

**Corporate Support Centre**  
Paul Walker - Chief Executive

**To: All members of the Council**

our ref: Council - 8 December 2023  
contact: Matthew Evans, Democratic Services  
telephone: 01432 383690  
email: matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk

30 November 2023

Dear Councillor,

**You are hereby summoned** to attend the meeting of the Herefordshire Council to be held on **Friday 8 December 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 8 December 2023**

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Time: **10.00 am**

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

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Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

**Matthew Evans, Democratic Services**

Tel: 01432 383690

Email: [matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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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](mailto:matthew.evans@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Council

## Membership

**Chairman**  
**Vice-Chair**

**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 Matthew Engel  
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

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 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

## Agenda

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<b>Public Information</b>	7 - 8
<b>NOLAN PRINCIPLES</b>	9 - 10
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
To receive apologies for absence.	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
<b>3. MINUTES</b>	11 - 26
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2023.	
<b>4. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	27 - 32
To receive the Chairman and Chief Executive's announcements.	
<b>How to submit questions</b>	
<i>The deadline for submission of questions for this meeting is:</i>	
<i>9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 5 December 2023.</i>	
<i>Questions must be submitted to <a href="mailto:councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk">councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>. 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 <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved</a>.</i>	
<b>5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>	
To receive questions from members of the public.	
<b>6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</b>	
To receive questions from members of the Council.	
<b>7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW AND UPDATE</b>	33 - 60
To approve the revised capital investment budget for 2023/24 onwards.	
<b>8. LEADER'S REPORT</b>	61 - 76
To receive a report from the leader on the activities of the executive (cabinet) since the meeting of Council on 13 October 2023.	
<b>9. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS</b>	77 - 84
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.

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## **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 13 October 2023 at 10.00 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, Mark Dykes, Toni Fagan, Elizabeth Foxton, Carol Gandy, Catherine Gennard, Peter Hamblin, Liz Harvey, Helen Heathfield, Robert Highfield, David Hitchiner, Dan Hurcomb, Terry James, Jim Kenyon, Jonathan Lester, Bob Matthews, Ed O'Driscoll, Aubrey Oliver, Rob Owens, Justine Peberdy, Dan Powell, Philip Price, Ben Proctor, Louis Stark, Peter Stoddart, John Stone, Elissa Swinglehurst, Richard Thomas, Kevin Tillet, Diana Toynbee, Rob Williams and Mark Woodall

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

### 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Durkin, Mason, Ivan Powell, Spencer and Allan Williams.

### 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 21. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 22. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### 23. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 5 - 12)

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.

### 24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 13 - 16)

A copy of the Member questions and written answers, together with supplementary questions asked at the meeting and their answers, is attached to the Minutes at Appendix 2.

## **25. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY**

Council considered a report by the Cabinet Member Roads and Regulatory Services to approved the reviewed and amended Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2023 – 2028.

The Deputy Leader proposed the recommendations and introduced the report.

The Leader seconded the recommendations for approval.

Council debated the report and was supportive of the reviewed and amended Policy. During the course of the debate the following action was raised:

- To provide a written response with detail as to how the requirements of the Policy on taxi and private hire drivers would be enforced.

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

**RESOLVED – that:**

- a) the policy be approved;**
- b) the implementation date be 1st January 2024 to allow time for trade compliance;**
- c) authority be delegated to officers as specified in the licensing decision making process appended to this report;**
- d) authority be delegated to officers to make legal or statutory guidance changes and, administrative error corrections to the policy.**

## **26. LEADER'S REPORT**

Council received and noted the Leader's Report which provided an update on the work of Cabinet since the previous ordinary meeting of Council on 28 July 2023.

Council questioned the Leader and the following actions were raised:

- to investigate the resumption of periodic meetings between members and Highways England.
- to provide a response to a question concerning the treatment of the all ages social care revenue budget in the Q1 Budget and Performance Report.

*There was an adjournment at 11:45 a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 11:59 a.m.*

## **27. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS**

Council debated the motion contained in the report by the Director of Law and Governance.

**Motion – Net Zero Targets**

Councillor Proctor proposed the motion.

Councillor Stark seconded the motion.

Proposed amendment:

***This council calls upon the CEO to write to the Prime Minister to express the concern of elected members following his speech on net zero. Whilst the letter will acknowledge the positive steps outlined in the speech it will also express concern about the apparent rowing back on net zero ambition and call upon the PM to redouble his efforts to:***

- 1) Ensure the UK meets its climate change and environmental obligations as expressed in international treaties.***
- 2) That he ensure that the government provides the 'clarity, consistency and continuity' called for in the Mission Zero review to give sectors the confidence to develop green skills and drive change.***
- 3) That the government will ensure that there are sufficient measures in place to support a just transition.***

Councillor Swinglehurst proposed the amendment above to the original motion.

Councillor Hurcomb seconded the amendment.

Council debated the proposed amendment. There was division among the membership. It was the contention of some members that the amendment was not sufficiently robust in its messaging to central government. The amendment was supported by other sections of the membership who referred to the challenges posed by current net zero targets including the replacement of gas and oil boilers in rural areas.

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

FOR (20): Councillors Baker, Biggs, Bramer, Cole, Cornthwaite, Dave Davies, Foxton, Gandy, Hamblin, Highfield, Hurcomb, Kenyon, Lester, Matthews, Price, Stoddart, Stone, Swinglehurst, Thomas and Robert Williams.

AGAINST (25): Councillors Andrews, Bartlett, Bartrum, Boulter, Carwardine, Chowns, Crockett, Clare Davies, Dykes, Gennard, Harvey, Heathfield, Hitchiner, James, O'Driscoll, Oliver, Owens, Peberdy, Dan Powell, Proctor, Simmons, Stark, Tillett, Toynbee and Woodall.

ABSTAIN (1): Councillor Phillips

Council debated the original motion. There was widespread support for the motion.

An alteration was proposed, as below, to the original motion to include correspondence to the prime minister regarding funding of net zero measures. The alteration was accepted by the proposer and seconded and incorporated into the motion.

***The prime minister to ask him to allocate adequate government funding to implement these measures fairly.***

The motion as altered above was put to the recorded vote and was carried by a simple majority.

FOR (45): Councillors Andrews, Baker, Bartlett, Bartrum, Biggs, Boulter, Bramer, Carwardine, Chowns, Cole, Cornthwaite, Crockett, Clare Davies, Dave Davies, Dykes, Foxton, Gandy, Gennard, Hamblin, Harvey, Heathfield, Highfield, Hitchiner, Hurcomb, James, Kenyon, Lester, Matthews, O'Driscoll, Oliver, Owens, Peberdy, Phillips, Dan Powell, Proctor, Simmons, Stark, Stoddart, Stone, Swinglehurst, Thomas, Tillett, Toynee, Robert Williams and Woodall.

AGAINST (1): Councillor Price

ABSTAIN (0):

**Resolved – that:**

**At its meeting on 28th July 2023 Council unanimously resolved to reaffirm its earlier declaration of a climate and ecological emergency. Underpinning this is our ambitious target to achieve net zero across the County by 2030. To achieve this, Herefordshire Council must work in partnership with local people and businesses, other local authorities and with government.**

**Since that meeting the UK Government has unexpectedly announced that it will roll back on many key commitments that it had previously made to help move the country along the path to net zero. These commitments are vital to enable all sectors to plan investment effectively and for people, businesses and other organisations in Herefordshire to take the steps we all need to reduce carbon emissions from all activity across the County. More importantly, our commitment to achieving the goal of a zero carbon, nature-rich Herefordshire by 2030 will be undermined.**

**The government's weakening of its role in transition is bad for the UK and for Herefordshire and our net zero target. The council, in representing the people of Herefordshire, has a duty to warn the government of the impact of their decision and inviting them to think again.**

**Council therefore resolves to:**

**Instruct the Chief Executive to write to:**

- **the Secretary of State for Transport to ask him to return to the government's previous target of ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030**
- **the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero asking her to return to the previous target of ending the sale of new fossil fuel boilers by 2030**
- **the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking him to continue to require landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties**
- **the prime minister to ask him to allocate adequate government funding to implement these measures fairly.**

The meeting ended at 12.48 pm

Chairperson

**Agenda item no. 5 - Questions from members of the public**

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Mr Symonds, Ross-on-Wye	A Police traffic survey of the A40 30mph zone in Hildersley showed the 85%ile speed was 39.1mph. With this evidence Herefordshire Council planning officers amended the s106 conditions for the current David Wilson development to include a contribution for a light controlled crossing on the A40 in Hildersley. This money was paid to the Council some months ago so please could you tell me when this important road safety improvement will be implemented?	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>S106 Highways &amp; Transport has a total budget of £373,635.5 with which to deliver these improvements. The budget has now been committed and the scope of works passed onto Principal Designers, AECOM, in September to begin outline draft proposals for a signalised crossing and TRO to move the 30mph limit further east of the David Wilson development, with the potential of a 40mph 'buffer zone' preceding this. The movement is intended to now capture the development within the 30mph limit.</p> <p>Ward Member Cllr O'Driscoll has been briefed prior to these works being commissioned and is in support. Detailed design is expected to be completed this financial year, TRO completion and anticipated delivery around the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 24/25.</p>			
PQ 2	Mr Milln, Hereford	<p>At Council on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, in answer to my question about reducing road injuries by extending 20 mph limits where people live, Cllr Price confirmed that the Council was committed to deliver further 20 mph schemes as part of the Hereford Transport Package which had been consulted in 2018.</p> <p>On 6th March 2020 Full Council passed a Motion requesting the Executive to investigate area-wide 20 mph speed limits across Herefordshire's towns and major villages.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the Prime Minister's recent pronouncements Cllr Price was kind enough to offer continued support at the 20 mph public meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p> <p>Given that local authorities responsible for more than 20 million people in the UK have now implemented these, what progress has Herefordshire made in the 43 months since the Motion was passed?</p>	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<p><b>Response:</b></p>			

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The council has been progressing a policy to manage and introduce 20mph speed limits where possible. Work to gather the evidence to support and set the Herefordshire Policy is being undertaken this financial year. The review and recommendations will enable the council to make an informed decision as to how to progress in Herefordshire.

**Supplementary Question:**

I would like to thank Councillor Price for his reply as I did on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for his reply to my question on the same subject during the administration before last. However it was not written by him but by the Head of Highways and Traffic. It is word for word what one takes to be the executive response to the Motion passed by Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 finally provided on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

It doesn't answer the question which was for an account of progress to date following the 2015-19 administration's direction confirmed by Council 43 months ago. However rather than ask it again and risk a nil response, may we please have a clear timetable for the work programme outlined in the executive response, ie for the:

- evidence gathering for 20mph in Herefordshire
- policy for introduction and management of 20mph
- delivery of review and recommendations and a date for Council to consider this.

I recognise that the answer to this will require a little time to obtain and I would therefore suggest a written response would be appropriate, made available to all members. Finally may I thank Cllr Price for agreeing to meet Professor Whitelegg about this next Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure:**

The cabinet member confirmed the meeting would be taking place with Professor Whitelegg. A written response would be provided.

*Written response to supplementary question provided on 26 October 2023:*

*Dear Mr Milln,*

*Thank you for your supplementary question regarding 20mph speed limits, which requests a clear timetable for the work programme outlined in my previous response.*

*To answer your question, Officers are in the process of procuring professional services support to develop a 20mph policy for Herefordshire.*

*In terms of the timescales involved with such a procurement process, Officers have been developing the necessary contract documents to allow for advertising of the opportunity to begin at the start of December 2023, with evaluation and award of contract by the end of January 2024. The contract to develop a 20mph policy for the county will then commence in February 2024 with an anticipated completion date of Autumn 2024.*

*As you have alluded to, the external support will involve the collation of an evidence base, early engagement with stakeholders, draft policy development, public consultation and engagement with stakeholders and prioritisation and identification of potential Phase 1 schemes.*

*I trust that this answers your question satisfactorily.*



PQ 3	Mrs McGeown, Weobley	<p>It is intended to carry out Flu Vaccination Clinics for High School students in Herefordshire. This program has not previously been applied to this group.</p> <p>An information letter will be provided by each school to the parents to enable them to give fully informed consent for their children to receive the Flu vaccination. This should observe the ethical duties as per the “Montgomery Ruling” to inform parents of all “material risks” (which includes risks considered rare) of the vaccine before seeking their consent:  <a href="https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0136-judgment.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0136-judgment.pdf</a></p> <p>A template letter, sourced from a commercial company, targeting younger children resident in metropolitan areas is inappropriate.</p> <p>Please detail contents of the letter that will ensure Herefordshire parents give their fully informed consent and also Identify the Key Potential Benefits and Harms to this group of children living in the healthy Herefordshire environment?</p>	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
<p><b>Response:</b>  NHS England are responsible for the annual flu vaccination programme and commission Vaccination UK to provide the nasal flu programme across numerous counties and boroughs in England, including the Black Country, Hertfordshire, Herefordshire &amp; Worcestershire, Peterborough and 9 Boroughs of North East London. The 2023/24 annual flu vaccination programme includes both pupils attending primary school and those attending high school (also called secondary school) in line with national guidance.</p> <p>As part of the vaccination programme in schools, Vaccine UK send out a cover letter to parents informing them that the flu vaccine will be offered in their child’s school, should they wish to take it up. This provides brief information about the flu vaccination spray, potential side effects, and directs parents to a consent form online. The same letter is used for the parents of primary and high school pupils. This letter is not the main information source for informed consent, but does signpost parents to publically available sources of information. The cover letter points parents to visit a publicly available online <a href="#">e-consent form</a> that has more detailed information to better inform consent. This includes a <a href="#">Frequently Asked Question</a> section, a link to a 12-side <a href="#">“information for parents and carers”</a> leaflet produced by the UK Health Security Agency, and further links to <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu">www.nhs.uk/child-flu</a>.</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Question:</b>  VACCINATION UK LIMITED (Company number 03682679) operate commercially and for shareholder profit. The contract value for flu vaccination in schools in Herefordshire and Worcestershire is £628,899.16 (Ref: FOI-2309-2020861 NHSE:0679352). So not a cheap letter!  To observe the ethical duties as per the “Montgomery Ruling” Surely the letter must contain the full Patient information leaflet (PIL) provided by the vaccine manufacturer to inform patients about their medication regarding its administration, precautions and potential side effects.  Also current “The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency” yellow card data for this nasal Flu vaccination detailing numbers of reported adverse reactions and deaths.  None of the “signpost parents to....” information or links contains this.</p>			

Surely councillors have a duty of scrutiny to ensure all information required to enable Herefordshire parents to grant fully informed consent is contained in the primary communication and if found wanting, call out Vaccination UK to correct this?

**Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing:**

The cabinet member responded to explain that the original response provided details of how informed consent would be obtained. The Director of Public Health considered all ethical requirements.

PQ 4	Mr Lister, Ledbury	Why is the council proposing to remove £2 million funding allocated to the Super Hubs project when there is a clearly identified need for the sort of hubs, identified within the project documentation, within the county's market towns, most of which will be delivered by volunteer led organisations, such as Ledbury Food Bank, thus adding considerable value to the money invested in the projects?  If the funding is removed to what extent will the market towns benefit from the reallocation of the £2 million?	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
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**Response:**

Thank you for your question. When this capital money was allocated by the previous administration to create Super Hubs, expressions of interest (EOIs) were invited from all local organisations, not just Talk Community Hubs, to deliver a broader range of integrated and co-located services close to local communities, such as health, counselling, midwifery, health visiting, mental health services and physiotherapy and possibly confidential meetings/clinics. In all cases, I recognise the significant amount of work that people have put into developing the expressions of interest for the benefit of local communities.

We want to be absolutely sure that any funding will bring a real benefit to communities and that is why we are undertaking a wider, strategic review of the Talk Community approach. The recommendation to take the funding out of the coming year's Capital Programme does not mean that we are dismissing the idea of Super Hubs and I can assure members and those organisations who made their submissions that once we have a better understanding of what is being delivered, how many people it is reaching, where the gaps are etc. we will look again at the Super Hub proposal.

This review of the capital programme means that the previously allocated funding will be made available to support the capital projects proposed as additions to the capital programme. These include projects such as Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways and Employment Land and Incubation Space. This funding will benefit the whole county including the market towns.

**Supplementary Question:**

What form will the review of the Talk Community approach take and is the assurance that you will look at the Super Hubs proposal dependant on that review? How long will the process take?

**Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing:**

The review would engage all Talk Community Hubs and would be aimed at developing an understanding of what was working well and what improvements were necessary. The review would take place between November 2023 – January 2024.

PQ 5	Mr McGeown, Weobley	<p>In January 2021, Cllr David Hitchiner, as Leader of Herefordshire Council, made a pledge, interpreted as not personal but representing Herefordshire people, to UK100 CITIES NETWORK LIMITED.</p> <p><a href="https://www.uk100.org/blog/2021/01/road-cop26-january-update-local-net-zero-pledges-hit-50">https://www.uk100.org/blog/2021/01/road-cop26-january-update-local-net-zero-pledges-hit-50</a></p> <p>A £1.3Milion+ annual turnover, Private Company:</p> <p><a href="https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10515243">https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/10515243</a></p> <p>Even after a number of Freedom of Information Requests, the benefits to Herefordshire Folk of meeting membership criteria of UK100 are unclear.</p> <p>But</p> <p>“members in the network do not need to renew their membership”</p> <p>but</p> <p>“members can withdraw their membership at any time”</p> <p>Such as elected changes in political control.</p> <p><a href="https://www.uk100.org/membership#question16">https://www.uk100.org/membership#question16</a></p> <p>So will Cllr Jonathan Lester release Herefordshire from Cllr David Hitchiner’s pledge and withdraw membership?</p> <p>Or will he reaffirm the pledge, imposing on Herefordshire Folk the continuing meeting of criteria to UK100 Ltd?</p> <p>“membership can be terminated by UK100 if a local authority no longer meets the membership criteria”.</p>	Leader
<p><b>Response:</b> The Council remains committed to our ambitious targets to achieve both organisational and countywide carbon neutrality by 2030.</p>			

UK100 is a cross-party membership organisation that supports the most ambitious councils to go further and faster on their Net Zero and Clean Air targets.

Our participation in this network does not commit the Council to anything beyond our own commitments and remains a useful tool for networking and sharing best practice.

As such the Council is not looking to withdraw from this network.

**Supplementary question:**

You state about UK100 membership “remains a useful tool for networking and sharing best practice”.

I assume this refers to “knowledge sharing between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops”

Do you intend councillors/council officers to participate or have they already done so and if so how is scrutiny provided to ensure that these events serve the interests of Herefordshire people only.

As without open scrutiny of these “free to be a member of events” there may be concern that these may be designed to influence the thinking of councillors to primarily serve the interests of UK100 LTD’s, £1.3Milion+ paymasters, whoever they may turn out to be, as there is seldom such a thing as a free lunch?

**Response to supplementary question from the Leader:**

The network was a partner that members and officers engaged to ensure that that the council was pursuing best practice. Members and officers were bound by codes of conduct and the Nolan Principles.

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PQ 6	Mrs l’Anson, Ledbury	<p>In 2019 Ledbury was designated a Super Hub. Several officer led meetings ensued and suitable venues were considered e.g. St. Katherine’s Hall. This decision was replaced by information that towns could now apply to become Super Hubs. No further information was forthcoming</p> <p>The recent 'expressions of interest 'submitted to Herefordshire Council from LEAF and from the Ledbury Food Bank were not just ideas jotted down on the back of an envelope but long and detailed submissions deserving serious consideration which included rectifying Ledbury's lack of youth facilities.</p> <p>My question:-</p> <p>Will this Administration reconsider their decision to remove funding for Super Hubs so that Ledbury LEAF and Ledbury Food Bank can continue their brilliant work, and also confirm that the money pulled is not going to be swallowed up by road building?</p>	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
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**Response:**

Thank you for your question. 43 expressions of interest (EOIs) were submitted for the funding which was to support the delivery of a broader range of integrated and co-located services close to local communities, such as health, counselling, midwifery, health visiting, mental health services and physiotherapy and possibly confidential meetings/clinics.

In all cases, I recognise and appreciate the significant amount of work that people have put into developing the EOIs to benefit their local communities and this has been further complicated by frequent amendments to the Super Hub proposal.

You will appreciate that many of these EOIs would not have gone to the next stage as insufficient money was available to support every bid. In addition, some of the bids were within a stone's throw of each other or did not support a programme to deliver a broader range of services than currently delivered.

However, we want to be absolutely sure that any funding will bring a real benefit to communities and that is why we are undertaking a wider, strategic review of the Talk Community approach. The recommendation to take the funding out of the coming year's Capital Programme does not mean that we are dismissing the idea of Super Hubs and I can assure members and those organisations who made their submissions that once we have a better understanding of what is being delivered, how many people it is reaching, where the gaps are etc. we will look again at the Super Hub proposal.

**Supplementary question:**

Thank you Councillor Gandy for your helpful and detailed answer to my question, and the reassurance that communities will benefit from future funding. I now fully realise that the 'expressions of interest' requests that went out to organizations from the previous Administration were misleading and that many of the 'expressions' submitted did not fit into the Super Hub remit. Please can you give your assurance that when you have undertaken your necessary review of Talk Communities and Super Hub strategy, you will give the submissions from organizations such as LEAF, who are endeavouring to provide services for our young people, serious consideration?

**Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing:**

The cabinet member acknowledged that the process for expressions of interest had been confusing as the impression had been given that it was a paper-only exercise before funding was provided. The review would consider talk community hubs and super hubs. Individual applications had been received from a number of local community groups in the same area; joint bids between local groups in the same locality would have been better.



**Agenda item no. 6 - Questions from members of the Council**

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
MQ 1	Cllr David Hitchiner, Stoney Street	I attended the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 5th October and was pleased to hear Cllr Price confirm that no works will be started on the Southern Relief Road until the money is secured to fund it. This seems to contradict the wording of the papers submitted to Council which state at paragraph 7 (f) that the £12.3m included money to enable “initial works to start”. It is in my view inappropriate for any works to start before a business case is in place and full funding is in place. Would Cllr Price please confirm his intentions? If initial works are excluded what exactly is the £12.3m to be spent on prior to the putting together of a business case – surely not for buying land which might not eventually be needed if the business case does not stand up?	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The rationale for the Southern Link Road linking the A49 with the A465 is well documented. The planned allocation of £12.3m is to support this work. Governance arrangements will be followed before any decision to incur capital expenditure is made, in line with the council’s Contract Procedure Rules, Finance Procedure Rules and the Scheme of Delegation.</p>			
<p><b>Supplementary Question:</b></p> <p>Given the number of new councillors since 2019 can the cabinet member confirm that he will provide full explanations and not refer in some vague way to being well documented? Could he also ensure that full regard is given to the climate emergency and new government guidance to ensure that if a case is to be prepared it will be professional and well written.</p>			
<p><b>Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure:</b></p> <p>The south wye link road is a committed project for this administration and we will be taking this forward with the necessary documentation and in the correct manner, engaging everyone who is concerned along the route.</p>			
MQ 2	Cllr Elizabeth Foxton, Eign Hill	<p>I understand the three parish councils promoting the Pontrilas Parkway initiative were advised that Network Rail and DfT expect to see Herefordshire and Monmouthshire Councils’ good faith towards the Pontrilas Station project evidenced by each making provision of at least £2m capital funding towards the scheme.</p> <p>Such provision will go a long way to ensuring the scheme is supported by both national governments - especially as finding time in rail scheduling is not considered a constraint and the Prime Minister seeks smaller, good, alternative railway projects.</p> <p>Given the support from our MP Jesse Norman and the Leader of the Council – and recognising that the business case is more developed than the resurrection of the Southern Link Road –</p>	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure

		will the Cabinet Member give me, and Golden Valley residents, his commitment to amend the proposed capital programme today to include such provision?	
<b>Response:</b>			
I would reiterate my previous comments that as an administration, we support the development of a new station at Pontrilas, however the scheme, and its development, necessarily are the responsibility of Network Rail and Transport for Wales. I have asked officers to organise a round table meeting of all public sector partners that will benefit from this scheme. The administration is working to agree and prioritise which projects to take forward as a part of its transport strategy. I am not aware of any requirement of the Council to use its own resources, but I am happy to follow this up if Councillor Foxton can share further details with me.			
MQ 3	Cllr Dave Boulter, Whitecross	Please could Cllr Price or Cllr Stoddart please confirm where the £7,000,000 of capital receipts is planned to come from which they propose to use towards their £12,300,000 funding allocation for the reintroduction of the Southern Link Road to the Capital Programme?	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<b>Response:</b>			
At 1 September 2023, there was an unallocated balance of £14.2m in the council's Capital Receipts Reserve. This balance will be considered to fund any future revisions to the Capital Programme.			
MQ 4	Cllr Pauline Crockett, Queenswood	Please would Cllr Price confirm that he has an approved Outline and Full Capital Programme Business Case made out for his proposed introduction of the Southern Link Road to the Capital Programme today, and what the source is of the financial modelling which has been used to evidence the project costs as set out in those business cases?	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure
<b>Response:</b>			
The rationale for the Southern Link Road linking the A49 with the A465 is well documented. The planned allocation of £12.3m is to support this work. Governance arrangements will be followed before any decision to incur capital expenditure is made, in line with the council's Contract Procedure Rules, Finance Procedure Rules and the Scheme of Delegation.			
MQ 5	Cllr Liz Harvey, Ledbury North	Please could Cllr Stoddart explain why he is not continuing the good practice introduced by the Independents for Herefordshire and Green coalition to require that outline and full business cases are developed for all capital programme schemes that are submitted to full council for approval?	Cabinet member finance and corporate services
<b>Response:</b>			
For each of the proposed additions, relevant information and evidence has been considered as part of the review undertaken by Cabinet. Governance arrangements will be followed before any decision to incur capital expenditure is made, in line with the council's Contract Procedure Rules, Finance Procedure Rules and the Scheme of Delegation.			



In prior years, business cases have not been prepared for all capital programme schemes.

Projects included in the capital programme approved by full Council have been supported by an outline business case where this method has been deemed relevant and, in other instances, the development of detailed information has continued after a project has been added to the programme. This ensures a practical approach; balancing appropriate governance with the ability to make progress on capital projects.

The revised Capital Programme approved for 2021/22 included £20m as a dedicated budget for 'Strategic Housing Development' to cover the initial phases. As such, a business case was not provided at the point of inclusion in the capital programme, recognising that supplementary arrangements were in place to ensure expenditure would be subject to appropriate controls and governance.

Similarly, the purchase of Maylords Shopping Centre in 2020 was not supported by a business case; this purchase formed part of the 'Development Partnership' entry; this being a broader budget allocation in the capital programme.

In July 2020 Cabinet recommended to Council a mid-year revision to the capital programme to support Priority Flood Repair Works and this was not supported by an outline or full business case.

Fully funded grant projects such as Local Transport Plan (LTP), Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the schools maintenance grant and S106 developer income, do not have business cases as the funding is spent in line with the grant conditions.

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 will be presented to Council in February 2024 for approval. All additions will be supported by an outline business case, where deemed necessary, which will include an analysis of costs and expected benefits, strategic fit, project scope, an assessment of risks as well consideration of dependencies and other options.

For projects included in this revised capital programme for approval by Council in October 2023, a full business case will be prepared where appropriate. As an example, a business case for the Library Project will be published as part of the documents for the Cabinet meeting on 26 October 2023. Where a business case is not prepared, for example the Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways project, this capital work will be informed by other relevant information such as condition surveys.

**Supplementary Question**

Will the Cabinet Member commit to publically publish business cases to all additions to the capital programme and fully justify subtractions and alterations in the approved programme.

**Response to supplementary question from Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Resources**

All actions will be in line with the council's contract procedures, procedural rules and the scheme of delegation.



## Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting 8 December 2023

### Royal recognition for South Wye

I attended the AGM of the South Wye Development Trust at the Kindle Centre and congratulated them on receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Kindle Centre was established as part of 106 agreement to the Asda development and opened in March 2007. It is the main asset of the Trust being a well-established, welcoming Health and Wellbeing community hub delivering many much needed preventative services to the local community. It plays a vital role in addressing the health inequalities in the South Wye and reducing the gap in life expectancies. Part of the building is sub-let to a GP practice and out of hours support.

Working in partnership with Herefordshire Council the centre has recently delivered English speaking classes to 19 different nationalities including Asylum seekers. The Kindle Centre has large support from local volunteers who help to put on numerous actives including community meals, big eats, food hampers, supporting vulnerable and isolated individuals and groups.

C.Ex of Trust Mandy Evans at lectern as we present awards to volunteers.



**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

This year, in recognition of the tremendous contribution they have made to their community the South Wye Development Trust at The Kindle Centre was awarded The King's award for Voluntary Service ( the MBE for volunteer groups) .

**Congratulations to all those involved in the work of the Trust and the centre for the important ongoing work they do for the community of South Wye.**

**If you are aware of a volunteer or community group in your ward who you think have delivered consistent and valued service to your local community consider putting their name forward. More details on website [kavs.dcms.gov.uk/](https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/) or contact our Lieutenantancy office.**



**The Garden of Remembrance at the Cathedral**

**The Vice Chair and I attended various services and events in the County to commemorate and remember those who lost their lives in defending our Country during early November.**

**Together with the Lord Lieutenant we planted a décor cedar tree received from HM The King at Queenswood to commemorate his coronation.**

**I joined Stonewater Housing and local developers Speller Metcalfe to open their new development of 38 sustainable and affordable houses at Ewyas Harold. The 24 rental and 14 shared ownership properties with ground source heating and solar PV panels are well designed and the project included local sub-contractors and apprentices.**

**Other events include two citizenship ceremonies, Shrieval service for the county judiciary, supporting various charities including the Herefordshire Young Farmers Federation, Masonic charity presentations evening, the Hereford Cider museum and meeting with Mayors and clerks.**

**I look forward to welcoming you and your partners to a reception on 14<sup>th</sup> December to award our freedom of the County to Lady Darnley and commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Herefordshire Council.**

## **Chief Executive's report to Full Council 8 December 2023**

As part of effective local democratic processes it's important that council finances are open and transparent. In May we were among only 30 per cent of councils to submit our draft 2022/23 accounts to meet the new government deadlines. And at the end of September we were the first unitary authority in the country to have those accounts signed-off as being 'true and fair'. This is thanks to the hard work of the council's finance team who enabled this to happen.

The council's financial position continues to be challenging. Like many other councils across the country, we're experiencing significant budget pressures with rising costs due to inflation, the cost of fuel, and the continuing impact of increasing demand for adult and children's social care. However, we have strong financial controls in place. Corporate directors have implemented additional expenditure controls and recovery plans to manage delivery of services within the approved budget this year. These controls will continue, as part of directorate financial management in 2024/25, but we know there will be difficult decisions to be made to ensure we can deliver services within budget next year.

We're continuing to deliver our far-reaching children's services improvement programme. Children's Commissioner, Eleanor Brazil, has been working alongside the council to help drive these improvements, and recently submitted her six-month review of progress to the Minister for children, families and wellbeing. We're currently (at the time of writing) awaiting the publication of her recommendations by the Minister alongside their response. We know that there is still much to do to deliver the service that we all want to see but there have been positive developments to form the basis for quicker and more sustained improvement. We have an ambitious three-year improvement plan in place and delivering a service which meets the needs of the whole county remains our number one priority.

It was national Care Leavers Week at the end of October. Our care leavers team, who support young people during a really important time in their lives, organised a range of activities for care leavers in the county. The events were a great way for the young people to come together and enjoy activities they may not have otherwise experienced. I'd like to thank the young care leavers who took time to meet with me during the week. They told me all about themselves and asked me lots of questions about the issues and challenges they face and what I can do to help. I've committed to follow-up and take action on a number of things and to meet with them again.

I recently addressed a conference of head teachers and senior school leaders in the county. We're committed to working in partnership with schools in a way that is ambitious and inclusive for all our children and young people. Following an update on the key challenges and opportunities facing the Council I wanted to talk about our collaborative work with children with special educational needs and or disabilities. This year we've been proud to launch our new co-produced SEND strategy. This and other important developments such as the creation of 42 additional SEND places through new mainstream autism hubs, wouldn't have been possible without their support.

In early November, Leader Cllr Jonathan Lester and I joined government representatives, MPs and MSs, and other council leaders and other chief executives at Hay Castle to formally launch the Marches Forward Partnership. This ground-breaking agreement with Shropshire Council and Monmouthshire and Powys county councils will allow us to work together, and with both UK and Welsh governments, on some of the big challenges we all share. Transport, skills and housing, alongside energy, climate change, tourism and digital connectivity are all high on the agenda, and we'll now progress work in these key areas.

The ecological health of our rivers and countryside are essential to maintaining and growing a sustainable, prosperous rural economy for residents. The council has committed to working with neighbouring local authorities, national agencies, environmental groups and local businesses and communities to harness a collective action to secure river restoration. In November, the council jointly facilitated a conference with Herefordshire Rural Hub and Friends of the Lower Wye, to start to build a shared understanding of the challenges of protecting and restoring our rivers, and to find solutions. With speakers and delegates from a number of specialist fields the event was an enlightening start to an ongoing conversation about this important area of work.

Following the government cabinet reshuffle in November, I wrote to the new Secretary of State for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP on behalf of the council, inviting him to Herefordshire. It's important that we are able to share with government the issues and challenges that face our county due to its rurality, and those messages are more powerful when delivered in person, in the county. I look forward to his response.

We've received news that we've been ranked as the top performing local authority in the West Midlands on sustainability action for the third year in a row. The Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) benchmarking results, which give us an overall score of 91%, demonstrate the excellent progress we're making on our environmental performance and reflects our continued commitment to net zero by 2030.

The council is an accredited organisation and ambassador for the national White Ribbon Campaign which aims to end male violence against women and girls. We recently hosted a joint conference with Worcestershire County Council to raise awareness and increase knowledge of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in our community. More than 300 people attended this online event which aimed to raise awareness, knowledge and confidence around identifying supporting, and signposting those suffering abuse. This year's White Ribbon UK theme is #ChangeTheStory. This starts with challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence, and the conference encouraged all of us to make that difference.

As winter approaches, a number of our services are putting plans into action to help local people during the cold, wintry and wet weather. Additional accommodation is available in Hereford for people who are homeless, providing shelter during the coldest months of the year. We're once again opening up our libraries and other buildings as warm spaces for people who may be finding it difficult to keep their homes warm. Our highways partners Balfour Beatty Living Places are working to keep our roads safe and their gritting teams have already been out this year when temperatures have been low enough for ice on the roads. Information about additional services over the winter can be found on the council's website.

Local communities have continued to welcome people who are staying in contingency accommodation in the county while awaiting the outcome of their asylum applications. We understand from the use of the Talbot Hotel is until the end of February 2024 and the use of the Three Counties Hotel is until the end of March 2024. The support that has been shown to these people at a time of need underlines what a generous and compassionate county we live in.

Work is underway across the council to review the way that services are provided. All services are involved in re-considering how they do things. Over the next four years the changes will include improvements to our digital infrastructure and service enhancements that put the experience of our residents at the centre. Over the past few weeks we've been trialling the use of voice automation for some telephone calls. This has led to shorter waiting times for callers, and has been positive in that users received the information they needed without needing to wait in a telephone queue. We're now looking at how these and similar schemes can be implemented permanently.

Finally, I'd like to recognise the efforts of the council staff who spend time over and above their day job to make our council a good place to work, through our employee networking groups. The groups are a collective of colleagues who share identities, life experiences or cultures who come together to initiate positive change in the workplace and play an important role in strengthening the voices of employees. In October our Black and Asian staff network organised a range of events to mark Black History Month. This year's theme was Celebrating our Sisters / Saluting our Sisters / Matriarchs of Movements #WEMATTER, emphasising the vital role black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities. Events during the month included a number of webinars and a well-attended networking breakfast. A video capturing all of the activities has been produced to share with staff across the council. And this month, our Diff-Ability group is hosting a networking breakfast to mark International Day for Persons with Disabilities.







# Title of report: Capital Programme Review and Update

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** Friday 8 December 2023

**Report by:** Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services

## Classification

Open

## Decision type

Budget and policy framework

## Wards affected

(All Wards);

## Purpose

To approve the revised capital investment budget for 2023/24 onwards.

## Recommendation(s)

**That Council:**

- a) Approve the revised capital programme for 2023/24 attached at appendix C;
- b) The chief finance officer be authorised, following consultation with the Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services to make in year amendments to the final value included for the investment projects for (i) from Wye Valley Trust (WVT) and (ii) . Also the investment project from Herefordshire and Worcestershire Group Training Association (HWGTA), in both instances, based on the final approved business cases;
- c) Approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts of up to £1.6m in 2023/24, to support transformation to generate ongoing revenue savings and reduce service delivery costs in future years; and
- d) The chief finance officer be authorised, following consultation with the Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services to make in year amendments to the final value included for the relocation of the library to the Shirehall based on the final approved business case and utilise the grant award from Stronger Towns Board.

## Alternative options

1. It is open to Council to recommend alternative capital investment options to Council. Any amendment to proposals put forward by Cabinet, must have been discussed with the relevant service director to determine the context and possible consequences of the proposal and have secured confirmation from the chief finance officer that the action proposed is achievable. No alternative options have been brought forward to date and suggestions would require review and assessment, in line with those completed on the options presented in this report. As an amendment to proposals put forward by Cabinet, any amendment would either require the consent of the Leader of the Council or further consideration by Cabinet, before a decision could be taken in accordance with budget and policy framework rules.

## Key considerations

2. The capital programme reflects capital investment generating benefit to the county for a period in excess of one year.
3. The programme was approved by Council in February 2023 having followed budget and policy framework rules; this report now proposes in year changes to the approved programme.
4. The current approved capital programme and forecast outturn against the reprofiled budget is provided at appendix B. Forecasting against budget is reported to Cabinet in the quarterly performance report, which includes an up to date forecast of the timing of capital spend, the position in appendix B was reported to cabinet in November.
5. The 2023/24 approved capital programme budget of £302.5m has already been revised to £327.3m as detailed in the table below. The revised capital budget includes £18.8m of unspent project budgets brought forward from 2022/23, approved movements of (£14.0m) and £20.0m of additional grants. A summary breakdown is shown in the Table below.

	<b>2023/24 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £'000</b>	<b>Total</b>
February 2023 Council Approved Budget	140,283	103,771	52,177	6,270	302,501
Budget Reprofile	(78,948)	45,527	25,424	7,997	0
Other approved movements	(573)	(3,000)	(9,000)	(1,400)	(13,973)
22/23 Carry Forwards	18,790	-	-	-	18,790
Additional Grants	10,156	9,140	300	400	19,996
<b>Revised Capital Budget</b>	<b>89,708</b>	<b>155,438</b>	<b>68,901</b>	<b>13,267</b>	<b>327,314</b>

6. The additional grants are listed at the bottom of appendix B and have all been approved by the chief finance officer in year. The other two adjustments are the removal of the borrowing for eCargo bikes as a grant was received for more than the original budget. Along with the removal of the care home project that was approved in March at a cabinet briefing, as the project had not progressed as no suitable location has been found and having reflected on priority needs, a new direction for this project is being explored. A business case for the new project with funding requirements will be subject to future approval to be added to the capital programme.
7. As part of the 2023/24 capital programme review, priority capital investment needs for future years have been identified along with a number of other changes to remove projects to release funding or removal as they won't be delivered. The proposed changes for approval are detailed in appendix A and summarised below;

- a) Removal of the Passenger Transport Fleet, Masters House (phase 2) and Herefordshire Retrofit Hub as they were added subject to being funded by grant. No

grants are currently available to be bid for and therefore these will be removed but can always be added again if any external grant bids are successful.

- b) The removal of the Strategic Housing Development from the capital programme as this is not in line with the immediate cabinet priorities. Only the funding provided from the capital receipts reserve or corporate funded borrowing can be reallocated to other projects. It was the expectation that the housing project would have generated a return to repay all the funding required and therefore cannot be redistributed.
- c) The Super Hubs project is currently under review and therefore the budget has been removed until the project has been reassessed. Any future requirement will be reviewed during future budget setting processes.
- d) Development Partnership Activities budget is the balance held that has not been allocated to any projects and most of the potential projects were put on hold. Therefore removing this line in the capital programme, frees up the corporate borrowing and reserves to reallocate to alternative projects. External funding investment will be sought for a number of potential development projects.
- e) My Account budget underspent on the first phase and the budget was held for a phase 2, this is proposed to be removed and reallocate the funding and of course once a phase 2 proposal comes forward it can progress at that time for future funding approval.
- f) Fastershire proposal is to use income from BT clawback that is currently held in a reserve but has to be spent on broadband infrastructure to release £3.0m borrowing and also reduce the overall project budget by £2.0m, to release £5.0m corporate borrowing in total to be allocated to other projects. This is because this project will be coming to an end and replaced by Project Gigabit which is fully funded and run by BDUK.
- g) Inclusion of the £10.3m project budget towards the delivery of the Southern Link Road to enable land negotiations to commence and initial works to start, while a full business case is developed. External grants will be sought that will either increase the project budget or replace some of the corporate borrowing being allocated at this stage. This has been added as a key priority to the current cabinet and budget allocated to ensure work can start as early as possible, the strategic outline business case is included at appendix D.
- h) A project budget has been added for the Stronger Towns Library & Learning Centre relocation to Shirehall, this consists of the balance of the grant and use of reserves that is unspent but will be subject to any final approval by Stronger Towns Board. Dependant on the location of the Library and Learning Centre, the budget for the option that does not progress will be removed from the capital programme at that time. Link to the full business case published for cabinet on 26 October 2023 Appendix 1 for Review of the full business case for the Shirehall as a location for the future of He.pdf (herefordshire.gov.uk)
- i) Shirehall Improvement Works, £3.0m is being set aside to fund the minimum works required to get the building open and operational again. This budget is on top of the approximate £1.2m left to spend within the Estates Capital Programme 2019/22 capital budget. There are a number of other projects within the estates capital budget and as they deliver the work required any underspends can be utilised to further increase the funds available for the Shirehall building works. A budget of £0.1m has been included to do any works required in the Shirehall annex to create a Care Leavers Base, this hub will help support this group of people and ensure they are provided with the support they need. The combined strategic outline business case is included at appendix E.

- j) Significant investment is required to improve the road network, £10.0m budget has been allocated for Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways. This budget will be allocated to those roads identified as requiring the most urgent work. The strategic outline business case is included at appendix F.
  - k) Both the WVT and HWGTA investment project budgets have been added but are subject to a cabinet decision to proceed, these are provisional amounts but can be adjusted by the chief finance officer in line with the recommendations in this report to the final amounts agreed. As these will both require repayment and the repayments will cover any interest costs, these are both added as return on investment with no overall effect on the revenue budget The strategic outline business Cases are included at appendix G.
  - l) When the Employment Land & Incubation Space in Market Towns project was added to the capital programme it was added on the basis within the business case that the use of reserves would be repaid from capital receipts from sale of units/plots. The proposals require investment and have not progressed as the business cases have not been able to evidence a full return on investment. Therefore it is proposed to alter the requirement from the capital receipts reserve to be funded from existing receipts only and increased to £12.0m, switching some of the borrowing that would have been repaid from rental income. Therefore a total of £12.0m will be funded fully from the current capital receipt reserve balance with no expectation to replenish the reserve with future receipts. This will enable investment in employment land in Herefordshire.
  - m) A new Community Capital Grants Scheme of £2m to support the valuable work our community organisations support the council with. The strategic outline business case is included at appendix H.
8. A number of informal reviews were carried out to ensure all funding requests were manageable within the current borrowing limits in the medium term financial strategy and the available balance of the capital receipts reserve. These proposals allocate the balance available in the capital receipts reserve and reallocates all the corporate funded borrowing released from the removal of some projects.
  9. As part of the 2016/17 Local Government Finance Settlement, the government announced new flexibilities allowing local authorities to use capital receipts to fund transformation expenditure. This guidance was extended and updated in 2022/23 to extend the freedom for local authorities to use eligible capital receipts up to 2024/25 to help fund the revenue costs of transformation and release savings.
  10. The direction permits authorities to use the proceeds from asset sales to fund the revenue costs of projects that will deliver ongoing savings, reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services. The council intends to take advantage of this flexibility to support the financing of qualifying expenditure to deliver transformation change programmes across the organisation.
  11. Approval of provision in the capital programme is not approval to proceed. Each project will be subject to its own governance, a full business case will be presented for approval where required and comply with the council's contract procedure rules as applicable.

## **Community impact**

12. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions.

Determining the right mix of these is an important strategic choice to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. The council needs robust decision making mechanisms to ensure our outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best use of resources while still enabling efficient and effective operations.

13. The capital investment proposals support the overall delivery plan and service delivery strategies in place. The overall aim of capital expenditure is to benefit the community through improved facilities and by promoting economic growth. A specific community impact assessment, including any health and safety implications or corporate parenting responsibilities, will be included in the decision report required for any new capital scheme commencing and incurring spend.

## **Environmental Impact**

14. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
15. Whilst this overarching budget setting document will not detail specific environmental impacts, consideration is always made to minimising waste and resources use in line with the council's Environmental Policy. A specific environmental impact assessment for the service specific budget proposals will be considered as appropriate to seek to minimise any adverse environmental impact and actively seek opportunities to improve and enhance environmental performance. An initial environmental assessment has been included in the outline business cases that were reviewed at Scrutiny and these will be developed and scoped for each project when they seek approval to spend and a separate governance decision.

## **Equality duty**

16. 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.
17. 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. An equality impact assessment (EIA) will be carried out prior to any new scheme commencing and will form part of the approval process, required ahead of incurring capital spend.

## Resource implications

18. The proposed revisions at appendix A, total a reduction of (£39.7m) over the next four years. Of this (£32.2m) is proposed reduction of capital grants, mainly for the 3 unfunded but the addition of the grant for Stronger Towns will be subject to approval. There is currently just over £14.2m unallocated balance in the capital receipts reserves, which is fully utilised by using some to fund the revenue transformation costs in line with the recommendation to be approved and the balance in the below proposals. All the corporate funded borrowing has been reallocated and (£20.5m) of prudential borrowing repayment costs will no longer need to be funded from additional revenue streams or savings in the revenue budget.
19. Where projects are in the capital programme but they depend on grant, if the grant request is not successful, the full project including any match funding will be removed unless a revised project is approved within the same funding allocations.

Scheme	Capital Grant funding £000	Redirected funding £000	Capital receipt funding £000	Funded by ROI £000	Corporate Funded PB £000	Total Request £000
<b>Unfunded Projects</b>						
Passenger Transport Fleet (Electric)	-35,000.0	0.0	0.0	-4,000.0	0.0	-39,000.0
Masters House	-762.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-762.0
Herefordshire Retrofit Hub	-2,042.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,042.2
<b>Total Unfunded Projects</b>	<b>-37,804.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-4,000.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-41,804.2</b>
<b>Community:- Build communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together</b>						
Super Hubs (removal)	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0
Community Capital Grants Scheme	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0
Strategic Housing Development (removal)	0.0	0.0	0.0	-19,708.4	0.0	-19,708.4
<b>Total Community</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-19,708.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-19,708.4</b>
<b>Economy:- Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources</b>						
Development Partnership activities (removal)	0.0	0.0	-139.6	0.0	-10,045.5	-10,185.0
My Account (removal)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-425.0	-425.0
Fastershire (reduction & use of Clawback)	3,014.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5,014.0	-2,000.0
Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways	0.0	0.0	815.5	0.0	9,184.5	10,000.0
Southern Link Road	0.0	0.0	5,000.0	0.0	5,300.0	10,300.0
Stronger Towns Library & Learning Centre relocation to Shirehall	2,610.7	0.0	394.7	0.0	0.0	3,005.4
Work to Shirehall Annex (Care Leavers Base)	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Shirehall Improvement Works	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	1,000.0	3,000.0
Wye Valley Trust - Education Centre Investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,000.0	0.0	6,000.0
HWGTA - Development of Vocational Work Based Skills Investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	2,000.0
Investment in Employment Land in Herefordshire (adjustment)	0.0	0.0	4,786.0	-4,786.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Economy</b>	<b>5,624.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,956.6</b>	<b>3,214.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>21,795.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-32,179.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,956.6</b>	<b>-20,494.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-39,717.2</b>

## **Legal implications**

20. In year changes to the capital programme must be approved by Council unless certain circumstances in the constitution apply, which do not apply in these cases.
21. Each project will be subject to its own governance, an initial business case will have been presented for Cabinet approval prior to this recommendation which informs Cabinet's recommendation to Council. Links to the relevant Cabinet decision and/or business case is included. Where a funding request is expressed to be subject to a further executive approval of a full business case (or requiring further condition to be satisfied), then such will be undertaken before the full funding can be utilised.
22. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 precludes a councillor from voting on the Council's budget if he or she has an outstanding council tax debt of over two months. If a councillor who is precluded from voting is present at any meeting at which relevant matters are discussed, he or she must disclose that section 106 applies and may not vote. Failure to comply is a criminal offence.

## **Risk management**

23. For all capital projects monthly budget control meetings give assurance on the robustness of budget control and monitoring, to highlight key risks and to identify any mitigation to reduce the impact of pressures on the council's overall position for example through phasing of spend, identifying and securing scheme changes or alternative funding sources.
24. Capital projects inherently give rise to risks in their delivery, both in time and budget. Individual scheme reporting and associated project boards exist to mitigate these risks. Furthermore slower delivery than forecast can mean the strategic ambitions are not being met as planned. All projects are expected to be managed through the programme management office once resources are in place, so further mitigating the risk of overspend or delays.
25. The proposed additions have been reviewed in relation to risks, both in deliverability, costs, impact and associated scheme interdependencies. The individual scheme detail of the risks will be provided as individual schemes progress to approval to deliver.

## **Consultees**

26. All political groups have been consulted on the Shirehall Improvement Works, Library relocation and both investment projects from WVT and HWGTA, with discussion at previous cabinet meetings and are subject to further cabinet meetings. Therefore no separate consultation has been done for inclusion in this report.
27. Both the Employment Land and Southern Link Road projects will have various consultations with all interested parties as the business cases are developed and spend decisions are progressed.
28. Political Group consultation is not required for budget and policy framework but they were able to make recommendations on the proposals being recommended to council, to cabinet during the meeting for them to consider.

29. Cabinet on 5 October 2023 and 23 November 2023, considered the revised capital programme and approved the proposals as set out in this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Proposed capital investment revisions from 2023/24

Appendix B - Current status of approved capital programme

Appendix C - Total proposed capital programme

Appendix D – Southern Link Road Business Case

Appendix E – Shirehall Improvement Works & Care Leavers Hub Business Case

Appendix F – Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways Business Case

Appendix G - WVT & HWGTA Investment Projects Business Cases

Appendix H – Community Capital Grants Scheme Business Case

## **Background papers**

None identified

## **Glossary of Terms**

Capital Grant Funding – External income from another organisation

Redirected Funding – Use of revenue reserves to fund capital

Capital Receipt Funding – Use of the capital receipts reserve generated from sale of land, buildings and other assets of the council

Funded by Return on Investment – this is where there is a return on investment to repay the borrowing costs, such as increased income or savings on the current budget by reducing on going costs

Corporate funding by Prudential Borrowing – this is where prudential borrowing is repaid from the corporate revenue budget



## Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	John Coleman	Date 23/11/2023
Finance	Wendy Pickering	Date 23/11/2023
Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 22/11/2023
Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 22/11/2023
Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 24/11/2023
Procurement	Lee Robertson	Date 23/11/2023
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 22/11/2023
Approved by	Andrew Lovegrove	Date 29/11/2023



Scheme	Current Capital Programme £000	Total 23/24 £000	Total 24/25 £000	Total 25/26 £000	Total 26/27 £000	Capital Grant funding £000	Redirected funding £000	Capital receipt funding £000	Funded by ROI £000	Corporate Funded PB £000	Total Request £000
<b>Unfunded Projects</b>											
Passenger Transport Fleet (Electric)		-7,800.0	-15,600.0	-15,600.0	0.0	-35,000.0	0.0	0.0	-4,000.0	0.0	-39,000.0
Masters House		-762.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-762.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-762.0
Herefordshire Retrofit Hub		-2,042.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,042.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,042.2
<b>Total Unfunded Projects</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-10,604.2</b>	<b>-15,600.0</b>	<b>-15,600.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-37,804.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-4,000.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-41,804.2</b>
<b>Community:- Build communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together</b>											
Super Hubs (removal)		-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0
Community Capital Grants Scheme		200.0	1,800.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0
Strategic Housing Development (removal)		-7,300.0	-6,504.2	-5,904.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-19,708.4	0.0	-19,708.4
<b>Total Community</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-9,100.0</b>	<b>-4,704.2</b>	<b>-5,904.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-19,708.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-19,708.4</b>
<b>Economy:- Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources</b>											
Development Partnership activities (removal)		-1,999.9	-3,000.2	-5,185.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-139.6	0.0	-10,045.5	-10,185.0
My Account (removal)		-425.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-425.0	-425.0
Fastershire (reduction & use of Clawback)		0.0	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	3,014.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5,014.0	-2,000.0
Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways		0.0	5,000.0	5,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	815.5	0.0	9,184.5	10,000.0
Southern Link Road		800.0	2,200.0	2,000.0	5,300.0	0.0	0.0	5,000.0	0.0	5,300.0	10,300.0
Stronger Towns Library & Learning Centre relocation to Shirehall		394.7	2,610.7	0.0	0.0	2,610.7	0.0	394.7	0.0	0.0	3,005.4
Work to Shirehall Annex (Care Leavers Base)		100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Shirehall Improvement Works		0.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	1,000.0	3,000.0
Wye Valley Trust - Education Centre Investment		0.0	6,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6,000.0	0.0	6,000.0
HWGTA - Development of Vocational Work Based Skills Investment		0.0	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	2,000.0
Investment in Employment Land in Herefordshire (adjustment)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,786.0	-4,786.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Economy</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1,130.2</b>	<b>15,810.6</b>	<b>1,815.0</b>	<b>5,300.0</b>	<b>5,624.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,956.6</b>	<b>3,214.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>21,795.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-20,834.4</b>	<b>-4,493.6</b>	<b>-19,689.2</b>	<b>5,300.0</b>	<b>-32,179.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,956.6</b>	<b>-20,494.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-39,717.2</b>
Annual Funding Limit										26,800.0	
Allocated Previously										- 26,800.0	
<b>Total Funding Available</b>										-	
<b>Funding Variance</b>										<b>-0.0</b>	



Scheme Name	2023/24		2023/24 Forecast		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	Capital receipts £000	Grant & funding cont £000	Prudential borrowing £000	Total £000	Prior Years £000	Total Funding £000
	Prior Years £000	Total Budget £000	Forecast Q2 £000	Variance to Budget £000										
Hereford City Centre Transport Package	37,224	1,500	1,500	0	5,755	2,500	0	46,979		6,081	3,674	9,755	37,224	46,979
Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI)	3,500	2,200	2,200	0	300	0	0	6,000			2,500	2,500	3,500	6,000
Hereford ATMs and Super Cycle Highway		350	350	0	650	0	0	1,000			1,000	1,000	0	1,000
Emergency Active travel Fund		119	119	0	0	0	0	119		119	119	0	0	119
Active Travel Fund 4		156	156	0	150	0	0	306		306	306	0	0	306
LUF - Active Travel Measures (north of river)	251	500	500	0	3,715	0	0	4,466		4,215	4,215	251	4,466	4,466
LUF - Active Travel Measures (south of river)	2	750	750	0	8,445	0	0	9,197		9,194	9,194	2	9,197	9,197
Passenger Transport Fleet (Electric)		7,800	0	(7,800)	15,600	15,600	0	39,000		35,000	4,000	39,000	0	39,000
<b>Sustainable Transport &amp; Place Making Delivery Board</b>	<b>40,976</b>	<b>13,375</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>(7,800)</b>	<b>34,615</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107,066</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54,915</b>	<b>11,175</b>	<b>66,090</b>	<b>40,976</b>	<b>107,066</b>
Local Transport Plan (LTP)		15,466	15,466	0	15,466	0	0	30,932		30,932	30,932	0	0	30,932
Priority Flood Repair Works	2,868	1,159	347	(812)	0	0	0	4,027		1,159	1,159	2,868	4,027	4,027
Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance & Biodiversity Net Gain	1,891	256	94	(163)	151	0	0	2,299		408	408	1,891	2,299	2,299
Public Realm Maintenance - Mitigating Risk on the Network	1,101	3,656	3,656	0	193	0	0	4,950		3,849	3,849	1,101	4,950	4,950
Highways Maintenance and pot hole repairing 2023/24		2,558	2,558	0	0	0	0	2,558		2,558	2,558	0	2,558	2,558
Winter Resilience		227	227	0	740	435	0	1,402		1,402	1,402	0	1,402	1,402
Highways Equipment	41	507	507	0	0	0	0	548		507	507	41	548	548
Natural Flood Management	97	220	220	0	337	336	284	1,274		1,176	1,176	97	1,274	1,274
Highways Infrastructure Investment		1,335	1,335	0	6,835	3,985	3,885	16,040		1,580	14,460	16,040	0	16,040
Public Realm Improvements for Ash Die Back		315	315	0	367	367	367	1,416		1,416	1,416	0	1,416	1,416
Moving Traffic Enforcement Phase 2		25	25	0	119	0	0	144		144	144	0	144	144
Masters House		762	0	(762)	0	0	0	762		762	762	0	762	762
<b>Highways Maintenance Delivery Board</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>26,486</b>	<b>24,750</b>	<b>(1,737)</b>	<b>24,209</b>	<b>5,123</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>66,352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37,008</b>	<b>23,345</b>	<b>60,354</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>66,352</b>
E & E's S106		1,979	1,979	0	4,045	1,548	0	7,572		7,572	7,572	0	7,572	7,572
C & F's S106		860	860	0	1,047	2,084	0	3,992		3,992	3,992	0	3,992	3,992
<b>Planning Delivery Board</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,092</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>
Integrated Wetlands	2,252	410	410	0	339	0	0	3,000		748	748	2,252	3,000	3,000
Solar Photovoltaic Panels	862	265	265	0	1,007	0	0	2,134		1,272	1,272	862	2,134	2,134
Wye Valley AONB	55	155	155	0	116	0	0	326		272	272	55	326	326
SEPUBU Grant	88	344	17	(327)	0	0	0	432		344	344	88	432	432
Waste		0	0	0	18,090	0	0	18,090		5,800	12,290	18,090	0	18,090
E-Cargo Bike Share		85	85	0	0	0	0	85		85	0	85	0	85
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Fund (LEVI)		124	124	0	300	300	400	1,124		1,124	1,124	0	1,124	1,124
Herefordshire Retrofit Hub		2,042	0	(2,042)	0	0	0	2,042		2,042	2,042	0	2,042	2,042
Green Homes Grant - Local Authority Delivery	526	293	209	(84)	0	0	0	819		293	293	526	819	819
Home Upgrade Grant	522	4,301	3,733	(568)	4,646	0	0	9,469		8,947	8,947	522	9,469	9,469
<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability Delivery Board</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>8,019</b>	<b>4,998</b>	<b>(3,021)</b>	<b>24,498</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>37,521</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,655</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>33,217</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>37,521</b>
Hereford Enterprise Zone	14,526	421	421	(0)	0	0	0	14,947		421	421	14,526	14,947	14,947
Marches Business Investment Programme	2,884	544	486	(58)	0	0	0	3,428		544	544	2,884	3,428	3,428
Employment Land & Incubation Space in Market Towns	341	100	100	0	10,000	10,260	0	20,701		7,214	11,093	20,360	341	20,701
Leominster Heritage Action Zone	1,095	1,356	1,356	0	653	0	0	3,104		1,623	386	2,009	1,095	3,104
Safer Streets / CCTV	340	43	4	(39)	0	0	0	383		43	43	340	383	383
Fastershire Broadband	26,990	4,240	4,240	0	4,508	0	0	35,738		839	7,909	8,748	26,990	35,738
Development Partnership activities	10,415	2,000	0	(2,000)	3,000	5,185	0	20,600		140	10,045	10,185	10,415	20,600
<b>Economic Development Delivery Board</b>	<b>56,591</b>	<b>8,705</b>	<b>6,608</b>	<b>(2,097)</b>	<b>18,161</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,901</b>	<b>9,398</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>29,048</b>	<b>42,310</b>	<b>56,591</b>	<b>98,901</b>
Stronger Towns Fund - Hereford Museum & Art Gallery Redevelopment	1,535	700	700	0	7,000	8,765	0	18,000		7,946	8,519	16,465	1,535	18,000
Stronger Towns Fund - Greening the City	81	23	23	(0)	300	0	0	404		323	323	81	404	404
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	290	290	290	0	845	0	0	1,135		1,135	1,135	0	1,135	1,135
Rural Prosperity Fund	850	850	850	0	856	0	0	1,706		1,706	1,706	0	1,706	1,706
Stronger Towns Fund - Mayford Orchard Redevelopment and Learning Resource Centre	434	455	455	0	2,611	0	0	3,500		395	2,671	3,066	434	3,500
<b>Major External Funded Delivery Board</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>11,611</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,744</b>	<b>8,341</b>	<b>14,354</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,694</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>24,744</b>
Electronic Document Management Storage	303	12	0	(12)	0	0	0	315		1,000	12	12	303	315
Capital Development Fund	1,000	0	0	(1,000)	0	0	0	1,000		1,000	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Key Network Infrastructure (Core Data Centre Switches & Corporate Wi-Fi)	143	412	412	0	0	0	0	555		412	412	143	555	555
HARC SAN Lifecycle Replacement	2	2	2	0	370	0	0	372		372	372	0	372	372
Data Centre Equipment Lifecycle Replacement	329	329	329	0	0	0	0	329		329	329	0	329	329
Windows Server Upgrades	330	330	330	0	0	0	0	330		330	330	0	330	330
Backup Storage	82	52	52	(30)	0	0	0	82		82	82	0	82	82
Device and Ancillary kit replacement programme	265	265	265	0	365	415	548	1,593		1,593	1,593	0	1,593	1,593
M365 E5 Implementation	300	300	300	0	150	0	0	450		450	450	0	450	450
Primary Data Storage Area Network (Plough Lane)	272	63	11	(52)	0	0	0	335		63	63	272	335	335
<b>IT Services Partnership Board</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>2,795</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>(1,094)</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>5,361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>5,361</b>
Flexible Futures	268	582	582	0	0	0	0	850		582	582	268	850	850
My Account	11	432	7	(425)	0	0	0	443		432	432	11	443	443
<b>Corporate Transformation Delivery Board</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>(425)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,293</b>
Schools Capital Maintenance Grant		2,986	2,986	0	3,902	0	0	6,888		4,181	2,707	6,888	0	6,888
Peterchurch Area School Investment	232	30	30	0	3,175	5,716	1,700	10,853		5,433	5,188	10,621	232	10,853
Brookfield School Improvements	375	750	750	0	3,875	0	0	5,000		919	3,706	4,625	375	5,000
High Needs Grant	77	150	150	0	3,328	500	0	4,055		3,978	3,978	77	4,055	4,055
Basic Needs Funding		200	200	0	5,000	5,000	6,084	16,284		16,033	251	16,284	0	16,284
Preliminary works to inform key investment need throughout the county	213	280	280	0	23	0	0	516		303	303	213	516	516
School Accessibility Works		331	331	0	672	0	0	1,003		1,003	1,003	0	1,003	1,003
Estates Capital Programme 2019/22	3,760	666	666	0	1,656	0	0	6,082		2,322	2,322	3,760	6,082	6,082
Residual property works identified in the 2019 condition reports	40	701	701	(0)	650	0	0	1,392		1,351	1,351	40	1,392	1,392
Estates Building Improvement Programme 22-25	174	1,698	1,698	0	1,135	0	0	3,007		2,833	2,833	174	3,007	3,007
Estates Building Improvement Programme 2023-25		780	780	0	2,747	0	0	3,527		1,105	2,422	3,527	0	3,527
Fly-Tipping Intervention Scheme		30	30	0	0	0	0	30		30	30	0	30	30
Upgrade of Hereford CCTV Cameras	38	4	4	0	0	0	0	42		4	4	38	42	42
Changing Places		287	287	0	0	0	0	287		287	287	0	287	287
Hereford Library	145	0	0	0	200	0	0	345		200	200	145	345	345
<b>Asset Management Delivery Board</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>8,893</b>	<b>8,893</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26,362</b>	<b>11,216</b>	<b>7,784</b>							

Approved at February 2022 Council	98,060	140,283	103,771	52,177	6,270	400,561
Reprofile Budget		(78,948)	45,527	25,424	7,997	0
Grant/Funding Movement		10,156	9,140	300	400	19,996
22/23 Carry Forward		18,790				18,790
Remove Care Home project		(500)	(3,000)	(9,000)	(1,400)	(13,900)
Remove eCargo Bike borrowing requirement		(73)				(73)
Budget not carried forward for projects completed	(4,269)					(4,269)
Use of Reserves						0
Prior Year Spend adj (closed projects and 22/23 one off grant excluded)	24,140					24,140

<b>Change in Capital Programme</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(68,865)</b>	<b>54,667</b>	<b>25,724</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>19,923</b>
						<b>Note 1</b>

<b>Overall Change Financed By</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>			<b>£000</b>
Prudential Borrowing		(73)				(73)
Grant and funding contributions (Inc Reserves)		10,156	9,140	300	400	19,996
Capital receipts						0
	<b>0</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>9,140</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>19,923</b>

**Note 1**

Grant Amendments since February Council	<b>£000</b>
Levelling up fund for North and South ATMs	13,412
Integrated Wetlands - NHB	900
Changing Places	287
Highways Maintenance and pot hole repairing 2023/24	2,558
Active Travel Fund 4	306
DfE increase to schools maintenance grant 23/24	33
Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant	30
23/24 DFG additional grant	467
Wye Valley AONB additional grant	70
eCargo Bike Grant	85
Greening the City Adjustment for Grant Award	-6
Remove LTA Grant assumption	-180
Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)	910
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Grant	1,124
	<b>19,996</b>

Scheme Name	Spend in					Total Scheme Budget £000	Grant & Prudential					
	Prior Years £000	Total Budget £000	Total Budget £000	Total Budget £000	Total Budget £000		Capital receipts £000	funding cont £000	Prudential borrowing £000	Total £000	Prior Years £000	Total Funding £000
Hereford City Centre Transport Package	37,224	6,255	3,500	0	0	46,979		6,081	3,674	9,755	37,224	46,979
Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI)	3,500	2,500	0	0	0	6,000			2,500	2,500	3,500	6,000
Southern Link Road		800	2,200	2,000	5,300	10,300	5,000		5,300	10,300	0	10,300
Hereford ATMs and Super Cycle Highway		1,000	0	0	0	1,000			1,000	1,000	0	1,000
Emergency Active travel Fund		119	0	0	0	119		119		119	0	119
Active Travel Fund 4		306	0	0	0	306		306		306	0	306
LUF - Active Travel Measures (north of river)	251	1,025	3,190	0	0	4,466		4,215		4,215	251	4,466
LUF - Active Travel Measures (south of river)	2	4,036	5,159	0	0	9,197		9,194		9,194	2	9,197
<b>Sustainable Transport &amp; Place Making Delivery Board</b>	<b>40,976</b>	<b>16,041</b>	<b>14,049</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>78,366</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>12,475</b>	<b>37,390</b>	<b>40,976</b>	<b>78,366</b>
Local Transport Plan (LTP)		15,466	15,466	0	0	30,932				30,932	0	30,932
Priority Flood Repair Works	2,868	1,159	0	0	0	4,027			1,159	1,159	2,868	4,027
Extra Ordinary Highways Maintenance & Biodiversity Net Gain	1,891	408	0	0	0	2,299			408	408	1,891	2,299
Public Realm Maintenance - Mitigating Risk on the Network	1,101	3,849	0	0	0	4,950			3,849	3,849	1,101	4,950
Highways Maintenance and pot hole repairing 2023/24		2,558	0	0	0	2,558			2,558	2,558	0	2,558
Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways		0	5,000	5,000	0	10,000	816	9,185		10,000	0	10,000
Winter Resilience		677	290	435	0	1,402			1,402	1,402	0	1,402
Highways Equipment	41	507	0	0	0	548			507	507	41	548
Natural Flood Management	97	489	279	239	170	1,274		1,176		1,176	97	1,274
Highways Infrastructure Investment		4,085	4,085	3,985	3,885	16,040		1,580	14,460	16,040	0	16,040
Public Realm Improvements for Ash Die Back		315	367	367	367	1,416			1,416	1,416	0	1,416
Moving Traffic Enforcement Phase 2		144	0	0	0	144			144	144	0	144
<b>Highways Maintenance Delivery Board</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>29,657</b>	<b>25,487</b>	<b>10,026</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>75,590</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>45,431</b>	<b>23,345</b>	<b>69,592</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>75,590</b>
E & E's S106		4,558	1,092	1,922	0	7,572				7,572	0	7,572
C & F's S106		1,376	351	2,265	0	3,992				3,992	0	3,992
<b>Planning Delivery Board</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,563</b>
Integrated Wetlands	2,252	748	0	0	0	3,000				748	2,252	3,000
Solar Photovoltaic Panels	862	1,272	0	0	0	2,134			1,272	1,272	862	2,134
Wye Valley AONB	55	155	116	0	0	326			272	272	55	326
SEPUBU Grant	88	344	0	0	0	432			344	344	88	432
Waste		18,090	0	0	0	18,090		5,800	12,290	18,090	0	18,090
E-Cargo Bike Share		85	0	0	0	85			85	85	0	85
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Fund (LEVI)		124	300	300	400	1,124		1,124		1,124	0	1,124
Green Homes Grant - Local Authority Delivery	526	293	0	0	0	819			293	293	526	819
Home Upgrade Grant	522	4,301	4,646	0	0	9,469			8,947	8,947	522	9,469
<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability Delivery Board</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>25,413</b>	<b>5,063</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>35,479</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,613</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>31,175</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>35,479</b>
Hereford Enterprise Zone	14,526	421	0	0	0	14,947		421		421	14,526	14,947
Marches Business Investment Programme	2,884	544	0	0	0	3,428				544	2,884	3,428
Investment in Employment Land in Herefordshire	341	3,500	10,000	6,860	0	20,701	12,000	2,053	6,307	20,360	341	20,701
Leominster Heritage Action Zone	1,095	2,009	0	0	0	3,104	1,623	386		2,009	1,095	3,104
Safer Streets / CCTV	340	43	0	0	0	383			43	43	340	383
Fastershire Broadband	26,990	1,216	5,532	0	0	33,738		3,853	2,895	6,748	26,990	33,738
<b>Economic Development Delivery Board</b>	<b>46,176</b>	<b>7,734</b>	<b>15,532</b>	<b>6,860</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76,301</b>	<b>14,044</b>	<b>6,879</b>	<b>9,202</b>	<b>30,125</b>	<b>46,176</b>	<b>76,301</b>
Stronger Towns Fund - Hereford Museum & Art Gallery Redevelopment	1,535	10,665	5,800	0	0	18,000	7,946	8,519		16,465	1,535	18,000
Stronger Towns Fund - Greening the City	81	323	0	0	0	404		323		323	81	404
UK Shared Prosperity Fund		290	845	0	0	1,135		1,135		1,135	0	1,135
Rural Prosperity Fund		850	856	0	0	1,706		1,706		1,706	0	1,706
Stronger Towns Library & Learning Centre relocation to Shirehall		395	2,611	0	0	3,005		395	2,611	3,005	0	3,005
Stronger Towns Fund - Maylord Orchard Redevelopment and Learning Resource Centre	434	3,066	0	0	0	3,500		395	2,671	3,066	434	3,500
<b>Major External Funded Delivery Board</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>15,589</b>	<b>10,111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,750</b>	<b>8,735</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>27,750</b>
Electronic Document Management Storage	303	12	0	0	0	315			12	12	303	315
Capital Development Fund		1,000	0	0	0	1,000				1,000	0	1,000
Key Network Infrastructure (Core Data Centre Switches & Corporate Wi-Fi)	143	412	0	0	0	555			412	412	143	555
HARC SAN Lifecycle Replacement		372	0	0	0	372			372	372	0	372
Data Centre Equipment Lifecycle Replacement		329	0	0	0	329			329	329	0	329
Windows Server Upgrades		330	0	0	0	330			330	330	0	330
Backup Storage		82	0	0	0	82			82	82	0	82
Device and Ancillary kit replacement programme		365	365	415	448	1,593			1,593	1,593	0	1,593
M365 E5 Implementation		300	150	0	0	450			450	450	0	450
Primary Data Storage Area Network (Plough Lane)	272	63	0	0	0	335			63	63	272	335
<b>IT Services Partnership Board</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>3,265</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>5,361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,643</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>5,361</b>
Flexible Futures	268	582	0	0	0	850			582	582	268	850
Wye Valley Trust - Education Centre Investment	0	0	6,000	0	0	6,000			6,000	6,000	0	6,000
HWGTA - Development of Vocational Work Based Skills Inv	0	0	2,000	0	0	2,000			2,000	2,000	0	2,000
My Account		7	0	0	0	7			7	7	0	7
<b>Corporate Transformation Delivery Board</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,857</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,588</b>	<b>8,588</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>8,857</b>
Schools Capital Maintenance Grant		5,693	1,195	0	0	6,888		4,181	2,707	6,888	0	6,888
Peterchurch Area School Investment	232	7,446	3,175	0	0	10,853	5,433	3,706	5,188	10,621	232	10,853
Brookfield School Improvements	375	3,830	795	0	0	5,000	919	3,978		4,625	375	5,000
High Needs Grant	77	1,300	2,678	0	0	4,055			3,978	3,978	77	4,055
Basic Needs Funding		7,674	8,610	0	0	16,284			16,033	251	16,284	16,284
Preliminary works to inform key investment need throughout the county	213	303	0	0	0	516			303	303	213	516
School Accessibility Works		1,003	0	0	0	1,003			1,003	1,003	0	1,003
Estates Capital Programme 2019/22	3,760	2,322	0	0	0	6,082			2,322	2,322	3,760	6,082
Work to Shirehall Annex (Care Leavers Base)		100	0	0	0	100	100			100	0	100
Shirehall Building Improvements		0	3,000	0	0	3,000	2,000		1,000	3,000	0	3,000
Residual property works identified in the 2019 condition reports	40	1,351	0	0	0	1,392			1,351	1,351	40	1,392
Estates Building Improvement Programme 22-25	174	2,569	264	0	0	3,007			2,833	2,833	174	3,007
Estates Building Improvement Programme 2023-25		2,280	1,247	0	0	3,527		1,285	2,242	3,527	0	3,527
Fly-Tipping Intervention Scheme		30	0	0	0	30			30	30	0	30
Upgrade of Hereford CCTV Cameras	38	4	0	0	0	42			4	4	38	42
Changing Places		287	0	0	0	287			287	287	0	287
Hereford Library	145	200	0	0	0	345			200	200	145	345
<b>Asset Management Delivery Board</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>36,392</b>	<b>20,963</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62,410</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>29,504</b>	<b>19,399</b>	<b>57,355</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>62,410</b>

Disabled facilities grant	4,229	2,000	0	0	6,229	6,229	6,229	0	6,229
Community Capital Grants Scheme	200	1,800	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
<b>Community Wellbeing Delivery Board</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>6,229</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,229</b>
Hillside	879	121	0	0	0	121	121	879	1,000
Empty Property Investment & Development		919	0	0	0	919	919	0	919
Gypsy & Traveller Pitch development	781	1,096	0	0	0	1,096	1,096	781	1,877
Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)		455	455	0	0	910	910	0	910
Strategic Housing Development		80	0	0	0	80	80	0	80
Private sector housing improvements (Demo Centre)	88	111	0	0	0	111	111	88	199
<b>Housing &amp; Accommodation Delivery Board</b>	<b>1,747</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>3,236</b>	<b>1,747</b>	<b>4,984</b>
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>107,293</b>	<b>147,821</b>	<b>105,417</b>	<b>23,788</b>	<b>10,570</b>	<b>39,280</b>	<b>156,009</b>	<b>92,308</b>	<b>287,596</b>

**Key:**

- Revenue Funded Borrowing
- Reserve to be topped back up by future receipts

Current 2023/24 Programme Budget 117,931 168,656 109,911 43,477 5,270 445,245

**Change in Capital Programme (10,638) (20,834) (4,494) (19,689) 5,300 (50,355)**

**Overall Change Financed By**

	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Prudential Borrowing		(9,585)	(8,120)	(8,089)	5,300	(20,494)
Grant and funding contributions (Inc Reserves)		(10,604)	(7,975)	(13,600)		(32,180)
Capital receipts		(645)	11,602	2,000		12,957
	<b>0</b>	<b>(20,834)</b>	<b>(4,494)</b>	<b>(19,689)</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>(39,717)</b>



# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Economy and Environment</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Southern Link Road</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Mark Averill, Service Director Environment and Highways</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

*Scheme description and demonstration of links to corporate priorities and savings plans.*

The Council is seeking to progress the Southern Link Road (SLR) to a point where the scheme can be delivered on the ground. The scheme previously featured as a part of the delivery programme for highway infrastructure and had reached a point where construction on site was due to commence. A change in Council priorities saw the removal of road building from the delivery plan, this change in stance also removed the progression of work to deliver a Western Bypass for the city of Hereford.

This capital bid is intended to:

- Southern Link Road
  - Fund the design check that is now necessary, the design is a number of years old and design standards have been tweaked by DfT as a part of the regular update of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.
  - Fund the work required to submit a planning application for the required haul roads and compound for the scheme.
  - Fund the necessary ecology and environmental surveys that are required as a part of the new planning permissions and to allow the council to discharge the conditions on the planning permission that exists for the approved route of the Southern Link Road.
  - Commence negotiations for land acquisition, and compulsory purchase process.
  - Updated traffic model
  - Revised scheme cost
  - Review and re-submission of the full business case
  - Construction, design and commercial support

Links to County Plan priorities:

**Community:** The delivery of the SLR will allow for the removal of a high proportion of traffic that currently accesses the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone via the A465 and A49 corridors. This will help in restoring a sense of place to the Belmont Road, reducing the current community severance that exists on the A465.

A better quality network, with less traffic, will remove some of the blockers associated with decisions to not adopt sustainable modes of transport for short journeys.

**Economy:** The creation of a new network of roads around the City will ensure that business traffic is able to access the business parks and Enterprise Zone without impacting on the city. This will reduce cost and encourage investment.

The creation of the Southern Link Road, and the other revenue funded work that is coming forward, will give local businesses confidence to invest in the city's enterprise park and business hubs.

By removing unnecessary through traffic from the city centre local retail, leisure and hospitality businesses will be better placed to welcome visitors to the city.

**Environment:** Traffic levels in the city are high, and with that comes pollution in the form of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate pollution (PM10 and PM2.5). This pollution is known to affect the development of the young and to impact on the health of adults with respiratory illnesses.

The schemes will be designed such that they are sympathetic to the environment, with planting on site and on nearby sites planned as an integral part of the schemes.

**Estimated costs and funding sources:**

	2023/24	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
Southern Link Road	800	2,200	2,000	5,300	10,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>Funding sources</b>					
Capital Receipts	800	2,200	2,000		5,000
Corporate Funded Borrowing				5,300	5,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					

**Benefits and risks:**

*The anticipated benefits and risks of the proposed project plus risks of not going ahead with the scheme.*

- By investing capital in this way, starting with the Southern Link Road, then the City will have started on its journey to create resilience, better control its traffic and will allow for space within the city centre to be re-purposed to provide a better sense of place.
- The residents of Herefordshire have long expected the delivery of a bypass for the city, customer satisfaction will be improved when work on the SLR is commenced.
- Businesses will welcome a reduction in lost time traversing busy city centre corridors, freeing up resource for investment in the various enterprises.
- A reduction in traffic in the city centre will allow for a more punctual bus service, giving residents the confidence to swap their travel modes.
- Less traffic will also improve the active travel choices of our residents. They will be able to travel on quieter streets with less pollution.

**Risks**

- Costs have risen significantly since the southern link road was originally tendered and the proposed budget is insufficient to construct the scheme. A re-visit of the full business case and a bid to Government will be required to provide the full funds required.
- The Western Bypass and Eastern River Crossing have yet to progress to the full business case stage, a detailed plan will need to be prepared to allow for both schemes to progress to deliver the required resilience for the City and to unlock the benefits both schemes will deliver. This piece of work is reliant upon revenue funding.

# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Shirehall Improvement Works &amp; Care Leavers Base</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Andrew Lovegrove - Director of Resources and Assurance</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

*Scheme description and demonstration of links to corporate priorities and savings plans.*

The first phase of a planned refurbishment project to bring the Shirehall back into productive use, relocate the CCTV service and enhance the Care Leaver's Base facility in the adjacent building.

This phase targets primarily those works deemed essential for the building to re-open, taking account of building safety for users, visitors and the general public, regulatory compliance and the need for the building to be usable on a practical level. A longer term strategy, subject to future funding, would see a phased programme of work to further improve the building. The decision of HM Courts & Tribunal Service not to return to Shirehall is relevant as background to this proposal, as is the recent decision identifying Shirehall as preferred location for the new Library and Learning Centre under the Stronger Towns funding programme. Reflecting wider Council property strategy and service delivery need, the identified funding requirement also includes for relocation of the CCTV service from Shirehall to Maylord Orchards and the enhancement of a Care-Leavers Hub in the adjacent annexe building. Key objectives identified include:

- Return a key council built asset to productive use.
- Fulfil the responsibilities of the council as keeper and custodian of a key heritage asset.
- Improve the city-centre townscape by reinstating a substantial structure currently boarded up and deteriorating.
- Support the local retail economy by creating facilities which give people additional reason to be in the city-centre zone.
- Support the aims of the Hereford Town Investment Plan by providing a built asset into which a Library and Learning Centre could be located, subject to separate funding and governance.
- Support local community and third-sector organisations by providing bookable space alongside complementary council services.
- Relocate the CCTV Service to a more effective and fit-for purpose location.
- Enhance the Care Leaver's Base, bringing together several service and partner aspects to improve delivery for young people.

## Strategic Alignment:

- **Protect and enhance our environment** – restore and bring back into use a landmark historic building in the city which will otherwise remain boarded up in a state of ongoing deterioration; protect and maintain the county's heritage assets; reduce carbon emissions through more efficient space heating provision.
- **Strengthen communities** – create a central hub able to host a complementary range of community-focused council services, third-sector activity, community skills development and cultural offerings; manage council assets to optimise their use and potential.
- **Support the economy** – create a destination building which will bring people to the city centre, supporting the local retail economy with footfall to the area; provide a venue for community skills development, and the support for people to access it.
- **Hereford County Plan 2020-24** – supports the vision to 'protect and promote our heritage, culture and natural beauty to enhance quality of life and support tourism' and to 'support education and skills development'.
- **Herefordshire City Masterplan** – supports the objectives across Community and Culture, Economy and Opportunities and Places and Spaces; '*Celebrating and growing our best places, reinvigorating our less-loved ones, rediscovering our historic places, adapting places for the future and planning new places that excite us*'
- **Herefordshire Big Economic Plan 2050** – supports the identified themes of People, Community and Partnerships and Enterprise.

### Estimated costs and funding sources:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
Design & Build Costs	0	900	3000	155	4,055
Internal staff, PM & sundry costs	0	67	53	25	145
Care Leavers Base	100	0	0	0	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Funding sources</b>					
Balance of existing capital budget			1,020	180	1,200
Capital Receipts Reserve	100		2,000		2,100
Corporate Funded Borrowing		967	33	0	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>0</b>

### Benefits and risks:

*The anticipated benefits and risks of the proposed project plus risks of not going ahead with the scheme.*

- The building has a continuing maintenance cost annually while out of use, but with no return. The project will bring the building back into full productive use and allow it to be considered as an operational asset within the council's wider property strategy.
- The increased efficiency of new boilers and heating distribution systems will have a financial benefit in reducing the energy costs associated with heating the building.
- Improving the safety and accessibility of the building reduces the council's risk exposure in terms of its statutory responsibilities to staff, visitors and the general public.
- While boarded up and with the condition deteriorating, the building risks being an eyesore in a key city centre location. Restoration can reverse this trend.
- The project will help to address reputational damage to the council – criticism that paying to maintain an empty building does not make economic sense and that the council as custodian of a listed building is not caring for this key heritage asset.
- Subject to separate decisions and governance, the building when reinstated offers a space to support the LLC relocation through the Stronger Towns grant intervention.
- A reinstated Shirehall provides the opportunity to combine council services and linked community and third-sector groups in a common location.
- Relocation of the CCTV operations to Maylord Orchard will allow the service to operate more efficiently and effectively from a more fit for purpose and consolidated base location.
- Enhancement of the Care Leavers Base to provide a visually more aesthetic appearance for our young people as well as increased and much needed facilities. This current location is a crucial focus for young people and by creating a base, enables a wider professional skillset to be brought together to improve our corporate parenting offer. Its position alongside Shirehall facilities also increases the facilities available to care colleagues.

Risks associated with not proceeding have been identified as:

- Ongoing maintenance and emergency repair costs for a vacant and non-productive building.
- Continuing deterioration of the building leading to higher ultimate restoration costs.
- Public safety risk as the external building fabric deteriorates.
- Reputational risk of the Council failing in its duty as custodian of a grade 2-star heritage asset, and the perception that public funds are being wasted maintaining an empty building.
- Inability to progress the cabinet decision of 26/10/2023 identifying Shirehall as preferred location for the new Library and Learning Centre.
- Loss of opportunity to establish a community hub centred around the new Library and Learning Centre.

# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Economy and Environment</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Resurfacing Herefordshire Highways</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Mark Averill, Service Director Environment and Highways</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

*Scheme description and demonstration of links to corporate priorities and savings plans.*

The council estimates there is a backlog of £127m in highway carriageway repairs, this value being split between preventative maintenance (surface treatments) and more traditional resurfacing/ reconstruction type activity. This OSBC is focussed only on resurfacing and reconstruction type activity.

The condition of the network is such that the available Annual Plan and Forward Plan budgets are prioritised to minimise the impact of the deteriorating condition of the carriageway asset and to manage the remainder of the asset groups following a Risk Based Approach. Noting the fact that current budgets are such that the network is in managed decline this bid seeks to reverse that trend and allows for roads that are currently identified in years 2 and 3 of the Annual Plan are brought forward for treatment now. This approach will have the dual benefit of reducing the need for reactive repairs in the interim period and will deliver better value schemes as the required intervention will be proportionally less than if carried out at a later date.

The condition of the carriageways assets is such that the annual plan needs support to prevent the assets deteriorating further.

The condition of road surfaces is a constant concern for residents, parishes and members alike. The investment will result in an improvement in public and member satisfaction and will also reduce the volume of claims received by our service provider, Balfour Beatty Living Places, for damage caused by failed roads.

The Council has a statutory duty under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to ensure that roads are maintained, this funding will contribute to any defence where lack of investment is identified as a potential factor.

### Links to County Plan priorities:

County Priority – please select from	Delivery Plan Reference(s)
Community	C04, C00
Economy	EC2, EC5
Environment	EN3

**Community:** The project ensures localities remain connected, there is a risk of severance where road condition contributes to residents decisions not to use that part of the network.  
A better quality network will remove some of the blockers associated with decisions to not adopt sustainable modes of transport for short journeys

**Economy:** The condition of the road network has a direct effect on businesses choosing to invest in Herefordshire. A better connected business community will thrive.

**Environment:** Reactive maintenance is wasteful, especially in terms of travel impact and waste material generated as a consequence. Large surfacing schemes, using state of the art machinery will reduce the impact of completing the work.

At the same time the materials traditionally seen as waste can be stored for reuse as a part of a wider recycling programme for surfacing/ treating our low use unclassified network.

Minimising the risk of failure and closures will reduce the diversions needed for transport.

**Estimated costs and funding sources:**

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Future Years	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
Resurfacing Schemes	4,750	4,750			9500
Internal Staff, PM and Sundry cost	250	250			500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>			<b>10,000</b>
<b>Funding sources</b>					
Corporate Funded Borrowing	4,184.5	5000			10,000
Capital Receipts Reserve	815.5				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>			<b>10,000</b>
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					

**Benefits and risks:**

*The anticipated benefits and risks of the proposed project plus risks of not going ahead with the scheme.*

- By investing capital in this way the county's most valuable asset will be improved and associated revenue costs will be mitigated
- Customer satisfaction will be improved when a programme of improvements in condition is announced
- Combined with the additional funding provided as a part of the cancellation of HS2 the other asset groups can be better maintained using the limited LTP funding provided to the council.
- Reduction in claims and other correspondence relating to condition
- There are no dis-benefits associated with investing in the carriageway asset.

**Risks**

- The additional work generated by this fund may cause supply chain issues. Early engagement with the sector and development of detailed programmes will mitigate against this.
- Deliverability during the optimal period for surfacing works. A detailed programme will be developed to ensure that the programme is delivered before the onset of winter.

# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Wye Valley Trust – Education Centre Investment</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Andrew Lovegrove - Director of Resources and Assurance</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

*Scheme description and demonstration of links to corporate priorities and savings plans.*

To form an investment partnership between Herefordshire Council and Wye Valley Trust to enable the development of an Education Centre at Hereford County Hospital. This project presents opportunities to close the gap of a lack of education providers who offer higher level training, especially in the health and social care sector. By having the opportunity to create an education centre on the premises of the hospital, this is creating a local skills improvement plan, providing a much needed opportunity to train and upskill staff and attract new people to Herefordshire.

## Strategic alignment:

- **Strengthen communities** - We are committed to supporting our NHS partners across Herefordshire to deliver their long-term ambitions within our communities. There is substantial positive community impact that will arise from this initiative. By investing in an education centre, Wye Valley Trust will be able to offer advanced staff training, which in turn will retain staff at the hospital with higher skills. This will reduce the need for patients to travel out of the County to specialist hospitals for treatment.
- **Support the economy** - We will continue to support the significant growth of education opportunities within the county to provide new opportunities for younger people to live and learn locally. The council will promote a culture of lifelong learning and enable access to tools and resources to support upskilling, reskilling and employability by providing routes to training opportunities, apprenticeships and hands-on experience.
- **Herefordshire County Plan 2020-24** - We will continue to serve the people of Herefordshire, by investing prudently to continue to deliver the services that our residents need and to invest in the education and skills needed by employers.
- **Herefordshire Big Economic Plan 2050**
  - **People** – Herefordshire will be a great place to grow up and to grow old, with a growing, highly skilled population, attracting young people and families who move here and stay. A thriving University City and strong offer across our colleges and training organisations.
  - **Investment** - Increased investment in infrastructure, alongside growing inward and business investment, throughout the county.

## Estimated costs and funding sources:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Future Years	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
Construction costs	6,000				6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	6,000				6,000
<b>Funding sources</b>					
Return on investment	6,000				6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	6,000				6,000
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					

**Benefits and risks:**

*The anticipated benefits and risks of the proposed project plus risks of not going ahead with the scheme.*

The development of an integrated education centre for the Trust and local community will provide:

- Multi-professional education.
- Equitable and life-long learning for all staff.
- An exemplar education facility available to a wide range of local community groups, serving the public, patients and service users.
- An education facility that is shared with partners and supports learning far beyond traditional healthcare education.
- If staff can be retained and developed at the hospital more treatments will be available to local residents, resulting in a more efficient offer to patients.
- If staff are retained at the hospital then the long term viability of the service is maintained.
- The community will be able to use the centre with training and development on offer to Herefordshire residents, helping retain higher level skills within the County thus growing the economy.
- The community hub model will strengthen the partnership working across the county resulting in more efficient services being provided to residents.

Risks associated with not proceeding have been identified as:

- Loss of opportunity to establish an investment partnership with Wye Valley Trust, thus delaying the opportunity for the Education Centre to be built.
- Residents will continue to travel outside of Herefordshire to access training and education opportunities.
- Loss of opportunity to grow and develop a highly skilled population.
- Limiting the attraction for young people and families to move to Herefordshire.

The indicative figures are based on the outline strategic proposal, however costs are subject to the final business case provided by Wye Valley Trust once build costs have been confirmed.



# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Corporate Services</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Herefordshire and Worcestershire Group Training Association (HWGTA) - Development of Vocational Work Based Skills Investment</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Andrew Lovegrove - Director of Resources and Assurance</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

The aim of the project is to form an investment partnership with HWGTA to support the organisation to establish a new Centre of Excellence on Plot 7, Skylon Park to enable further development of vocational work based skills across the county.

### County Plan 2020 - 2024

“Skill-up – Encourage continuous investment in our local workforce and a culture of lifelong learning in our community.”

“Strengthen the use of our assets– Work with our anchor organisations to be more creative in how we use and share our collective assets, increase our local investment, encourage the development of new businesses and explore new methods of financial support.”

### 2050 Economic Plan

“Herefordshire has a strong and growing educational and skills ecosystem and offer, including Herefordshire and Ludlow College, Hereford Sixth Form, Hereford College of Arts, the Royal National College for the Blind, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Group Training Association and NMITE. Developing our education and learning offer at all levels, including schools, higher and further education, is essential to attract more people to live and work in the county.”

“The county will be an attractive place for young people, professionals and families to move to with access to education and training, quality housing (set out in detail in the Infrastructure outcomes and actions), competitively paid job opportunities, high quality services, and an arts, heritage, food and drink and leisure scene. Overall wage levels will have risen in real terms, with more people working in high quality and higher skilled jobs. Older people living here will age healthily and be economically active for as long as they want to be, with Herefordshire making the most of their talents and experience and with reskilling opportunities easily access.”

“All residents will have access to training and development at all stages of their working life in skills that will enable them to access opportunities locally, with a specific focus on green economy, low carbon transition, digital and technology skills.”

## Estimated costs and funding sources:

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Future Years</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
Construction Costs	2,000				2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000</b>				<b>2,000</b>
<b>Funding sources</b>					
Return on Investment	2,000				2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000</b>				<b>2,000</b>
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					

<b>TOTAL</b>					

**Benefits and risks:**

**Benefits: -**

Positive contribution towards helping local people to become more adaptable and highly skilled, boosting their employability and earning potential, thus creating local economic opportunities and attracting investment.

The project aligns with the county plan, addresses the skills shortage and it would bring better paid jobs to Herefordshire.

**Estimated growth outputs: -**

<b>HWGTA Outputs for New Centre of Excellence</b>	<b>Existing annual Enrolments Aug 22- Jul 23</b>	<b>Annual Enrolments in new CoE</b>	<b>Change in numbers</b>	<b>% Growth</b>
Level 2 Apprenticeships (Intermediate)	30	38	8	21%
Level 3 Apprenticeships (Advanced)	84	105	21	20%
Level 4 & 5 Apprenticeships (Higher)	10	15	5	33%
Other FE learners (adult short courses)	953	1325	372	28%
Additional companies engaged in apprenticeship delivery	89	105	16	15%
Hereford based staff	30	32	2	6%
Sustainability during construction and occupation	Exceed the sustainability requirements set by Herefordshire Enterprise Zone's Local Development Order, as pre-assessed and audited by Ecoteric Ltd			

**Risks: -**

- Potential for increasing building costs in the current economic climate and delays during construction.
- The national intention is to grow the offer to our residents in terms of skills development and by not doing this we are limiting opportunity in Herefordshire.

The indicative figures are based on the outline strategic proposal, however costs are subject to the final business case

# OUTLINE STRATEGIC BUSINESS CASE

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Community Wellbeing</b>
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Community Capital Grants Scheme</b>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Corporate Director Community Wellbeing</b>

## Project aims and objectives:

*Scheme description and demonstration of links to corporate priorities and savings plans.*

The aim of the scheme is to enhance and support investment in physical Talk Community hubs in line with the original objectives for Talk Community. It supports the ambition in the current County Plan to “Support communities to help each other through a network of community hubs”.

The scheme will support bids that help reduce and defer the need for formal health and social care support and enable people with existing support needs to stay independent and living at home for as long as possible. As this is capital investment only, applicants to the scheme will need to demonstrate a robust, sustainable revenue plan.

The detailed criteria for the scheme will be determined taking account of the findings of the current strategic review of Talk Community.

## Estimated costs and funding sources:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital cost of project</b>					
<b>Community Capital Grants Scheme</b>	200	1,800	0	0	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	200	0	0	0	2,000
<b>Funding sources</b>					
<b>Capital receipt funding</b>	200	1,800	0	0	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	200	1,800	0	0	2,000
<b>Revenue budget implications</b>					
<b>None</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0

## Benefits and risks:

*The anticipated benefits and risks of the proposed project plus risks of not going ahead with the scheme.*

Whilst it is not possible to estimate the value or specific timing of benefits at this stage of the project development, it is expected that there will be cashable benefits in relation to reduced demand for adult social care services and reduced demand for community health services and some acute hospital services.

Non-cashable benefits from this initiative are likely to include:

- Local people gaining access to local and public sector services earlier and preventing social and health care need
- More people participating actively and meaningfully in their local communities
- People from hard to reach or vulnerable groups being supported more in their local community.

The key risks of not doing the project are:

- Loss of opportunity to address health inequality and wider needs in areas of deprivation

- Delayed or disrupted extension of integration and joint working between community health and social care services
- Rising demand for formal health and social care support
- Less people supported to live at home for as long as possible.



# Title of report: Leaders report to Council

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting date:** Friday 8 December, 2023

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

## Classification

Open

## Decision type

This is not an executive decision

## Wards affected

(All Wards);

## Purpose

To provide an update on the work of the Cabinet since the meeting of Council held on 13 October, 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. The leaders report is set out in appendix 1.
3. The report includes a summary of the matters decided by the cabinet and the cabinet members, any decisions taken under the urgency provisions and those subject to call in.
4. It is customary for all of the decisions to be listed in an annex to this report (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 last report one key decision has been 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.
  - a) Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river
  - b) Reduce the council's carbon emissions
  - c) Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions
  - d) Improve the air quality within Herefordshire
  - e) Improve residents' access to green space in Herefordshire
  - f) Improve energy efficiency of homes and build standards for new housing
  - g) 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, 8 December, 2023

**Appendix 2:** Executive decisions taken since 6 October to 30 November, 2023

**Appendix 3:** Cabinet member portfolios


### **Background papers**

None Identified





## Appendix 1: Report of the Leader of the Council - 6 October – 30 November

<b>Leader's Report</b>	
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*Since my last report, much of the work of my administration has been focussed on shaping the budget which we will present to the Council meeting in February. In setting out our priorities for the county we have been keen to involve and engage partners at the regional and local level; seeking out common interests and shared aspirations and wherever possible to build consensus.*

*Improving children's services is one such example. We continue to implement our improvement plans with our colleagues from Leeds. Their insights of a local authority moving from inadequate to good is proving to be so valuable. And the Local Government Association (LGA) continue to provide their national perspectives in areas of scrutiny and corporate parenting.*

*On environmental matters, Herefordshire Council is recognised for our credible commitment and leadership on environmental concerns. We have been ranked as the top performing local authority in the West Midlands on sustainability action - for the third year in a row! We also lead from the front in our continued efforts around river restoration - at county and national levels.*

*Economic investment and infrastructure is also gathering pace as it grows in to new geographic boundaries. The Marches Forward Partnership is gaining momentum and directing attention in areas such as healthcare, education, skill development, jobs, service provision and transport infrastructure (including road, rail and bus travel and cycling). And, as we move away from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, we move in to exciting new opportunities to support our local businesses and prioritise our ambitions for growth with central government recognising local authorities as a principal investment partners.*

*There is much work still to do, but I am increasingly optimistic about the opportunities that lay before us. I also hope members can see that working with partners is a central underpinning in advancing all of our strategic priorities.*

*Finally, I am keen to highlight the work of our scrutiny committees. They play an essential role in being that critical friend challenge to ensure that the right decisions are made. Scrutiny committee members efforts are greatly appreciated. I know they will play a vital role in scrutinising the budget process and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of their meetings January.*

### **Priority No. 1: Children's Services**

#### **1. Update Children's services**

Our work with the Leeds City Council's Relational Practice Centre is hugely important to delivering a range of practice improvements. Leeds have had their own improvement journey to 'Outstanding' and have applied their learning to support several other local authorities leading and promoting the benefits of restorative and relational practice. Leeds continue to help our staff to develop with a programme of training activity. These include

- Introduction to Restorative Practice (core training)
- Team Manager Action Learning Sets, co-facilitated by Service Managers (core training)
- Directorate and Joint Directorate Leadership Team and Heads of Service Development Sessions – scheduled for Jan-April 2024.
- Service to Service developments (between Leeds and identified teams/services including Edge of Care / Home (*sometimes referred to as ECHO*) service, Early Help and the Safeguarding and Review Service.

So far, 18 Restorative Practice Sessions (attended by 295 staff members) have taken place. We have around 150 staff members still to book onto a course, with a further 15 sessions planned. Moving forward, this introductory session will be facilitated by our Train the Trainers and embedded within the induction for any new starters within the service.

We do not underestimate the continuing tasks ahead of us and we are committed in our working with partners to ensure improvements continue to be made following tried and tested practices. We hope that the Commissioner's feedback from September's monitoring visit will demonstrate this resolve in continuing this improvement journey.

## Priority No. 2: River restoration

### 2. River Restoration Conference.

On Sunday, 26 November Herefordshire Council hosted a conference on the restoration challenges, objectives and priorities of our local rivers. It was a very informative event which invited contributions from a range of key local to national representatives. Attended by around 100 delegates, including local Member of Parliament, Jesse Norman. Topics debated included:

- Nutrient load in our river catchments, the principal causes and measures that can reduce the impact;
- The role technological solutions can play in restoring our waterways;
- Short and longer term prioritisation of actions;
- The role of water regulation and,
- Ensuring that collaboration is a central underpinning in our shared restoration efforts.

### 3. Linking local to national – River restoration

I attended the County Council's Network in November. Aside from the ever useful topics being covered it was an opportunity for me to ask the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, about the government's plans concerning nutrient mitigation. He confirmed that there would be further help from government to fund mitigation schemes. This is excellent news as this recognises the progress that councils have made.

It is important to note that with the wetlands scheme in Luston, Herefordshire is leading the way with this approach. This approach locks-in and secures that win-win scenario; appropriate safeguards to the environment built in to the planning consents for housing development in the river catchment areas.

To provide some context. In Herefordshire, since commencing the trading of phosphate credits in July 2022, the council has received £420,782.00 of Section 106 phosphate income to manage and invest in future wetland projects. This has released planning permissions for 185 dwellings.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Autumn Statement on 24 November 2023 two funding streams for local planning authorities, a planning capacity fund to target application backlogs and a local nutrient mitigation fund to deliver high quality schemes to offset nutrient pollution, unlocking planning permissions that are otherwise stalled. Having placed bids for both of these funds, we await to see if Herefordshire Council has been successful.

### **Priority No. 3: Road improvements**

#### **4. Road surface dressing**

Following the decision to commit just under £2.6m toward highways maintenance repair work is progressing well. This programme of works which is prioritised in line with established asset management processes is helping to prioritise the surface dressing schemes planned for next year.

#### **5. Capital Investment in Highways Infrastructure**

Plans are moving forward with a programme of capital investment in our highways infrastructure. Department for Transport have announced that Herefordshire is to receive £10.6m of funding over the next 11 years. £1.86m of this funding will be allocated for this year and a further £1.86m for 2024/25.

In year 1 there will be a spread of treatments to complement the additional funding - we will deploy the traditional resurfacing works alongside the opportunity to invite other contractors to work with us too. The proposed programme is focussing on preventative maintenance backlog. Our investment is targeted toward slowing further deterioration and avoiding the risk of road closures.

The remaining balance of the Department for Transport funding will be distributed over the remaining 9 years of the settlement period.

### **Priority No. 4: County Wide Infrastructure – laying the foundations...**

#### **6. Marches Forward Partnership – an historic new agreement**

On 10 November, I joined the Leaders of Monmouthshire, Powys and Shropshire at Hay Castle to sign our membership of the Marches Forward Partnership. This is an historic new agreement covering and crossing the Welsh and English borders. Our four local authorities will now work even more closely together to give a strong and clear voice with both UK and Welsh governments.

The Partnership represents the new 'self-determining' regional administrative areas that are beginning to form. It is a partnership growing around similar social, economic environmental and geographic interests, opportunity and challenges.

Work is progressing well and starting to gain momentum. Priority areas are supporting our critical local services and investment in our much needed road and rail infrastructure. It also presents opportunity to tackle an issue close to many members' interests - the continuing need to invest in digital connectivity in our rural communities.

The Marches Forward Partnership will create a strong case to encourage investment into the region. Investment that can attract the right skills and in turn create vibrant and sustainable communities. These are very early days but we've already started discussion around what we would like to achieve and will be moving at pace to turn these ambitions into actions

This will give increased focus on our infrastructure needs in Herefordshire whilst also recognising the needs of our geographic neighbours. Working together increases our chances for supporting our region.

## **7. Transaction of functions from the Local Enterprise Partnership.**

As I reported earlier this year, the Government announced that they would no longer fund Local Enterprise Partnerships. From April 2024, government will support local authorities to take on Local Enterprise Partnership functions. Namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed.

Government have stated it will provide revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by Local Enterprise Partnerships. We do not know yet whether that will be through individual allocations or to partnership geographies. But we do know, wherever possible, government expects local authorities to work together to deliver the Local Enterprise Partnership functions within geographies with a minimum population of 500,000. This being in line with the geography principles set out in the Levelling Up White Paper).

I am pleased to say that Herefordshire Council will be playing a leading role as the accountable body supporting the Joint Committee arrangements whose principal responsibilities are likely to include:

- a) Setting, monitoring and reviewing the programme for transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership responsibilities and existing programmes of activity across the Marches area;
- b) Agreeing the allocation of Local Enterprise Partnership revenue and capital spend previously under the control of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board;
- c) Oversight, monitoring and review of ongoing grants, assets, programmes, or initiatives until such time as they cease or are transferred.
- d) Reviewing and aligning government and public investment and economic growth across the geography of the three councils;
- e) Providing an annual report on the activities of the Joint Committee to the respective three partner councils;

The Joint Committee will comprise of one nominated elected representative from each local authority, generally this will either be the Leader or nominated lead portfolio holder. It shall

discharge its delegated powers within the respective budgetary and policy frameworks set by each of the constituent Councils.

## **8. Herefordshire Economic Plan**

My Cabinet and I continue to press the need for a new overarching Economy and Place Board to bring together the great work of the existing theme specific partnership boards. It is vital that we work in a co-ordinated way to achieve our shared ambition for our county. Graham Biggs has met with the Herefordshire Business Board, the Climate and Nature Partnership, and engaged with further and higher education training providers to form a new Skills Board. The Economy and Place Board of representatives which includes the Community Partnership will work with and through existing networks to shape and make the strategic long term case for much needed public and private investment.

## **9. Delivery Plan/County Plan**

On 23 November, the Cabinet have agreed a new delivery plan which sets out the key programmes of work that the administration will progress through to the end of 2023/24. We are continuing with the three ambitions set out in the current County Plan of Economy, Community and Environment. Each of the projects and deliverables contributes to one, if not more of the objectives set in the County Plan as well as to outcomes and outputs during the year.

Work has commenced on setting out a new county plan. We will look to be consulting on this in due course, and keen to hear people's views on our emerging priorities. The consultation process will start on 8 December and will run through to 10 January.

## **Other matters of significance in the County**

### **10. The Hereford Zipper Bus service**

I wish to congratulate Hereford City Council with the launch of their fantastic new service. I took one of the free electric, zero emission bus routes around the city centre. This is a convenient bus service from the main transport hubs into the centre of town, giving residents and visitors access to central Hereford. Zipper buses have a range of up to 300 miles in between charges and stop at many locations across Hereford City Centre.

### **11. South Wye Development Trust Annual General Meeting**

I would like to offer special recognition to The South Wye Development Trust, based at the Kindle Centre, have just been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways volunteers contribute to their local communities and as a consequence working to make life better for those around them.

Attending their recent Annual General Meeting, I was privileged to speak to some of the individuals and volunteers who make such an outstanding contribution to community life, helping many different people. It is a truly inspirational organisation benefitting so many residents of Herefordshire.

### **12. Megan Baker House**

In November I was invited to Megan Baker House. Focussing on Conducive Education, and having received funding to assist children and adults with neurological movement disorders,

providing both education as well as skills to assist their day to day lives. The centre is based in Orchard Lane in Ledbury. The new funding is enabling adults and children who have been on waiting lists to now gain access to the great support and services Megan Baker House can provide.

They are providing a range of hugely valued services to children and adults both within the county and across the country. Adults and children who suffer with serious conditions such as Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's are being assisted in managing the difficulties experienced by these disorders.

### **13. Midlands Connect Conference**

Finally, I would like to just note that I will be attending the Midlands Connect – Network North Conference. The agenda will be covering a range of transport and infrastructure matters that are highly relevant to Herefordshire. I will be highlighting the need for vital investment to ease congestion and create more accessible links into the region. I will be stressing the importance of improvements to our rail network. Specifically I will be advocating the need for a new station at Pontrilas and ensuring that links out of the county are made faster and more reliable by the duelling of the line between Ledbury and Hereford.

These infrastructure projects are the key to ensuring we attract the right skills and jobs to the county and with it a strong and prosperous economy.

## Appendix 2: Decision taken between 6 October to 30 November

Decision Taken	Date
<a href="#">Capital Programme Review and Update</a>	05/10/2023
<a href="#">Capital Programme Review and Update</a>	23/11/2023
<a href="#">Delivery Plan 2023/24</a>	23/11/2023
<a href="#">Grant acceptance and purchase of accommodation to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision</a>	09/11/2023
<a href="#">Legal status of and financial arrangements with Balfour Beatty Living Places Limited</a>	26/10/2023
<a href="#">Procurement of new waste collection service - update</a>	05/10/2023
<a href="#">Public realm contract extension 2023</a>	26/10/2023
<a href="#">Q2 Budget Report</a>	23/11/2023
<a href="#">Recommissioning of Herefordshire Intensive Support Service (HIPSS)</a>	15/11/2023
<a href="#">Report to seek decision on recommended route to deliver registered residential children home provision in county for children and young people 11-18</a>	23/11/2023
<a href="#">Review Of The Full Business Case For The Shirehall As A Location For The Future Of Hereford City Library</a>	26/10/2023
<a href="#">Thrive Transformation Programme - commissioning of support for invest to save projects</a>	28/09/2023
<a href="#">Transition of Functions from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership</a>	26/10/2023





## 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
- 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 8 December 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.
- 5 Up to one and a half hours will be allocated to debate motions on notice but that time may

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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 One motion has been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motions for discussion are set out below:

### **Motion 1 – Housing**

(Proposed by Councillor Rob Owens, Seconded by Councillor Ben Proctor)

**Data from The Office of National Statistics and The Land Registry shows that the average house price in Herefordshire in March 2023 was £303, 606, this is above the West Midlands average of £279,450.**

**16% of households in Herefordshire live in homes rented from the private sector, offering them no long term security of tenure. 14% of households in the county rent through the social sector. 1500 households live in overcrowded conditions. The latest data, published in November 2023, shows the average pre-tax income in Herefordshire is £31, 878 this is below the national average of £38, 000.**

**Up to now, housing delivery through the open market has led to an increase in private and social housing, but it has not delivered the types of homes, or the kind of tenancy, that local people need. The county not only needs more housing, but crucially it needs more homes that people can afford to own, and which offer long term security of tenure. Herefordshire Council owns a significant amount of land suitable for development at sites across the county.**

**The council can and should play a greater role in ensuring that local people have a safe, secure, affordable home that meets their needs. The council can and should use its capital programme to directly deliver these homes. The council can fund prudential borrowing through the sale and rental of properties that it builds.**

**Council therefore resolves to:**

- **Request the cabinet develop a programme to deliver an ambitious number of units of social housing, market-rent lifetime tenancies, affordable home ownership and market sale properties, funded through the prudent use of borrowing, capital receipts and the management of council assets in time for this to be agreed by Council as part of next year’s capital programme.**
- **Request that the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee undertake a review of good practice in housing delivery provided directly by local authorities and make recommendations to Cabinet by June 2024.**
- **Request that the Leader of the Council to provide an update on housing delivery at each meeting of the Council.**

### **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
29 July 2022	Cabinet Commission on Phosphates	<p>The Cabinet Commission was set up in response to the ministerial response declining to introduce a Water Protection Zone and the lack of progress NMB was making in progressing a plan. Since the March Cabinet update report on the Commission the Agencies have become more engaged with the need for a governance review of NMB and the incoming administration met with the Secretary of State in May calling for a cross border task force. The Council has supported the completion of the governance review which comprises and expanded NMB with stronger environmental representation and an independent “voice for the river.” The Technical Advisory Group will now be supported by a more senior Statutory Officers group who will own the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>Commissioners have held two informal meetings in September and November 2023. Commissioners are supportive of the governance review but remain very concerned about progress. They will set some benchmarks against which to test the new arrangements and review this in six months’ time. If the benchmarks are not met, the potential for forming a Joint Scrutiny Panel for the Wye will be considered supported by both Exec and Scrutiny leads from each Council. Commissioners have yet to consider how this review could take place but Herefordshire will recommend consideration is given to undertaking such a review against the evidential requirements for a referral to the Office of Environment Protection.</p> <p>A letter has been sent on the 14<sup>th</sup> November to the new Secretary of State for Environment reminding them of the repeated commitment to produce a “Special Plan for the Wye” seeking further engagement on this.</p> <p>The Council awaits further news (or has had news) on its £2.1m to provide further support in delivering mitigation schemes for house builders and a next steps report will potentially come to January 2024 Cabinet (please confirm before release as news is expected in the next couple of weeks).</p>
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> 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>		

Consider including the following areas of urgent action in the remit of the proposed Cabinet Commission on Phosphates:

1. Request of government that:
  - 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
28 July 2023	County Athletics Track	The £70k contribution will be funded from the public health grant.
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  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.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
28 July 2023	Climate and ecological emergency	An Executive Response to the Motion Regarding the Climate and Ecological Emergency has been published (see link below):  <a href="#">Issue details - Executive Response to the Motion Regarding the Climate and Ecological Emergency - Herefordshire Council</a>
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  That this Council resolves to declare its recognition of the climate and ecological emergency, and calls on the executive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> </ul>		

- 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.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
13 October 2023	Net Zero Targets	Draft letters have been completed and will be sent shortly.
<p>Council therefore resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Secretary of State for Transport to ask him to return to the government's previous target of ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030</li> <li>• the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero asking her to return to the previous target of ending the sale of new fossil fuel boilers by 2030</li> <li>• the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asking him to continue to require landlords to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties</li> <li>• the prime minister to ask him to allocate adequate government funding to implement these measures fairly.</li> </ul>		

## 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**

