

Agenda

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday 8 July 2025**

Time: **2.00 pm**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 260239 or e-mail Henry.Merricks-Murgatroyd@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the meeting of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chairperson	Councillor Ed O'Driscoll
Vice-chairperson	Councillor Frank Cornthwaite

Councillor Bruce Baker
Councillor Elizabeth Foxton
Councillor Rob Owens
Councillor Roger Phillips
Councillor Diana Toynbee

Agenda

		Pages
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2.	NAMED SUBSTITUTES To receive details of any councillor nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of the committee.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	MINUTES To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2025. HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS The deadline for the submission of questions for this meeting is 5.00 pm on Wednesday 2 July 2025. Questions must be submitted to councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk . Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted. Accepted questions and the responses will be published as a supplement to the agenda papers prior to the meeting. Further information and guidance is available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/getinvolved	13 - 22
5.	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC To receive any written questions from members of the public.	
6.	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL To receive any written questions from members of the council.	
7.	GULLY CLEANSING To provide an overview of the management and operation of gully cleansing, endorsing or otherwise the current arrangements and providing recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Roads and Regulatory Services.	23 - 30
8.	UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE To provide the committee with an update to recommendations made by the committee.	To Follow
9.	WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 To consider the draft work programme for the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee until September 2025.	31 - 54
10.	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING	

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 9 September 2025, 14:00 pm.

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- 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. Agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) are available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings
- 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. Information about councillors is available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/councillors
- 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. The council's constitution is available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/constitution
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Bus maps are available here: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/78/bus_maps

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.



Guide to Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny is a statutory role fulfilled by councillors who are not members of the cabinet.

The role of the scrutiny committees is to help develop policy, to carry out reviews of council and other local services, and to hold decision makers to account for their actions and decisions.

Council has decided that there will be five scrutiny committees. The committees reflect the balance of political groups on the council.

The Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee consists of 7 councillors.

Councillor	Party
Bruce Baker	Conservative Party
Frank Cornthwaite (Vice-Chairperson)	Conservative Party
Elizabeth Foxton	Independents for Herefordshire
Ed O'Driscoll (Chairperson)	Liberal Democrats
Rob Owens	Liberal Democrats
Roger Phillips	Conservative Party
Diana Toynbee	The Green Party

Scrutiny functions

The committees have the power:

- (a) to review, influence policy or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- (b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
- (c) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- (d) to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- (e) to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area
- (f) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the council with respect to the discharge of those functions. In this regard crime and disorder functions means:
 - (i) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and

- (ii) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
 - (iii) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area
- (g) to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area and make reports and recommendations to a responsible person on any matter it has reviewed or scrutinised or to be consulted by a relevant NHS body or health service provider in accordance with the Regulations (2013/218) as amended. In this regard *health service* includes services designed to secure improvement -
- (i) in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and
 - (ii) in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness
 - (iii) and any services provided in pursuance of arrangements under section 75 in relation to the exercise of health-related functions of a local authority.
- (h) to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area.
- (i) To track actions and undertake an annual effectiveness review

The remit of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

- Talk Business programme, advice and support
- Development investment plans - town, market town, rural, Hereford City
- Hereford Enterprise Zone
- Higher education development
- Adult and community learning programme
- Apprenticeships
- Fastershire programme
- Digital connectivity
- Heritage, culture and tourism
- Social value procurement policy
- Planning
- Licensing
- Regulatory
- Capital highway maintenance, asset management and infrastructure repair
- Council housing
- Statutory community safety and policing scrutiny powers

Who attends scrutiny committee meetings?

- Members of the committee, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson.
- Cabinet members, they are not members of the committee but attend principally to answer any questions the committee may have and inform the debate.
- Officers of the council to present reports and give technical advice to the committee.
- People external to the council invited to provide information to the committee.
- Other councillors can attend but can only speak at the discretion of the chairperson.

Minutes of the meeting of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Tuesday 3 June 2025 at 10.00 am

Committee members present in person and voting: **Councillors: Bruce Baker, Frank Cornthwaite (Vice-Chairperson), Liz Harvey, Ed O'Driscoll (Chairperson), Rob Owens, Justine Peberdy and Roger Phillips**

Others in attendance:

G Dando	Chief Operating Officer - Resident Services	Herefordshire Council
D Etheraads	Museum Lead	Herefordshire Council
R Evans	Regional Manager (West Midlands)	Active Travel England
F Horton	Transport Planning Services Manager	Herefordshire Council
D Land	Head of Transport and Access Services	Herefordshire Council
H Merricks-Murgatroyd	Democratic Services Officer	Herefordshire Council
N Millington	Chair, Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (CEO of Rural Media)	Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (CEO of Rural Media)
P Price	Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure	Herefordshire Council
C Purcell	Board Member, Herefordshire Cultural Partnership	Herefordshire Cultural Partnership
A Rees-Glinos	Democratic Services Support Officer	Herefordshire Council
E Swinglehurst	Cabinet Member Environment; Deputy Leader of the Council	Herefordshire Council
D Webb	Statutory Scrutiny Officer	Herefordshire Council

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Diana Toynbee and Cllr Elizabeth Foxton.

52. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Justine Peberdy was present as the named substitute for Cllr Diana Toynbee, and Cllr Liz Harvey was present as the named substitute for Cllr Elizabeth Foxton.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

54. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were received.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

55. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Documents containing questions received from members of the public and the responses given, plus supplementary questions and their respective responses were published as a supplement to the published agenda and papers.

56. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No questions had been received from councillors.

57. CULTURAL STRATEGY 2019-29

The committee considered a report on the Cultural Strategy 2019-29. The principal points are noted below:

1. The Museum Lead noted that the cultural strategy was adopted by the council but not produced by the council. Instead, the cultural strategy is held by the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership.
2. It was added that at this stage, the council supports the cultural partnership which is an independent body of arts organisations and funders who work across the county. Although the partnership is unfunded, it has been supported by the council through grants from UKSPF funding in recent years.
3. The Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership noted that the genesis for the report written in 2024 was that the partnership had reached a point with the strategy needing to be reviewed in light of changes since. The review therefore was to look at the state of culture and cultural activity and creative industries within the county. The consultants employed to carry out the report found that as part of its data, 4,000 new creatives were created in the county.
4. The Executive Director Meadow Arts added that traditional ONS data miss very small businesses which help form a significant part of the county's creative industry.
5. In response to a question about whether the cultural strategy has ever been formally adopted by the council, the Museum Lead noted that he had been endorsed but not formally adopted.
6. The Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership added that the difference between endorsement and adoption is key because of the responsibility that exists with delivering the objectives of the strategy.
7. In response to a question about whether there is an implementation plan in place to deliver on the strategy, the Museum Lead added that the implementation is by the organisations on their own terms so where there is direction of travel in the strategy, each organisation will deliver that in their own way within the confines of the strategy. Therefore, there is no direct, single document that sets an implementation plan across the strategy.
8. The Executive Director Meadow Arts added that the first draft of the strategy had big ambitions but was not hard on a delivery plan. Part of the revamp now is for the partnership itself to scrutinise that aspect of delivery of the strategy. There is

also an ongoing review of governance and setting up new terms of reference to establish who needs to be on the partnership without it becoming too large.

9. In response to a question about whether the council has taken on enough of an active role in the cultural strategy, the Museum Lead noted that the council in recent years has made a huge effort in investment and culture. It was added that there has been a drive in direction based on the strategy that has not existed in the previous ten years.
10. The Executive Director Meadow Arts added that the Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership also sits on the council's economy and growth board representing culture which reflects a positive change. It is also positive that the partnership is in attendance at this meeting of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee. The Herefordshire Cultural Partnership represents culture across the county and the council is a very important part of the partnership's quarterly meetings.
11. The Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership noted that from the partnership's perspective, the first five years of the strategy have been very positive in working with the council. Going forward, it is a question of whether the council wants to adopt the strategy as its own or whether the partnership continues to work in the same way it has done to date with an independent cultural compact working closely with the council. Part of that piece of work to reach that point is to look at the external landscape including the potential of devolution.
12. In response to a question about where else does the partnership see good examples of collaboration and working, the Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership noted that well devised initiatives that then speak to other issues including, for example, the Our Place project can be replicated in the future.
13. The Executive Director Meadow Arts noted that other examples that could be considered are Plymouth and Gloucester in which the latter is a pioneer in Creative Health which is a new sector where there can be significant changes in more rural areas to help change and improve lives. The partnership is also working with Talk Community to reach into deeply rural areas with Creative Health programmes.
14. The Chair of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership noted that thanks to the support of the council through the Towns Fund, the partnership is about to finish a digital media hub in the centre of Hereford. There are now industry professionals within the county to represent and compete on both a national and international level.
15. A committee member noted that the council should highlight the cultural strategy to parish, city, and market town councils to encourage their participation and support of local initiatives.
16. It was also noted that the recent Herefordshire Histories Festival is an example of an event that celebrated all small-makers and small businesses, particularly in the rural areas, and the digital platform helped to support it.
17. The Executive Director Meadow Arts noted that going forward the priorities in the cultural strategy will be kept consistently as headings on agendas for meetings.

Resolved:

That

- a. Herefordshire Council formally endorses the renewed Cultural Strategy 2025-2029 and the key findings of the *5th Sector* report.
- b. Herefordshire Council to support Herefordshire Cultural Partnership to produce an implementation plan to deliver the renewed Cultural Strategy 2025-29.
- c. Herefordshire Council ensures there is a dedicated officer to work with the partnership to produce and deliver the strategy's implementation plan.
- d. Herefordshire Council to ensure the updated Cultural Strategy 2025-29 is reflected in economic development and health and social care service delivery, including the evolving Talk Community network.
- e. Herefordshire Council highlight the Cultural Strategy 2025-29 to town and parish councils and encourage engagement and support for local initiatives.
- f. Herefordshire Council assist with the development and promotion of co-working and creative hub spaces for creatives to access shared resources and facilities to support development of new culture-based businesses in Herefordshire.

58. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The committee considered a report on the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

The slides presented by the Transport Planning Services Manager are outlined below (in italics), with the principal points noted below.

A The Transport Planning Services Manager introduced the presentation and welcomed the opportunity to update the committee on the Local Transport Plan.

a.1 The Transport Planning Services Manager noted that last year a lot of public engagement was carried out to see what the public wanted focusing on in the Local Transport Plan.

a.2 It was noted that the strategies have been split into two parts with one half focused on the city, and the other half focused on the rural market towns as both are unique in terms of their transport networks.

a.3 There are three action plans including, 1) the transport network as a whole; 2) the city and; 3) the rural market towns. This will help to put appropriate measures into the appropriate places.

a.4 It was added that an internal consultation was carried out with staff prior to going to the public including consultation with planning services, business development services, education etc. to ensure that the offer to the public was appropriate before going out to the public with the draft local transport plan.

B The Transport Planning Services Manager presented:

Age of respondents

b.1 The responses were compared to the demographics of Herefordshire and it was found that there was difficulty with engaging with younger residents. Some additional links have been established with the college to attempt to engage better with younger residents.

Transport options

b.2 A key question asked was whether people felt that they had good options for transport and the resounding response was no. A key focus of the LTP, therefore, is that those options need to be enhanced.

Support for Action Plans

b.3 The action plans are a list of projects that have been identified for the city, transport network, and rural market towns.

b.4 Overall, people are either very neutral to them or supportive of them. The actual opposition is quite low which helps to reinforce that the decisions taken by officers, reflect the right projects.

Priorities on LTP5 objectives

b.5 The main trend is that people do not support things like active travel, EV charging, and sustainable ways of transport. Instead, more car-dominant ones are very supported. This is a change to what the government trends are saying and it is important that a balance is struck within the LTP.

The principal points of the subsequent discussion are summarised below:

1. In response to a question about how many responses were received, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that 110 were received.
2. In response to a question about the trend of responses that have been received and whether they will have an impact on the LTP, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that there would have to be a review and would involve a mixture of whether the council are doing the right engagement with people to explain the benefits of those strategies and whether too much is focused on certain benefits over others. A lot of the strategies are government priorities which means that things such as active travel and EV charging have to be delivered.
3. The Chair expressed his disappointment with the lack of responses to the survey and noted his intention to encourage constituents to engage with the survey as much as possible.
4. The Transport Planning Services Manager noted that the LTP aligns with the council's priorities including the declaration of a climate emergency, however, it is limited as to what can be changed within the LTP in line with council policy and strategy.
5. In response to a question about whether the Local Transport Plan (LTP) is intended to be considered within the context of the existing local transport strategy, or whether it is being developed independently without reference to an accompanying strategy, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that the LTP is linked to the housing allocation given previously. Since the LTP was being written, the government have increased those numbers significantly. Rather than

delaying the LTP, it has been decided to do an amendment to the LTP once the Local Plan is adopted. Part of that will include monthly meetings with the transport policy and planning teams to consider where the housing allocation is going and how it will operate with the existing infrastructure. A working document will be created highlighting projects that are needed and changes needed to the LTP.

6. In response to a question asking why the development of a LTP is not being aligned with the development of the update of the Local Plan, the Transport Planning Services Manager commented that to wait until the Local Plan is finished would incur significant costs on the council as the data for the LTP is time-limited and the council would need to continue to spend significant amounts of money on a document which can instead be amended. It was added that when the Local Plan is adopted with the increase to housing allocation, the LTP should be amended at that point.
7. The Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure added that there needs to be a LTP in place to ensure that the council is in the right place at the right time.
8. In response to a question asking why the LTP is being taken to 2041 instead of 2031, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that there are fundamental strategies will remain regardless of the housing allocation including safety, reduced carbon, inclusivity etc. so the difference will be the action plans where the projects are placed to align to the future needs of the county.
9. The Transport Planning Services Manager added that the decision to split the LTP into two strategies with multiple action plans because what is needed in certain parts of the county is not in other areas.
10. Rhiannon Evans (Active Travel England) commented that from Active Travel England's perspective, it is great to see that active travel is embedded across the objectives including promotion of skills and the economy. It was added that it would be beneficial to see a bit more detail which can help to ensure that schemes are well-used to help achieve active travel objectives.
11. In response to a question about the lack of LTN/120 design commitments, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that there is a guidance document called LTN/120 which Active Travel England have developed and it gives the local authority guidance as to how local walking and cycling routes should be designed. It was added that as a guidance document, it is not mandatory but linked to that are road safety audits which are mandatory. Following on from the LTP, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which will be consulted on later this year and then hopefully be adopted this year which will give more detail on the routes that intend to be developed. Within that document, there will be recommendations on monitoring including LTN compliance and number of modal shift.
12. Rhiannon Evans (Active Travel England) added that there is currently a draft version of the rural guidance which the council is commenting on. It was acknowledged that it can be challenging to implement LTN/120 routes, particularly in more rural areas. However, although it is guidance it is a good quality level to aim for because LTN/120 routes can be associated with higher levels of uplift.
13. In response to a question about whether Active Travel England would like to see targets in modal shift, Rhiannon Evans (Active Travel England) noted that it

would be helpful to have that monitoring and evaluation to monitor and track how effective the council's schemes are.

14. The Transport Planning Services Manager noted that the LTP is a dynamic document whereas the previous one was quite rigid. Instead, this document aligns with the council's priorities which have been set by cabinet and are what the council have established as its priorities. The current period of consultation allows for any specific objectives and strategies from the previous strategy to potentially be added into the new LTP, subject to review.
15. In response to a question regarding the language used in the LTP, the Transport Planning Services Manager explained that the LTP is just one of several key documents that developers must consider, alongside others such as the Local Plan. It was also noted that Active Travel England is a statutory consultee and may provide guidance or raise objections to planning applications that do not align with its objectives. While the language in the LTP could be made more prescriptive, it was cautioned that doing so might inadvertently hinder development or restrict the flexibility needed to address local priorities.
16. A committee member expressed concern in relation to the impact of developments particularly on smaller villages in the county.
17. In response to a question about when the LTP moves to the next stage and whether there will be dates on all of the proposals, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that the next stage, post-consultation, is a review of the consultation. If it is felt that the LTP is suitable, potentially with minor amendments, then it is scheduled to go to Cabinet in September for approval and then full council in October for adoption. Once it is adopted, officers will come back with delivery plans and priorities of those projects. A lot will be limited by funding made available and without significant investment from the council itself, a lot of the dates will be fluid dependent on external funding.
18. In response to a question about what the 30-minute place is and how they will be prioritised, the Transport Planning Services Manager explained that one of the priorities put forward by the government is infrastructure within a certain timeframe which links in with the council's growth strategy. As the transport network is developed, it is important that local communities can access facilities and are easily accessible whether by bus or by car in a prescribed time-period.
19. In response to a question about how inclusion will be ensured as part of the council's EV rollout across the county, the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that the government has been supportive of EV charging grants so that they can be located in the rural areas and work is needed to be done to decide exactly where those chargers should be located. EV charging ports are also part of brand-new developments and in some developments, every house has an EV charging port. It also includes working with community groups such as community travel initiatives where they can be supported in either purchasing an EV vehicle or having an EV charger.
20. In response to a question about whether an app with timetables has been considered, the Head of Transport and Access Services noted that data should instead be driven through Google Maps rather than building a new app which is cost-inefficient and is used by few people.
21. In response to a question about what operational model would be considered in relation to demand-responsive transport (DRT), the Transport Planning Services Manager noted that it would be worthwhile considering what neighbouring

authorities have done in relation to DRT and what they found successful and unsuccessful. Shropshire is a relatively comparable authority to Herefordshire and would be a useful model to review.

22. In response to a question regarding the conduct and accessibility of strategic environmental assessments, the Transport Planning Services Manager stated that the information would be included in the Cabinet paper and made available online for public viewing.
23. The Transport Planning Services Manager stated that a supplementary planning document will be introduced to require developments to implement a travel plan, subject to the criteria established.
24. In response to a suggestion about ensuring that all the data is up-to-date which is informing the LTP, the Transport Planning Services Manager explained that since the old LTP was adopted, the council have created a transport model which will flag pinch-points and issues across the county.

Resolved:

- a. **That the draft Local Transport Plan is reviewed to ensure alignment with existing council plans and strategies.**
- b. **That the Local Transport Plan gives particular consideration to the needs of children and young people.**
- c. **The duration of the Local Transport Plan is kept in alignment with the Local Plan and Transport Strategy to which it applies - namely 2016-2031.**
- d. **Herefordshire Council work to increase the number of residents taking part in the Local Transport Plan consultation as a matter of urgency, extending the consultation deadline to 30 June to all members of the public.**
- e. **The policy wording of the Local Transport Plan is tightened to ensure that it is meaningful and capable of being applied.**
- f. **The Local Transport Plan recognises the full extent of existing new developments, for example Ledbury, and the infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate this.**
- g. **The Local Transport Plan should include targets for the implementation of active travel measures.**
- h. **The Local Transport Plan recognises the inability of the power grid network to meet the needs of fast EV charging point.**

59. WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer presented the draft work programme for the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2025/26.

The committee unanimously agreed the draft work programme for Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved that:

- a) The committee agree the draft work programme for Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee contained in the work programme report attached as appendix 1, which will be subject to monthly review, as the basis of their primary focus for the remainder of the municipal year.
- b) The committee note the forward plan attached as appendix 2 and identify any opportunities for collaboration or alignment of work.

60. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 8 July 2025, 14:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 1.11 pm

Chairperson



Title of report: Gully Cleansing

Meeting: Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 8 July 2025

Report by: Head of Highways and Traffic

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To provide an overview of the management and operation of gully cleansing, endorsing or otherwise the current arrangements and providing recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Roads and Regulatory Services.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **Scrutiny committee notes the current gully cleansing arrangements in place for the county and provides its views on the proposed operational changes planned as a result of the introduction of the new Public Realm Contract on 1 June 2026.**

Alternative options

1. That gully cleansing continues to be managed and operated as per the current arrangements.

Key considerations

Current Gully Cleansing Arrangements

Background

2. As the Local Highway Authority, the Council has a duty to maintain the highway drainage network to the point where water is discharged to either a public sewer, or an inland water body.
3. Gullies play an important part in keeping the highway clear of water, particularly in urban areas or on the strategic road network. Assets are currently cleansed and managed on our road network as part of the Council's Public Realm Contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places.
4. In periods of intense rainfall, gullies can sometimes become overwhelmed by the volume of water. The volume of water in a system can mean that a gully is unable to discharge into a sewer or pipe, giving the appearance that the drain is blocked. If a gully is overwhelmed, the water will quickly dissipate once heavy rain has passed. However, if water does not drain away quickly after a spell of heavy rain, the gully may have become blocked due to mud, silt, leaves etc, which prevents the water from being able to drain away through the outlet.

Asset and Data Collection

5. There are over 27,860 gullies across the county. Whilst it is acknowledged that not every gully will have been captured on the network to date, known assets and key attributes are captured and recorded in Balfour Beatty's asset management system, Confirm, either through handheld devices used by operatives in the field, or through back office staff. In 2024/25, Parish/Town Councils added to the Council's knowledge and understanding of drainage assets through a survey of the network as part of the drainage grant funding scheme.
6. A basic map of known gullies for which Herefordshire Council are responsible is available for public viewing at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flooding-2/flood-management/3#gulliesmap>. Gullies are individually marked on the map with latitudes and longitudes being displayed along with a site code, which is used to identify the length of road where the asset is located.

Reporting of Issues

7. Customers are able to report issues with the highway drainage network through the Council's online reporting system at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>. Issues that are reported are investigated by the relevant Locality Steward, who assesses the report against the Highway Maintenance Plan in order to determine the level of intervention required. Where necessary a job for a reactive cleanse is then raised and passed to a crew to attend.

Cleansing and Risk Management

8. Gullies are cleansed on both a reactive and programmed basis across the county using Balfour Beatty employed staff and additional sub-contracted resources.
9. Reactive cleanses are typically as a result of a report of a gully becoming blocked due to mud, silt, leaves etc. Where this happens, crews will undertake clearance works of the gully pot itself and jet the connecting pipes using high pressure water jetting so that the drainage system can adequately function again. In an average year, it is estimated that 340 tonnes of silt and other detritus will be cleared from highways drainage assets.

10. Programmed cleanses are undertaken according to a cleansing schedule. Over recent years, the programme has only operated on the A and B road network, but for 2025/26 the C road network will be included. Details of the gully cleansing schedule can be found at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/gully-drain-cleaning>

Future Gully Cleansing Arrangements

Asset and Data Collection

11. As set out previously in this report, it is acknowledged that not every gully will have been captured on the network to date. This will have been for a variety of reasons, ranging from previous and current cleansing programmes to the rural nature of the county, which means that assets can become lost over time, due to factors such as vegetation growth.
12. As part of the new Public Realm Contract that will commence on 1 June 2026, a number of roles relating to the inspection and management of the highway drainage asset will transfer to the Council. Whilst responsibility for the frontline cleansing of assets will remain with the new contractor, the Council will become responsible for asset management, including of gullies. Building on work undertaken by Parish/Town Councils in 2024/25 to assist with a survey of the drainage network, drainage engineers and technicians, assisted by Locality Stewards undertaking highway inspections, will be tasked with comprehensively adding to the asset database.
13. To assist with this task and through the procurement process associated with the new Public Realm Contract, the Council has requested that a dedicated gully management system be introduced to enable better data capture and management of the highway drainage asset. Experience gained by other authorities points to this increasing productivity and efficiency, and resolving issues swiftly.
14. Through the dedicated gully management system, gullies and associated pipework, along with other drainage assets, can be accurately mapped and supporting attributes recorded. Operatives in the field can view information via handheld technology, adding new and updating existing assets where necessary, which can be viewed immediately by office based staff on upload. Such systems also allow for the importing of wider drainage network data, such as Severn Trent Water or Welsh Water sewer networks, that then allow for a truly comprehensive understanding of the entire drainage system at the touch of a button.

Reporting of Issues

15. As part of work to introduce the new Public Realm Contract that will commence on 1 June 2026, a review of the end to end customer journey of processes within the highways team, including gully emptying, will be undertaken.
16. It is considered that significant improvement can be provided to customers through the introduction of a dedicated gully management system, which will enable a customer to:
- Identify an individual asset using a map based approach
 - View details of the date and time of the last inspection
 - View details of the programmed cleansing frequency
 - Understand the condition of the asset upon arrival and on leaving from the last visit
 - Have the ability to report a problem, including the inclusion of free text information and the uploading of a photograph, that will then be recorded against the individual asset, forming a report log.

Cleansing and Risk Management

17. There will always be a requirement for gullies to be cleansed on both a reactive and programmed basis across the county, but the challenge is in achieving an appropriate balance between the two categories to ensure resources are used effectively.
18. Requests for reactive cleanses under the new Public Realm Contract will be responded to in accordance with the Council's Highway Maintenance Plan, which assigns a risk factor and as a result a response time for corrective action to take place. Whilst this risk based approach will need to continue, Officers intend to revise the Highway Maintenance Plan ahead of June 2026, which will include reviewing arrangements associated with reactive gully emptying to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide value for money.
19. As gully emptying is a revenue funded activity, there has been increasing financial pressure on the service over recent years. It is therefore important that the service operates efficiently at all times, in order to maximise value for money. On a per unit basis, completing a higher volume of programmed cleanses delivers greater value for money than, and reduces the need for reactive cleanses.
20. Whilst completing higher volumes of programmed cleanses is more efficient than undertaking reactive cleanses, there has been a greater shift over recent years by Councils across the country to operating more intelligent, risk based programmes. Whilst more traditional 'one size fits all' approaches may have previously been undertaken and which would have seen programmed cleanses of all assets on a regular basis, increased knowledge and understanding of individual assets made possible through enhanced data capture via dedicated gully management systems has allowed officers to build programmes on a risk based approach.
21. Operating a risk based approach to a gully cleansing programme allows resources to be directed to areas where need is greater, such as where data has shown there to be a higher likelihood of a gully being blocked and non-operational, or where there is a higher risk from surface water flooding. Gully management systems allow this approach to be dynamically adjusted at any time so that programmes of work can be built quickly and efficiently, moving away from manual, time consuming and potentially subjective decision making processes. As part of work to introduce the new Public Realm Contract it is intended that this approach begin from 1 June 2026.

Community impact

22. Over the course of the year, the gully cleansing service aims to:
 - keep road users safe through effectively managing the risk to the travelling public from the hazardous effects of water on highway surfaces.
 - keep the county moving; maintaining accessibility to services through the availability and reliability of the highway network during the winter period.
 - to coordinate our actions in regard to the highway with those that the council undertakes to, so far as reasonably practicable keep both the public and its employees safe as they move around those external spaces for which the council is directly responsible.

Environmental Impact

23. The delivery of this service seeks to minimise any adverse environmental impact and will actively seek opportunities to improve and enhance environmental performance.

Equality duty

24. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that it is paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.
25. A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required as a direct result of this report.

Resource implications

26. Gully cleansing is undertaken through the Public Realm Contract and funded from the revenue base budget.
27. Total revenue costs including labour, vehicles and waste disposal, relating to reactive and programmed gully cleansing between 2022/23 and 2025/26 are set out in Table 1 below.

Revenue	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gully Cart (Reactive)	185	178	209	361	933
Gully Cart (Programmed)	266	229	198	298	991
TOTAL	451	407	407	659	1,924

Table 1: Gully Cleansing Revenue Costs 2022/23 – 2025/26

Legal implications

28. The Council as the Local Highway Authority are responsible for the management and maintenance of highway drainage, under the Highways Act 1980. The Council has a duty, under the Highways Act 1980, to install and maintain drainage systems to keep the highways clear of water.
29. Under the Highways Act 1980 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Local Highway Authority must maintain and repair the highway drains that run beneath the road surface and where possible, keep the highway free from flooding.
30. Highway drainage is usually the responsibility of the Local Highway Authority but drainage may be adopted by another relevant authority such as a private developer or a 'sewerage undertaker' such as Severn Trent Water or Welsh Water.

Risk management

31. There are no direct risk implications as a result of this report, the purpose of which is to seek the views of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee regarding gully cleansing.

32. Any recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee will be subject to a Cabinet Member decision that will set out the full risks and opportunities to the council.

Consultees

33. There are no direct risk implications as a result of this report, the purpose of which is to seek the views of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee regarding gully cleansing.
34. Any recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee will be subject to a Cabinet Member decision that will set out the full risks and opportunities to the Council.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Finance	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 30/06/2025
Communications	luenne featherstone	Date 30/06/2025
Equality Duty	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Procurement	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Risk	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
Approved by	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.

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



Title of report: Work programme 2025/6

Meeting: Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 8 July 2025

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To consider the draft work programme for the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee until September 2025.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) The committee agree the draft work programme for Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee contained in the work programme report attached as appendix 1, which will be subject to monthly review, as the basis of their primary focus for the remainder of the municipal year.**
- b) The committee note the forward plan attached as appendix 2 and identify any opportunities for collaboration or alignment of work.**

Alternative options

- 1. The committee could decline to agree a work programme for its future committee meetings. This would likely result in unstructured and purposeless meetings.
- 2. The committee could also decline to identify areas of potential collaboration or alignment of work with other committees. This could result in duplication or overlap of work.

Key considerations

3. A fundamental part of good scrutiny is planning and agreeing a programme of work for the committee to undertake. A well-considered work programme:
 - a. identifies priorities for the committee's work that align with corporate and partnership priorities, as well as reflecting community concern;
 - b. ensures that each identified topic has clear objectives that focus the committee's work;
 - c. creates a timetable for the committee's programme of work so that the committee carry out its work at the optimal time; and
 - d. provides officers and partners with requirements for evidence that will support the committee in providing evidence-based scrutiny.
4. To prepare this work programme, the committee chair meets regularly with the relevant corporate director and with officers of the council to identify potential priority areas of work for the committee. These priority areas are agreed by the committee and have been scheduled within the work programme to ensure the committee considers topics when it is most useful to do so. A draft of this work programme has then been circulated to the council's corporate leadership team and other key senior directors, for further comment and refinement.
5. Herefordshire Council has undertaken a review of its scrutiny function, resulting in a number of recommendations to develop the service. Fundamental to the review was a recommendation that committees reconsider their work programmes, considering different ways of carrying out their work in addition to formal committee meetings. It is proposed to bring a fresh work programme for the 2025-2026 municipal year to the next meeting of the committee.
6. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.

Community impact

7. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern, one of the four purposes of scrutiny as outlined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Environmental impact

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

Equality duty

9. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However the reports and issues that the committee will consider may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

Resource implications

10. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However agreed topics in the

work programme, in particular any requests for bespoke research or the involvement of outside experts or community groups, may incur resource costs. These will be contained in any reporting or planning of agreed topics within this work programme.

Legal implications

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

Risk management

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

Consultees

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

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee work programme 2025-2026
 Appendix 2 – Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 27 June 2025

Background papers

None



SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

July 2025

Below are the work programmes of Herefordshire Council’s five scrutiny committees.

Work programmes are subject to change, with revised programmes agreed at the end of formal committee meetings.

Table of Contents

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee 2

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Scrutiny Management Board**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Committee Meeting

8 July 2025 **report deadline 26 June 2025** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 2 July 2025

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Gully cleansing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise progress against the October 2024 Council motion to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all drains, gullies and culverts that fall under the responsibility of Herefordshire Council are accurately mapped. Undertake an urgent programme of rectifying and repairing drains, gullies and culverts where they have been damaged by the recent unprecedented period of rainfall. Develop a full countywide maintenance schedule that anticipates the likelihood of heavier rainfall in the future. Publish the maintenance schedule so that ward members, city, town and parish councils and local people can have confidence in the plans. Ensure that areas most at risk of flooding are prioritised for maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed Site visit – mapping software demonstration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Highways and Traffic Nominated parish lengthsman
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

9 September 2025 **report deadline 28 August 2025** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
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Hereford City Masterplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Director, Growth
UK Shared Prosperity Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees to be agreed
Broadband <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees to be agreed
Tourism and Destination Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the opportunity and value in developing a tourism strategy for Herefordshire Examine tourism strategies in similar local authorities Examine the role of cultural and heritage strategy in supporting development of tourism throughout the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed Meeting with Herefordshire Business Improvement District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture and Leisure Lead DBID Tourism and destination management service
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*The Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, Cabinet Member, Economy and Growth, Cabinet Member, Community Services and Assets, Cabinet Member, Roads and Regulatory Services, and Cabinet Member, Transport and Infrastructure, all have a standing invitation to the meeting.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN



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

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

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

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

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

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

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead officer and lead cabinet member	Directorate	Notice of decision first published / ID	Issue Type and exemptions
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FORWARD PLAN FOR 27 June 2025 ONWARDS

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

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

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

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
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Cabinet decisions by date (Key and Non-key listed)

Children and Young Persons' Improvement Plan - Phase 3 To present cabinet with the Phase 3 Children's Services Improvement Plan for endorsement.	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Maxine David, Executive Support Officer, Tina Russell, Corporate Director Childrens and Young People <small>maxine.david@herefordshire.gov.uk, tina.russell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260044, Tel: 01432 260 267</small>	Children and Young People	20 June 2025	Non Key Open
Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire 2025 to 2028 To approve the new strategy for reducing the prevalence of and preventing domestic abuse throughout the county.	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Kayte Thompson-Dixon, Contracts officer <small>Kayte.Thompson-Dixon@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260727</small>	Community Wellbeing	20 June 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Procurement Strategy for the Hereford Western Bypass -Phase 1 To agree the procurement route to enable the Hereford Western Bypass to move to it's construction stage.	Cabinet 17 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Steve Smith, Western Bypass Consultant, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure <small>steve.smith@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Part exempt
Herefordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy To approve, for publication, a new Suicide Prevention Strategy (2024-2029) for Herefordshire	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Lindsay MacHardy, Public Health Principal, Kristan Pritchard, Public Health Lead - Mental Health <small>Lindsay.MacHardy@herefordshire.gov.uk, Kristan.Pritchard@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260554, Tel: 01432383144</small>	Community Wellbeing	20 June 2025	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Local Walking and Cycling Plan adoption To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Local Walking and Cycling Plan	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager <small>ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
West Midlands Safe Centre To approve the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and agrees for Herefordshire to join the SPV and be part of a formal partnership with other local authorities in the West Midlands in terms as set out in the report.	Cabinet 25 September 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Tina Russell, Corporate Director Childrens and Young People <small>tina.russell@herefordshire.gov.uk</small> <small>Tel: 01432 260 267</small>	Children and Young People	20 June 2025	KEY Part exempt
Local Transport Plan 5	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager <small>ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
New care facility To consider and agree the business case to invest in and develop the council's own care facility in Herefordshire to meet future demand	Cabinet 23 October 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 June 2025	KEY
Cabinet Member Decisions (Key and Non Key decisions)					
Portfolio: adults, health and wellbeing					
Reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services To approve the reprocurement of Herefordshire Independant Adult Advocacy Services, bhy way of an open tender process.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 28 November 2025	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing John Burgess, Senior Commissioning Officer John.Burgess3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: children and young people					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Housing related support for children in care and care leavers aged 16-25 To seek approval to commission, by means of a competitive tender process in line with the council's contract procedure rules, a housing related support service for 16–25-year-old children in care and care leavers. The existing service is currently delivered by Connexus and is due to expire on 28 February 2026.	Cabinet member children and young people 4 July 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Wendy Dyer, Commissioning Officer Communities <small>Wendy.Dyer@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261673</small>	Community Wellbeing	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Alternative Provision Procurement Framework To approve proposals of an Alternative Provision [AP] Framework of commissioned providers to deliver alternative curriculum provision, for children who are not able to attend school and those needing additional support, increasing choice, quality and value for money.	Cabinet member children and young people 20 August 2025	Cabinet member children and young people Jane Morse, Senior Commissioning Officer, Residential and Nursing, Jade Richards <small>Jane.Morse@herefordshire.gov.uk, jade.richards2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260985,</small>	Children and Young People	NEW ITEM	KEY Open
Portfolio: community services and assets					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Bromyard Employment Land and Leominster Business Hub Development To seek approval to allocate and spend the Employment Land capital budget to bring forward detailed designs and accompanying business case for the development of business space on the former Bromyard Depot site, and to establish a business hub facility on the ground floor of the Buttercross Building in Leominster.	Cabinet member community services and assets 11 July 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets David Wright, Head of Economy and Regeneration <small>David.Wright3@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383039</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Ross Enterprise Park Phase 1; Construction Phase To approve the expenditure of up to £7.229m of allocated capital funding to progress delivery of Ross Enterprise Park (phase 1) into the next phase of construction, and to undertake procurement for a main contractor and other essential suppliers to deliver those works.	Cabinet member community services and assets 18 July 2025	Cabinet member community services and assets David Jones, Programme Manager <small>David.Jones2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383320</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open

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

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Hereford Enterprise Zone Retained Business Rates – Herefordshire Growth Programme To approve the expenditure of the retained business rates from the Hereford Enterprise Zone, to deliver a county wide business growth, skills and inward investment programme	Cabinet member economy and growth 7 July 2025	Cabinet member economy and growth Roger Allonby, Service Director Economy and Growth <small>Roger.Allonby@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260330</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Merton Meadows Flood Alleviation - delivery of construction works To seek approval to spend the remaining £1.2 million of the £2 million Brownfield Land Release Fund grant awarded by the government for a flood alleviation scheme on the Merton Meadow sites in Hereford to enable them to be released for development. The grant funding will be utilised to deliver the physical flood alleviation works.	Cabinet member economy and growth 11 July 2025	Cabinet member economy and growth Stephen Holland, Interim Head of Housing Development <small>stephen.holland@herefordshire.gov.uk</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: environment					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
<p>Wye Valley National Landscapes - acceptance of grant funding</p> <p>This report seeks approval to accept a number of confirmed and indicative funding awards, allocations and bids from National Grid, DEFRA, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales for the future management and duties of the Wye Valley National Landscape, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This report also seeks approval to delegate the review of the AONB Management Plan and the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding between the 4 constituent local authorities, on account of the complex nature of the cross-border designation.</p>	<p>Cabinet member environment</p> <p>9 July 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet member environment</p> <p>Ben Boswell, Head of Environment, Climate Emergency and Waste Services</p> <p>bboswell@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261930</p>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	<p>KEY</p> <p>Open</p>
<p>Solar Car Ports at Plough Lane</p> <p>To approve the scoping and construction of solar car ports at Plough Lane</p>	<p>Cabinet member environment</p> <p>31 October 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet member environment</p> <p>Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager, Rosanna Willmott, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer</p> <p>katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk, rosanna.willmott@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192, Tel: 01432 261749</p>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	<p>KEY</p> <p>Open</p>

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Portfolio: finance and corporate services					
Portfolio: roads and regulatory services					
City and Market Town Public Realm Investment To approve the 2025/26 £1.2m City and Market Town Public Realm Investment.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services 11 July 2025	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic <small>Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Road Safety Schemes The purpose of this report is to set out how the £3.0 million for Road Safety Schemes is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 14 July 2025	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic <small>Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786</small>	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Portfolio: transport and infrastructure					

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Bus Service Improvement Plan capital funding The purpose of this report is to set out how the £1.1 million of Bus Service Improvement Plan capital spend is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 11 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure David Land, Head of Transport and Access Services david.land@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383484	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open
Capability and Ambition Fund 2025/26 allocation The purpose of the report is to confirm what Herefordshire Council will deliver with the Capability and Ambition Fund grant	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 11 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability & Climate Change Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	Non Key Open

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Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation The purpose of this report is to set out how the £2.055 million for Herefordshire Flood Risk Mitigation is proposed to be spent and to seek the necessary approvals to do so.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 11 July 2025	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Steve Hodges, Directorate services team leader sthodges@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 261923	Economy and Environment	20 June 2025	KEY Open

