, what is being changed to this failing system to stop overpayment of tax for underperformance in road and street cleaning maintenance which includes unsound pothole repair and roads not being cleaned to a COPLAR B standard at all?	Cabinet member infrastructure and transport
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Response:

Thank you Mr Stevens for your question. The Public Realm Contract was let in 2013 by the previous administration and the procurement of the contract followed best practice at that time to ensure that the Council was able to enter into a contract that delivered best value for the funds provided.

Maintaining an authority’s highways network and public realm is expensive and is not likely to be any less expensive if those services were delivered in-house, with the potential cost of bringing those services back in-house being considerable. The issue for us as a new administration was whether or not that contract awarded in 2013 still provided good value for money, and, crucially, whether or not we could demonstrate that. Cllr. Gemma Davies, Cllr. Liz Harvey and myself asked for an assessment of that to be carried out by external auditors. That report, in crude summary, said the contract itself was OK, good in fact, but we, on Herefordshire Council side, were not necessarily in a position to monitor that contract as robustly as we would want to.

Following on from that and noting the clauses around contract extensions, we commissioned an assessment of the different types of contracts the Council could move to; what the cost benefits were of those future models might be and what the process and timescales would be. That piece of work is going to Cabinet shortly for consideration of a preferred approach. Whatever the final outcome of that report in terms of recommendation of a future model for the service it is likely that some technical staff, who moved over en-masse to BBLP in 2013, will return to Herefordshire Council employ. This will enable us to satisfactorily oversee any future contract of whatever model and give better direction.

In relation to the poor state of our network I do not believe that is due to failure to get best value out of our current contract but due to the severe impact of the government’s policy of Austerity. BBLP maintains our network on our behalf to the best of its ability, within the constraints of what funding is available to them. It has been estimated that we are spending approximately £5 million a year on maintaining our public realm in 2022 compared to nearly £15 million in 2011. This cannot continue, but it’s not, sadly, within our power as a local authority to replace the full value of the money eroded by the severe reduction in central government grants and I would urge all residents to lobby for fairer funding for rural authorities like Herefordshire.

With what little money we do have as a highways authority we prioritise on a safety matrix, making sure more money is spent on faster, larger roads – to the detriment, often, of C and unclassified and urban streets. This has meant we have done and will continue to do our utmost to ensure collisions are not caused by road defects.

Similarly, as an authority we focus our litter collection and cleansing functions toward maintaining our high amenity areas. This does mean that the City and Town centres are maintained to a higher standard than other urban and inter-urban routes but it is arguably not to the standard we would wish if we had more resource.

Where services are delivered, in line with the Annual Plan and the available budgets, then the Council does have a team that checks for compliance in terms of

- cost to provide,
- quality of delivery
- timeliness of delivery and
- appropriateness of the action taken

Where issues are found then the Council does issue instructions to rectify the works and for that work to be undertaken at the provider's expense.

The Public Realm Contract does have a suite of performance indicators that are measured and monitored. I can confirm that the provider is currently achieving the various targets set jointly by the Strategic Partnering Board.

Supplementary question:

Given that effective communication with councillors and administrative staff is poor, posing a severe and real lack of accountability to those in positions of delegated power, does the Council understand the lawful and legal requirements set out in administrative procedure and conduct such as the Nolan Principles? If so, why not collectively act upon them?

Response to supplementary question (cabinet member infrastructure and transport):

The Council seeks to uphold the Nolan principles and to remain accountable.

PQ 4	Ms Liddle, Ledbury	The Government has published a detailed national plan of action to improve how sexual violence is handled throughout the criminal justice system. This includes the words: <i>ensuring every victim has access to the right therapeutic and clinical support, and the right emotional and practical support</i> . I am concerned that words like "savings and efficiencies" may mean reduced services, or services commissioned that aren't specialist enough. How will the Council ensure that funding and resources are available for local specialist services that can help deliver the Government's aim, and ensure the right help is there locally for those who need it?	Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing
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Response:

The Council has a strong role in working in partnership with others to ensure that the right quality and capacity of victim/survivor support is available. We work closely with the justice system and the NHS who carry primary commissioning duties in this regard. We are part of the Police and Crime Commissioner-led Joint Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategic Board which works collaboratively to deliver the priorities of the NHS Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services and the recommendations of a Sexual Violence Mental Health Needs Assessment. However, the council is not directly responsible for funding specialist counselling or clinical support services and we are therefore unable to comment on commissioning intentions with this regard. We have noted that additional funding has now been made available through the PCC for services for survivors of sexual assault in 22/23 & 23/24.

Council officers lead the Sexual Violence sub-group, which reports into the Community Safety Partnership, and contribute to needs assessment, pathway review and evaluation, with a focus on whole system prevention. In this way, the Council strengthens the evidence base on which decisions are made by the bodies with statutory duty.

PQ 5	Ms Shore, Hereford	The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a clear duty on local authorities to provide safe temporary accommodation for victims of domestic abuse, but fails to recognise the importance of community-based support as victims seek to preserve their safety and build their lives. Substantial evidence shows that peer-support programmes like The Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit – tried and tested across UK – are fundamental to this process. In 2022 32% (432) of all referrals to Herefordshire domestic abuse services were for group support. Only 8.6% were for accommodation-based support – including refuge. In light of the forthcoming budget, will Herefordshire Council ensure that it maintains the resources needed to provide non accommodation-based services, continuing to support women who have been able to remain in their own homes, or who are still recovering from the trauma of domestic abuse which they escaped some time ago?	Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing
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Response:
The council is committed to providing community based and accommodation based support for victim-survivors of domestic abuse. Since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the council, in common with all local authority areas, has been granted funding from the Department of Housing, Levelling Up and Communities to provide additional support within safe accommodation. During this time, the council has maintained contracts with local providers for community based support. In due course, contracts nearing the end of their term must be re-procured according to the council's procurement regulations and procurement law. This process will allow us to consider needs, policy and practice and assess whether services should be adjusted to meet the presenting needs of our residents. The design of services commissioned by the council is done in consultation with partners, both statutory and non-statutory, residents and people with lived experience.

Supplementary question:
Herefordshire Women's Equality Group strongly supports community based support for victims recovering from domestic abuse. The Department of Housing, Levelling Up and Communities' funding is heavily focussed on accommodation. In my question, I provided compelling evidence of the need for community based support. In 2022 one third of all referrals to Herefordshire domestic abuse services were for such support. This shows such clear and consistent evidence of significant demand for community-based support. What further evidence is needed? Will Herefordshire Council give assurance that such support will be included in their service model for the future?

Response to supplementary question (cabinet member health and adult wellbeing):
The re-procurement strategy will consider what services are needed, which could result in more community-based support. Consultation will be undertaken with a partners, residents and people with lived experience. The budget proposals did not include any changes to funding for domestic abuse services.

PQ 6	Ms Attfield, Bromyard	In 2021, West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre temporarily closed counselling waiting lists to children and adults when funding shortfalls meant wait times exceeded two years. There are fears the same might happen again. A recent media article stated caseloads over capacity, therapy service cut to the bone, and significant funding shortfalls for the new financial year. Without additional funding staffing will be cut and waiting lists risk closure again.	Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing
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		Rape Crisis England and Wales said long-term, sustainable funding for specialist support and advocacy services was “more urgently needed than ever”. Not to fund such services puts pressure on other services eg. mental health. The budget proposes a £6.1m cut to Community Wellbeing. How will the Council ensure these much needed services are sustainably funded, so that survivors of rape and sexual violence are not turned away?	
Response: Herefordshire Council is committed to supporting the strategic priorities of Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership, as outlined in their strategy for 2021/2024, which specifically include violence against women and girls and sexual violence, and the council’s public health team is leading on this work. It is important to state that the council is not directly responsible for funding specialist counselling services and therefore, the budget proposals will not impact this provision. However, the council continues to work in partnership with West Mercia Police, the Police Crime Commissioner and local health services to facilitate the development of systems and services which promote early access to specialist support.			
PQ 7	Ms Barraclough, Hereford	As a trustee of West Mercia Women's Aid, I am deeply concerned about the proposed transformation of domestic abuse services. Domestic abuse is fundamentally about the use of physical, structural, and economic advantage and entitlement, to torment, control and exploit a person who thought they were in a relationship built on trust and love. Empowerment and empathy are essential for the delivery of effective support and sustained recovery. The domestic abuse sector is well-known for its grass-roots origins where those affected by domestic abuse themselves – either directly or indirectly – have taken the lead in both developing and delivering services. To what extent will the Council ensure that their new delivery model retains this principle of co-production with survivors themselves and ensure that services are delivered by organisations that truly represent those with lived experience?	Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing
Response: The council is committed to coproduction and the design of services commissioned by the council is done in consultation with partners, both statutory and non-statutory, residents and people with lived experience. In terms of current support for domestic abuse, the council is commissioning community based support and support in safe accommodation through contracts with the voluntary sector and housing sector providers. The council has not proposed any service transformation that deviates from this model. In due course, contracts nearing the end of their term must be re-procured according to the council’s procurement regulations and procurement law. This process will allow us to consider needs, policy and practice and assess whether services should be adjusted to meet the presenting needs of our residents. Any redesign will be undertaken in line with our commitment to coproduction.			
PQ 8	Ms Currie, Hereford	How much is in the budget to cover (a) the cost of independent reviews into historic failings in Children’s Services (b) why is there no obvious money ring fenced for compensation for families affected?	Cabinet member children and families
Response:			

An initial review work budget of £14k was allocated and the council is now proposing to work with the Children’s Commissioner and local Safeguarding Partnership to put in place a listening to families Commission. The Commission will consist of 3 individuals, not connected to Herefordshire Council, with appropriate knowledge and experience, identified by the Children’s Commissioner. The purpose of this Commission is to:

1. To give parents and families an opportunity to tell their story to an independent panel.
2. To identify any steps that the Council and partners can and should take as a result of hearing families’ testimonies, either in relation to individual cases or in respect of general issues.
3. To learn from their experience and to ensure that that knowledge is used to inform improvements to children’s services.
4. To ensure that, as far as possible, families feel that their concerns have been listened to and responded to, and that this is as much as can be done to resolve matters.

At this stage no budget has been allocated but the council will meet the full costs of the commission once these have been identified.

Any claim for compensation is reviewed on its own merit and reparatory action is taken as appropriate. We currently do not have monies specifically earmarked for any potential future compensation claims.

PQ 9	Ms Albright, Leominster	<p>The independent Lichfield Report commissioned in 2022 suggested that Herefordshire Council has already lost over £100 million of direct revenue as a result of the 40 month housing moratorium preventing all new homes in the North of the County. The catastrophic losses increase every passing month and are not recoverable.</p> <p>This is in addition to the many hundreds of millions of wider county inward investment lost and the lost jobs, diminished opportunities, entrenched hardship and the lost provision of much needed housing, including hundreds of funded Affordable Homes.</p> <p>What hope and guidance can Herefordshire Council offer those working in the unjustly beleaguered local construction sector, and to those who might consider locating their business here or those who wish to have a home here?</p>	Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning
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Response:

Thank you for your question Ms Albright. I agree that the consequence of the build-up of phosphate and other forms of pollution in the Wye has been a virtual moratorium on development within the River Lugg sub-catchment (~40% of the county’s land area)

I also fully recognise and sympathise with the severe impact the moratorium has had, and continues to have, on the local construction industry. It is wrong that this pollution has happened. We want the moratorium to end. However, the sad reality is that while it remains in place, developers need to mitigate the environmental impact of their developments because that is the law. Laws to protect our environment are a good thing and are here to stay.

The council continues to lobby government to seek a long-term solution to the phosphate pollution issue, which is not of our making and is outside of our direct control.

The council has delivered the first of its wetland areas which will – for the first time ever – enable the trading of phosphate credits with nutrient certainty, enabling housing development to progress in the catchment at a faster rate than has been possible in recent years. We have at least three further wetlands being planned and we completed this week on the purchase of land for one of these at Tarrington. It is worth noting that despite the moratorium some 340 houses have been approved for development within the Lugg catchment since the moratorium has been in place.

Under the present Nutrient Management Plan, with its purely voluntary arrangements, our assessment is that it will take a decade or more before the river returns to a reasonable condition - and quite possibly never. This is an untenable situation and a step-change is needed in preventing further pollution and in addressing historical pollution.

The Cabinet Commission for Restoring the Wye has identified a road map to deliver that step-change and we will shortly be publishing our Prospectus. The evidence we have seen to date suggests that we can get out of “the moratorium” much, much quicker than nutrient management practices could ever achieve, but a lot of work needs to be done across many agencies and the community stakeholders to deliver change at pace.

To end the moratorium we need two things “regulatory certainty” and “scientific certainty.” We are currently validating our proposals and taking legal advice before publishing them. We believe our proposals will create that regulatory certainty. However, there also then needs to be scientific certainty beyond reasonable doubt.

To that end, the Cabinet Commission is developing a delivery programme, called “Project Ranunculus” after the Water Crowfoot for which the Wye is famed. This project seeks to coordinate the scientific and regulatory evidence and to keep it under constant oversight so that the statutory conservation body, Natural England, can allow the lifting of the moratorium on development at its earliest opportunity.

If the approach detailed in the Prospectus is accepted by DEFRA, we will say more as the business case develops. We can give no firm dates, but what these proposals will offer is far better and offers greater certainty than the loose arrangements we have now. We also give a firm commitment to drive this forward with energy and have the determination to overcome whatever obstacles are presented to us. We hope, that when our Prospectus is published that the local construction industry and its representatives will join us in advocating for the changes we seek to bring.

In addition to our focussed action on river restoration, the council continues to explore every possible avenue to support business and to improve the economic prospects for Herefordshire. The cabinet approved the county’s Big Economic Plan in January, setting out a long term vision and the huge range of opportunities we have for the future. We are consulting on the Hereford City Masterplan, and are preparing for the consultation on the Local Plan Update in the summer, both of which will identify development opportunities across the entire county.

25

PQ 10	Mr Franklin, Bromyard	<p>Most savings proposals within the proposed budget raise one or both of two concerns:</p> <p>(a) it is unclear what is being proposed and how this will affect Herefordshire residents e.g, S2, S3, S4, S7, S12, S16 or</p> <p>(b) there is no indication how the objectives are to be achieved e.g., S14, S18, S19, S28</p> <p>My questions are:</p>	Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning
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| | | <p>(a) how confident can I be that Councillors will know exactly what they are voting for or against?</p> <p>(b) have the budget proposals been properly scrutinised by an independent third party e.g., auditor or "critical friend"?</p> <p>(c) for future years, and well before the budget meeting, can residents be clearly informed of the proposals and what they will mean to them in practical terms.</p> <p>(d) could the same level of detail be provided to residents following the setting of 2023/24 budget?</p> | |
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Response:

(a) how confident can I be that Councillors will know exactly what they are voting for or against?

The process for developing the budget is set out in Part 4, Section 3 of the Council's Constitution. This process ensures a clear timetable for making proposals to Council for the adoption of any plan, strategy or programme that forms part of the budget and policy framework, and its arrangements for consultation after publication of those initial proposals. Chairpersons of scrutiny committees are responsible for ensuring that the relevant committee work programmes include consideration of any such plan, strategy or budget to enable scrutiny members to inform and support the process for making cabinet proposals to Council in terms of the adoption of any item that forms part of the budget framework. This includes scrutiny members providing constructive challenge to the responsible cabinet member on policy proposals and exploring options for future policy development. Councillors have been engaged in the budget setting process for 2023/24 and there have been opportunities to query, challenge and inform this work throughout the development of the 2023-24 budget which began in July 2022.

(b) have the budget proposals been properly scrutinised by an independent third party e.g., auditor or "critical friend"?

The proposed budget for 2023/24 was presented to Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) at its meeting on 19 January 2023 where Councillors challenged the robustness of the estimates and assumptions in the budget and the deliverability of savings targets. The SMB has the remit under the Council Constitution to carry out scrutiny of the Council budget and the process for scrutiny of budget proposals is set out at Part 4, Section 3 of the Herefordshire Council Constitution: 4.3.3 Process for developing framework items. The SMB received training to assist members in the undertaking of budget scrutiny and the committee advised by independent financial experts in relation to Treasury Management.

The 2023/24 budget is not formally audited however the council's financial planning and budget setting processes are subject to review as part of the external auditor's Value for Money work which considers how the council identifies significant pressures and achievable savings as well as risks to financial resilience. The results of this work are formally reported in the Auditor's Annual Report which is presented to Audit & Governance Committee. The Council's external Auditors are Grant Thornton.

Under the terms of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council's Section 151 Officer is required to report to the council, at the time when it is setting its budget, on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides. Council has a statutory duty to have regard to this report from the Section 151 Officer when making its decision about the proposed budget and council tax.

(c) for future years, and well before the budget meeting, can residents be clearly informed of the proposals and what they will mean to them in practical terms.

A series of 12 local public consultation events were held between 25 November and 17 December 2022 on the draft budget. Additional engagement with community groups took place through a Community Partnership event and an event with the business community. The consultation presented high-level options to contribute towards balancing the council's budget for 2023/24 and their likely impact. The proposed budget and supporting appendices - which include identified pressures, assumptions and detailed Directorate Savings Plans - were made publicly available via the council's website from early January 2023.

(d) could the same level of detail be provided to residents following the setting of 2023/24 budget?

The budget for 2023/24 and supporting appendices will be available on the council's website following its approval. Performance and delivery of the agreed budget will be reported in 2023/24 as part of the Budget & Performance Reports which are presented to Council quarterly.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for your detailed reply. Section 4.3 of the constitution covers procedures for consultation after publication of initial budget proposals. Consultations re priorities and high level options and then just "making available" the budget proposals on the Council's crowded website are welcome and may comply with section 4.3 but surely we could do better. Would the Council consider amending procedures for future to offer greater transparency, seek consultee response at a more detailed level and better publicise the proposals to residents?

Response to supplementary question (cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning):

Improvements to consultation processes were always encouraged to enhance the understanding of local residents to issues as important as the budget. The late announcement from central government of funding for the council impacted upon the budget setting process. The draft budget was shared with the scrutiny management board and the public had the opportunity to submit questions on the detailed proposals from early in January 2023. This was the earliest date possible that a detailed set of budget proposals could be published given the timing of the announcement of the central government settlement.

27

PQ 11	Ms Reid, Hereford	<p>Base budgets of 2022-23 and 2023-24 (Appendix C, Item 10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked-After Children (LAC) budget has increased from £25.737m to £28.724m (+11.6%) • However, Children in Need budget has decreased from £4.568m to £2.930m (-35.9%) <p>There were 392 LAC (October 2022). Therefore, the estimated cost per child in care in 2023-24 is over £73,000 (£73,276) ie £28.724m divided by 392.</p> <p>LAC can be reduced by reunification and relatively inexpensive family support and statutorily-recommended Family Group Conferences. FGCs would reduce costly care proceedings (about twice the rate of other areas). The directorate plans to make reduce spending by "reduction in numbers of children coming into our care", it does <u>not</u> mention reunification, FGCs, nor family support.</p> <p>Explain how the base budget for CIN in 2023-24 will be cut from 2022-23 with figures and descriptors (eg number/type of staff/service/£ reduced).</p>	Cabinet member children and families
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<p>Response: The reduction in budget for Children in Need does not represent reduced focus in this area. The movement between 22/23 and 23/24 budgets reflects plans across the Directorate to reduce reliance on agency staff to deliver services and to move to a permanent staffing establishment. Detailed plans will be managed and monitored as part of routine monitoring of savings in 2023/24 and these will be publicly reported through Cabinet and Council.</p>			
<p>Supplementary question: The response suggests that the Children in Need budget is decreased (-35.9%) in 2023-24 because of more permanent staff. How come the budget for Early Help and Early Years (+21%) and Additional Needs (+137%) have increased? The new Improvement budget is £4,746,000. Looked-After Children (LAC) budget has increased from £25.737m to £28.724m (+11.6%), estimated average cost £73,000 per child per year. Support for families is relatively inexpensive and reduces LAC. I suggest the Children in Need budget is increased.</p> <p>Also Family Group Conferences will reduce LAC but the Improvement Plan sent to Ofsted was <u>not</u> amended to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“[FGC] targeted for implementation by April 2023”</p> <p>As agreed by the Cabinet, but to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Determine FGC model and approach by April 2023”.</p> <p>Please fully answer my original question eg number of workers in both years for Children in Need.</p>			
<p>Response to supplementary question (cabinet member children and families): A written response would be provided after the meeting.</p>			

**Chairman's Announcements – Council Meeting – 3rd March
Events attended by the Chairman since the last
Council meeting on 10th February 2023**

13th February – Citizenship Ceremony.

14th February – Ledbury Mayors Valentines Coffee Morning.

22nd February – Café Muse: Armed Forces Veterans Affected by Dementia Visit.

Chief Executive's report to Full Council 3 March 2023

The Children's Commissioner and Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) are planning to hold a Commission to hear directly from families about their experience of children's services in Herefordshire. The Commission will be an independent review involving a Panel of three very experienced independent children's safeguarding individuals. Information is being shared with families who have asked for a review and the Commission is expected to begin its work in March.

The Herefordshire Big Economic Plan has been officially launched, in partnership with the Herefordshire Sustainable Growth Strategy Board. Its development was led by the Strategy Board, following a wide ranging consultation. The Big Economic Plan is a partnership document, setting a collective vision for the future growth of the county. It aims to address the long-term economic challenges and to make the most of fantastic opportunities such as our excellent quality of life, a thriving Enterprise Zone and specific strengths in areas such as defence, food and drink, tourism and cyber security.

I'm very pleased to report that we're sponsoring this year's Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce annual Awards, which will celebrate the amazing businesses across the two counties. Sponsoring the awards is one way of letting businesses know how much we value them and the positive contribution they make to our economy. We're delighted to be the main sponsor of the 2023 business awards, which helps to raise awareness of the many local successes businesses demonstrate throughout the year from 'excellence in customer service' and 'employer of the year' through to 'commitment to the community' and 'most promising new business'. These are just some of the categories that businesses can enter and we look forward to sharing, and celebrating the successes of the all the winners and everything they've achieved throughout the year. The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 15 June 2023 in Worcester.

We recently met with Minette Batters, the president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) during her visit to the county. The visit was important to us, as a largely rural county with a significant agricultural community, and the discussions valuable. Minette talked about how the NFU can support and help grow our farming community in the context of these challenging times. As she said, it's not just about surviving, but building a sustainable industry that thrives, feeding the nation and being fairly rewarded for its efforts.

A report to Cabinet on 2 March acknowledges the progress achieved to date by the Cabinet Commission to progress river restoration, and recommends that additional expenditure of £250k from the £480,000 allocation be authorised so that the Commission can continue its work. This will include the development of an Outline Business Case for submission to Defra and Welsh Government for an innovative Phosphate Trading Scheme and the exploration of other alternative options.

At the time of writing, I can confirm that the council has received a letter from the Home Office regarding the use of the Three Counties Hotel as a site to accommodate a number of people seeking asylum. We'll be meeting with Government Officials and local multi-agency partners in the coming days when we will find out more.

We celebrated National Apprenticeship Week in February, running events to inform staff about recruiting apprentices and using this as a development pathway. Apprenticeships have come a long way in recent years and certainly aren't what many of us think they are, so do take a look at the [National Apprenticeship Week](#) website to find out more.

In a change to election arrangements nationally, the Electoral Commission launched its [Voter ID public awareness campaign](#) informing voters of the need to show photo ID when voting at polling stations from May 2023. Voters who don't already possess suitable photo ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate to use at election time. Residents can [read more on the council website](#).



Title of report: 2023/24 Council Tax Setting Report

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 3 March 2023

Report by: Leader of the council

Classification

Open

Decision type

Budget and policy framework

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To set the council tax and precepts for 2023/24.

At its meeting on 10 February 2023, the council approved the net budget requirement for 2023/24 at £194.0m and an associated council tax requirement of £127.0m on a tax base of 71,073.11 band D equivalents.

As the billing authority, this report seeks approval for council tax amounts for each category of dwelling in Herefordshire including precepts from West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and Hereford town and parish councils for the financial year 2023/24.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The precepting authority details included at appendices 1 to 5, relating to town and parishes, West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority be approved in accordance with sections 30(2), 34(3), 36(1) and section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) and that the following amounts be approved for the year 2023/24 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011):**

- a. **£405,368,165 being the estimated aggregate expenditure of the council in accordance with section 31A (2) of the act, including all precepts issued to it by parish councils;**
 - b. **£273,020,000 being the estimated aggregate income of the council for the items set out in section 31A (3) of the act (including revenue support grant);**
 - c. **£132,348,165 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) calculated by the council in accordance with section 31A(4) of the act, as its council tax requirement for the year (including parish precepts); [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act];**
 - d. **£1,862.14 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount of the council tax base calculated by the council, in accordance with section 31B of the act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts);**
 - e. **£5,368,165 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in section 34(1) of the act;**
 - f. **£1,786.61 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount of the council tax base calculated by the council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no parish precept relates (Herefordshire Council band D council tax, excluding parishes); and**
- b) It is agreed that the net tax base of 71,073.11 band D equivalent properties (being the gross tax base adjusted for an assumed collection rate) used for setting the budget requirement for 2023/24;**
- a. **is allocated to band D equivalent dwellings per precept area as shown in appendix 1; and**
 - b. **the individual council tax allocations per valuation band of dwelling by parish (including fire and police precepts) as set out in appendix 5.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options to setting a council tax. As the billing authority, the council is required to set the overall council tax for the following financial year. Council approved the net tax base on which the precept is in part based at its meeting on 10 February 2023; the remaining precept elements are set by other authorities and the council acts as the collecting agent for those precepted sums.
2. Local government legislation requires the council to set council tax each financial year. It also requires that certain categories of income and expenditure and other financial information are provided in accordance with Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Key considerations

3. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) sets out the specific amounts to be calculated and approved. This report enables the council to meet its legislative duty and set the council tax for each category of dwellings, including the council tax requirement of the council.

4. Council approved a council tax increase of 4.99% (inclusive of 2% adult care precept) above the rate of council tax for 2023/24 at its meeting on 10 February 2023. The council's band D council tax for 2023/24 becomes set at £1,786.61.
5. The parish precepts for 2023/24 are attached at appendix 1, total £5,368,165 amounting to an average band D council tax charge of £75.53. This represents an average increase of 5.7% over 2023/24. The charge by each property band, inclusive of the council charge, is set out in appendix 2.
6. The precepts for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, an increase of 5.94%, and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority, an increase of 5.59%, are shown in appendices 3 and 4.
7. Appendix 5 provides the impact of all precepts on the council tax bill by detailing the total amount of council tax payable in each parish by property band.

Council Tax Calculations

8. The calculation of council tax involves several stages and the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires figures to be calculated including and excluding parish precepts. The table below meets this requirement.

	Herefordshire Council £	Parish precepts £	Herefordshire incl. parishes (average) £
Estimated gross expenditure	400,000,000	5,368,165	405,368,165
LESS estimated income	(206,012,000)	Not applicable	(206,012,000)
Net budget requirement	193,988,000	Not applicable	199,356,165
LESS retained business rates	(40,614,000)	Not applicable	(40,614,000)
LESS revenue support grant	(983,000)	Not applicable	(983,000)
LESS rural services delivery grant	(6,033,000)	Not applicable	(6,033,000)
LESS social care support grant	(13,466,000)	Not applicable	(13,466,000)
LESS market sustainability & fair cost of care grant	(2,062,000)	Not applicable	(2,062,000)
LESS new homes bonus	(231,000)	Not applicable	(231,000)
LESS adult social care discharge fund	(951,000)	Not applicable	(951,000)
LESS services grant	(1,268,000)	Not applicable	(1,268,000)
LESS collection fund surplus	(1,400,000)	Not applicable	(1,400,000)
Council tax requirement	126,980,000	5,368,165	132,348,165
Council net tax base (band D equivalent)	71,073.11	71,073.11	71,073.11
Council tax charge at band D	1,786.61	75.53	1,862.14

Council Tax Amounts

9. Appendices 1 to 5 to this report contain the individual council tax amounts for each category of dwelling as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and associated regulations.
10. The council's band D council tax for 2023/24 is £1,786.61, which is an increase of £84.91 (4.99%) compared with 2022/23.
11. As part of the process we are required to include precepts from other bodies that will be included on council tax bills.

12. The parish precepts is set out in detail in appendix 1 providing the parish precept requirement and the band D council tax charge for each parish.
13. The charge by each property band, inclusive of the council charge, is set out in appendix 2.
14. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia precept is set out in appendix 3 (£264.50 at band D).
15. The Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority precept is set out in appendix 4 (£94.40 at band D).
16. Appendix 5 provides the impact of all precepts on the council tax bill by detailing the total amount of council tax payable in each parish by property band.

Community impact

17. The council tax is levied to enable the council to resource service delivery in accordance with the corporate plan priorities established by full Council. The proposed increase could result in increasing individuals' financial difficulties; this is mitigated by providing payment options, relevant discounts and reliefs, including the council tax reduction scheme, and local assistance fund. The council provides council tax discount to care leavers and foster carers.

Environmental Impact

18. Whilst this is a decision on back office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the council's Environmental Policy. All council tax payers are encouraged to manage their account online and to activate electronic billing.

Equality duty

19. 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.
20. 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. The council tax charges may have an impact on households and there are a variety of schemes in place to mitigate against a negative impact, including single person discount and council tax reduction. Further details how to make such claims can be found on the council's website.

Resource implications

21. The resources required for billing purposes are contained within existing budgets. Customers are encouraged to register online to receive their bill electronically. As in prior years, information relating to council tax, including how the money is spent, will be available online and a weblink will be included on issued bills.

Legal implications

22. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act) places a duty on this council, as a billing authority, to set an amount of council tax for the different categories of dwellings, according to the band in which the dwelling falls before 11 March each year (section 30 (6) of the Act).
23. A notice of the amount set must be published in at least one newspaper circulating in the authority's area within 21 days of the decision.
24. Part 3 Section 1 of the council's constitution confirms that approval of the rate of Council Tax and relevant precepts is a function of full Council.
25. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 precludes a councillor from voting on this decision as a relevant matter, if he or she has an outstanding council tax debt of over two months. If a councillor is present at this meeting he or she must disclose that section 106 applies and may not vote. Failure to comply is a criminal offence.

Risk management

26. That an incorrect precept is applied, this would result in differences between the amount collected and the amount required. Every effort is made to ensure the correct data is gathered and applied to minimise this risk.

Consultees

27. The council consulted with the public on its proposed budget for 2023/24, the outcome of this was discussed at the council meeting held on 10 February 2023. Precepting authorities conduct their own consultation as they deem appropriate.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Herefordshire Council requirement by parish including band D equivalent

Appendix 2 - Council tax for each valuation band, by parish, without the police and fire precepts

Appendix 3 – The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia precept requirement for each valuation band

Appendix 4 - Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority precept requirement for each valuation band

Appendix 5 - Council tax for each valuation band by parish, including the police and fire precepts

Background papers

None identified

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent

Parish	Parish Precept (net)	Tax Base (Band D)	2023/24 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	2022/23 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	% change from 2022/23 to 2023/24	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,786.61)
	£		£	£	%	£
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council	9,200.00	163.72	56.19	57.46	(2.2%)	1,842.80
Aconbury Parish Meeting	-	36.94	-	3.94	(100.0%)	1,786.61
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	11,000.00	178.32	61.69	37.49	64.6%	1,848.30
Allensmore Parish Council	6,250.00	268.23	23.30	23.70	(1.7%)	1,809.91
Almeley Parish Council	16,450.00	257.45	63.90	62.99	1.4%	1,850.51
Ashperton Parish Council	9,750.00	125.30	77.81	74.51	4.4%	1,864.42
Aston Ingham Parish Council	11,007.00	211.01	52.16	48.15	8.3%	1,838.77
Avenbury Parish Council	6,450.00	117.06	55.10	46.10	19.5%	1,841.71
Aymestrey Parish Council	11,400.00	163.14	69.88	67.45	3.6%	1,856.49
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	18,782.00	297.10	63.22	59.33	6.6%	1,849.83
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	52,500.00	958.98	54.75	54.90	(0.3%)	1,841.36
Belmont Rural Parish Council	60,000.00	1,302.40	46.07	46.11	(0.1%)	1,832.68
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	3,000.00	139.51	21.50	21.47	0.1%	1,808.11
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	25,000.00	334.18	74.81	75.63	(1.1%)	1,861.42
Bishopstone Group Parish Council	9,500.00	201.28	47.20	42.14	12.0%	1,833.81
Bodenham Parish Council	17,500.00	504.21	34.71	34.53	0.5%	1,821.32
Border Group Parish Council	7,900.00	305.67	25.84	27.82	(7.1%)	1,812.45
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	20,500.00	365.94	56.02	56.51	(0.9%)	1,842.63
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	13,552.00	227.86	59.48	59.13	0.6%	1,846.09
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	8,560.00	163.97	52.20	53.27	(2.0%)	1,838.81
Breinton Parish Council	13,165.00	422.56	31.16	31.16	0.0%	1,817.77
Bridstow Parish Council	8,800.00	400.13	21.99	21.11	4.2%	1,808.60
Brilley Parish Council	11,500.00	121.56	94.60	96.70	(2.2%)	1,881.21
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	15,500.00	524.69	29.54	27.94	5.7%	1,816.15
Brockhampton with Much Fawley Parish Council	3,250.00	99.15	32.78	30.66	6.9%	1,819.39
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	10,500.00	341.71	30.73	30.98	(0.8%)	1,817.34
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	241,150.00	1,440.26	167.44	167.58	(0.1%)	1,954.05
Burghill Parish Council	21,612.00	742.29	29.12	29.98	(2.9%)	1,815.73
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	12,400.00	220.08	56.34	37.48	50.3%	1,842.95
Clelonger Parish Council	22,800.00	568.27	40.12	40.15	(0.1%)	1,826.73
Clifford Parish Council	8,000.00	267.71	29.88	21.96	36.1%	1,816.49
Colwall Parish Council	91,133.00	1,192.94	76.39	74.75	2.2%	1,863.00
Malvern Hills Trust (Colwall Parish Council)	55,650.00		46.65	41.60	12.1%	46.65
Cradley Parish Council	60,000.00	846.58	70.87	53.97	31.3%	1,857.48
Credenhill Parish Council	43,700.00	648.17	67.42	67.42	0.0%	1,854.03
Cusop Parish Council	8,500.00	202.15	42.05	41.54	1.2%	1,828.66
Dilwyn Parish Council	27,000.00	308.40	87.55	78.85	11.0%	1,874.16
Dinedor Parish Council	9,500.00	137.44	69.12	70.94	(2.6%)	1,855.73
Dinmore Parish Meeting	-	9.65	-	-	0.0%	1,786.61
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	22,445.00	323.05	69.48	69.31	0.2%	1,856.09
Dorstone Parish Council	6,500.00	185.14	35.11	35.06	0.1%	1,821.72
Eardisland Parish Council	40,000.00	239.07	167.32	117.32	42.6%	1,953.93
Eardisley Group Parish Council	22,500.00	526.30	42.75	38.85	10.0%	1,829.36
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	6,600.00	143.29	46.06	42.43	8.6%	1,832.67
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	13,250.00	193.90	68.33	69.21	(1.3%)	1,854.94
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	46,200.00	424.23	108.90	108.19	0.7%	1,895.51
Fownhope Parish Council	33,500.00	435.00	77.01	73.99	4.1%	1,863.62
Foxley Group Parish Council	3,750.00	160.17	23.41	15.83	47.9%	1,810.02
Garway Parish Council	17,160.00	202.98	84.54	85.83	(1.5%)	1,871.15
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	9,427.95	276.09	34.15	34.09	0.2%	1,820.76
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	TBA	312.02		56.58		
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	-	22.35	-	-	0.0%	1,786.61
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	6,000.00	205.52	29.19	29.30	(0.4%)	1,815.80
Hereford City Council	934,630.00	16,437.37	56.86	56.86	0.0%	1,843.47
Holme Lacy Parish Council	19,500.00	199.83	97.58	99.89	(2.3%)	1,884.19

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent

Parish	Parish Precept (net)	Tax Base (Band D)	2023/24 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	2022/23 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	% change from 2022/23 to 2023/24	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,786.61)
	£		£	£	%	£
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	20,000.00	1,130.93	17.68	18.18	(2.8%)	1,804.29
Hope Mansell Parish Council	2,500.00	136.09	18.37	18.52	(0.8%)	1,804.98
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	14,000.00	153.09	91.45	91.43	0.0%	1,878.06
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	8,200.00	159.37	51.45	49.00	5.0%	1,838.06
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	15,000.00	298.81	50.20	41.00	22.4%	1,836.81
Huntington Parish Council	850.00	47.93	17.73	15.88	11.6%	1,804.34
Kentchurch Parish Council	8,750.00	116.48	75.12	77.34	(2.9%)	1,861.73
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	19,000.00	194.35	97.76	99.19	(1.4%)	1,884.37
Kimbolton Parish Council	11,050.00	214.04	51.63	44.35	16.4%	1,838.24
Kings Caple Parish Council	8,000.00	142.86	56.00	56.08	(0.1%)	1,842.61
Kingsland Parish Council	16,000.00	535.92	29.86	29.87	0.0%	1,816.47
Kingstone & Thruxton Group Parish Council	18,900.00	532.58	35.49	36.34	(2.3%)	1,822.10
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	9,000.00	236.61	38.04	38.16	(0.3%)	1,824.65
Kington Town Council	117,500.00	897.49	130.92	129.99	0.7%	1,917.53
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	14,601.39	259.13	56.35	52.92	6.5%	1,842.96
Lea Parish Council	20,000.00	356.71	56.07	56.63	(1.0%)	1,842.68
Ledbury Town Council	640,671.00	3,566.29	179.65	174.17	3.1%	1,966.26
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	28,735.00	450.04	63.85	63.00	1.3%	1,850.46
Leominster Town Council	663,531.00	3,652.05	181.69	164.17	10.7%	1,968.30
Linton Parish Council	14,400.00	540.31	26.65	27.86	(4.3%)	1,813.26
Little Birch Parish Council	7,000.00	101.78	68.78	66.73	3.1%	1,855.39
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	11,406.00	189.36	60.23	54.92	9.7%	1,846.84
Llangarron Parish Council	27,500.00	523.99	52.48	53.94	(2.7%)	1,839.09
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	11,000.00	284.69	38.64	35.24	9.6%	1,825.25
Longtown Group Parish Council	17,165.00	426.22	40.27	40.37	(0.2%)	1,826.88
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	16,500.00	594.80	27.74	21.73	27.7%	1,814.35
Luston Group Parish Council	18,000.00	394.67	45.61	40.86	11.6%	1,832.22
Lyonshall Parish Council	23,000.00	309.93	74.21	78.36	(5.3%)	1,860.82
Madley Parish Council	23,600.00	425.63	55.45	55.75	(0.5%)	1,842.06
Marden Parish Council	51,500.00	553.18	93.10	93.49	(0.4%)	1,879.71
Marstow Parish Council	9,500.00	174.81	54.34	57.03	(4.7%)	1,840.95
Mathon Parish Council	8,601.00	162.28	53.00	49.83	6.4%	1,839.61
Malvern Hills Trust (Mathon)	7,400.00		45.60	41.12	10.9%	45.60
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	4,500.00	191.99	23.44	22.27	5.3%	1,810.05
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	10,000.00	85.04	117.59	117.40	0.2%	1,904.20
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	21,750.00	338.22	64.31	66.86	(3.8%)	1,850.92
Much Birch Parish Council	6,750.00	425.48	15.86	16.45	(3.6%)	1,802.47
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	TBA	223.25		21.11		
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	8,500.00	271.65	31.29	31.74	(1.4%)	1,817.90
Much Marcle Parish Council	9,920.00	306.56	32.36	30.27	6.9%	1,818.97
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	10,000.00	383.53	26.07	27.10	(3.8%)	1,812.68
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	17,500.00	263.55	66.40	66.41	0.0%	1,853.01
Orcop Parish Council	9,200.00	174.72	52.66	52.68	0.0%	1,839.27
Orleton Parish Council	31,266.00	367.67	85.04	69.95	21.6%	1,871.65
Pembridge Parish Council	24,000.00	480.60	49.94	50.17	(0.5%)	1,836.55
Pencombe Group Parish Council	18,300.00	194.50	94.09	71.45	31.7%	1,880.70
Peterchurch Parish Council	21,660.00	382.84	56.58	57.20	(1.1%)	1,843.19
Peterstow Parish Council	15,200.00	201.14	75.57	51.65	46.3%	1,862.18
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	3,980.00	145.54	27.35	27.64	(1.0%)	1,813.96
Pixley & District Parish Council	8,580.00	228.42	37.56	37.85	(0.8%)	1,824.17
Putley Parish Council	9,000.00	112.68	79.87	83.67	(4.5%)	1,866.48
Pyons Group Parish Council	16,900.00	412.95	40.93	37.41	9.4%	1,827.54
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	9,500.00	134.36	70.71	71.05	(0.5%)	1,857.32

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent

Parish	Parish Precept (net)	Tax Base (Band D)	2023/24 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	2022/23 Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	% change from 2022/23 to 2023/24	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,786.61)
	£		£	£	%	£
Ross-on-Wye Parish Council	553,045.00	4,011.06	137.88	133.86	3.0%	1,924.49
Sellack Parish Council	12,000.00	126.45	94.90	88.20	7.6%	1,881.51
Shobdon Parish Council	28,806.00	334.07	86.23	79.21	8.9%	1,872.84
St. Weonards Parish Council	8,200.00	158.99	51.58	46.08	11.9%	1,838.19
Stapleton Group Parish Council	9,400.00	146.40	64.21	66.10	(2.9%)	1,850.82
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	4,000.00	210.80	18.98	19.30	(1.7%)	1,805.59
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting (Chairman)	-	43.54	-	-	0.0%	1,786.61
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	11,000.00	176.07	62.48	53.37	17.1%	1,849.09
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	14,500.00	228.82	63.37	64.14	(1.2%)	1,849.98
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	10,000.00	159.01	62.89	54.70	15.0%	1,849.50
Sutton Parish Council	31,500.00	402.23	78.31	74.67	4.9%	1,864.92
Tarrington Parish Council	16,500.00	226.26	72.92	74.01	(1.5%)	1,859.53
Thornbury Group Parish Council	5,500.00	196.73	27.96	27.15	3.0%	1,814.57
Titley and District Group Parish Council	10,000.00	235.02	42.55	43.04	(1.1%)	1,829.16
Upton Bishop Parish Council	18,626.00	265.57	70.14	70.08	0.1%	1,856.75
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	15,673.52	319.16	49.11	45.02	9.1%	1,835.72
Walford Parish Council	27,825.00	657.12	42.34	42.67	(0.8%)	1,828.95
Wellington Parish Council	24,500.00	459.27	53.35	48.47	10.1%	1,839.96
Wellington Heath Parish Council	11,500.00	247.23	46.52	43.72	6.4%	1,833.13
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	13,900.00	156.24	88.97	92.73	(4.1%)	1,875.58
Weobley Parish Council	36,944.00	496.58	74.40	73.19	1.7%	1,861.01
Weston Beggard Parish Council	4,000.00	87.42	45.76	47.20	(3.1%)	1,832.37
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	16,000.00	519.20	30.82	28.99	6.3%	1,817.43
Whitbourne Parish Council	13,000.00	352.32	36.90	34.27	7.7%	1,823.51
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	52,500.00	527.06	99.61	102.05	(2.4%)	1,886.22
Wigmore Group Parish Council	22,680.00	358.23	63.31	63.73	(0.7%)	1,849.92
Withington Group Parish Council	32,000.00	740.98	43.19	43.77	(1.3%)	1,829.80
Woolhope Parish Council	14,000.00	214.69	65.21	64.99	0.3%	1,851.82
Wyeside Group Parish Council	9,720.00	308.76	31.48	31.33	0.5%	1,818.09
Yarkhill Parish Council	8,555.00	148.31	57.68	58.76	(1.8%)	1,844.29
Yarpole Group Parish Council	29,000.00	370.09	78.36	75.39	3.9%	1,864.97
Total/Average	5,368,164.86	71,073.11	75.53	71.44	5.7%	1,862.14

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts								APPENDIX 2
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council	1,228.53	1,433.29	1,638.05	1,842.80	2,252.31	2,661.82	3,071.33	3,685.60
Aconbury Parish Meeting	1,191.07	1,389.59	1,588.10	1,786.61	2,183.63	2,580.66	2,977.68	3,573.22
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	1,232.20	1,437.57	1,642.94	1,848.30	2,259.03	2,669.77	3,080.50	3,696.60
Allensmore Parish Council	1,206.60	1,407.71	1,608.81	1,809.91	2,212.11	2,614.32	3,016.51	3,619.82
Almeley Parish Council	1,233.67	1,439.29	1,644.90	1,850.51	2,261.73	2,672.96	3,084.18	3,701.02
Ashperton Parish Council	1,242.94	1,450.11	1,657.26	1,864.42	2,278.73	2,693.05	3,107.36	3,728.84
Aston Ingham Parish Council	1,225.84	1,430.16	1,634.46	1,838.77	2,247.38	2,656.00	3,064.61	3,677.54
Avenbury Parish Council	1,227.80	1,432.45	1,637.08	1,841.71	2,250.97	2,660.25	3,069.51	3,683.42
Aymestrey Parish Council	1,237.66	1,443.94	1,650.22	1,856.49	2,269.04	2,681.60	3,094.15	3,712.98
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	1,233.22	1,438.76	1,644.30	1,849.83	2,260.90	2,671.98	3,083.05	3,699.66
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	1,227.57	1,432.17	1,636.77	1,841.36	2,250.55	2,659.74	3,068.93	3,682.72
Belmont Rural Parish Council	1,221.78	1,425.42	1,629.05	1,832.68	2,239.94	2,647.21	3,054.46	3,665.36
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	1,205.40	1,406.31	1,607.21	1,808.11	2,209.91	2,611.72	3,013.51	3,616.22
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	1,240.94	1,447.78	1,654.60	1,861.42	2,275.06	2,688.72	3,102.36	3,722.84
Bishopstone & District Group Parish Council	1,222.54	1,426.30	1,630.06	1,833.81	2,241.32	2,648.84	3,056.35	3,667.62
Bodenham Parish Council	1,214.21	1,416.59	1,618.95	1,821.32	2,226.05	2,630.80	3,035.53	3,642.64
Border Group Parish Council	1,208.30	1,409.69	1,611.07	1,812.45	2,215.21	2,617.98	3,020.75	3,624.90
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	1,228.42	1,433.16	1,637.90	1,842.63	2,252.10	2,661.58	3,071.05	3,685.26
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	1,230.72	1,435.85	1,640.97	1,846.09	2,256.33	2,666.58	3,076.81	3,692.18
Bredenburg & District Group Parish Council	1,225.87	1,430.19	1,634.50	1,838.81	2,247.43	2,656.06	3,064.68	3,677.62
Breinton Parish Council	1,211.84	1,413.83	1,615.80	1,817.77	2,221.71	2,625.67	3,029.61	3,635.54
Bridstow Parish Council	1,205.73	1,406.69	1,607.65	1,808.60	2,210.51	2,612.42	3,014.33	3,617.20
Brilley Parish Council	1,254.14	1,463.17	1,672.19	1,881.21	2,299.25	2,717.30	3,135.35	3,762.42
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	1,210.76	1,412.57	1,614.36	1,816.15	2,219.73	2,623.33	3,026.91	3,632.30
Brockhampton with Much Fawley Parish Council	1,212.92	1,415.09	1,617.24	1,819.39	2,223.69	2,628.01	3,032.31	3,638.78
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	1,211.56	1,413.49	1,615.42	1,817.34	2,221.19	2,625.05	3,028.90	3,634.68
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	1,302.70	1,519.82	1,736.94	1,954.05	2,388.28	2,822.52	3,256.75	3,908.10
Burghill Parish Council	1,210.48	1,412.24	1,613.98	1,815.73	2,219.22	2,622.72	3,026.21	3,631.46
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	1,228.63	1,433.41	1,638.18	1,842.95	2,252.49	2,662.04	3,071.58	3,685.90
Cleghonger Parish Council	1,217.82	1,420.79	1,623.76	1,826.73	2,232.67	2,638.61	3,044.55	3,653.46
Clifford Parish Council	1,210.99	1,412.83	1,614.66	1,816.49	2,220.15	2,623.82	3,027.48	3,632.98
Colwall Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Trust)	1,273.10	1,485.28	1,697.47	1,909.65	2,334.02	2,758.38	3,182.75	3,819.30
Cradley Parish Council	1,238.32	1,444.71	1,651.10	1,857.48	2,270.25	2,683.03	3,095.80	3,714.96
Credenhill Parish Council	1,236.02	1,442.03	1,648.03	1,854.03	2,266.03	2,678.04	3,090.05	3,708.06
Cusop Parish Council	1,219.10	1,422.30	1,625.48	1,828.66	2,235.02	2,641.40	3,047.76	3,657.32
Dilwyn Parish Council	1,249.44	1,457.68	1,665.92	1,874.16	2,290.64	2,707.12	3,123.60	3,748.32
Dinedor Parish Council	1,237.15	1,443.35	1,649.54	1,855.73	2,268.11	2,680.50	3,092.88	3,711.46
Dinmore Parish Meeting	1,191.07	1,389.59	1,588.10	1,786.61	2,183.63	2,580.66	2,977.68	3,573.22
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	1,237.39	1,443.63	1,649.86	1,856.09	2,268.55	2,681.02	3,093.48	3,712.18
Dorstone Parish Council	1,214.48	1,416.90	1,619.31	1,821.72	2,226.54	2,631.37	3,036.20	3,643.44
Eardisland Parish Council	1,302.62	1,519.73	1,736.83	1,953.93	2,388.13	2,822.34	3,256.55	3,907.86
Eardisley Group Parish Council	1,219.57	1,422.84	1,626.10	1,829.36	2,235.88	2,642.41	3,048.93	3,658.72
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	1,221.78	1,425.41	1,629.04	1,832.67	2,239.93	2,647.19	3,054.45	3,665.34
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	1,236.62	1,442.74	1,648.84	1,854.94	2,267.14	2,679.36	3,091.56	3,709.88
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	1,263.67	1,474.29	1,684.90	1,895.51	2,316.73	2,737.96	3,159.18	3,791.02
Fownhope Parish Council	1,242.41	1,449.49	1,656.55	1,863.62	2,277.75	2,691.90	3,106.03	3,727.24
Foxley Group Parish Council	1,206.68	1,407.80	1,608.91	1,810.02	2,212.24	2,614.47	3,016.70	3,620.04
Garway Parish Council	1,247.43	1,455.34	1,663.25	1,871.15	2,286.96	2,702.77	3,118.58	3,742.30
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	1,213.84	1,416.15	1,618.46	1,820.76	2,225.37	2,629.99	3,034.60	3,641.52
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	1,191.07	1,389.59	1,588.10	1,786.61	2,183.63	2,580.66	2,977.68	3,573.22
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	1,210.53	1,412.29	1,614.05	1,815.80	2,219.31	2,622.82	3,026.33	3,631.60
Hereford City Council	1,228.98	1,433.81	1,638.64	1,843.47	2,253.13	2,662.79	3,072.45	3,686.94
Holme Lacy Parish Council	1,256.12	1,465.49	1,674.84	1,884.19	2,302.89	2,721.61	3,140.31	3,768.38
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	1,202.86	1,403.34	1,603.82	1,804.29	2,205.24	2,606.20	3,007.15	3,608.58
Hope Mansell Parish Council	1,203.32	1,403.88	1,604.43	1,804.98	2,206.08	2,607.19	3,008.30	3,609.96
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	1,252.04	1,460.72	1,669.39	1,878.06	2,295.40	2,712.75	3,130.10	3,756.12
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	1,225.37	1,429.61	1,633.83	1,838.06	2,246.51	2,654.98	3,063.43	3,676.12
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	1,224.54	1,428.63	1,632.72	1,836.81	2,244.99	2,653.17	3,061.35	3,673.62
Huntington Parish Council	1,202.89	1,403.38	1,603.86	1,804.34	2,205.30	2,606.27	3,007.23	3,608.68
Kentchurch Parish Council	1,241.15	1,448.02	1,654.87	1,861.73	2,275.44	2,689.17	3,102.88	3,723.46
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	1,256.24	1,465.63	1,675.00	1,884.37	2,303.11	2,721.87	3,140.61	3,768.74
Kimbolton Parish Council	1,225.49	1,429.75	1,633.99	1,838.24	2,246.73	2,655.24	3,063.73	3,676.48
Kings Caple Parish Council	1,228.40	1,433.15	1,637.88	1,842.61	2,252.07	2,661.55	3,071.01	3,685.22
Kingsland Parish Council	1,210.98	1,412.81	1,614.64	1,816.47	2,220.13	2,623.79	3,027.45	3,632.94
Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council	1,214.73	1,417.19	1,619.65	1,822.10	2,227.01	2,631.92	3,036.83	3,644.20
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	1,216.43	1,419.18	1,621.91	1,824.65	2,230.12	2,635.61	3,041.08	3,649.30
Kington Town Council	1,278.35	1,491.42	1,704.47	1,917.53	2,343.64	2,769.77	3,195.88	3,835.06
Kinnerley and District Group Parish Council	1,228.64	1,433.42	1,638.19	1,842.96	2,252.50	2,662.05	3,071.60	3,685.92
Lea Parish Council	1,228.45	1,433.20	1,637.94	1,842.68	2,252.16	2,661.65	3,071.13	3,685.36

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts								APPENDIX 2
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ledbury Town Council	1,310.84	1,529.32	1,747.79	1,966.26	2,403.20	2,840.15	3,277.10	3,932.52
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	1,233.64	1,439.25	1,644.86	1,850.46	2,261.67	2,672.89	3,084.10	3,700.92
Leominster Town Council	1,312.20	1,530.90	1,749.60	1,968.30	2,405.70	2,843.10	3,280.50	3,936.60
Linton Parish Council	1,208.84	1,410.32	1,611.79	1,813.26	2,216.20	2,619.15	3,022.10	3,626.52
Little Birch Parish Council	1,236.92	1,443.09	1,649.24	1,855.39	2,267.69	2,680.01	3,092.31	3,710.78
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	1,231.22	1,436.44	1,641.64	1,846.84	2,257.24	2,667.66	3,078.06	3,693.68
Llangarron Parish Council	1,226.06	1,430.41	1,634.75	1,839.09	2,247.77	2,656.46	3,065.15	3,678.18
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	1,216.83	1,419.64	1,622.45	1,825.25	2,230.86	2,636.47	3,042.08	3,650.50
Longtown Group Parish Council	1,217.92	1,420.91	1,623.90	1,826.88	2,232.85	2,638.83	3,044.80	3,653.76
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	1,209.56	1,411.17	1,612.76	1,814.35	2,217.53	2,620.73	3,023.91	3,628.70
Luston Group Parish Council	1,221.48	1,425.06	1,628.64	1,832.22	2,239.38	2,646.54	3,053.70	3,664.44
Lyonshall Parish Council	1,240.54	1,447.31	1,654.06	1,860.82	2,274.33	2,687.85	3,101.36	3,721.64
Madley Parish Council	1,228.04	1,432.72	1,637.39	1,842.06	2,251.40	2,660.75	3,070.10	3,684.12
Marden Parish Council	1,253.14	1,462.00	1,670.86	1,879.71	2,297.42	2,715.14	3,132.85	3,759.42
Marstow Parish Council	1,227.30	1,431.85	1,636.40	1,840.95	2,250.05	2,659.15	3,068.25	3,681.90
Mathon Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Trust)	1,256.80	1,466.28	1,675.74	1,885.21	2,304.14	2,723.09	3,142.01	3,770.42
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	1,206.70	1,407.82	1,608.94	1,810.05	2,212.28	2,614.52	3,016.75	3,620.10
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	1,269.46	1,481.05	1,692.62	1,904.20	2,327.35	2,750.51	3,173.66	3,808.40
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	1,233.94	1,439.61	1,645.26	1,850.92	2,262.23	2,673.55	3,084.86	3,701.84
Much Birch Parish Council	1,201.64	1,401.93	1,602.20	1,802.47	2,203.01	2,603.57	3,004.11	3,604.94
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	1,211.93	1,413.93	1,615.91	1,817.90	2,221.87	2,625.86	3,029.83	3,635.80
Much Marcle Parish Council	1,212.64	1,414.76	1,616.86	1,818.97	2,223.18	2,627.40	3,031.61	3,637.94
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	1,208.45	1,409.87	1,611.27	1,812.68	2,215.49	2,618.32	3,021.13	3,625.36
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	1,235.34	1,441.23	1,647.12	1,853.01	2,264.79	2,676.57	3,088.35	3,706.02
Orcop Parish Council	1,226.18	1,430.55	1,634.91	1,839.27	2,247.99	2,656.72	3,065.45	3,678.54
Orleton Parish Council	1,247.76	1,455.73	1,663.69	1,871.65	2,287.57	2,703.50	3,119.41	3,743.30
Pembridge Parish Council	1,224.36	1,428.43	1,632.49	1,836.55	2,244.67	2,652.80	3,060.91	3,673.10
Pencombe Group Parish Council	1,253.80	1,462.77	1,671.74	1,880.70	2,298.63	2,716.57	3,134.50	3,761.40
Peterchurch Parish Council	1,228.79	1,433.60	1,638.39	1,843.19	2,252.78	2,662.39	3,071.98	3,686.38
Peterstow Parish Council	1,241.45	1,448.37	1,655.27	1,862.18	2,275.99	2,689.82	3,103.63	3,724.36
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	1,209.30	1,410.86	1,612.41	1,813.96	2,217.06	2,620.17	3,023.26	3,627.92
Pixley & District Parish Council	1,216.11	1,418.80	1,621.49	1,824.17	2,229.54	2,634.91	3,040.28	3,648.34
Putley Parish Council	1,244.32	1,451.71	1,659.10	1,866.48	2,281.25	2,696.03	3,110.80	3,732.96
Pyons Group Parish Council	1,218.36	1,421.42	1,624.48	1,827.54	2,233.66	2,639.78	3,045.90	3,655.08
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	1,238.21	1,444.59	1,650.95	1,857.32	2,270.05	2,682.80	3,095.53	3,714.64
Ross-on-Wye Parish Council	1,282.99	1,496.83	1,710.66	1,924.49	2,352.15	2,779.82	3,207.48	3,848.98
Sellack Parish Council	1,254.34	1,463.40	1,672.46	1,881.51	2,299.62	2,717.74	3,135.85	3,763.02
Shobdon Parish Council	1,248.56	1,456.66	1,664.75	1,872.84	2,289.02	2,705.21	3,121.40	3,745.68
St. Weonards Parish Council	1,225.46	1,429.71	1,633.95	1,838.19	2,246.67	2,655.16	3,063.65	3,676.38
Stapleton Group Parish Council	1,233.88	1,439.53	1,645.18	1,850.82	2,262.11	2,673.41	3,084.70	3,701.64
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	1,203.72	1,404.35	1,604.97	1,805.59	2,206.83	2,608.08	3,009.31	3,611.18
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting	1,191.07	1,389.59	1,588.10	1,786.61	2,183.63	2,580.66	2,977.68	3,573.22
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	1,232.72	1,438.19	1,643.64	1,849.09	2,259.99	2,670.91	3,081.81	3,698.18
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	1,233.32	1,438.88	1,644.43	1,849.98	2,261.08	2,672.19	3,083.30	3,699.96
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	1,233.00	1,438.50	1,644.00	1,849.50	2,260.50	2,671.50	3,082.50	3,699.00
Sutton Parish Council	1,243.28	1,450.50	1,657.71	1,864.92	2,279.34	2,693.77	3,108.20	3,729.84
Tarrington Parish Council	1,239.68	1,446.31	1,652.92	1,859.53	2,272.75	2,685.99	3,099.21	3,719.06
Thornbury Group Parish Council	1,209.71	1,411.34	1,612.95	1,814.57	2,217.80	2,621.05	3,024.28	3,629.14
Titley and District Group Parish Council	1,219.44	1,422.68	1,625.92	1,829.16	2,235.64	2,642.12	3,048.60	3,658.32
Upton Bishop Parish Council	1,237.83	1,444.14	1,650.45	1,856.75	2,269.36	2,681.97	3,094.58	3,713.50
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	1,223.81	1,427.79	1,631.75	1,835.72	2,243.65	2,651.60	3,059.53	3,671.44
Walford Parish Council	1,219.30	1,422.52	1,625.74	1,828.95	2,235.38	2,641.82	3,048.25	3,657.90
Wellington Parish Council	1,226.64	1,431.08	1,635.52	1,839.96	2,248.84	2,657.72	3,066.60	3,679.92
Wellington Heath Parish Council	1,222.08	1,425.77	1,629.45	1,833.13	2,240.49	2,647.86	3,055.21	3,666.26
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	1,250.38	1,458.79	1,667.18	1,875.58	2,292.37	2,709.17	3,125.96	3,751.16
Weobley Parish Council	1,240.67	1,447.46	1,654.23	1,861.01	2,274.56	2,688.13	3,101.68	3,722.02
Weston Beggard Parish Council	1,221.58	1,425.18	1,628.78	1,832.37	2,239.56	2,646.76	3,053.95	3,664.74
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	1,211.62	1,413.56	1,615.50	1,817.43	2,221.30	2,625.18	3,029.05	3,634.86
Whitbourne Parish Council	1,215.67	1,418.29	1,620.90	1,823.51	2,228.73	2,633.96	3,039.18	3,647.02
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	1,257.48	1,467.06	1,676.64	1,886.22	2,305.38	2,724.54	3,143.70	3,772.44
Wigmore Group Parish Council	1,233.28	1,438.83	1,644.38	1,849.92	2,261.01	2,672.11	3,083.20	3,699.84
Withington Group Parish Council	1,219.86	1,423.18	1,626.49	1,829.80	2,236.42	2,643.05	3,049.66	3,659.60
Woolhope Parish Council	1,234.54	1,440.31	1,646.06	1,851.82	2,263.33	2,674.85	3,086.36	3,703.64
Wyeside Group Parish Council	1,212.06	1,414.07	1,616.08	1,818.09	2,222.11	2,626.13	3,030.15	3,636.18
Yarkhill Parish Council	1,229.52	1,434.45	1,639.37	1,844.29	2,254.13	2,663.98	3,073.81	3,688.58
Yarpole Group Parish Council	1,243.31	1,450.54	1,657.75	1,864.97	2,279.40	2,693.85	3,108.28	3,729.94

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia
precept requirement for each valuation band

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	176.33	205.72	235.11	264.50	323.28	382.06	440.83	529.00

A total precept from Herefordshire Council of £18,798,837.59 (2022/23 £17,539,244).

The band D council tax charge amounts to £264.50, an increase of £14.84 or 5.94% over the previous year.

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority
precept requirement for each valuation band

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service	62.93	73.42	83.91	94.40	115.38	136.36	157.33	188.80

A 2023/24 total precept from Herefordshire Council of £6,709,561.77 (2022/23 £6,280,582.13).

The band D council tax charge for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority amounts to £94.40, an increase of £5.00 or 5.59% over the previous year.

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								APPENDIX 5
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council	1,467.79	1,712.43	1,957.07	2,201.70	2,690.97	3,180.24	3,669.49	4,403.40
Aconbury Parish Meeting	1,430.33	1,668.73	1,907.12	2,145.51	2,622.29	3,099.08	3,575.84	4,291.02
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	1,471.46	1,716.71	1,961.96	2,207.20	2,697.69	3,188.19	3,678.66	4,414.40
Allensmore Parish Council	1,445.86	1,686.85	1,927.83	2,168.81	2,650.77	3,132.74	3,614.67	4,337.62
Almeley Parish Council	1,472.93	1,718.43	1,963.92	2,209.41	2,700.39	3,191.38	3,682.34	4,418.82
Ashperton Parish Council	1,482.20	1,729.25	1,976.28	2,223.32	2,717.39	3,211.47	3,705.52	4,446.64
Aston Ingham Parish Council	1,465.10	1,709.30	1,953.48	2,197.67	2,686.04	3,174.42	3,662.77	4,395.34
Avenbury Parish Council	1,467.06	1,711.59	1,956.10	2,200.61	2,689.63	3,178.67	3,667.67	4,401.22
Aymestrey Parish Council	1,476.92	1,723.08	1,969.24	2,215.39	2,707.70	3,200.02	3,692.31	4,430.78
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	1,472.48	1,717.90	1,963.32	2,208.73	2,699.56	3,190.40	3,681.21	4,417.46
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	1,466.83	1,711.31	1,955.79	2,200.26	2,689.21	3,178.16	3,667.09	4,400.52
Belmont Rural Parish Council	1,461.04	1,704.56	1,948.07	2,191.58	2,678.60	3,165.63	3,652.62	4,383.16
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	1,444.66	1,685.45	1,926.23	2,167.01	2,648.57	3,130.14	3,611.67	4,334.02
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	1,480.20	1,726.92	1,973.62	2,220.32	2,713.72	3,207.14	3,700.52	4,440.64
Bishopstone Group Parish Council	1,461.80	1,705.44	1,949.08	2,192.71	2,679.98	3,167.26	3,654.51	4,385.42
Bodenham Parish Council	1,453.47	1,695.73	1,937.97	2,180.22	2,664.71	3,149.22	3,633.69	4,360.44
Border Group Parish Council	1,447.56	1,688.83	1,930.09	2,171.35	2,653.87	3,136.40	3,618.91	4,342.70
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	1,467.68	1,712.30	1,956.92	2,201.53	2,690.76	3,180.00	3,669.21	4,403.06
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	1,469.98	1,714.99	1,959.99	2,204.99	2,694.99	3,185.00	3,674.97	4,409.98
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	1,465.13	1,709.33	1,953.52	2,197.71	2,686.09	3,174.48	3,662.84	4,395.42
Breinton Parish Council	1,451.10	1,692.97	1,934.82	2,176.67	2,660.37	3,144.09	3,627.77	4,353.34
Bridstow Parish Council	1,444.99	1,685.83	1,926.67	2,167.50	2,649.17	3,130.84	3,612.49	4,335.00
Brilley Parish Council	1,493.40	1,742.31	1,991.21	2,240.11	2,737.91	3,235.72	3,733.51	4,480.22
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	1,450.02	1,691.71	1,933.38	2,175.05	2,658.39	3,141.75	3,625.07	4,350.10
Brockhampton with Much Fawley Parish Council	1,452.18	1,694.23	1,936.26	2,178.29	2,662.35	3,146.43	3,630.47	4,356.58
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	1,450.82	1,692.63	1,934.44	2,176.24	2,659.85	3,143.47	3,627.06	4,352.48
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	1,541.96	1,798.96	2,055.96	2,312.95	2,826.94	3,340.94	3,854.91	4,625.90
Burghill Parish Council	1,449.74	1,691.38	1,933.00	2,174.63	2,657.88	3,141.14	3,624.37	4,349.26
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	1,467.89	1,712.55	1,957.20	2,201.85	2,691.15	3,180.46	3,669.74	4,403.70
Clehonger Parish Council	1,457.08	1,699.93	1,942.78	2,185.63	2,671.33	3,157.03	3,642.71	4,371.26
Clifford Parish Council	1,450.25	1,691.97	1,933.68	2,175.39	2,658.81	3,142.24	3,625.64	4,350.78
Colwall Parish Council (including Malvern Hills Trust (C	1,512.36	1,764.42	2,016.49	2,268.55	2,772.68	3,276.80	3,780.91	4,537.10
Cradley Parish Council	1,477.58	1,723.85	1,970.12	2,216.38	2,708.91	3,201.45	3,693.96	4,432.76
Credenhill Parish Council	1,475.28	1,721.17	1,967.05	2,212.93	2,704.69	3,196.46	3,688.21	4,425.86
Cusop Parish Council	1,458.36	1,701.44	1,944.50	2,187.56	2,673.68	3,159.82	3,645.92	4,375.12
Dilwyn Parish Council	1,488.70	1,736.82	1,984.94	2,233.06	2,729.30	3,225.54	3,721.76	4,466.12
Dinedor Parish Council	1,476.41	1,722.49	1,968.56	2,214.63	2,706.77	3,198.92	3,691.04	4,429.26
Dinmore Parish Meeting	1,430.33	1,668.73	1,907.12	2,145.51	2,622.29	3,099.08	3,575.84	4,291.02
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	1,476.65	1,722.77	1,968.88	2,214.99	2,707.21	3,199.44	3,691.64	4,429.98
Dorstone Parish Council	1,453.74	1,696.04	1,938.33	2,180.62	2,665.20	3,149.79	3,634.36	4,361.24
Eardisland Parish Council	1,541.88	1,798.87	2,055.85	2,312.83	2,826.79	3,340.76	3,854.71	4,625.66
Eardisley Group Parish Council	1,458.83	1,701.98	1,945.12	2,188.26	2,674.54	3,160.83	3,647.09	4,376.52
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	1,461.04	1,704.55	1,948.06	2,191.57	2,678.59	3,165.61	3,652.61	4,383.14
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	1,475.88	1,721.88	1,967.86	2,213.84	2,705.80	3,197.78	3,689.72	4,427.68
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	1,502.93	1,753.43	2,003.92	2,254.41	2,755.39	3,256.38	3,757.34	4,508.82
Fownhope Parish Council	1,481.67	1,728.63	1,975.57	2,222.52	2,716.41	3,210.32	3,704.19	4,445.04
Foxley Group Parish Council	1,445.94	1,686.94	1,927.93	2,168.92	2,650.90	3,132.89	3,614.86	4,337.84
Garway Parish Council	1,486.69	1,734.48	1,982.27	2,230.05	2,725.62	3,221.19	3,716.74	4,460.10
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	1,453.10	1,695.29	1,937.48	2,179.66	2,664.03	3,148.41	3,632.76	4,359.32
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								APPENDIX 5
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	1,430.33	1,668.73	1,907.12	2,145.51	2,622.29	3,099.08	3,575.84	4,291.02
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	1,449.79	1,691.43	1,933.07	2,174.70	2,657.97	3,141.24	3,624.49	4,349.40
Hereford City Council	1,468.24	1,712.95	1,957.66	2,202.37	2,691.79	3,181.21	3,670.61	4,404.74
Holme Lacy Parish Council	1,495.38	1,744.63	1,993.86	2,243.09	2,741.55	3,240.03	3,738.47	4,486.18
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	1,442.12	1,682.48	1,922.84	2,163.19	2,643.90	3,124.62	3,605.31	4,326.38
Hope Mansell Parish Council	1,442.58	1,683.02	1,923.45	2,163.88	2,644.74	3,125.61	3,606.46	4,327.76
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	1,491.30	1,739.86	1,988.41	2,236.96	2,734.06	3,231.17	3,728.26	4,473.92
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	1,464.63	1,708.75	1,952.85	2,196.96	2,685.17	3,173.40	3,661.59	4,393.92
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	1,463.80	1,707.77	1,951.74	2,195.71	2,683.65	3,171.59	3,659.51	4,391.42
Huntington Parish Council	1,442.15	1,682.52	1,922.88	2,163.24	2,643.96	3,124.69	3,605.39	4,326.48
Kentchurch Parish Council	1,480.41	1,727.16	1,973.89	2,220.63	2,714.10	3,207.59	3,701.04	4,441.26
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	1,495.50	1,744.77	1,994.02	2,243.27	2,741.77	3,240.29	3,738.77	4,486.54
Kimbolton Parish Council	1,464.75	1,708.89	1,953.01	2,197.14	2,685.39	3,173.66	3,661.89	4,394.28
Kings Caple Parish Council	1,467.66	1,712.29	1,956.90	2,201.51	2,690.73	3,179.97	3,669.17	4,403.02
Kingsland Parish Council	1,450.24	1,691.95	1,933.66	2,175.37	2,658.79	3,142.21	3,625.61	4,350.74
Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council	1,453.99	1,696.33	1,938.67	2,181.00	2,665.67	3,150.34	3,634.99	4,362.00
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	1,455.69	1,698.32	1,940.93	2,183.55	2,668.78	3,154.03	3,639.24	4,367.10
Kington Town Council	1,517.61	1,770.56	2,023.49	2,276.43	2,782.30	3,288.19	3,794.04	4,552.86
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	1,467.90	1,712.56	1,957.21	2,201.86	2,691.16	3,180.47	3,669.76	4,403.72
Lea Parish Council	1,467.71	1,712.34	1,956.96	2,201.58	2,690.82	3,180.07	3,669.29	4,403.16
Ledbury Town Council	1,550.10	1,808.46	2,066.81	2,325.16	2,841.86	3,358.57	3,875.26	4,650.32
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	1,472.90	1,718.39	1,963.88	2,209.36	2,700.33	3,191.31	3,682.26	4,418.72
Leominster Town Council	1,551.46	1,810.04	2,068.62	2,327.20	2,844.36	3,361.52	3,878.66	4,654.40
Linton Parish Council	1,448.10	1,689.46	1,930.81	2,172.16	2,654.86	3,137.57	3,620.26	4,344.32
Little Birch Parish Council	1,476.18	1,722.23	1,968.26	2,214.29	2,706.35	3,198.43	3,690.47	4,428.58
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	1,470.48	1,715.58	1,960.66	2,205.74	2,695.90	3,186.08	3,676.22	4,411.48
Llangarron Parish Council	1,465.32	1,709.55	1,953.77	2,197.99	2,686.43	3,174.88	3,663.31	4,395.98
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	1,456.09	1,698.78	1,941.47	2,184.15	2,669.52	3,154.89	3,640.24	4,368.30
Longtown Group Parish Council	1,457.18	1,700.05	1,942.92	2,185.78	2,671.51	3,157.25	3,642.96	4,371.56
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	1,448.82	1,690.31	1,931.78	2,173.25	2,656.19	3,139.15	3,622.07	4,346.50
Luston Group Parish Council	1,460.74	1,704.20	1,947.66	2,191.12	2,678.04	3,164.96	3,651.86	4,382.24
Lyonshall Parish Council	1,479.80	1,726.45	1,973.08	2,219.72	2,712.99	3,206.27	3,699.52	4,439.44
Madley Parish Council	1,467.30	1,711.86	1,956.41	2,200.96	2,690.06	3,179.17	3,668.26	4,401.92
Marden Parish Council	1,492.40	1,741.14	1,989.88	2,238.61	2,736.08	3,233.56	3,731.01	4,477.22
Marstow Parish Council	1,466.56	1,710.99	1,955.42	2,199.85	2,688.71	3,177.57	3,666.41	4,399.70
Mathon Parish Council (includes Malvern Hills Trust (N	1,496.06	1,745.42	1,994.76	2,244.11	2,742.80	3,241.51	3,740.17	4,488.22
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	1,445.96	1,686.96	1,927.96	2,168.95	2,650.94	3,132.94	3,614.91	4,337.90
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	1,508.72	1,760.19	2,011.64	2,263.10	2,766.01	3,268.93	3,771.82	4,526.20
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	1,473.20	1,718.75	1,964.28	2,209.82	2,700.89	3,191.97	3,683.02	4,419.64
Much Birch Parish Council	1,440.90	1,681.07	1,921.22	2,161.37	2,641.67	3,121.99	3,602.27	4,322.74
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	1,451.19	1,693.07	1,934.93	2,176.80	2,660.53	3,144.28	3,627.99	4,353.60
Much Marcle Parish Council	1,451.90	1,693.90	1,935.88	2,177.87	2,661.84	3,145.82	3,629.77	4,355.74
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	1,447.71	1,689.01	1,930.29	2,171.58	2,654.15	3,136.74	3,619.29	4,343.16
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	1,474.60	1,720.37	1,966.14	2,211.91	2,703.45	3,194.99	3,686.51	4,423.82
Orcop Parish Council	1,465.44	1,709.69	1,953.93	2,198.17	2,686.65	3,175.14	3,663.61	4,396.34
Orleton Parish Council	1,487.02	1,734.87	1,982.71	2,230.55	2,726.23	3,221.92	3,717.57	4,461.10
Pembridge Parish Council	1,463.62	1,707.57	1,951.51	2,195.45	2,683.33	3,171.22	3,659.07	4,390.90
Pencombe Group Parish Council	1,493.06	1,741.91	1,990.76	2,239.60	2,737.29	3,234.99	3,732.66	4,479.20
Peterchurch Parish Council	1,468.05	1,712.74	1,957.41	2,202.09	2,691.44	3,180.81	3,670.14	4,404.18

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								APPENDIX 5
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Peterstow Parish council	1,480.71	1,727.51	1,974.29	2,221.08	2,714.65	3,208.24	3,701.79	4,442.16
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	1,448.56	1,690.00	1,931.43	2,172.86	2,655.72	3,138.59	3,621.42	4,345.72
Pixley & District Parish Council	1,455.37	1,697.94	1,940.51	2,183.07	2,668.20	3,153.33	3,638.44	4,366.14
Putley Parish Council	1,483.58	1,730.85	1,978.12	2,225.38	2,719.91	3,214.45	3,708.96	4,450.76
Pyons Group Parish Council	1,457.62	1,700.56	1,943.50	2,186.44	2,672.32	3,158.20	3,644.06	4,372.88
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	1,477.47	1,723.73	1,969.97	2,216.22	2,708.71	3,201.22	3,693.69	4,432.44
Ross-on-Wye Parish Council	1,522.25	1,775.97	2,029.68	2,283.39	2,790.81	3,298.24	3,805.64	4,566.78
Sellack Parish Council	1,493.60	1,742.54	1,991.48	2,240.41	2,738.28	3,236.16	3,734.01	4,480.82
Shobdon Parish Council	1,487.82	1,735.80	1,983.77	2,231.74	2,727.68	3,223.63	3,719.56	4,463.48
St. Weonards Parish Council	1,464.72	1,708.85	1,952.97	2,197.09	2,685.33	3,173.58	3,661.81	4,394.18
Stapleton Group Parish Council	1,473.14	1,718.67	1,964.20	2,209.72	2,700.77	3,191.83	3,682.86	4,419.44
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	1,442.98	1,683.49	1,923.99	2,164.49	2,645.49	3,126.50	3,607.47	4,328.98
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting (Chairman)	1,430.33	1,668.73	1,907.12	2,145.51	2,622.29	3,099.08	3,575.84	4,291.02
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	1,471.98	1,717.33	1,962.66	2,207.99	2,698.65	3,189.33	3,679.97	4,415.98
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	1,472.58	1,718.02	1,963.45	2,208.88	2,699.74	3,190.61	3,681.46	4,417.76
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	1,472.26	1,717.64	1,963.02	2,208.40	2,699.16	3,189.92	3,680.66	4,416.80
Sutton Parish Council	1,482.54	1,729.64	1,976.73	2,223.82	2,718.00	3,212.19	3,706.36	4,447.64
Tarrington Parish Council	1,478.94	1,725.45	1,971.94	2,218.43	2,711.41	3,204.41	3,697.37	4,436.86
Thornbury Group Parish Council	1,448.97	1,690.48	1,931.97	2,173.47	2,656.46	3,139.47	3,622.44	4,346.94
Titley and District Group Parish Council	1,458.70	1,701.82	1,944.94	2,188.06	2,674.30	3,160.54	3,646.76	4,376.12
Upton Bishop Parish Council	1,477.09	1,723.28	1,969.47	2,215.65	2,708.02	3,200.39	3,692.74	4,431.30
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	1,463.07	1,706.93	1,950.77	2,194.62	2,682.31	3,170.02	3,657.69	4,389.24
Walford Parish Council	1,458.56	1,701.66	1,944.76	2,187.85	2,674.04	3,160.24	3,646.41	4,375.70
Wellington Parish Council	1,465.90	1,710.22	1,954.54	2,198.86	2,687.50	3,176.14	3,664.76	4,397.72
Wellington Heath Parish Council	1,461.34	1,704.91	1,948.47	2,192.03	2,679.15	3,166.28	3,653.37	4,384.06
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	1,489.64	1,737.93	1,986.20	2,234.48	2,731.03	3,227.59	3,724.12	4,468.96
Weobley Parish Council	1,479.93	1,726.60	1,973.25	2,219.91	2,713.22	3,206.55	3,699.84	4,439.82
Weston Beggard Parish Council	1,460.84	1,704.32	1,947.80	2,191.27	2,678.22	3,165.18	3,652.11	4,382.54
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	1,450.88	1,692.70	1,934.52	2,176.33	2,659.96	3,143.60	3,627.21	4,352.66
Whitbourne Parish Council	1,454.93	1,697.43	1,939.92	2,182.41	2,667.39	3,152.38	3,637.34	4,364.82
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	1,496.74	1,746.20	1,995.66	2,245.12	2,744.04	3,242.96	3,741.86	4,490.24
Wigmore Group Parish Council	1,472.54	1,717.97	1,963.40	2,208.82	2,699.67	3,190.53	3,681.36	4,417.64
Withington Group Parish Council	1,459.12	1,702.32	1,945.51	2,188.70	2,675.08	3,161.47	3,647.82	4,377.40
Woolhope Parish Council	1,473.80	1,719.45	1,965.08	2,210.72	2,701.99	3,193.27	3,684.52	4,421.44
Wyeside Group Parish Council	1,451.32	1,693.21	1,935.10	2,176.99	2,660.77	3,144.55	3,628.31	4,353.98
Yarkhill Parish Council	1,468.78	1,713.59	1,958.39	2,203.19	2,692.79	3,182.40	3,671.97	4,406.38
Yarpole Group Parish Council	1,482.57	1,729.68	1,976.77	2,223.87	2,718.06	3,212.27	3,706.44	4,447.74

Title of report: Appointments to Council Committees and Outside Bodies

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 3 March 2023

Report by: Director Governance and Law

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To exercise those powers reserved to Council:

(a) To confirm its committees and the number of seats on each, including terms of reference and functions of those committees; and

(b) To review the representation and determine the allocation of seats on committees and relevant outside bodies to political groups.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) the allocation of seats on each committee to political groups as set out at paragraph 8 be approved; and**
- b) the number of seats on the scrutiny management board and the allocation of those seats to political groups as set out at paragraph 9 be approved.**

Alternative options

1. Council could decide to suspend the rules of proportionality for all committees and establish its own criteria for appointing members to its committees. This would require a vote to do so in respect of each committee to which these rules apply and without any member of the council voting against each proposal. However such a blanket approach is inconsistent with the spirit of political proportionality within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and would additionally require Council to approve which councillor would take each individual seat on the relevant committees and outside bodies.

Key considerations

2. Council is required to review its political composition and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the council. Council is required to undertake this review when there is a change to the political composition of the Council.
3. The political composition of the Council has changed since the previous calculation of proportionality on 21 October 2022: one member has become 'not aligned' which has reduced the number of seats held by the Independents for Herefordshire Group by one. Councillor Kath Hey identifies as a Labour councillor but for the purposes of the political proportionality calculations is not aligned to any political group; under the rules concerning political groups in the constitution (section 2.2.23) a political group must have two or more members. The current political composition of the Council is provided below:

Group	Number
Conservative group	14
Independents for Herefordshire	18
Liberal Democrats	6
The Green Party	7
True Independents	6
Not aligned	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>53</i>

4. Council is under a duty to ensure membership of those committees and outside bodies covered by the relevant rules reflects the political composition of the council, as far as practicable, by allocating seats on the committees to political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the council, whilst also maintaining a similar proportional balance of overall seat numbers. Once Council has approved the allocation of seats to political groups, it is a matter for the relevant political group leaders to confirm which of their members will take up any seats allocated to their group. Cabinet (as the executive), the licensing sub committee (a statutory committee) and the health and wellbeing board (with a membership set out by statute) are exempt from the requirements of political proportionality.
5. Any member who is not aligned to a group is not entitled to an allocation of seats within these rules. It is only where the proportionality calculations have been made and if any seats remain unallocated that Council may determine to appoint a member that is not a member of one of the political groups on the Council.
6. The rules of political proportionality should also be applied when allocating seats on outside bodies to which the council makes three or more appointments. The recent change in the political composition of the Council has no impact on the allocation of seats on those outside bodies to which politically proportionate appointments are made, as agreed at the annual meeting of Council on 20 May 2022. The allocation of seats to political groups on the Fire Authority and the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education remain unchanged.

7. It is open to Council to suspend the rules of political proportionality in relation to allocation of seats on any particular body. To do so requires approval by Council with no member voting against the proposal; this is known as a *nem con* vote. Abstentions do not invalidate such a vote.
8. The table below details the allocation of seats on the council's committees based on the political composition of the council as set out in the table in paragraph 3 above. The Group Leaders have been consulted by email on the allocation of seats and due to the minor change to the political composition of the Council it is recommended that the proportionality calculation/allocation of seats agreed at the meeting of Council on 21 October 2022 is reaffirmed at this meeting. The allocation below: reflects the political composition of the council; is proportionate to the numerical strength of the political groups; and maintains a proportional balance of overall seat numbers. The recommended allocation of seats is contained in the table below:

	Conservatives	Independents for Herefordshire	Liberal Democrats	The Green Party	True Independents	Not aligned	Total committee seats
Audit and governance	2	3	0	1	1	0	7
Children and young people scrutiny	2	2	1	1	1	0	7
Connected communities scrutiny	2	3	0	1	0	1	7
Employment panel	1	2	1	1	1	0	6
Environment and sustainability scrutiny	2	3	1	1	0	0	7
Health, care and wellbeing scrutiny	2	2	1	1	1	0	7
Planning and regulatory	4	5	2	2	2	0	15
<i>Total</i>	15	20	6	8	6	1	56

9. The scrutiny management board (SMB) was established to oversee the co-ordination and work programming of the four other scrutiny committees. The composition of the scrutiny management board is outlined under paragraph 2.6.4 of the constitution; its membership consists of the other four scrutiny committee chairpersons and other elected members as required to ensure the committee is politically balanced. Following the minor change in the political composition of the Council it is recommended that the SMB retain the allocation of seats agreed at the October meeting and presented in the table below:

	Conservatives	Independents for Herefordshire	Liberal Democrats	The Green Party	True Independents	Not aligned	Total committee seats
Scrutiny Management Board	4	5	2	2	2	0	15

Community impact

10. In accordance with the council's adopted code of corporate governance, the council is accountable for how it uses the resources under its stewardship, including accountability for outputs and outcomes achieved. In addition the council has an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies.

Environmental Impact

11. Whilst this is a decision on back office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to how it is in line with the council's Environmental Policy.

Equality duty

12. 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.

13. 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 is a decision on the administrative functions of the Council, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty however the council will seek to ensure that all appointments are made fairly (i.e. no discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics and through a vote of full Council) and that committee meetings are physically accessible and remote participation is offered to non-voting members in attendance..

Resource implications

14. Budgets are in place to cover allowances for any appointments made. In the event that Council decides on the establishment of additional committees a budget will need to be identified to meet the cost of any special responsibility allowance associated with the new committee. If Council agrees additional committees, appointments to the position of chairperson and vice chairperson will be agreed, if appropriate, during consideration of this report. All members

appointed to positions of special responsibility and to committees are provided with training to enable them to fulfil their duties.

Legal implications

15. The council is required to ensure that the allocation of seats to committees is compliant with relevant rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made under that act.
16. In summary these regulations require that in determining the allocation of seats the council must apply the following four principles as far as reasonably practicable:
 - a. that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - b. that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - c. subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
 - d. subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
17. The proposals in this report comply with these requirements. Once the proportionate allocation of seats has been made in accordance with the above principles, if any seats remain unallocated Council may determine to appoint a not aligned grouped member to fill the seat.
18. Alternative arrangements not complying with these requirements as set out in paragraph 1 may be made so long as no member of the council votes against it.

Risk management

19.

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Failure to appoint to committees and outside bodies could render them inquorate or unlawful	The recommendations in this report mitigate these risks
Failure to obey the rules of political proportionality could similarly render a committee or body unlawful	The recommendations in this report mitigate these risks

Consultees

20. No consultees.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None identified.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	Matthew Evans	Date 20/02/2023
Finance	Karen Morris	Date 20/02/2023
Legal	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 20/02/2023
Equality Duty	Harriett Yellin	Date 20/02/2023
Procurement	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 20/02/2023
Approved by	Claire Porter	Date 21/02/2023

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.



Title of report: Appointing Deputy Electoral Registration Officers

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 3 March 2023

Report by: Director of Governance and Law

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To appoint all Electoral Services Office (ESO) staff with limited powers as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DERO) to enable them to sign Temporary Voter Authority Certificates (TVAC) up to the close of poll for all elections.

Recommendation(s)

That Council agrees that the following ESO staff be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DERO) with limited powers:

- a) **Colette Maund (Electoral Services Manager), Amy Hallett (Electoral Services Officer), Bethan Batchelor (Electoral Services Assistant), Alison Catling (Electoral Services Assistant) and Oyebunmi Osiyemi (Electoral Services Assistant)**

Alternative options

The decision maker can, if they wish, approve alternative staff to be appointed, but in doing so the staff would need to comply with statutory guidance and be in the Elections Office during the elections period.

Key considerations

1. The Elections Act 2022 states there is a requirement that all TVAC must be signed by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) with a wet signature before allowing the elector to collect the certificate.
2. The applications are received directly by Electoral Services Staff and need to be dealt with immediately upon receipt to allow electors to obtain their photo ID. Someone with these powers needs to be on site at all times as these applications can be applied for up to 10pm on polling day.
3. If approval for duties is not granted then the ERO would need to be on site at the Electoral Services Office and sign all the TVAC with a wet signature.

Community impact

4. Voters would not be able to vote if they don't receive their signed TVAC in time.

Equality duty

5. 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.
6. 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 is a decision on back office functions, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

Resource implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from these changes.

Legal implications

8. Enabling certain authorised Officers to approve Temporary Voter Authority Certificates are new requirements in the Elections Act 2022. The authorisations sought by this report enables this function to be discharged in accordance with the legislation.

Risk management

9. Failure to approve the deputies could result in an Election challenge via an elections petition in the High Court if voters did not receive their signed TVAC.

Consultees

10. None.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

None identified.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published

Governance	Matthew Evans	Date 08/02/2023
Finance	Louise Devlin	Date 13/02/2023
Legal	Francis Fernandes	Date 16/02/2023
Communications	Luenne featherstone	Date 10/02/2023
Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 08/02/2023
Procurement	Lee Robertson	Date 10/02/2023
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 10/02/2023

Approved by Claire Porter Date 17/02/2023

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

ERO – Electoral Registration Officer
ESO – Electoral Services Office
DERO – Deputy Electoral Registration Officer
TVAC – Temporary Voter Authority Certificate



Title of report: Leaders report to Council

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 3 March 2023

Report by: 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 9 December, 2022.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **That the report be noted**

Alternative options

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

Key considerations

1. It is a constitutional requirement that the Leader of the Council provides a report to each ordinary council meeting, other than the budget meeting, on the work of cabinet since the last meeting. In my report I include 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.
2. Of the decisions taken since my last report to Council, no key decisions were taken under the general exception provisions (giving more than five but less than 28 calendar days' notice) and one was taken under the urgency provisions (less than five days' notice).

3. It is customary for all of the decisions to be listed in an annex to this report (appendix A). These decisions have been made available on the council's website. All councillors and members of the public have the opportunity to review these decisions as they are being made. I have presented a summary of some of the more noteworthy decisions, I and my cabinet have made since my last report.

Cabinet Commission

4. The Council has continued to lobby government through the Cabinet Commission. The Commission continues to gain strength and momentum as we develop closer working with Powys County Council (PCC), Monmouthshire County Council (MCC), Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC), Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resource Wales (NRW).
5. Following its inception the chair of the Cabinet Commission and the Chief Executive have been undertaking a wide ranging engagement strategy with key national and local stakeholders in both England and Wales. This work continues. Under shared agreement, our terms of reference have directed focus in the following areas;
 - a. **Governance arrangements** needed to drive the new high level strategy forward, its accountability, structure, remit, membership and terms of reference. An assessment of the Wye catchment area has been undertaken. This assessment identified that current steps and measures are incapable of bringing the Wye Catchment in to compliancy with regulation 6.2 of the Habitats directive whose objective is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. Further steps and measures must now urgently be taken.
 - b. **Farming Agriculture** work is now proceeding with sector leads from the Farming and Agricultural sector, in particular NFU, CLA and Farm Herefordshire. Through this engagement, the commission has identified further steps and measures . A plan will be prepared with a view to drawing up options to include a legally binding, properly resourced, well executed and targeted plan with agreed milestones and dates for progress to be monitored.

It is the view of the Commission that the impact of the deposition of legacy phosphate is so great that there is no swift route to river recovery. Realistic assessments suggest progress in managing out legacy phosphate will be measured in years and potentially decades. Therefore, work needs to commence immediately and at pace to develop a rapid restoration programme. The Commission has concluded that Farming Rules for Water and the Nutrient Management Guide RB209¹ are insufficient when combined only with voluntary measures, to prevent the further deterioration of the protected sites.

6. The Commission is very mindful that these conclusions will have far reaching and profound consequences for our farming communities, many of whom already take significant steps to protect the environment, in Wales and England. Over the next three months each of the Councils represented on the Commission will work closely together with their farming communities to identify the consequences of these conclusions and to secure consensus on how to move forward. The conclusions reached by the Commission will also need to be discussed carefully with DEFRA, Welsh Government and of course there will also need to be discussions with Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
7. The Commission will reconvene again in June 2023 to review a draft submission to DEFRA and Welsh Government which it will then recommend to the Cabinet of each of the four

Commission Councils seeking approval to send a joint submission, of all four Councils, to DEFRA and Welsh Government.

Children's Improvement plan

8. Following consideration by the Improvement Board, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, the Children's Improvement Plan was finalised, endorsed and shared with Ofsted on 20th December 2022. There is a 'next steps' meeting now scheduled with Ofsted and this will help us to plan and prepare for the first Ofsted monitoring visit which we anticipate will be in March 2023.
9. Driving the improvement activity and supporting the reporting to the Improvement Board is the Transformation Programme which consists of seven Delivery Boards including a focus on:
 - a) Workforce,
 - b) Service and Practice Development,
 - c) Performance and Quality Assurance,
 - d) Commissioning Resources,
 - e) Early Help and Partnerships,
 - f) Corporate Parenting and
 - g) Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND).

Members of the Corporate Leadership Team chair the Delivery Boards and are working with identified Service Leads to drive forward the agreed priorities. A number of corporate enablers, including support from the project management office (PMO), provide additional resources to strengthen the improvement infrastructure. The Improvement Board is chaired by Gladys Rhodes White, DfE Improvement Advisor, and a regular newsletter is published following each Board meeting to share the details of what has been discussed.

10. At the time of preparation of this report, the Department for Education (DfE) had not published the report prepared by the Children's Commissioner (Eleanor Brazil), nor had they communicated the Minister's decision following consideration of the report and the recommendations contained within it.

2023/24 Budget

11. As members will know, Council approved the 2023/24 budget on 10 February. This approval unlocks and paves the way to take forward a number of exciting projects within the capital programme. These projects, I believe, bring a tangible contribution to our broader objective to improve the sustainability, connectivity and wellbeing of our county. To highlight just a few examples:

a) City Masterplan:

A key role of the masterplan is to ensure that the transport interventions are informed by and reflect how the city functions now and how it may change over the long term. We are taking a place making /design approach to underpin the thrust of the work - creating urban renewal to create a more vibrant and attractive city to enhance and enable an increase in walking and cycling.

Building on its strong cultural and heritage assets, including the Cathedral and The Courtyard, Hereford will have a vibrant historic core and new high-quality housing and employment space in the city centre, alongside a renewed retail, leisure and culture offer. It will address challenges around congestion and poor connectivity within Hereford and to other places in the county through transport improvements and modal shift.

This is an ambitious vision for the future with big ideas which will help to reduce the dominating effect of motor vehicles of city streets and to encourage more sustainable modes of travel. The Masterplan at its heart will seek to ensure that all the individual parcels of natural space within our urban spaces deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities both living and visiting the city.

b) Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

Work is about to get underway on the development of our flagship £18m project to develop Hereford Museum and Art Gallery. The development is a key project in the Hereford Town Investment Plan, will play a critical role in the regeneration of the city centre as part of a new cultural quarter, and create a new significant visitor attraction in the county forecast to attract 75,000 visitors per annum.

The council is currently preparing an application for the final stage of National Heritage Lottery Funding, seeking the £5m required to complete the funding package. It is intended that the council application is submitted in the next available window in March 2023, with outcomes due to be known in June 2023.

Locally, a priority of the council's County Plan 2020-2024 is 'Use council land to create economic opportunities and bring higher paid jobs to the county', and to 'Invest in education and the skills needed by employers'. These projects support the ambitions as detailed within Herefordshire Council's Delivery Plan priorities, specifically community (CO0.1), economy (EC2.1, EC5.1) and environment (EN5.1, EN5.2)

c) The Eastern River Crossing

The Eastern River Crossing and Link Road (ERiC), formerly known as the Eastern Access Road, was identified in the Hereford Transport Strategy Review (HTSR) as essential to provide an alternative route for vehicular traffic to address the resilience issues around the A49 in the city centre. By providing an alternative route for traffic into and around the city, ERiC is vital to bring about the reductions in traffic levels in the city and enable our wider objectives of the Hereford City Masterplan (HCMP).

A strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) is expected to be completed by late spring 2023. The report will consider the scheme's strategic, economic, financial, commercial, and management dimensions in line with DfT guidance to outline a long-list of possible options and a short-list of options recommended for further investigation.

d) Peterchurch Primary School

In October 2022, Cabinet approval was given for the re-building of the school, subject to planning approval, on the playing fields of the existing site. The project will comprise a new 5 class school with hall, nursery and ancillary accommodation.

In addition, a Nurture Hub classroom is to be included with the building designed to Net Zero Carbon. The project budget is £10.583m inclusive of construction costs, professional fees and contingency. The new school will be constructed with the external

works, car park and demolition of the existing building following on once the new building is occupied.

Procurement is underway for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary team and it is anticipated that a Design & Build contractor will be appointed during the summer of 2023 with the new school ready for occupation by September 2025.

e) Brookfield School

In June 2022, Cabinet approval was given to proceed with improvements to the Brookfield School. The project, in conjunction with the Department for Education, comprises of a new build sports hall, stand-alone 2 classroom teaching block and internal modifications to the existing secondary school building to create additional girls toilets, two classrooms and an external fire escape.

The project budget is £5m, including construction costs, professional fees and contingency and is funded between the DFE and Herefordshire Council. Planning permission has been granted with the construction works tender to be issued in spring 2023.

It is anticipated that works will commence on site in September 2023 with completion by January 2025.

Statutory Accounts.

12. I am very pleased to report that the council's 2021/22 statutory accounts received a clean, unqualified opinion from our external auditors at the start of February. In a year of continuing delays across the audit sector, with many local authority 2019/20 and 2020/21 audits still outstanding, as well as increased audit challenge, this represents a significant achievement for the council and provides external assurance of the council's financial position, performance and resilience. I would like to thank the officers involved in achieving this result.

Q3 Budget and Performance.

13. The Quarter 3 Budget and Performance Report was published with the papers for Cabinet held on 23 February. The most significant element is the £1.9 million increase in forecast overspend for Children's and Family Services and Young People's Attainment, which comprises additional costs for Residential Placements of £1.2 million and Agency Fostering of £0.5 million, £0.2 million to support the ongoing care needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) and £0.2 million in Supported Accommodation costs offset by smaller variations across the Directorate.

This movement in the forecast overspend reflects increased demand for services as well as focused work by the Directorate to ensure that records of children's placements are complete and accurate and that the financial consequences are accounted for.

2050 Big Economic Plan

14. Our Big Economic Plan was presented to cabinet colleagues on Thursday 26th January. The Plan identifies a 2050 vision for Herefordshire, and the draft first 5 year delivery plan which will take the first steps to taking the county there.
15. This plan has been built up over many months. At its foundations are the local views, knowledge and aspirations of a wide range of local partners, led by the Herefordshire

Sustainable Growth Strategy Board. Importantly, while a central and underpinning member, Herefordshire Council is just one of the many partners who are invested in this plan. We are bound together in seeking to address the county's economic challenges, unlocking its potential and creating new opportunities for those who live here now as well as those who aspire to live here in the future.

16. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those that have taken the time to contribute to the Plan's development, the many hours they have committed and the many voices that have been listened to as we now move to implementation. I hope you will agree, regardless of our differing political views, that this is a plan that is right for the county, right for the people and businesses in Herefordshire and the right long term vision for this county.

Housing, Regulatory Services and Community

17. Trading Standards, supported by our legal services team, have had a successful start to the year. So often their work goes un-noticed so I believe it is right to recognise the important work that they do by highlighting just some of their recent successes:
 - i. Following a rogue trader prosecution of a Bournemouth roofing company who deceived two elderly residents into having unnecessary roofing work done. The company director received a 12 month suspended prison sentence with 200 hours unpaid work and also had to pay over £3000 in direct compensation. The salesman was also required to give 140 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £3000 in compensation and costs.
 - ii. Community Protection have had two successful fly tipping prosecutions for offences in Hereford. The first case concerned ten large bags of waste tipped from the old railway bridge off Hunderton Lane. This offender was given a 12 month community order, ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work and pay fines and costs of over £1000.
 - iii. A person was fined over £2000 for fly tipping six black bin bags of waste in Tidnor Lane which was found by one of our Balfour Beatty operatives.
 - iv. Our Animal Health Officers who, along with colleagues from Trading Standards and Environmental Health, responded to our second avian flu outbreak of the season concerning an area just north of Leominster. The officers worked closely with Defra and had to visit over 3000 properties within the vicinity.
 - v. Our Trading Standards team who undertake enforcement for non-attendance at our local schools, have, so far this year, prosecuted four parents for unauthorised absence in term time. This largely unseen work is so important to ensuring that our children are not harmed or disadvantaged in their education as a result of not being able to attend school.

Homelessness Strategy

18. The council's statutory Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy is a multi-agency approach to ensure that homelessness prevention, intervention and recovery is at the very centre of all work practice.
19. Under Project Brave (Building Resilience Against Enduring Vulnerabilities) the overall aims to greatly improving outcomes for vulnerable individuals. It seeks to provide new homes and sustainable support models for homeless people and empowering people with multiple complex vulnerability to direct their own lives. It also seeks to reduce demands on health, housing, social care and police systems by making high risk homelessness largely a thing of the past.

20. It is evident that Project Brave has had significant impact on the lives of vulnerable homeless people in particular, both in positive outcomes for individuals and in the overall numbers of those assisted. Since March 2020, 252 households have been accommodated, 157 households have moved into transitional or long term housing, and 62 units of new accommodation have been created or brought into use for homeless people. The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team is continuing to support 82 people at risk of rough sleeping and around 16 actual rough sleepers.
21. Central to Project Brave is finding long term homes for homeless people and providing the support they need. This requires a pipeline of self-contained homes to be developed, along with additional transitional accommodation. Accommodation has been acquired using council capital and grants, existing council properties have been converted and housing has been secured from local Registered Providers, Private Landlords and voluntary organisations.
22. To date 45 units have been secured for transitional accommodation with the creation of a homeless hub, with 29 units being used as long term accommodation. A further 28 units of accommodation are in the pipeline to supplement the existing transitional accommodation.

Levelling Up Funding grant

23. In January, Cabinet accepted and approved the expenditure of the Levelling Up Funding allocated to the Hereford transport bids submitted to government in August 2022. The number of bids that a local authority could submit was based on the number of MPs in their area. Local authorities could submit one bid of up to £20m for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary, plus one further transport focused bid. A requirement of the funding is that 'shovel ready' projects can commence in 2022/23.
24. The council were successful in its bid for £19.9m of funding to help deliver a package of transport and active travel measures.
25. The most notable element of the bid is the development of a new integrated Transport Hub, which will link cycling, walking, bus and rail transport in the City. The £10m Hub, in which the Council has already agreed to invest £3m, will encourage a shift away from reliance on cars, providing an easy-to-use, reliable link to alternative modes of transport. As well as covered cycle facilities and lockers to encourage commuter cycle parking, the Hub will provide new bus stands and layovers, taxi and car parking areas, including commuter and short term parking, and welfare facilities.
26. The package also includes Active Travel Measures both North and South of the River Wye. Areas North of the River will benefit from a cycle scheme from Aylestone Hill along the A465 and Commercial Road, linking the north and east of the county to the Transport Hub, the city centre, and routes south of the river. Enhancements to St Owen Street one-way cycle scheme will improve access to the Town Centre and links to Rotherwas, Blueschool Street and Newmarket Street will see new bus priority measures; and there will be improvements to the Great Western Way off-road walking & cycling path.
27. Meanwhile, work will be carried out South of the River to introduce or improve a number of informal 'Quiet Routes' to the Hereford Enterprise Zone to encourage more of the people who work there and who live in neighbouring housing to walk or cycle to work. To complement this work, there will be a series of improvements along the Holme Lacy Cycleway to encourage more and safer active travel to work and local services.
28. There will also be Safer Routes to School initiatives, and new 20mph speed limits in appropriate areas across the City, to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
29. Regrettably the bids for the North and South Herefordshire constituencies were unsuccessful. However it should be noted that no County was successful with more than one element of their bids and, in proportion to population size, Herefordshire did very well with their one bid.

30. As far as the Ross Enterprise Zone is concerned work is continuing to see how this project, which is so important to the County economy, can be delivered.

The Cost of Living Crisis

31. The council declared a cost of living emergency in December 2022 which recognised the financial strain on households and businesses due to inflation and fuel costs and particularly the disproportionate effect of the crisis on the county's poorest residents. The council has been working proactively with partners to offer support to residents including:
- vi. Alongside the established 69 Talk Community hubs, a group of 34 warm spaces has been established where Herefordshire residents can go to get warm and enjoy some company. Where appropriate, residents are helped to access food, financial and wellbeing advice and support through the Talk Community directory
 - vii. The Money on Your Mind web resource offers local, online money advice with the number of people visiting the page increasing by nearly 70% from the same period last year.
 - viii. Community money management and debt advice centres have been established in the city and the market towns, augmented by Citizens Advice outreach.
 - ix. The Household Support Fund has enabled the council to provide food vouchers for children entitled to free school meals through the school holidays as well as supporting third party organisations to offer help to residents with food, energy costs, essential household items and essentials linked to energy.
 - x. Additional support through the Household Support Fund has provided support for care-leavers with energy and heating costs, 'families in need' food vouchers have been allocated through schools to those families that don't qualify for free school meals but who are struggling and an open application process for emergency food and heating vouchers has been established via Paypoint
 - xi. A cost of living summit was held with partners in early January and on the back of that, there was agreement to run a series of roadshows across Herefordshire during March taking advice to residents concerned about the rising cost of living. Free professional advice on dealing with rising fuel costs, money saving, benefits and debt management will be offered alongside a free school uniform table, book bank and toiletries bank.
32. A further cost of living summit is planned for March.

In Conclusion

33. This is my last report to Council for the period of this administration. I would like to place on record my thanks to all the members of cabinet who have worked long hours within their portfolios, and for the cabinet generally, to deliver the best that they could for the County. The last four years have not been without their challenges including flooding, the Covid crisis, the YY judgement and the subsequent realisation of the extent of the improvements necessary Children's Services, and the increasing pressure on finances, but as you can see from the report above we finish this administration with many exciting projects which are in progress. My thanks too for the support from Councillors within the administration. I would also like to thank officers for their support and in particular the work of the current Chief Executive and his Senior Leadership Team
34. I would also place on file my thanks to all Councillors for their work over the past four years. Most debates have been carried out in a manner which is respectful of the views of all Councillors, something which cannot be said for all Councils, but which is good for democracy.

Community impact

35. 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

36. 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 following success measures in the County Plan.
- Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river
 - Reduce the council's carbon emissions
 - Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions
 - Improve the air quality within Herefordshire
 - Improve residents' access to green space in Herefordshire
 - Improve energy efficiency of homes and build standards for new housing
 - Increase the number of short distance trips being done by sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling, public transport

Equality duty

37. 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.

38. 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 A, and will inform any future decision making.

Resource implications

39. 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 A have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken and will inform any future decision making.

Legal implications

40. 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.
41. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The legal implications 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.

Risk management

42. 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 A:** List of executive decisions taken since 10 December to 23 February
- **Appendix B:** Herefordshire Council: Respecting our past, shaping our future. Delivery Plan for 2022/23

Background papers

None Identified

Appendix A: Decisions taken between 1 December, 2022 to 23 February, 2023.		
	Date	Effective From
(please click on the blue text to reveal further details of the decision taken)		
1. To agree the Super Hubs approach	30/01/2023	04/02/2023
2. To Accept and Spend Any Approved UK Shared Prosperity Plan and Rural Prosperity Funds Approved by Government	15/12/2022	22/12/2022
3. To Accept and Spend Any Approved Levelling Up Fund Allocation to Herefordshire	12/01/2023	19/01/2023
4. The Home Adaptations and Assistance Policy	10/02/2023	17/02/2023
5. Temporary Accommodation Policy and Procurement	02/02/2023	09/02/2023
6. Spend the accepted Stronger Towns Funding for Library and Learning Resource Centre	23/01/2023	28/01/2023
7. Spend the accepted Stronger Towns Funding for Hereford Museum and Art Gallery	02/12/2022	09/12/2022
8. Spend the accepted Stronger Towns Funding for Greening the City	23/01/2023	28/01/2023
9. Schools Budget 2023/24	31/01/2023	07/02/2023
10. On Street Parking Review - Hereford City Centre*	09/02/2023	24/02/2023
11. Ofsted Improvement Action Plan	15/12/2022	22/12/2022
12. Executive response to the Health, Care and Well-being Scrutiny Committee: Obesity in Herefordshire	24/01/2023	31/01/2023
13. Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes & Empty Properties	15/12/2022	22/12/2022
14. Community activity services procurement for working age adults	18/01/2023	25/01/2023
15. Commissioning of the Herefordshire integrated sexual health service	10/02/2023	17/02/2023
16. Commissioning of short breaks for disabled children and their parents/carers*	17/02/2023	24/02/2023
17. Big Economic Plan	26/01/2023	02/02/2023
18. Approval of the creation of a new shareholder committee and contractual arrangements with Hoople Limited	12/01/2023	19/01/2023
19. Appointment of Cabinet Members to the Shareholder Committee	27/01/2023	03/02/2023

20. Adoption of the Stoke Lacy neighbourhood plan and consequential updates to the countywide policies map*	17/02/2023	24/02/2023
21. Adoption of the Orcop neighbourhood plan and consequential updates to the countywide policies map*	17/02/2023	24/02/2023
22. Acquisition of strategic Housing site in South Herefordshire	12/12/2022	17/12/2022
23. 2023/24 Council Tax Reduction Scheme	26/01/2023	26/01/2023
24. 2023/24 Capital Investment Budget and Capital Strategy Update	26/01/2023	26/01/2023
25. 2022/23 Winter Resilience	24/01/2023	31/01/2023
26. Review of the strategic approach to homelessness*	23/02/2023	02/03/2023
27. Aylestone School Expansion*	23/02/2023	02/03/2023
28. Local authority school buildings maintenance works 2023-2026*	23/02/2023	02/03/2023
29. Quarter 3 budget and performance*	23/02/2023	02/03/2023

**subject to call-in at time of full Council agenda publication.*

Respecting our past, shaping our future

2022-23

75



OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Priorities for 2022/23

This document highlights the key activity planned for 2022-23 financial year in meeting the ambitions set out in the County Plan 2020-24.

The council is setting in motion activity now that will have long-term benefits for the future of Herefordshire in supporting our economy, our communities and our environment.

The Covid pandemic has provided a powerful reminder of the importance of frontline services and the council's central role in supporting communities. It also confirmed the power of working together to address key issues and in making improvements to people's lives.

We are realistic about the scale of the challenge - the loss of government funding, rising costs and changing demands means facing tough choices about where to focus resources. Our day to day services are important in making it possible for residents to get on with their everyday lives, for businesses to thrive, and provide support to people at different stages of their lives.

This delivery plan focuses on commitments beyond the day to day services to show how the council will progress its priorities in meeting our vision to...

Improve the sustainability, connectivity and wellbeing of our county by strengthening our communities, by creating a thriving local economy and by protecting and enhancing our environment

Wellbeing

- We will nurture **children in our care**, provide support for families as soon as they need it, and help young people to meet their potential through education and training.
- We will instigate new ways of providing **care of older people**, including progressing the council's own care facility.
- We will aim to reduce **inequalities** in our county, including access to a network of Talk Community Hubs and libraries.

Sustainability

- We will respond to the **climate and ecological emergency** including tackling pollution and will protect the countryside, all of which will improve quality of life for all.
- We will invest in new **housing** for people that is affordable and environmentally sustainable.
- We will reduce the amount of **waste** generated in the county, change how it is collected and increase reuse and recycling.
- We will involve more people in planning for the county's future as we update the **core strategy** planning policy framework.

Connectivity

- We will boost different **travel choices** through new walking and cycling routes and widen other transport options whilst creating a long term travel plan for the county.
- We will continue to extend digital connection for households and businesses, and make the most of **digital technology** to improve service delivery options.
- We will support businesses and skills development to aid economic growth, along with investing in our **town and city centres** and promoting the county as a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Highlights of 2021-22



46 Talk Community Hubs open, and Talk Community kitchen providing healthy meals.



Shell Store opened with 2,000 sq metres of space for new and growing businesses.



Over 93% of premises with access to superfast broadband.



Over 91,000 journeys on Hereford Beryl Bike Scheme, covering more than 220,000kms.



New student accommodation at Station Approach in Hereford with 178 rooms.



Distribution of £46m to businesses to address effects of Covid and £8m for social care provision.

77



Brush, Book, Bed! promoting oral health for under 5s as part of a daily bedtime routine with baby pack from libraries.



9,774 free swimming sessions for children and young people; 2,740 free gym membership for students in years 11,12 and 13.



Beacons College opened as new special needs school in Hereford.



Over 58,000 Shop local cards issued benefiting over 1,500 businesses.

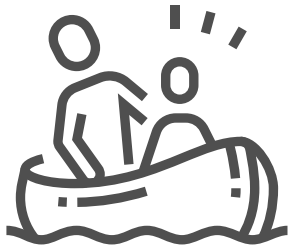


219,196 Covid home test kits distributed and c6,500 contact tracing cases completed by the council.



More than 62,000 free journeys at weekends with many new routes.

During 2021-22, we did...



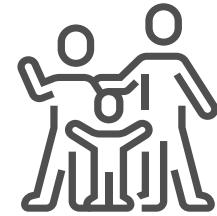
In 2021 over **2,700** children attended the Holiday Activity Fund projects



3,197 planning applications determined



4,441k new library members
80k eBooks and eAudio books issued



1,000 children in need and their families supported



910 fly tips removed
57 graffiti removals

11,000 households support with the council tax reduction scheme



61,729 calls to the contact centre, average answering time 48 second.

27 public rights of way footpath schemes completed



4,054 additional calls on the Covid 19 helpline.

41,000 repairs on the roads, footways and public spaces of Herefordshire

21,000 pot holes repaired



200 community leaders trained in mental health awareness and first aid.

£3.196m on improving school buildings



5,337 referrals made to Adults Social Care



3,405 Blue Badge applications issued

Our Delivery Programme 2022 - 2023

Herefordshire Council delivers a wide variety of services to residents and businesses. The following pages highlight some of the key activity that has taken place since April 2021 and what is planned for the forthcoming financial year in meeting the ambition of the county plan, with reference to the related objectives.

Council Plan **Environment Objective:** Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Commissioning of new waste collection and disposal service (supporting objective EN1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced a new Integrated Waste Strategy to meet ambitious waste reduction and recycling targets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a new waste strategy in preparation for collection changes in 2024. Promote changes to the new collection system for refuse and recycling throughout the year. Run pilot schemes for reusable nappies with 75 families and trial recycling storage options with people living in flats.
Deliver the Hereford Transport Strategy and City Centre Masterplan (supporting objectives EN2 & EN4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up 4 new car share clubs in Kington, Leominster, Fownhope and South Hereford. Implemented free weekend bus travel scheme and an enhanced Sunday service. Produced a Bus Service Improvement Plan to support a funding bid of £18.1m. Secured £1.49m towards new active travel schemes and eastern road link. Appointed lead on strategic planning for transport. Installed new city trees providing natural filters to reduce air pollution. Extended Hereford's Beryl Bike scheme to 200 pedal bikes and introduced 30 new ebikes. Launched a new contract to increase electric vehicle charging points. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Produce the Hereford City Masterplan to support long term planning for transport. Deliver active travel programmes to encourage more walking and cycling along with measures to improve air quality and travel plans with businesses. Install new cycle routes for St Owen's Street and on Aylestone Hill in Hereford. Complete feasibility study of route options for Eastern river crossing. Introduce an additional 70 ebikes as part of the Beryl Bike scheme. Consult on design options for the city Transport Hub. Complete design for Holme Lacy Road improvements. Commence construction of Hereford Enterprise Zone Quiet Route. Expand the county's electric vehicle charging point network (100 new points planned by 2025).

79

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Address the climate and ecological emergency in the county (supporting objectives EN3 EN4, EN6 & EN7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a countywide climate and nature partnership. Engaged residents in a citizens' climate assembly and allocated £1.33m to the climate reserve to deliver new initiatives. Drafted supplementary guidance on Environmental Building Standards for consultation. Grant funded 100 properties with first-time central heating schemes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Run a Greener Footprints campaign to raise awareness of the actions households can take to address climate change. Respond to the citizens' climate assembly recommendations and agree a funded programme working with partner organisations. Seek resources for a countywide domestic energy retrofit programme, and deliver a domestic energy efficiency and renewable heating retrofit programme to support 150 homes. Provide free and impartial home energy advice to 1,000 households through the Keep Herefordshire Warm service. Construct our first integrated wetland to reduce levels of phosphate pollution entering the Special Area of Conservation. Adopt a new nature strategy for the county.
Deliver initiatives to reduce the council's carbon footprint (supporting objectives EN5 & EN7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed energy performance surveys of the tenanted properties of the council. Established an energy improvement programme. Reduced the council's carbon footprint by 59.6% from baseline of 2008/9. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Install new energy efficiency measures at 4 council buildings supported by the Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings projects. Develop a new 3 year decarbonisation programme for school buildings. Including delivery of energy audits at 20 schools and installation of solar PV systems at 2 schools. Deliver the highway biodiversity net gain project. Improve the environmental and energy efficiency standards of Council buildings through the introduction of new minimum standards for energy efficiency, developing a plan for investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures for existing buildings for consideration in future budget requests, and a plan for achieving net zero carbon for all new-build council buildings.
Update planning policy for the council (supporting objective EN0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned a needs assessment and public consultation started to meet regulation 18. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 3 key consultations to progress production of the updated Core Strategy. Deliver full draft of the Core Strategy Update ready for pre-examination public consultation (Regulation 19). Implement the new supplementary planning documents for Agriculture and Planning and Environmental Building Standards. Progress the Minerals and Waste policy through examination to adoption.

Council Plan **Community Objective:** Strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safe together.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of children (supporting objective CO1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided free gym and swimming lessons for children. • 14 enhanced play areas supported by Covid recovery grant. • Introduced new Universal Public Health nursing visits for 4-6 month olds. • Introduced an on-line oral health training package reaching 177 professionals and parents. • Launched a new campaign to improve young children's oral health based on 'Brush, Book, Bed' with packs from libraries and supervised tooth brushing in children's settings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the Improvement Plan to work more closely with partners, and agree a common understanding of a Child Friendly County. 2. Strengthen the role of children's centres and early years in prevention, with more families aware of the services they are entitled to and be connected to more opportunities within their community. 3. Run training programmes for 200 staff on oral health. 4. Deliver a training programme of road safety including pedestrian training for school pupils.
<p>Deliver schools investment programme (supporting objective CO1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Marlbrook School extension. • Created new drop-off area at Mordiford School. • Opened a new special needs sixth form in Hereford at Beacon College. • Completed 16 feasibility studies to inform key investment priorities for schools. • Built a new science block at John Kyrle High School adding extra school places in Ross-on-Wye. • Obtained planning permission for development at The Brookfield School. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tender construction of new school building at Peterchurch Primary School. 2. Tender refurbishment and expansion of The Brookfield School. 3. Plan and agree first phase of school expansions to deliver additional school places across the county. 4. Seek approval for the rebuild of Westfield School and move to the design stage. 5. Conduct feasibility work to inform plans to increase capacity at Hereford Pupil Referral Service and Blackmarston School.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
School Improvement to support young people to learn (supporting objective CO1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported schools to be open and operating through Covid-19 restrictions. Embedded and maintained an online learning offer through 2020-2022. Provided support in the distribution of lap-tops to children. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all schools have better informed pupil's mental health and wellbeing support via a training and development package. Develop a range of traded services to support increase in number of schools who operate as academies. Improve the educational outcomes for those pupils with Education and Health Care plans.
All children known to the safeguarding services receive the best possible service (supporting objectives CO1 & CO2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewed Children's Improvement Plan. Revised Quality Assurance Framework and Practice Standards. Audited current children social worker cases. Implemented new scheme of exit and retention interviews to better inform our recruitment and retention strategy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place effective 'Voice of the Child' engagement so children are involved in designing services in a meaningful way. Increase the number of foster carers by 25. Integrate a "Right Help – Right Time" approach within the Talk Community programme, so families are better supported within communities. Improve the range of support for care leavers. Provide more support for the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service. Progress plans to build a children's residential home. Increase the number of social workers with a new retention and recruitment approach.
Invest in creating affordable net zero carbon housing (supporting objective CO3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed housing delivery model. Identified pipeline of viable sites for housing and commissioned feasibility assessment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the delivery of new affordable net zero housing on council owned land. Submit planning applications for 2 housing sites on council land. Support at least 230 additional affordable properties in the county.
Development of council owned care home to meet future demands (supporting objectives CO4 & CO5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed options appraisal and decision to progress with a council owned care facility. Created a discharge to assess facility at Hillside Care Home including refurbishment and environmental upgrades. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the building of the council's own care home with site identified, design outlined and planning application developed. Complete site works for Hillside Independent living demonstration centre.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Ensuring quality of care and develop technology enabled living (supporting objective CO5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented a strengths based and community focussed approach in supporting adults with social care needs and emerging support needs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create 50 bespoke wellness packages using a technology enabled 'proactive and preventative' care model. Move the existing Telecare Service to a digital delivery model. Create a digital tool and website that shows how technology can support people's independence and aid assessments. Develop and deliver a training programme to support at least 50 staff on the use of technology to support residents.
Become a Sustainable food county (supporting objectives CO4 & EN3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a sustainable food partnership. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and agree a Food Charter for the county. Submit application for the Sustainable Food Place Bronze award.
Work to minimise inequalities in our communities (supporting objective CO4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and implemented a Covid vaccine inequalities programme. Supported more than 11,000 bill payers through the council tax reduction scheme. Supported over 200 individuals via debt, financial and fuel poverty service available in all market towns. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Physical Activity Strategy that outlines plans and programmes to aid health through fitness. Offer maximum council tax reduction scheme for eligible pensioners and people of working age. Work with partner organisations to produce a plan to tackle health inequalities and lead health equity audit process for commissioned services.
Further develop the Talk Community approach (supporting objective CO6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created 46 talk community hubs created. Completed community wellbeing survey. Trained 200 community leaders and volunteers in mental health awareness and first aid. Provided 2,700 children with free holiday activities throughout the school holidays. Established the Talk Community kitchen with healthy meals to the local community. Awarded over £1m to the voluntary and community sector through grants and operation of services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Talk Community hubs to 75. Deliver 2 integrated service hubs using existing community facilities that includes working with the whole family. Make investment and improvements to libraries and museums.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Deliver improvements in the infrastructure and public realm (supporting objective CO0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought back into council-owned operation the Public Rights of Way and Traffic Regulation Order teams. • Submitted outline business case for Pontrilas Station to Restoring Your Railways programme. • Installed new street furniture in High Town, Hereford. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish and implement plan to improve the Public Rights of Way Service by working in partnership with volunteers, communities and parishes. 2. Develop 20mph speed limit policy and programme for the county to cover significant villages and market towns. 3. Install 20mph limits in Presteigne and Cusop, as part of the 1st year of 5 year 20mph speed limit programme. 4. Enhance the Cathedral and River Wye quarters of the city. 5. Make Improvements to the city street scene in Widemarsh Street and High Town in Hereford.
Council modernisation programme (supporting objectives CO0 & CO4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed modernisation and transformation programme, with resources and aligned budgets. • Increased the role of Hoople as a jointly owned company for building maintenance and cleaning. • Creation of a programme management office to support delivery of projects and schemes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roll out and embed hybrid working model for employees, creating effective flexible working arrangements. 2. Develop and implement updated Digital Strategy for improved customer experience, communication and connectivity. 3. Establish a “spirit of Herefordshire” approach to attracting and retaining workforce through celebrating the positives of the county. 4. Work with NHS and Public Health partners to implement the Integrated Care System approach agreed for Herefordshire & Worcestershire. 5. Establish Hoople Care to deliver care services for the council.
Management of the council's assets to maximise their use (supporting objective CO0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placed operation of Maylord Orchards centre management with Hoople. • Moved to increase flexible working in response to Covid 19 and vacated two key buildings creating a revenue saving. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce asset management plans for each council owned property based on up-to-date knowledge of conditions. 2. Plan capital works for the Shirehall to bring back into council and community use.

Council Plan **Economy Objective:** Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Develop the 2050 Economic Big Plan (supporting objective EC1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held Economic Summit in Hereford, along with a series of mini Economic Summits in all market towns. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with stakeholders to consult, draft and publish a new economic strategy and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to support the continued recovery of the county, leading to longer term accelerated growth and higher value jobs for local people.
Town Investment Plan for Hereford (supporting objectives EC1 & EC2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted initial business cases for Town Investment funding. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the £22.4m Town Investment funded through the Stronger Towns Fund working closely with partners. Produce and submit detailed proposals for investment in the Hereford Museum and Art Gallery, Maylord Orchard Library and the Learning Resource Centre. Deliver the detailed business case for Greening the City.
Develop & implement Market Town Economic Development Investment (supporting objectives EC2 & EC5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced plans for each market town based on public consultation. Awarded grant to market town projects worth £550,000. Made investment in Leominster Heritage Action Zone. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Commence implementation of the Market Town Investment Plans, allocating the £20.6m investment to bring forward employment land and to create incubation space for businesses. Pursue potential sites for new commercial employment land uses in market towns. Progress the Leominster Heritage Action Zone Project; including completion of public realm improvements.
Support economic opportunity through business support (supporting objectives EC2 & EC6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invested £6m in Covid 19 recovery programmes supporting economic and wellbeing support. Introduced the Shop Local Card, so far benefitting over 1,500 shops. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase engagement with the private sector through a Talk Business programme of communications, networking and events including quarterly business briefings and six monthly meetings in the market towns. Increase the level of engagement and quality of support provided through the Marches Growth Hub, with a specific focus on supporting businesses to respond to climate change and reduce their carbon impact. Deliver a business case for the Recovery and Investment Fund to support businesses to expand in Herefordshire.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Development of the Hereford Enterprise Zone (supporting objective EC2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 90% of civil works at the North Magazine of the Hereford Enterprise Zone. Opened the Shell Store with 20% of units occupied. Supported the opening of Midlands Centre for Cyber Security. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue sales of council owned land resulting in business growth, private sector investment and creating more and better paid jobs. Complete the North Magazine Civil Works with first plots sold for development. Complete NMITE's Skylon Park campus including the Centre for Advanced Timber Technology and Centre for Automated Manufacturing.
Work with partners to increase the Skills and Workforce in the county (supporting objective EC3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place contracts with 2 Community Renewal Fund projects. Supported the Kickstart scheme launched to support young people into work / apprenticeships. Used Covid 19 recovery funding to support 28 young people most at risk of not being in education, employment and/or training. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review the skills and supply chain required to meet the needs of the county, aligned to the Economic Big Plan. Implement a new recruitment platform for council employees, to attract skilled workers to the county. Run a joint marketing campaign with Higher Education providers to attract students to study in the county, including those from the local population. Provide more apprenticeship, supported internship and work experience opportunities, including through the council's direct contracts. Engage with 300 young people via Youth Employment Hub to support 16 to 24 year olds into education, employment and/or training. Agree a new strategic plan and future delivery model for the council's adult and community learning education service.
Deliver broadband coverage via Fastershire whilst addressing the barriers for people going online (supporting objective EC4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with suppliers to reach 93.7% of premises with superfast and full fibre broadband. Introduced a new community broadband scheme to connect some of the hardest to reach premises. Secured additional government funding for Project Gigabit support to extend the county's full fibre broadband coverage. Introduced digital household grant and new business broadband programme. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure at least 15 businesses taking up the new business grant, provide new household grants to eligible residents, and at least 100 residents improving their digital skills. Commission Age Concern to deliver support for older people to improve their digital skills, including 288 places for 6 week computer café course, 60 attending 1-2-1 course and 50 tablet loans. Increase superfast and full fibre broadband coverage in the county, and move to new stage of gigabit capable speeds.

Programme	So far we have...	This year we will...
Support Tourism and Cultural Sector in the county (supporting objective EC5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned first TV advert for Herefordshire reaching more than 8.3 million people. • Promoted over 450 businesses through new Visit Herefordshire website. • Conducted a ballot on forming a Herefordshire Business Improvement District. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the growth of the tourism industry across Herefordshire, working closely with private sector partners and building on strengths and new opportunities in areas such as accessible and green tourism, creative industries, promotion of the cultural sector, and improving our Public Rights of Way.

How we monitor the Plan

The activity detailed in this plan will be managed through a robust approach to project management to ensure visibility of progress, risks and accountability for delivery.

The involvement of residents and stakeholders in the development of services and projects is critical to ensure that we do the right things at the right time and in the right way. This includes in January 2022 running the very first Citizens' Climate Assembly, and continuing to run the parish council summits.

The council has undergone a major review of its governance arrangements, resulting in clarity on how members of the public can be involved in decision making, scrutiny and holding the council to account.

We recognise and value the central role our employees play in delivering this plan and the running of our many statutory services. We will continue to invest in activities that ensures we attract and retain skilled and committed workforce, whilst making the most of working with external partners to share particular expertise to ensure this plan is delivered.

Appendix A of this plan demonstrates how the activity identified in this plan meet the original ambitions from our County Plan. This appendix also identifies the outputs we will monitor to show progress and the high level outcomes which will evidence the success of our County Plan ambitions. These will form the basis of quarterly reporting for 2022/23.

Councillor David Hitchiner

Leader of Herefordshire Council

Councillor Liz Harvey

Deputy Leader of Herefordshire Council / Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Planning

Councillor Diana Toynbee

Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Councillor Gemma Davies

Cabinet Member for Commissioning, Procurement and Assets

Councillor Ellie Chowns

Cabinet Member for Environment and Economy

Councillor Pauline Crockett

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Councillor John Harrington

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport

Councillor Ange Tyler

Cabinet Member for Housing, Regulatory Services and Community Safety

Respecting our past, shaping our future



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 3 March 2023

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.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Matthew Evans, democratic services officer on Tel (01432) 383690

- 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 will be debated at the meeting. The motion for discussion is set out below:

Motion 1 – River Wye byelaws

(Proposed by Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst, Seconded by Councillor Jennie Hewitt)

This motion calls upon the executive to consider making an application to the UK government to recognise a byelaw drafted by Herefordshire Council to invest the River Wye and tributaries within the county of Herefordshire with the following rights from the rights of rivers declaration.

1. **The right to be free from pollution**
2. **The right to perform essential functions within its ecosystem**
3. **The right to flow**
4. **The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers,**
5. **The right to native biodiversity**
6. **The right to regeneration and restoration**
7. **With an additional right to be protected from physical damage.**

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
12 July 2019	Community Infrastructure Levy	<p>The decision taken on the update to the Core Strategy on 9th November 2020, see:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7296</p> <p>This included resolution as follows: (e) work on progressing a Herefordshire Community Infrastructure Levy should be put on hold pending the outcome of the significant proposals for reform of planning obligations in the White Paper</p> <p>In respect of the first resolution on the Community Infrastructure Levy the Levelling Up Bill includes proposals to introduce a new infrastructure levy to ensure that developers contribute their fair share to the local area. This is intended to replace the current Community Infrastructure Levy and amend the approach to Section 106 agreements.</p> <p>These changes are still to be enacted and the Government propose to update the National Planning</p>

		Policy Framework through a wider review to support the implementation of these changes later in 2023. More details will be set out in a future Government consultation on the details of the Infrastructure Levy. The new Herefordshire local plan will include an assessment of viability and an Infrastructure Development Plan so the Council will be well placed to respond to whatever system of developer contributions is in place and will be able to prepare for any change in a timely manner.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That this Council asks the executive to investigate the adoption of the Community Infrastructure Levy as a matter of urgency, ensuring it is implemented for Herefordshire no later than January 2021.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
17 July 2020	Tree Strategy	Highlighted as a priority action within the Nature Strategy. Business case drafted to seek funding from Climate reserve for preparing tree strategy.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>We call upon the executive to expedite the delivery of a detailed tree strategy for the county. A 2014 draft document exists that might provide the basis for a new strategy which will reinforce our commitment to the environment and align with our declaration of a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Government is currently consulting on an England Tree Strategy and we ask for the council to respond to this consultation.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the interim and as a matter of urgency, we ask the executive to consider what can be done to protect existing trees and to take immediate action by planting, maintaining and protecting trees in order to have established growth by 2030.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
9 October 2020	Decline in hedgehog population	Highlighted as a priority action within Nature Strategy. Hedgehogs prioritised within planning ecology response. Hedgehog habitat project recently undertaken as part of joint project to increase biodiversity with highways,

		delivering hedgehog habitats to primary schools across the county with information packs to educate students.
<p>RESOLVED: That –</p> <p>A recent study has shown that the UK population of Hedgehogs has declined from around 30 million to only 1 million. Whilst it is not yet a European Protected Species it is a British mammal where the population is in steep decline and I am calling upon our executive to please consider ways in which Herefordshire Council can include measures for adaptation, mitigation and for the protection of Hedgehogs to a level comparable to that required for European Protected Species.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
8 October 2021	Belmont	Belmont Appraisal for Conservation Area; this piece of work is underway internally and being led by the building conservation team. The first phase is underway with site visits being undertaken and research of archives.
<p>RESOLVED: That –</p> <p>That in recognising the importance and potential of Belmont, this Council calls on the Executive to appraise Belmont for designation as a new Conservation Area to include the House, Abbey and Park on the south side of the River and the adjacent hamlets of Warham and Breinton on the north side, seeking funding to support this work; and</p> <p>This council calls upon the executive to appraise all sites of significant historic interest that are not currently conservation areas with a view to reviewing whether more conservation areas should be approved.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
8 October 2021	Wye and Lugg Bathing Water	<p>A business case for staff resourcing the team to undertake this work was submitted by the Environmental Health Service Manager.</p> <p>As a consequence the officers were asked to make a business case for the additional £35K for next financial year 2023/24. This request has been made.</p> <p>Request was made and there has so far been no response. Therefore I would leave the update as last reported - unless of course there is an (unlikely) appetite to simply strike off those undeliverable motions without funding and resource.</p>
<p>RESOLVED: That –</p>		

This Council therefore resolves to call upon the executive to:

Investigate seeking designation of appropriate stretches of the Wye and Lugg to be officially identified as bathing water;

Urge concerned residents to support the River Action petition, which asks the English and Welsh governments to double the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales's regulatory budgets so that they can more effectively enforce the existing legal protections for the Wye and Lugg;

Forward this resolution to the Members of Parliament in Herefordshire, to ask them to support the campaign by River Action for increased funding for the Environment Agency;

Forward this resolution to other English and Welsh councils in the Wye Valley to ask them to support the campaigns for bathing water status and for increases in regulatory budgets.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
28 January 2022	Water Protection Zone for River Wye System	Please see update under the Leader's report.
<p>RESOLVED: That –</p> <p>So this Council urges the executive to press-engage with both the EA and NRW, consulting Powys and Monmouthshire CCs and other interested parties as necessary, to press for nothing less than a Water Protection Zone (WPZ*) for the whole of the River Wye system.</p> <p>This should include pushing both Agencies for work to start asap on detailed modelling to demonstrate the need for a WPZ, in order to put a business case to DEFRA; Also for funding for this work to go ahead; And for the Executive to provide regular reports to Council on progress.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
28 January 2022	Fireworks and animal welfare	1. The safety advisory group (SAG) are aware of the motion's request for organisers of public firework displays to use 'silent' fireworks and of the need to pre notify the SAG in advance. However, although encouraged this cannot be legally required as the group is an advisory one and cannot therefore enforce or formally require that such notifications are made.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Communications Team are aware of the need to promote the use of silent and/or quiet fireworks and to forewarn neighbours of such events. Such publicity is best made through social media and is always timed before likely firework events, such as 5th November, New Year and other national celebrations as and when they arise. 3. A letter to the government's Office of Product Safety and Standards requesting tighter controls over the noise specification of fireworks was sent by the officers as requested, although no acknowledgement has so far been received in reply. Our letter followed an earlier petition from campaigning groups to the government which had also requested silent/quieter fireworks but which was not accepted. This would probably account for the lack of reply as the government will consider the matter closed. 4. A similar letter to the local suppliers was also sent as requested, although this is of course only advisory and cannot be enforced by the officers. 5. Property Services are aware of the request for there being a formal consent regime for fireworks and make such enquiries of potential hirers of council land.
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RESOLVED: That –

This Council therefore resolves to ask the executive to:

1. Encourage organisers of public firework displays to use 'silent' fireworks, and where large displays are planned, to notify Herefordshire Council's Safety Advisory Group at least two months in advance to allow for advertisement in the interest of public protection and animal welfare.
2. Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
3. Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays and for fireworks to specify noise levels on their labelling.
4. Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'silent' fireworks for public display.
5. Investigate the feasibility of implementing a formal consent regime for the use of fireworks on sites in council ownership.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
4 March 2022	Ukraine	The Government launched the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme on the 18 th March 2022. There has been an extraordinary response to the scheme and the

		<p>wider plight of Ukrainian people from communities across Herefordshire.</p> <p>The operations team continues to lead on all the essential checks that are required on sponsors and their families, including DBS and home checks to make sure that the host accommodation is safe. The team also ensure that all of the prescribed payments are made to both hosts and guests as they arrive.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council receives a grant of £10,500 per person. Of this sum £200 is paid to each individual arriving as an initial payment. The remaining £10,300 is used to cover costs incurred by the local authority as a result of the scheme and to facilitate and extend community based support and integration through voluntary, community and public sector organisations. The cabinet decision for the spend proposal of this grant funding has been approved Decision - Support for Ukraine - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>The Community Integration Grant Scheme is live for voluntary and not for profit community groups who are supporting Ukrainian arrivals and their sponsors.</p> <p>As at 7 November;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 220 unique sponsors registered • 697 unique guests registered <p>524 guests have arrived (hosted by 195 sponsors)</p>
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This motion calls on the executive to consider and put in place whatever facilities as may be reasonably expected to receive Ukrainian refugees, subject to direction from national government and an evaluation of council resources required, to ensure that schooling and health services are alerted and to inform the government in Westminster, immediately, that Herefordshire will not be found wanting in our welcome. And to extend a wider request to our residents to be willing to welcome any refugees that they can into their homes, and to be ready to facilitate such organisation and support as these actions may require.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
4 March 2022	Award scheme for the built environment	The preparation for this scheme is underway, but has not yet been finalised, it needs to be reviewed by the senior team and any financial implications assessed.

<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Council requests the Executive to investigate setting up a County of Herefordshire award scheme to encourage and recognise exemplary work in the areas of design, conservation and sustainability for the built environment.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
4 March 2022	Rural impact assessment and rural proofing	A rural needs assessment has been drafted which, once approved, would form part of the policy process for the council. The template and accompanying guidance will be considered by Corporate Leadership Team for adoption in early March. The assessment will enable the council to consistently evaluate the impact of new policies on the rural areas as they come forward and to produce an annual report.

<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This motion asks to refer to the executive at Herefordshire Council consideration of the undertaking of a Rural Impact Assessment from the outset of every budget and contract whether for service or products, which includes engagement with rural stakeholders. The results of the Rural Impact Assessment (RIA) are to be included in all future reports.</p> <p>Rural proofing will ensure the needs of rural communities will become transparent and would demonstrate whether Government or local policies address the needs of rural communities and rural economies like Herefordshire. It is the first step towards developing a Rural Strategy for Herefordshire.</p> <p>This motion considers a reformed approach to rural proofing should be introduced and that the executive should take into account the following during its considerations:</p> <p>a) A rural assessment should take place at the start of the policy process, including engagement with rural stakeholders, and be treated as integral, rather than as an adjunct to urban-focused policy. No budget or service should be brought forward without an accompanying rural assessment statement;</p> <p>b) The impact of new policies on rural areas should be systematically and consistently monitored as they are implemented. This would include an update on the performance of rural proofing across Herefordshire Council;</p>		
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c) The executive at Herefordshire Council is required to monitor and report annually on the rural impacts of relevant policies and services, and to encourage its strategic partners to do the same; and

d) The executive at Herefordshire Council agrees to write to the Government and MPs in response to this motion that:

- Government should put in place the appropriate structures to facilitate a more robust rural proofing regime; and
- Government needs comprehensively to rethink and reform the rural proofing process across Government, to ensure that relevant policies and legislation are attuned to the needs of rural communities and rural economies like Herefordshire.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
29 July 2022	Cabinet Commission on Phosphates	Please see update under the Leader's report.
<p>RESOLVED: We welcome all the actions that Herefordshire Council and other statutory partners have taken and continue to take to address the issue of phosphate over-loading of the River Wye SAC.</p> <p>As scientific research now exists which indicates that further impactful and coordinated responses are required to save the river catchment from permanent eutrophication, this motion calls upon the executive to:</p> <p>Consider including the following areas of urgent action in the remit of the proposed Cabinet Commission on Phosphates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request of government that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new Minister in charge of Defra clarifies what additional evidence they require before they would be prepared to reconsider the Council's Water Protection Zone request for the Wye; • DEFRA commission the catchment-wide appraisal of nutrient flows in the Wye (and all other river systems within Herefordshire) that will inform and enable consideration of the cumulative impact of housing, agricultural and industrial development. 2. Request that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Environment Agency improve the effectiveness of their regulatory and enforcement actions and their work with partners, to deliver best practice in sewerage treatment and manure management and to encourage and support the ongoing work of compliant farm businesses. 		

- Natural England update their current (2011) River Wye water quality data in relation to the SSSI and SAC targets in a timeframe which is aligned to the current update of the Herefordshire Local Plan; and provide guidance on appropriate conditioning of permissions to achieve the necessary reduction targets.
3. Identify now how best to use the update of the Local Plan to:
 - recognise and address proportionately the legacy and ongoing contribution to phosphate pollution made by each development sector;
 - promote and support best practice nutrient actions across all sectors;
 - encourage and incentivise catchment restoration through alternative, restorative and regenerative land use; and
 - decommission intensive poultry units that have reached the end of useful life.
 4. Using the 'precautionary principle' explore immediately the adoption of a planning position statement for all future development which accurately reflects the sector risks identified in research; and reinstating the consideration of '*cumulative impact*', in co-ordination with Powys County Council, to ensure that the Supplementary Planning Document on Agricultural Development, which is already in progress, enables officers to exercise the full extent of the council's planning powers in these regards.
 5. Consider urgently how data sharing, data management and data visualisation can support science-led and evidence-based decision-making at all levels and across all stakeholders.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
21 October 2022	Cost of living crisis and energy efficiency	See update in the Leader's report.
<p>RESOLVED: This council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the right to a warm home that is affordable to heat; • Improving energy efficiency is central to tackling the energy crisis and cost of living crisis; • Fossil fuels should be left in the ground, and investment in energy supply should instead be targeted at renewables • All new homes and workplaces should be built to the highest possible energy efficiency standards. <p>This council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herefordshire Council unanimously declared a climate emergency on 8 March 2019. • Buildings account for 23% of UK greenhouse gas emissions 		

- Herefordshire Council has made significant commitments to supporting energy efficiency for homes and businesses in the county, but needs far more support from central government
- Current UK government investment in energy efficiency is nowhere near the level required to address fuel poverty or meet our legally binding UK climate targets.

The council therefore calls on the executive to write to the Prime Minister and to the Herefordshire MPs to call for:

- Immediate further direct financial support to help people to manage the cost of living crisis, with most support provided to low income households;
- A fully funded nationwide action plan to insulate all homes and businesses as quickly as possible to improve energy efficiency and reduce bills;
- A commitment to keep fossil fuels in the ground, and to invest instead in developing the renewable energy technologies and businesses that are essential for our future energy security;
- Immediate introduction of significantly improved energy efficiency standards for new buildings.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
9 December 2022	Multi-storey car park (Bus Station)	Officers are currently assessing the proposal.
The Council, therefore, calls on the Executive to explore the construction of a new multi-storey car park on the current bus station site to serve the needs of Hospital Staff, visitors and contractors as well as to provide additional car parking capacity to support the railway station and town centre.		

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