

Corporate Support Centre
Paul Walker - Chief Executive

To: All members of the Council

our ref: Council - 28 July 2023
contact: Matthew Evans, Democratic Services
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20 July 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Herefordshire Council to be held on **Friday 28 July 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 28 July 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 28 July 2023 10.00 am](#)

For any further information please contact:

Matthew Evans, Democratic Services

Tel: 01432 383690

Email: matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk

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 Roger Phillips

Councillor Stef Simmons

Councillor Polly Andrews

Councillor Jenny Bartlett

Councillor Graham Biggs

Councillor Harry Bramer

Councillor Ellie Chowns

Councillor Frank Cornthwaite

Councillor Clare Davies

Councillor Barry Durkin

Councillor Toni Fagan

Councillor Carole Gandy

Councillor Peter Hamblin

Councillor Helen Heathfield

Councillor David Hitchiner

Councillor Terry James

Councillor Jonathan Lester

Councillor Bob Matthews

Councillor Aubrey Oliver

Councillor Justine Peberdy

Councillor Ivan Powell

Councillor Ben Proctor

Councillor Louis Stark

Councillor John Stone

Councillor Richard Thomas

Councillor Diana Toynbee

Councillor Rob Williams

Councillor Bruce Baker

Councillor Chris Bartrum

Councillor Dave Boulter

Councillor Jacqui Carwardine

Councillor Simeon Cole

Councillor Pauline Crockett

Councillor Dave Davies

Councillor Mark Dykes

Councillor Elizabeth Foxton

Councillor Catherine Gennard

Councillor Liz Harvey

Councillor Robert Highfield

Councillor Dan Hurcomb

Councillor Jim Kenyon

Councillor Nick Mason

Councillor Ed O'Driscoll

Councillor Rob Owens

Councillor Daniel Powell

Councillor Philip Price

Councillor Adam Spencer

Councillor Pete Stoddart

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst

Councillor Kevin Tillett

Councillor Allan Williams

Councillor Mark Woodall

Agenda

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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	11 - 16
To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2023.	
4. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	17 - 22
To receive the Chairman and Chief Executive's announcements.	
How to submit questions	
<i>The deadline for submission of questions for this meeting is:</i>	
<i>9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 25 July 2023.</i>	
<i>Questions must be submitted to councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk. Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted.</i>	
<i>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.</i>	
5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
To receive questions from members of the public.	
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To receive questions from members of the Council.	
7. LEADER'S REPORT	23 - 42
To receive a report from the leader on the activities of the executive (cabinet).	
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To consider Notices of Motion.	

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 19 May 2023 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor Roger Phillips (chairperson)
Councillor Stef Simmons (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Polly Andrews, Bruce Baker, Jenny Bartlett, Chris Bartrum, Graham Biggs, Dave Boulter, Harry Bramer, Jacqui Carwardine, Ellie Chowns, Simeon Cole, Frank Cornthwaite, Pauline Crockett, Clare Davies, Dave Davies, Barry Durkin, Mark Dykes, Toni Fagan, Elizabeth Foxton, Carole Gandy, Catherine Gennard, Peter Hamblin, Liz Harvey, Helen Heathfield, Robert Highfield, David Hitchiner, Dan Hurcomb, Terry James, Jim Kenyon, Jonathan Lester, Nick Mason, Bob Matthews, Ed O'Driscoll, Aubrey Oliver, Rob Owens, Justine Peberdy, Roger Phillips, Dan Powell, Ivan Powell, Philip Price, Ben Proctor, Stef Simmons, Adam Spencer, Louis Stark, Pete Stoddart, John Stone, Elissa Swinglehurst, Richard Thomas, Kevin Tillet, Diana Toynbee, Allan Williams, Rob Williams and Mark Woodall

Officers: Democratic Services Manager and Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Governance and Law and Democratic Services Manager

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

(The retiring Chairman as Chairperson of the Council)

Councillor Carol Gandy proposed and Councillor John Stone seconded the nomination of Councillor Roger Phillips as Chairperson of the Council.

Councillor Louis Stark proposed and Councillor Terry James seconded the nomination of Councillor Ed O'Driscoll as Chairperson of the Council.

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Helen Heathfield seconded the nomination of Councillor Stef Simmons as Chairperson of the Council.

A vote was taken and Councillor Phillips was elected Chairperson of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Roger Phillips is elected Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

Councillor Phillips made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

(Councillor Phillips assumed the Chair of the meeting as the Chairperson of the Council)

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Toni Fagan seconded the nomination of Councillor Stef Simmons as Vice Chairperson of the Council.

Council voted and agreed the appointment of Councillor Stef Simmons as the Vice Chairperson of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stef Simmons is appointed Vice Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

Councillor Stef Simmons made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Jinman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting 3 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted the announcements as printed in the agenda papers.

7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst proposed and Councillor Barry Durkin seconded the nomination of Councillor Jonathan Lester as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Pauline Crockett proposed and Councillor Ellie Chowns seconded the nomination of Councillor David Hitchiner as Leader of the Council.

Council voted on the nominations and Councillor Jonathan Lester was elected as the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jonathan Lester is elected Leader of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

(There was an adjournment at 11:10 a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 12:14 p.m.)

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered a report by the director of governance and law relating to appointments to committees of the Council and outside bodies in line with the rules of political proportionality, as published in the supplement of 18 May 2023. The Chairman outlined a correction to the supplement published on 18 May to include in appendix 2 the proposed appointment of Councillor Jim Kenyon to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee under recommendation (b) and to include in appendix 3 the proposed appointment of Councillor Jim Kenyon to the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority under recommendation (c). Council also noted the publication of a supplement on 19 May 2023 containing an updated appendix 4, with details of all proposed Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons to council committees and an updated appendix 5 with details of the number of seats on the scrutiny management board and the allocation of seats to political groups.

Recommendation (a)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Ellie Chowns seconded recommendation (a) which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the list of ordinary committees listed at paragraph 10 are confirmed with their terms of reference as set out in the council's constitution.

Recommendation (b)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor David Hitchiner seconded recommendation (b) – as updated by the supplement published on 18 May 2023 and the correction above – which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the number of seats on each committee as set out at paragraph 10, and the allocation of those seats to political groups as set out in the supplement is approved.

Recommendation (c)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Clare Davies seconded recommendation (c) – as updated by the supplement published on 18 May 2023 and the correction above – which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the allocation of seats on outside bodies to political groups as set out in the supplement is approved.

Recommendation (d)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Ellie Chowns seconded recommendation (d) which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of five co-opted members of children and young people scrutiny committee is approved as follows:

- i. one representative as nominated by the diocese of Hereford**
- ii. one representative as nominated by the archdiocese of Cardiff**
- iii. one parent governor as elected from the primary school sector**
- iv. one parent governor as elected by the secondary school sector**
- v. one parent governor as elected by the special school sector**

Recommendation (e)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor David Hitchiner seconded recommendation (e), the recommendation was carried with no votes against.

RESOLVED: That the suspension of the rules of proportionality in respect of the standards panel, the River Lugg Drainage Board, and the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee is approved.

Recommendation (f)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Dave Boulter seconded the appointment of chairpersons and vice chairpersons recommended in appendix 4 in the supplement of 19 May, which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of committee chairpersons and vice chairpersons is approved as follows:

Committee	Position	Councillor
Audit and governance committee	Chairperson	Councillor David Hitchiner
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Aubrey Oliver
Children and young people scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Toni Fagan
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Liz Harvey
Connected communities scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Ellie Chowns
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Ed O'Driscoll
Employment panel	Chairperson	Councillor Jonathan Lester
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Ellie Chowns
Environment and sustainability scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Louis Stark
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Helen Heathfield
Health, care and wellbeing scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Pauline Crockett
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Kevin Tillet
Planning and regulatory committee	Chairperson	Councillor Terry James
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Clare Davies
Licensing sub-committee	Chairperson	Councillor Polly Andrews
Scrutiny management board	Chairperson	Councillor Liz Harvey
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Jenny Bartlett

Recommendation (g)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Ellie Chowns seconded the size and allocation of seats on the scrutiny management board, recommended in appendix 5 of the supplement of 19 May, which was carried.

RESOLVED: That the size and political allocation of seats of the scrutiny management board is agreed as below:

	Conservatives	Independents for Herefordshire	Liberal Democrats	The Green Party	True Independents	Not aligned	Total committee seats
Scrutiny Management Board	6	2	3	3	1	0	15

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Council considered a report by the director of governance and law relating to the appointment of independent persons. Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor

Jonathan Lester seconded the recommendations in the report which were put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED –

That: a) The Council appoint Jake Bharier, Claire Jenkins, Michelle Morgan and James Cooke as independent persons for a four year term of office.

The meeting ended at 12.23 pm

Chairperson

Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting

28 July 2023



The Local Government Association (LGA) is a representative body of nearly all the English and Welsh Councils and represents, campaigns, lobbies and speaks up for the many varied services and issues we have. I recommend to you all to visit and explore their website, as a way of extending your own knowledge and understanding of the workings of local government: <https://www.local.gov.uk/>

Recently several of us attended the LGA Annual conference in Bournemouth where I was pleased to support the campaign to raise awareness of the abuse that can happen towards some elected councillors. While mostly our experience is sensible with some strong questioning at most, sometimes in our communities and chambers behaviours and attitudes can take unfortunate turns. I understand that in the past being on the receiving end. Debating and disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of democracy, but abuse and intimidation crosses the line into dangerous territory. The right engagement matters. <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-stamping-out-abuse-councillors>

Hopefully you are all signed up and receiving your weekly alerts from Rural Services Network. This is another lobbying organisation targeted at raising the issues of delivering services which is very supportive of our elected responsibilities. <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/>

Last month saw the celebration of Armed Forces week and there were several specially organised events. Over 200 cadets took part in a Coronation parade at the Castle Green with the Lord Lieutenant taking the salute. The Vice Chair and myself attended the raising of the flag in High Town and afterwards we witnessed Hereford City Council signing the Armed Forces Covenant.



It is estimated that there some 2,500 serving officers living in Herefordshire with over 1,100 children in our schools. According to the recently published 2021 Census information, 9,600 residents

in Herefordshire have previously served in the UK Armed Forces representing over 6% of the adult population. In our county 11% of all the households has at least one former veteran.

Herefordshire Council has long been a supporter of the Armed Forces Covenant and provides the secretariat for the County's Herefordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership. The partnership is made up of representatives of the main military charities and 130 organisations, who have pledged their support to recognise the needs of our armed forces community and remove disadvantage where it exists, particularly in relation to the areas of Health, Housing and Education. Councillor Barry Durkin is the Council's nominated Armed Forces Champion and Chair of the Covenant Partnership. Further information is available on the council's website link below.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/armed-forces/herefordshire-armed-forces-covenant-partnership/2>

Chairman`s Charities

It is customary for the Chairman to adopt Charities, and I am working with the Cabinet member for Adult Care Cllr Gandy and the Director Hilary Hall on raising the awareness of the community`s understanding and support of dementia. There has been recent encouraging news on improved treatment of the illness but it still places huge pressures on partners, families, friends and our care network. We all need to learn what we can do to support those impacted and become a more dementia friendly community.

My other charity is "We are Farming minds."



WE ARE FARMING MINDS 

We are Farming Minds registered charity has been set up by farmers for farmers to tackle mental health in the farming community within Herefordshire.

How can we help?
24 Hour Support Line:
 We run a **FREE 24 hour Support Line 7 days a week** for farmers and their families within Herefordshire who are feeling distressed and need someone to talk to anonymously.

Counselling:
 We provide **fully funded counselling** to anyone in the Herefordshire farming community who may be in emotional distress.

Training:
 We offer **FREE mental health awareness training** to anyone living or working in or with the farming community in Herefordshire.

Social Events:
 We run a series of **FREE social events** throughout the year to break the isolation often felt by the farming community in Herefordshire.

Befriending:
 Befriending volunteers offer companionship and support to people who are isolated and lonely – they may visit you at home and/or phone for a regular chat. A befriender can offer conversation and a listening ear to those that need it.

Call our Support Line:
0808 802 0070
 Or text:
07786 203 130

General enquiries: wearefarmingminds@gmail.com
www.wearefarmingminds.co.uk

we Are Farming Minds
 the Farming community  [WeAreFarmingMinds](https://www.facebook.com/WeAreFarmingMinds)

This year Herefordshire has seen five members of the Farming community take their lives, and I know that there are Councillors like myself who knew some of them personally. Farming can be a lonely occupation, hard work, tough financial conditions and lately come under strong public criticism.

But this is an issue not limited to Farming. We all welcome the changing attitudes and awareness to Mental health in our society today, and as community leaders we have a potentially important role in our wards to increase and influence peoples better understanding and support of this issue.

Since the last Council meeting I have attended many events, meetings and activities. Including duties with the Lord Lieutenant, participating in two citizenship ceremonies where twelve people swore allegiance to His Majesty and became UK subjects. Hosted a meeting with our County Mayors, their clerks and the High Sheriff. Briefings on operation London Bridge, Armed Forces covenant and Skylon park. I have visited NMITE and met with their Chairman and Chief Executive, attended the Hereford and Worcester Chamber awards and the launch of fundraising for Snodhill castle in the Golden Valley.

Chief Executive's Announcement – July 2023

Since our last Council in May, where we welcomed both new and returning councillors, individuals have settled into new roles familiarising themselves with the important and valuable work the council undertakes and the various priorities, issues and opportunities facing us and I am pleased to say that there is already much activity and progress under way for me to report on.

I have had a number of one-to-ones with our new councillors which have been going well. For those I haven't yet met and who would like to meet with me, please do get in touch to arrange one.

We continue to work hard to deliver the improvements required of our Children's Services. We are really delighted to begin our long-term improvement partnership with the Leeds Relational Practice Centre (LRPC). This represents a significant and really positive development in the improvement journey under way at Herefordshire Council and very welcomed by our senior leadership team and workforce.

Following the inadequate Ofsted inspection judgement in July 2022, the service, council and partnership have been galvanised into action and the improvement partnership with LRPC plays a key part in our onward journey at this stage and over the next two years. There is clearly much to do and we welcome the knowledge, skills, expertise and experience they are able to offer us – they have assisted many other local authorities in this space and are well respected in the sector. Leeds have been on an improvement journey themselves. They have been judged to be Outstanding (twice) and our early conversations indicate that there is a really good 'fit' which bodes well for the developing partnership.

We have been working hard to put the building blocks of improvement in place to establish a solid foundation upon which to build. At this point in our improvement journey, we welcome the support and challenge LRPC will bring. This is very timely and will assist with our focus and pace. Sal Tariq the Programme Director of LRPC is invited to attend the Herefordshire Children's Improvement Board to make sure that the improvement partnership continues to develop and is reported as an integral part of the work of the Improvement Board.

Further positive achievements are that work is nearly completed at Herefordshire Council's Plough Lane offices to transform a series of rooms into family and child-friendly spaces with the project due to be completed at the end of July. The rooms are being transformed for families who are meeting Children's Services care and support staff. A dedicated entrance to the building is being created so families can access the new area directly without having to go through the main reception area. We look forward to the opening of these new facilities very soon.

Following the feedback we shared from our first Ofsted monitoring visit in March that cited examples of good and improved practice, and raised no serious safeguarding concerns, we now await the feedback from our second monitoring visit held on 28 and 29 June, where the focus of inspection was on children in need or subject to a protection plan. We know that there is still much more to do and as a council, we remain committed to supporting everyone working with children and families in Herefordshire to achieve this.

We will be holding two Member Briefings to update members on the latest Ofsted visit where we will share our current challenges and review our latest performance. These will be taking place on 2 August at 1pm to 2pm and on 3 August at 3pm to 4pm.

Supporting our priority to invest in our communities and grow our local economy through tourism, I am pleased to report that we have successfully been awarded £5 million grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which supports initiatives to create positive and lasting change for people and communities. This really is a significant achievement given Herefordshire Council was granted the full amount it bid for, which we believe has never been granted to any other applications made to the Fund.

The funds are to redevelop the Grade II listed Hereford Museum and Art Gallery, significantly enhancing the city's cultural offer. The project will see the introduction of a contemporary museum and exhibition centre to the cathedral city. The revamped museum will also provide a new permanent home for the Herefordshire Hoard, one of the most significant early medieval treasures ever discovered in Britain.

This month, we officially launched the county's new Health and Wellbeing Strategy at Hereford racecourse. Over 100 representatives from across the public, private and voluntary sector came together to celebrate our past achievements in keeping people healthy and making plans on how we deliver our two new priorities - improving mental wellbeing and the best start in life.

Last week, regional colleagues undertook a short review of adult social care to assess the service's preparedness for the new inspection regime to be undertaken by the Care Quality Commission. Inspections under the framework are due to start in the autumn. The review was informal but the team met with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, managers, staff, people with lived experience, support organisations and partners. There was positive feedback about the direction of travel and the council's general readiness for inspection. There is no formal report but the team's feedback will feed into the service's ongoing improvement and transformation plans.

In June, the Home Office notified Herefordshire Council of a proposal to use the Talbot Hotel in Leominster as contingency accommodation for asylum seekers. This would be in addition to the current use of the Three Counties Hotel in Hereford. We are very aware of the pressure on the system supporting asylum seekers and Herefordshire has a significant track record in recent years of participating in government migration schemes. However, alongside the regional Strategic Migration Partnership, and local police, health and fire services we have raised a number of concerns in our feedback on this proposal through formal channels to the Home Office.

The Home Office will be carrying out due diligence checks over the coming weeks to assess the suitability of the property, following which they will inform the council of their final decision.

This month, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Minister for Intergovernmental Relations notified all local authorities that the Office for Local Government (Oflog) has been established and new Best Value Guidance has been published. Oflog will provide authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government, and support its improvement.

Oflog will help councillors and the public have the information they need to scrutinise more effectively local decisions. It will also ensure council leaders can compare themselves against their peers and find examples of good practice to learn from; and it will allow central government and its partners to identify where there might be challenges and a need to step in to give support, where appropriate.

At the end of May, Herefordshire welcomed a visit by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, accompanied by her local parliamentary colleagues, the Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP and Bill Wiggins MP. She convened a roundtable to meet with the farming community, representatives of Herefordshire Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Welsh Government, Powys and Monmouthshire Councils, local partners and environmental groups, to discuss the environmental challenges being faced across the River Wye Catchment and the region. She was keen to understand the issues first-hand and encouraged proactive collaboration and urgent action.

We have used this opportunity to respond directly to the Secretary of State. We have suggested that Government creates and oversees a Task Force responsible for driving the necessary changes, and which equips statutory agencies and local partners with the capabilities to tackle the environmental challenges to bring about the changes so needed to restore the Wye Catchment, its rivers and the ecosystems across our region.



Title of report: Leaders report to Council

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 28 July, 2023

Report by: The Leader of the Council

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision 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 19 May, 2023.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the report be noted.

Alternative options

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

Key considerations

2. It is a constitutional requirement for the Leader of the Council to provide a report to the council meeting, other than the budget meeting, on the work of cabinet since the last meeting. My first report to council is set out in appendix 1.
3. 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.
4. It is customary for all of the decisions to be listed in an annex to this report (appendix 2). 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.

5. Of the decisions taken since my administration came in to office, one key decision was taken under the general exception provisions (giving more than five but less than 28 calendar days' notice) and none were taken under the urgency provisions (less than five days' notice).
6. Included in my report is a summary of what I consider the most significant priorities, as well as some additional subjects that I hope will be of interest.

Community impact

7. The 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

8. 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

9. 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.
10. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this

report provides a summary of activity undertaken, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty. These considerations are set out in each of the relevant reports informing the decisions listed at appendix 2, and will inform any future decision making.

Resource implications

11. 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 B 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

12. 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.
13. 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

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

Consultees

None

Appendices


Appendix 1: Leaders report to Council, 19 May to 28 July

Appendix 2: Executive decisions taken since 19 May 2023

Appendix 3: Cabinet member portfolios

Background papers

None Identified

<h2>Leader's Report</h2>	
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It is a great privilege to be elected as Leader of Herefordshire Council. Thank you for putting your trust in me. I want to use my first report to council to set out my key areas of focus. I am sure you will agree with me, the improvement of children's services must be the top priority for this council, and for all members.

Further focus must be on stepping up measures to addressing the pressing issues we have with our rivers and our roads in the county. Unlocking this county's fantastic potential is about listening to our businesses and communities, working in partnership to deliver the best outcomes for Herefordshire.

We all have a part to play in Herefordshire's future and I really look forward to working with you all in this shared endeavour.

1. Children and Young People

a. Improvement Board and improvement plan

Members will be familiar with the content of the Ofsted monitoring visit report which was published and debated at the cabinet meeting again on 22nd June 2023. Ofsted's most recent monitoring visit was conducted on 28th and 29th June 2023, the letter is due for publication on 2nd August 2023. I am unable to give any detail of the likely content of that report as it is embargoed until it has been published.

The improvement board continues to progress the details of the children's improvement plan and children's services continue to benefit from the scrutiny and support of the children's commissioner, Eleanor Brazil, and the DfE improvement advisor/independent chair of the improvement board, Gladys Rhodes White. The improvement board recently agreed proposals to rationalise the improvement board infrastructure. These are designed to streamline and coordinate arrangements, improve reporting accountability and increase the pace of the overall improvement programme.

In addition, we welcome our recently announced long term (2 years) improvement partnership with Leeds City Council Children's Services. Leeds have previously been on their own improvement journey and have been rated outstanding twice by Ofsted. They are much respected in the sector having supported several other inadequate local authorities and established a strong reputation for restorative and relational practice.

But, we recognise we still have much progress to make and we are not complacent in this regard.

b. Meeting with parents and families

Councillor Ivan Powell, the Cabinet Member for children and young people is clear in his commitment that the ongoing work to endeavour to reach resolution for families has to occur in tandem with the improvement journey and the need to deliver the latter at pace.

In this regard, members will be aware that the Independent Commission to 'Consider Families Experience of Children's Services in Herefordshire' conducted its work in March and April 2023 - the report was published in June 2023. The terms of reference for the commission set out its purpose as follows:

- I. To give parents and families an opportunity to tell their story to an independent panel.
- II. 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.
- III. To learn from their experiences and to ensure that this knowledge is used to inform improvements to Children's Services.
- IV. To ensure that, as far as possible, families feel that their concerns have been heard and addressed, and that this is as much as can be done to resolve matters.

During the commission, matters raised by some families (eleven of the twenty who made representations) were reported by the panel to the local authority for consideration and response. This work was conducted and the relevant families received a personalised letter from the Service Director for Improvement on 2nd June 2023.

Following the cabinet meeting on 22nd June 2023 Councillor Powell met with three parents at their request. During that meeting it became apparent that for some families despite their involvement in the commission their individual responses from children's services left them with unresolved matters. To that end, I have asked that further meetings with me and the cabinet member for children and young people take place. The first of those meetings, accompanied by the Service Director for Improvement, was held during the evening on 5th July 2023 resulting in an agreed course of action between the family and children's services.

A letter was sent to each individual family thanking them for their contributions and extending the offer to meet with them again, should they so wish to do.

It is acknowledged that there are other families who, for their own reasons, did not wish to contribute to the families' commission but do have similar and related concerns about their experience of children's services in Herefordshire. Where these approach the organisation they will similarly be afforded the opportunity of a meeting with a view to resolving any outstanding matters.

2. River restoration

It has been a busy time stepping up the council's work on river restoration. With the help of our MP's we were able to secure a ministerial roundtable held here in Hereford with Theresa Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The meeting took place in the shadow of the announcement by Natural England that the condition status of the Wye had move to unfavourable and declining. This change means that all the agencies involved must now take further steps and measures to prevent further deterioration of the river and comply with the Habitats Directive.

This only adds to urgency, so in my welcome letter to the Secretary of State, sent in advance of the meeting, I called for a cross border task force to bring the right people together. We would like to see this initiative being led by a high profile River Champion to secure more credible national leadership to coordinate the tangible efforts of the many agencies and partners involved. I am pleased to see this proposal enjoys cross party political support in both England and Wales and we continue to press hard for this.

We have not lost sight of the desperate plight of the County's homebuilders and have attended Meetings at number 10 to discuss how we deal with Nutrient Neutrality. This demonstrates that we now have engagement at the highest level. We have also submitted a £2.1m bid to DLUHC seeking further support to deliver new approaches to mitigation and to cement Herefordshire's role as a respected national leader in tackling nutrient neutrality challenges.

3. Road Improvements

Addressing the condition of our roads is another pressing priority. Government awarded the Council £2.558m to help it improve the condition of its roads. We will be using this tranche of funding to allow our works teams to effectively patch roads across the county, preparing them for surface dressing in the spring of 2024.

I am committed to putting investment in to an ambitious programme of road surface repairs. We recognise that this investment is not enough to repair every road surface in the county. But we will continue to work with our public realm partners and with our local communities to ensure this new investment is targeted appropriately. By investing this money over the coming months we will be better prepared for winter and better able to start our larger programme of surface dressing early in the 24/25 financial year.

4. County Wide Infrastructure

Following a recent meeting with the Chief Executive of Midlands Connect we had some constructive discussions around areas of shared priority.

Upgrading the line between Hereford and Birmingham is an area of long overdue investment. We are working hard to ensure that our proposals for the transport hub, together with their plans for twin-tracking and passing places on the line would increase the number of trains and faster services between Hereford and Birmingham.

We have also considered - within the framework of National Highways priorities – the scope for Herefordshire during their prioritisation of investment. We will be pushing hard to ensure National Highways keep Herefordshire's ambitions front and centre in their plans. Cllr Price and I will be lobbying hard for any new major infrastructure investments to include scope for major projects such as the Southern Link and western crossing to be reconsidered.

These early discussions will be just one example of where my administration will be re-engaging with strategic regional and national partners. It is my mission to present our amazing county as being open for business, strategic in our thinking, and driven by a determination to support our communities so that they can thrive in Herefordshire.

5. The Local Plan

There have been a number of additional pieces of evidence base which have been received since the initial drafting of the Local Plan. It is important to reflect upon these to ensure that the plan placed on public consultation is based on the most up to date and robust information. These studies include Landscape Character Assessment, Green and Blue Infrastructure Study and initial Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment. In addition initial viability feedback on the draft policies and more detailed information regarding infrastructure needs and requirements have been received.

With this in mind, the consultation placed for the 19 June to 8 September have been paused and the Cabinet are currently undertaking a review of the draft plan with officers. We have had constructive meetings with officers following two workshops on 10 and 11 July. The intention is to undertake a public consultation as soon as possible later in the year.

6. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Launch

On Wednesday, 11 July, I was pleased to be amongst public, private and voluntary sectors for the launch of Herefordshire's joint health and wellbeing strategy.

This is another brilliant example of what we do really well – working in partnership to create a shared strategy for the Health and Wellbeing Board. It provides leadership and example to support the Integrated Care System and allows local insights to assist in the development of local health and wellbeing intervention for our local population.

This 10-year plan outlines the county's top two priorities to help people live better and longer lives. Namely, giving people the best start in life, and having good life-long mental wellbeing. These are, of course, national priorities.

Our strategy explores local dimensions around these key objectives. For example, while life expectancy in Herefordshire is slightly better than elsewhere in England it is worse in our more deprived areas. For those living in poverty there is a lower life expectancy of 5.4 fewer years than in wealthier communities.

The overall ambition of the board is to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Herefordshire. To do this, it recognises it needs to close the gap between poorer and wealthier residents. It troubles me greatly, as I know it will you, to see this disparity of life expectancy within our county.

Taking action to deliver these changes are now the next important steps. Delivery plans will be developed for each of the two priorities co-produced with partners, communities and those with lived experience, together with a dashboard that will be subject to monitoring and review.

7. Care Quality Commission – Readiness Report

Staying on the health and wellbeing theme, regional colleagues recently undertook a short review of adult social care to assess the service's preparedness for the new inspection regime to be undertaken by the Care Quality Commission. Inspections under the framework are due to start in the autumn. The review was informal but the team met with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, managers, staff, people with lived experience, support organisations and partners.

There was positive feedback about the direction of travel and the council's general readiness for inspection. There is no formal report but the team's feedback will feed into the service's ongoing improvement and transformation plans.

8. Relocating the Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre (HLCC).

As members will be aware, cabinet considered the review of the proposed location of the HLLC. My cabinet requested this review with one simple but fundamental ambition in mind - to deliver the best possible high-quality library and new learning centre for the people of Herefordshire. Our review has been undertaken to ensure that we identify the best possible location for a library and learning centre. A detailed business case will be presented back to Cabinet in the autumn for further consideration.

The ambition is to create a modern 21st century library that offers not just world class learning opportunities but a wonderful visitor experience for all.

9. 'My Herefordshire' Children's Art Competition

I was delighted to help showcase some of Herefordshire's best young artists who have been honoured for their creative talents and some top prizes in a special competition run by Herefordshire Council.

The 'My Herefordshire' artwork competition was open to local schools and nurseries across Herefordshire earlier this year. The competition gave young people the chance to display their artistic skills and express what they like best about living in the county.

A panel of council judges had the difficult task of narrowing down the eye-catching artwork to 10 winners, who received their prizes at a presentation event on 17 July at the council's Plough Lane offices.

The winners came from five schools, St Joseph's Primary School, Trinity Primary School, Steiner Academy Hereford, Walford Primary School, and Ashfield Park Primary School. Each of the winners were presented with book tokens, a printed canvas of their artwork and a signed certificate.

Copies of the artwork will be hung on the walls of the Plough Lane Atrium for staff and visitors to enjoy.

Appendix 2 - Decisions taken between elections May 2023 and 20 July 2023

	Decision and purpose	Decision date	Decision Type and urgency	Taken by
1.	<p>Adoption Of The Revised Ledbury Neighbourhood Plan And Consequential Updates To The Countywide Policies Map</p> <p>To make the revised Ledbury neighbourhood development plan as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire and approve the consequential updates to the countywide policies maps.</p> <p>To fulfil the legal duty to make /adopt the revised Ledbury neighbourhood development plan and update the countywide policies map as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire.</p>	13/06/2023	Non Key	Cabinet member environment
2.	<p>Adoption Of The Walford Neighbourhood Plan And Consequential Updates To The Countywide Policies Map</p> <p>To make the Walford neighbourhood development plan as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire and approve the consequential updates to the countywide policies maps.</p> <p>To fulfil the legal duty to make/adopt the Walford neighbourhood development plan and update the countywide policies map as part of the statutory development plan for Herefordshire.</p>	13/06/2023	Non Key	Cabinet member environment
3.	<p>Ofsted Monitoring Visit Feedback</p> <p>To share the feedback from Ofsted inspectors following their first formal Monitoring Visit conducted March 29-30 2023 and activity to prepare for future Monitoring Visits.</p>	22/06/2023	Non Key	Cabinet

	Decision and purpose	Decision date	Decision Type and urgency	Taken by
4.	<p>Review of New Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre Location</p> <p>To review options for the best possible location of the proposed new Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre in Hereford city centre.</p>	22/06/2023	Key Reg 10	Cabinet
5.	<p>Quarter 4 Budget & Performance Report</p> <p>To review performance for Quarter 4 2022/23 and report the provisional financial outturn for revenue and capital budgets for the year ended 31 March 2023, subject to external audit; and</p> <p>To provide assurance that progress has been made towards delivery of the agreed revenue budget and service delivery targets, and that the reasons for major variances or potential under-performance are understood and are being addressed to the cabinet's satisfaction.</p>	22/06/2023	Non Key	Cabinet
6.	<p>Domestic Abuse Commissioning – 2024</p> <p>To approve the recommissioning of domestic abuse services, via a competitive tendering process, commencing in April 2024.</p>	17/07/2023	Key	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
7.	<p>Review of New Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre Location</p> <p>To present the outcome of the Review of Potential Locations (Appendix 2) for the Library and Learning Centre and to recommend a preferred option for consideration by Cabinet.</p>	20/07/2023	Key	Cabinet
8.	<p>Strategic Investment Proposal in the Central Ward</p> <p>To agree the principle of Herefordshire Council investing in a project where the council is in partnership with Wye Valley Trust to enable the development of an</p>	20/07/2023	Non-key	Cabinet

	Decision and purpose	Decision date	Decision Type and urgency	Taken by
	Education Centre at Hereford County Hospital, and to authorise the Director of Resources and Assurance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Growth to sign heads of Terms for both parties to agree the principles and to further explore options around a strategic investment partnership and bring a business case back to cabinet for approval in the Autumn of 2023.			
9.	<p>Strategic investment proposal on a special purpose site in the Dinedor Hill Ward</p> <p>To agree the principle of Herefordshire Council investing in an initiative where the council is in partnership with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Group Training Association (HWGTA) to enable further development of vocational work based skills across the county, and to authorise the Director of Resources and Assurance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Assets to sign Heads of Terms for both parties to agree the principles and to further explore options around a strategic investment partnership, and bring a business case back to cabinet for approval in autumn 2023.</p>	20/07/2023	Non-key	Cabinet

Appendix 3: Section1 - Cabinet member portfolios

Leader (corporate strategy and budget): Councillor Jonathan Lester

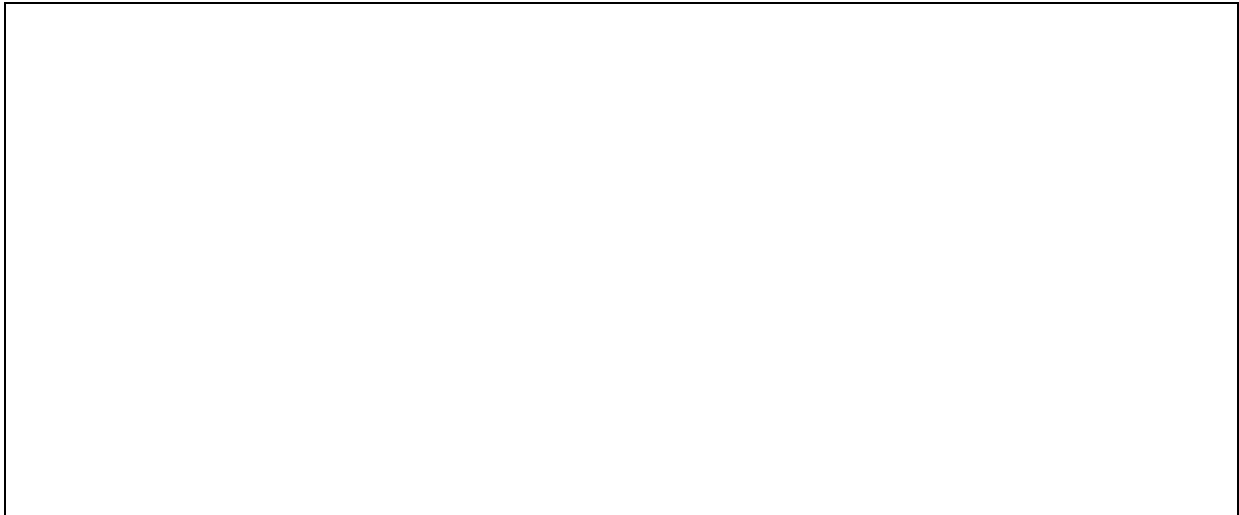
Cabinet Support Members: Councillors Dan Hurcomb and Nick Mason

- Corporate policy and strategy
- Corporate budget
- Represent the Council on various business and economy organisations including the Marches LEP, Herefordshire Business Board and the Enterprise Zone Board. Working with the Portfolio holder for the Economy.
- Governance of external arrangements with companies, outside bodies and partnerships
- Member of the Council's Shareholder Committee
- External liaison and relationships
 - Local Government Association (LGA)/County Councils' Network (CCN)
 - European and national matters
 - Regional matters
 - Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any initiative not specifically allocated to any other portfolio

Environment (Deputy Leader): Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst

Cabinet Support Members: Councillors Dan Hurcomb and Nick Mason

- Deputise for the Leader in their absence.
- Waste Management Strategy
- Waste collection and disposal
- Cabinet Commission on Phosphates
- Planning services, land use strategies including Core Strategy
- Environmental and conservation promotion, protection and sustainability including response to climate emergency.
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

**Community Services and Assets: Councillor Harry Bramer**

- Council asset, investment property strategies and property strategies
- Council property services including facilities management
- Major Contracts
- Commissioning and procurement strategy and policy
- Community services:
 - Parks and countryside
 - Leisure Services
 - Cultural services
 - Libraries
 - Heritage Services
 - Archives
 - Public conveniences
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Children and Young People : Councillor Ivan Powell

- To provide leadership and ensure coordination across the range of council children's services, and through engagement with partners, with a particular focus on children and young people's health & wellbeing and safeguarding
- Services for vulnerable young people/children/families
- Lead member for children's services in accordance with the Children's Act 2004
- Corporate parenting
- Children and young people's education and attainment
- Post 16 education, training and skills development, including NMiTE
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Finance and Corporate Services: Councillor Pete Stoddart

- Agreeing and leading the process for developing revenue and capital budgets, medium term financial strategy, council tax and NNDR
- Financial policy, fees and charging policy, financial control and reporting
- Council tax benefits
- Council ICT services and digital strategy
- Human Resources
- Health and safety
- Performance, improvement, risk management, research and intelligence
- Services under Governance and Legal Services
- Registrars and Coroner Services
- Communications, and social media including website
- Digital Connectivity
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Adults, Health and Wellbeing: Councillor Carole Gandy

- Provide leadership and ensure coordination across the range of council adult social care services, and through engagement with partners
- Services for vulnerable adults

- Adult safeguarding
- Homelessness, housing allocation and condition
- Leadership of Health and Wellbeing Board and partnership working with health
- Co-chair of the Integrated Care Partnership Assembly
- Member of the Council's Shareholder Committee for Hoople
- Public Health Strategy
- Emergency planning and business continuity
- Community engagement and development, encompassing Talk Community, Talk Parish Summits and Parish Shared Services
- Customer services
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Community Safety including the Community Safety Partnership
- Bereavement services
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Economy and Growth: Councillor Graham Biggs

- Economic development and regeneration
- Strategic Housing
- Tourism strategy
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader.

Roads and Regulatory Services: Cllr Barry Durkin

- Animal health and welfare
- Environmental health and trading standards
- Markets and fairs
- Licensing
- Car parking policy and services
- Public realm contract management
- Gypsy and traveller services
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader

Transport and Infrastructure: Councillor Philip Price

- Transport and highways policy and strategy
- Public Transport and active travel measures
- Land drainage, flood alleviation, rivers and waterways
- Public Rights of Way
- Street scene design, policy and delivery
- Traffic Management
- Policy development, quality assurance, external liaison, performance improvement and risk assurance relevant to the portfolio at all times having regard to the cross cutting priorities of the council
- Any other specific responsibilities as allocated by the leader



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 28 July 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 motions listed at paragraph 6 are debated and determined by Council.

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options to the recommendation; the constitution makes provision for motions on notice to be debated and decided by Council.

Key considerations

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

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

be varied at the discretion of the chairman.

6 Two motions have been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motions for discussion are set out below:

Motion 1 – County Athletics Track

(Proposed by Councillor Jim Kenyon, Seconded by Councillor tbc)

This Council asks the cabinet to reconsider the decision made by council back in February, at the budget meeting, regarding funding for the County Athletics Track in Hereford. Since that meeting they have attracted additional funding from the levelling up government fund and the local community following the initial pump prime funding from Hereford City council of £70k the short fall for the project to be fully funded is £70k the total project cost is £450k.

Motion 2 – Climate and Ecological Emergency

(Proposed by Councillor Ellie Chowns, Seconded by Councillor tbc)

In March 2019 Herefordshire Council unanimously passed a motion recognising the climate emergency. This was updated in December 2020 to include recognition of the ecological emergency.

Since that time the scale of the challenge has become greater, and the need for action more urgent. Climate change is driving extreme weather such as heatwaves that cost lives. Wildlife is under extreme pressure, and species loss is accelerating.

Here in Herefordshire we can see the effects of the climate and ecological emergency very clearly at local level. Climate change contributed to the unprecedented flooding in February 2020 that caused immense damage and disruption. Pollution has caused a collapse in biodiversity in our precious Rivers Lugg and Wye, to the great concern of local residents, as well as impacting on our county's reputation and economy.

This motion therefore offers members the opportunity to renew Herefordshire Council's commitment to taking action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Motion

That this Council resolves to declare its recognition of the climate and ecological emergency, and calls on the executive to:

- a) Integrate consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature recovery, into all council decision-making; and ensure that all decisions are compatible with the goal of a zero-carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030;**
- b) Commit to further accelerating reduction of the council's own carbon footprint towards the target of net zero by 2030, including taking every opportunity to reduce use of fossil fuels;**
- c) Commit to taking every opportunity to improve wildlife protection and better management of land for nature, including on council-owned land;**
- d) Support and strengthen action with partners towards the goal of a zero-carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030, including through the Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board;**
- e) Provide the necessary resources for officers to deliver on the council's carbon reduction and nature protection commitments, and to develop evidence based indicators to enable the council to monitor and report annually on the county's position.**

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
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
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> <p>1. Request of government that:</p> <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:
 - 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
9 December 2022	Multi-storey car park (Bus Station)	The Parking Service is seeking to undertake a review of parking in the city, this review will help to inform plans for future parking provision. Once the review is complete then we will be in a position to determine the future parking requirements and whether or not a new multi

		storey car park on the Bus Station site would be a part of the solution.
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.		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
3 March 2023	River Wye byelaws	Please see update under the Leader's report.
<p>RESOLVED: 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		

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