

Agenda

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday 17 June 2026**

Time: **10.00 am**

Place: **Conference Room 2 - 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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Agenda for the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chairperson **Councillor Louis Stark**
Vice-chairperson **Councillor Justine Peberdy**

Councillor Elizabeth Foxton
Councillor Robert Highfield
Councillor Nick Mason
Councillor Rob Owens
Councillor Richard Thomas

Agenda

	Pages
<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES To receive details of members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a member of the committee.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive declarations of interests in respect of members of the committee in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
<p>4. MINUTES To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2026.</p>	9 - 14
<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS</p> <p>The deadline for the submission of questions for this meeting is 5pm on Thursday 11 June 2026.</p> <p>Questions must be submitted to councillorservices@herefordshire.gov.uk. Questions sent to any other address may not be accepted.</p> <p>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</p>	
<p>5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC To receive any written questions from members of the public.</p>	
<p>6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL To receive any written questions from members of the council.</p>	
<p>7. LAND USE MANAGEMENT [Papers to follow].</p>	
<p>8. BUS SERVICES TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE Verbal update from the group Chair.</p>	
<p>9. WORK PROGRAMME To consider the work programme for the committee.</p>	15 - 88
<p>10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Monday 21 September 2026, 10am.</p>	

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We will review and update this guidance in line with Government advice and restrictions.

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- 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.
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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 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held at Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Monday 2 March 2026 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor Louis Stark (chairperson)
Councillor Justine Peberdy (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Elizabeth Foxton, Robert Highfield, Nick Mason, Rob Owens and Richard Thomas

In attendance: Councillor Philip Price (Cabinet Member Transport and Infrastructure),
Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst (Cabinet Member Environment).

Officers: Simon Cann (Committee Clerk/Democratic Services Manager), Gemma Dando (Chief Operating Officer Resident Services), Ffion Horton (Transport Services Planning Manager), Dr David Land (Head of Transport and Access Services), Nicola Percival (Waste Management), Danial Webb (Statutory Scrutiny Officer).

152. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

153. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

No named substitutes had been received.

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

155. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were received.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

156. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received from members of the public.

157. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No questions had been received from members of the council.

158. WASTE RECOVERY CONTRACTING

The Chair took the report on Waste Recovery Contracting as read and opened the item up for debate. The key points of discussion included:

1. Members asked about the council's landfill target and current performance. The officer explained that the target had been to send no more than 1% of waste to landfill, a level the council had achieved consistently for years. Landfill had been used only for materials that could not be treated otherwise—such as asbestos—or during planned maintenance when the energy-from-waste facility had temporarily been unable to accept waste.
2. Members queried whether future waste disposal contracts (post-2029) would maintain the same landfill reduction targets. The officer confirmed that the council intended to retain similar environmental commitments, although the landfill site was due to revert to the contractor in 2029, meaning the council would no longer directly control landfill capacity.
3. Members asked whether the single end-to-end contract could be replaced with multiple contracts and whether risks of fragmentation had been considered. The Cabinet Member said the council had been exploring various procurement options and that fragmentation might have posed challenges but also offered flexibility, particularly in light of national policy changes such as extended producer responsibility and deposit return schemes.
4. Members questioned whether higher recycling rates might have reduced inputs to the energy-from-waste facility and affected revenue. The officer noted that the forthcoming Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), due from 2028–29, was expected to introduce carbon costs, encouraging waste minimisation, and that the facility could accept waste from commercial sources or other councils if required.
5. Members expressed concern that the facility required consistent feedstock and might have created a need to source waste. Officers confirmed that a continuous supply had been required for efficient operation but noted that this waste need not have come solely from council collections and could be sourced from other authorities or commercial operators.
6. Members asked if the garden waste subscription service was on track to break even. The officer said forecasting uptake had been difficult but noted that other councils had seen 4–15% first-year uptake. Herefordshire had approximately 3,700 subscribers, with numbers expected to rise during spring and summer.
7. Members asked how private providers might have affected subscription levels. The officer noted that private services operated on rolling contracts, meaning residents can switch to the council's competitively priced service as their contracts expired.
8. Members asked how early-stage financial pressures had been managed. The officer explained that the council had agreed reduced operational resources with the contractor while subscriber numbers remained low and had established a financial reserve to mitigate early financial risk.
9. Members sought assurance about introducing a separate food waste collection. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the council had remained committed under the Environment Act 2021, but highlighted that expected government funding had not been provided and that implementation—estimated at £2.6 million per year—would have required new funding and governance arrangements.

10. Members suggested that separating food waste could have reduced odours and allowed longer intervals for residual waste collections. The Cabinet Member agreed, adding that food waste separation could have raised public awareness of food waste and supported behavioural change.
11. Members asked whether the council could have supported community fridges or food-sharing schemes. Officers said such schemes were typically run by community organisations, though the idea could be explored through local hubs.
12. Members asked whether recycling centres could have facilitated the reuse of items. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that many items taken to recycling centres might still have been usable but said current practices prioritised recycling, and once placed in recycling containers, items could not generally be removed; reuse opportunities could be considered in future contracts.
13. Members asked about further segregation of recycling materials. The Cabinet Member said any changes would have needed to consider public acceptance, as introducing too many new bins too quickly might have discouraged participation, making a phased approach more suitable.
14. Members asked how the council planned to meet new requirements for collecting flexible plastics. The officer said legislation required collection from April the following year, though markets were still developing; one option had been to use a durable plastic bag within the existing system to separate these materials without needing additional collection vehicles.

At the conclusion of the debate the committee discussed and agreed the following recommendations.

That the Executive:

1. **Consider in good time the risks emerging from legislative and industry regulatory changes to the viability of the energy waste facility in Worcestershire.**
2. **Publish a clear timetable for introducing a separate food waste collection service, including funding approach and dependencies.**
3. **Consider ways Herefordshire Council could minimise waste produced in Herefordshire.**
4. **Work with Talk Community to look at the possibility of community larders or fridges in rural locations.**

159. LOCAL CYCLING WALKING AND WHEELING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Chair took the report on the Local Cycling Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan as read and opened the item up for debate. The key points of discussion included:

1. Members asked what activities and users were meant to be included within the term “wheeling”, noting it might not be widely understood. Officers responded that it reflected national LCWIP terminology and broadly referred to the use of wheeled mobility devices such as wheelchairs and mobility scooters, with acknowledgement that further explanation could be added to the plan for clarity.
2. Members asked how accessibility for disabled users would be addressed and whether the council risked legal challenge if infrastructure did not accommodate

wheeled users, and officers explained that each scheme would undergo equality and environmental impact assessments and that, where full accommodation was not possible, the council would document constraints and consider mitigation, with proper equality consideration forming part of the justification for design decisions.

3. Members sought clarification on how schemes would be prioritised within the LCWIP and whether those supporting multiple forms of active travel would be favoured, and officers advised that prioritisation used a range of criteria and that schemes benefiting walking, cycling and wheeling were likely to score more highly
4. Members asked whether projects funded through different sources would need to support all active travel modes, and officers explained that Active Travel England-funded schemes were expected to support walking, cycling and wheeling, while council-funded schemes were strongly encouraged to adopt inclusive design though requirements could vary by project type.
5. Members questioned whether including reference to the Hereford bypass might be misleading given long-term delivery timescales, and officers clarified that the LCWIP functioned as a flexible, reviewable planning document and that the reference simply identified a possible future opportunity for active travel infrastructure rather than a near-term commitment.
6. Members asked whether the structure and content of the LCWIP could affect the council's ambition to achieve Active Travel England Level 2 status, and officers confirmed the authority was currently Level 1, that achieving Level 2 remained a priority for funding opportunities, and that adopting the LCWIP and maintaining engagement with inspectors would support progress.
7. Members queried the use of a 10 km threshold for analysis and whether it would limit route consideration beyond that distance, and officers explained that the threshold followed national guidance for modelling likely cycling journeys but did not prevent the inclusion of additional routes where locally justified.
8. Members asked whether the LCWIP contained enough detail for councillors and communities to understand which routes had been included, and officers stated that the document provided a strategic framework and that future updates and scheme development could be shaped through further engagement.
9. Members asked how councillors would be involved in future LCWIP reviews, and officers said the plan would be periodically updated and that opportunities for member engagement could be built into review processes.
10. Members asked whether the plan placed too much emphasis on cycling relative to walking and wheeling, and officers advised that the plan followed the national user-hierarchy prioritising pedestrians, with wheeled mobility users considered within that category and therefore appropriately prioritised.

At the conclusion of the debate the committee discussed and agreed the following recommendations to the Executive.

That:

- 1. Define "wheeling" clearly and ensure compliance with the definition (including Equality Act considerations) in all projects in the plan.**

2. **Ensure the LTP (Local Transport Plan) objectives are at the front of the LCWWIP.**
3. **Work with ATE (Active Travel England) to use the Department for Transport audit/prioritization methodology to give more weighting to safety and perceived safety when selecting routes and projects outside Hereford City.**
4. **Reintroduce a dedicated capital program line for crossings, dropped curbs, and other safety/cohesion measures, rather than relying solely on ATE or Section 106 funding.**
5. **Integrate and make best use of the extensive public rights of way network in upgrades and route choices, including first/last-mile links to public transport.**
6. **Ensure alignment across the suite of transport strategies (LCWWIP, bus strategies, etc.) and with active travel projects already in delivery; cross check against market town movement studies.**
7. **Balance the plan content and investment between walking, wheeling, and cycling, avoiding an emphasis on cycling infrastructure alone.**

160. WORK PROGRAMME

1. The committee noted that the objectives for the upcoming June meeting on land use management had been revised following a productive officer meeting, making them more specific to what the council could realistically deliver.
2. Members were asked to review the changes, and an informal work programme meeting would be scheduled to discuss the objectives and the overall programme leading up to the 2027 elections.
3. The Chair emphasised the importance of adding the Carbon Management Plan to the work programme, noting that the committee could not avoid addressing it given its central role in achieving the council's 2030 net-zero target. This addition might require adjusting the order of existing work programme items to ensure proper consideration within the year.
4. Flooding and drainage were also highlighted as issues requiring attention within the work programme, and the committee would need to determine where these topics fit best.

161. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17 June 2026, 10am

The meeting ended at 12.58

Chairperson



Title: Work Programme 2026-27

Meeting: Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Wednesday 17 June 2026

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Report purpose

The report:

- Provides the committee with a draft work programme for the committee, for approval.
- Provides the committee with a copy of the council's forward plan of key decisions to assist the committee in deciding its programme of work.
- Lists the recommendations made by the committee since January 2025, and any responses to these recommendations.

Background

1. 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.

Meeting objectives

2. To agree the committee's work programme.
3. To note the work programmes of Herefordshire Council's other scrutiny committees.

Report information

4. The most recent work programme was published on 1 June 2026 and is attached as Appendix 1.
5. Attached as Appendix 2 to this report is the council's most recently published forward plan of key decisions.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
 Danial Webb, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, email: daniel.webb@herefordshire.gov.uk

6. Appendix 3 is a list of all recommendations made by the committee in 2025 and 2026.

Consultees

7. To prepare this work programme, the committee chairs have met with officers of the council to identify potential priority areas of work for the committee. These priority areas have been scheduled within the work programme to ensure the committee considers topics when it is most useful to do so. A draft of this work programme has then been circulated to the council's corporate leadership team and other key senior directors, alongside committee chairs, for further comment and refinement.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme June 2026

Appendix 2 – Herefordshire Council Forward Plan 5 June 2026

Appendix 3 – Recommendations made by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in 2025 and 2026.

Background papers and resources

None



APPENDIX 1

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

June 2026 – March 2027

Below are the work programmes of Herefordshire Council's five scrutiny committees and their six task and finish groups.

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

Please note that no meetings will be scheduled after March 2027 until after the 2027 Council elections have concluded.

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

22 July 2026 **report deadline 14 July 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 17 July 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Families First Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer review findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawn Knight, Service Manager Early Help Lindsay MacHardy, Public Health Principal <i>Core members of the steering group</i>
All Age access to play and open space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree terms of reference for a review of access to play and other open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindsay MacHardy Emily Garner Leigh Whitehouse Ed Bradford HVOSS (possibly)
Early Help Task and Finish Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review group findings and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final group report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
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

6 October 2026 **report deadline 28 September 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 2 October 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Alternative provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz Farr

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of capital programme relating to alternative provision. Overview of existing provision, including pupil referral units (PRUs). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louise Tanner, Head of Learning and Achievement Hilary Jones, Head of Additional Needs Jane Morse – Commissioning Manager Quentin Mee
Youth Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina Russell Hereford Rural Media Will Lindsey HVOSS Lindsay McHardy
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

TBC report deadline TBC pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
West Mercia Police Safeguarding Inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on PEEL inspection action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leanne Lowe, West Mercia Police

Topics for possible future scrutiny

- Participation strategy
- Housing
- School place planning
- Fostering (generally)
- Welfare and Education Bill

- The role of public health in tackling neglect of children and young people

Early help task and finish group

Terms of reference

Background

Herefordshire's Early Help offer includes both universal and targeted services aimed at supporting children, young people, and families before statutory intervention is required. The offer includes:

- **Universal services:** Provided largely through Talk Community, voluntary and community organisations, schools, health, and public health-funded initiatives.
- **Targeted early help:** Led by the Early Help team within Children's Services, working directly with families who require structured support.

Key developments in this area in recent years include:

- Integration of Early Help into wider Children's Services through locality models.
- Introduction of Families First and Lead Practitioner roles.
- Recruitment of two new children's-focused community development workers within Talk Community.
- Partnership commissioning (such as with the PCC) to support local early intervention initiatives.

To build on these developments, work is underway to identify and address weaknesses in current practice, including:

- Persistent confusion around distinctions between universal and targeted Early Help.
- Limited public visibility of the Early Help offer and recent developments.
- Variability in provision and access across different localities.
- Pressure on schools to deliver Early Help without sufficient funding or infrastructure.
- Need for improved coordination between statutory and non-statutory partners.

Purpose

The group therefore aims to provide a constructive and collaborative space to:

- Recognise strengths in current Early Help provision.
- Identify good practice across different communities.
- Highlight gaps or inconsistencies in provision and the work in place to address them.

Scope of Inquiry:

In recognition of the broad and varied nature of early help available in Herefordshire, the group intends to carry out two distinct but closely interdependent streams of work:

- **Targeted Early Help and Families First**
 - Understanding the Families First implementation.
 - Exploring the role of lead practitioners.
 - Clarifying the role of schools and multi-agency collaboration.
- **Community and Universal Offer**
 - Mapping and showcasing local Early Help initiatives.
 - Exploring partnerships with Talk Community hubs, voluntary groups, parish and town councils.
 - Engagement around youth activities, access barriers (transport), and local innovation.

Work Programme

The group will determine its programme of work to meet the above objectives. This programme will include:

- Local Appreciative Inquiry events in Hereford City Ross, and Leominster, supported by Talk Community and Children's Services.
- Case studies
- Meeting with families and professionals, individually and in focus groups

Work programme

Targeted early help and Families First

- Recognise strengths in current Early Help provision.
- Identify good practice across different communities.
- Highlight gaps or inconsistencies in provision and the work in place to address them.

Guide:

Not completed and overdue	Partially completed and overdue	On track	Completed
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Objective	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Understand targeted early help - rationale and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of programme briefing note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thresholds of need ○ Current performance management ○ Current programme of activity 	Simon Cann	November 2025
Overview of current Families First programme and targeted early help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with service managers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victoria Leader ○ Dawn Knight 	Simon Cann	15 Dec 2026, 3pm
Update on implementation of Families First programme and targeted early help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with service managers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawn Knight 	Simon Cann	14 or 19 May 2026
Support for young carers, no wrong door	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with young carers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jane Marshall – South – Ross and VL, John Burgess, Susan Brace, Niall Crawford 	Simon Cann	2 Mar 2026, 3pm
Appraise locality-based targeted early help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with a locality team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victoria Roe – North ○ Jane Marshall – South – Ross ○ Chantelle Bennett – Central 	Simon Cann	16 Jan 2025, 3pm

Objective	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tracey Spencer – Central 		
Working with schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with schools ○ Neil Crawford 	Simon Cann	21 Jan 2026, 3pm
Commissioned targeted early help services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with Venture – commissioned service ○ Hilary Thomas hilary.thomas@venture.org 	Simon Cann	27 Feb 2026, 1pm

Community and Universal Offer

- Mapping and showcasing local Early Help initiatives.
- Exploring partnerships with Talk Community hubs, voluntary groups, parish and town councils.
- Engagement around youth activities, access barriers (transport), and local innovation.

Topic	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Overview of local early help initiatives	Early help marketplace – Ross-on-Wye	Danial Webb	13 Oct 2025
Overview of local early help initiatives	Early help marketplace - Hereford	Danial Webb	17 Nov 2025
Overview of local early help initiatives	Early help marketplace - Leominster	Danial Webb	3 Dec 2025
Understand how midwives support young parents to be.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with midwives ● Emily Strange (named safeguarding midwife) ● Sian Jenkins (community Midwife manager) 	Simon Cann	20 Mar 2026
The role of school nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with school nurses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ emma.dewar@wvt.nhs.uk ○ Wendy.Long@wvt.nhs.uk ○ Nikki.Lawley@wvt.nhs.uk 	Simon Cann	8 May 2026
The role of health visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with health visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lyndsay McHardy, Julia Stephens -0-19 Strat. 	Simon Cann	17 Mar 2026

Topic	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hannah Bannister-White ● “Best Start in Life” strategy 		
Youth clubs overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of youth and sports clubs in Herefordshire ● Visit to youth club ● Meeting with youth club attendees ● HVOSS Will Lindesay 	Simon Cann	9 April 2026
Talk Community and co-ordination of support for universal community services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview community support carried out by Talk Community. ● Nikki Stroud, Emily Lowe, Michelle Trussler, Abigail Allcock 	Simon Cann	21 April 2026

Report to Cabinet

Topic	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Draft final report	Learning from above meetings		May 26
Agree final report	Draft report	Task and Finish Group	June 26
Present to Cabinet	Final report	Toni Fagan	July 26

Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

7 July 2026 **report deadline 29 June 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 2 July 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Year of delivery – capital projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-year review of capital projects taking place in 2026. • Scrutinise project budgets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council capital programme • Individual programme progress reports • Capital delivery programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Economy and Growth • Director of Resources
Public participation in planning task and finish group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the task and finish final report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task and finish group report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
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

20 July 2026 **report deadline 10 July 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 16 July 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Hereford Bypass Phase One – full business case <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise the full business case to ensure it provides Cabinet with sufficient information to make an informed decision on Hereford Bypass Phase One, having regard to the assessment criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hereford Bypass Phase One full business case. Assessment criteria for the full business case. Complete compliance matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery Director, Infrastructure Representative AECOM Expert Witness Bypass Phase One Project Manager
Broadband Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of coverage gaps and speeds, and work to address them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with businesses, schools, parish councils Public call for evidence Supplier business plans Ofcom policy Other evidence to be determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Committee Meeting

Autumn 2026 **report deadline TBC 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
UK Shared Prosperity Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of projects funded Examine future funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Director, Economy and Growth

Committee Meeting

27 January 2027 **report deadline 19 January 2027** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Year of delivery – capital projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of year review of capital projects taking place in 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council capital programme Individual programme progress reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

*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.

Additional Topics Proposed for Future Consideration

- Hereford City Masterplan

Placemaking and Public Participation task and finish group

Terms of reference

Background

Herefordshire is entering a significant period of growth and change. Delivering new housing, infrastructure, and services must strengthen local communities and reflect the county's distinctive rural character.

Research shows that while public involvement in planning is vital, engagement often remains procedural rather than meaningful. Many residents feel disconnected from decision-making, uncertain about how to participate, or unconvinced that their input makes a difference.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every local planning authority such as Herefordshire to publish a Statement of Community Involvement. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and resultant secondary legislation is likely to place greater emphasis on this statement with a proposed requirement for a local planning authority Community Involvement Scheme. This provides a timely opportunity to modernise Herefordshire's existing Statement of Community Involvement (January 2022), ensuring it reflects Herefordshire Council's 2024–2028 priorities for economic growth and community development.

This task and finish group will explore how Herefordshire can plan with its communities, ensuring that growth, infrastructure and environment evolve together in a fair, transparent, and creative way. It will then make recommendations to underpin the Council's new statutory engagement framework.

The aim is to move beyond statutory minimum consultation and create a culture in which residents look forward to new development as something they have helped to shape. Growth with, not to, communities.

Purpose

To identify and recommend practical, evidence-based measures for making community engagement in planning and placemaking more inclusive, accessible, and effective across Herefordshire. The group will:

- Examine best practice and innovative approaches to public participation.
- Advise on the update and replacement of the Statement of Community Involvement (2022) with a new Community Involvement Scheme (2026).
- Ensure that community voice and cultural engagement sit at the heart of the county's future planning system.

Objectives

- To understand current legislation and good practice in community involvement and evaluate how residents currently engage with planning in Herefordshire and identify barriers to participation.
- Review and learn from good practice in community engagement in other local authorities and with housing providers.
- Inform and help draft the replacement of the Statement of Community Involvement (2022) with a new Community Involvement Scheme (2026)
- Make recommendations to the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet to deliver the above.

Scope

The task and finish group will focus on how communities are involved in shaping growth, not on what is built or where sites are allocated. It will not duplicate the work of the Housing Development Working Group or the technical drafting of the Local Plan.

Membership and Governance

- 5–7 elected members of Herefordshire Council (no Cabinet members).
- Up to two co-opted members with relevant expertise or community experience.
- Supported by officers from Democratic Services, Economy and Environment, and Communications.
- Reports through the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee, which will submit recommendations to Cabinet for formal response.

Expected Outputs

- A final report setting out
 - practical recommendations for improving public participation in planning and placemaking.
 - A proposed structure and content outline for Herefordshire’s new Community Involvement Scheme (2026), replacing the 2022 Statement.
 - Case studies and prototypes demonstrating innovative engagement methods suitable for rural and market-town contexts.

Success Measures

- At least five examples of national or local best practice reviewed.
- Two or more new engagement methods agreed or trialled.
- Clear, costed recommendations adopted within the 2026 Community Involvement Scheme.
- Cabinet adoption of group recommendations into council policy.

WORK PROGRAMME

Guide:

Not completed and overdue	Partially completed and overdue	On track	Completed
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Objective To understand current legislation and good practice in community involvement and evaluate how residents currently engage with planning in Herefordshire and identify barriers to participation.

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Understand current legislation and good practice in community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 • Overview of The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 • Good practice guidance 		November 2025
Evaluate how residents currently engage with planning in Herefordshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herefordshire Council Statement of Community Involvement. • Interviews with housing associations and council planning officers. 		November 2025
Identify current barriers to participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with housing association, community groups and council planning officers. 		November 2025
GROUP MEETING		Henry Merricks Murgatroyd	November 2025

Objective Review and learn from good practice in community engagement in other local authorities and with housing providers.

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Examine requirements for new Community Involvement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft regulation and statutory guidance 		December 2025

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Identify good practice in other local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review Site visit (if useful) 		January 2026
Identify creative engagement methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop search ideas such as including digital tools, easy-read and visual materials, short videos, and cultural or media partnerships. 		January 2026
GROUP MEETING			February 2025

Objective Inform and help draft the replacement of the Statement of Community Involvement (2022) with a new Community Involvement Scheme.

This section of the work of the task and finish group is paused due to legislative changes that will replace the Community Involvement Scheme.

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Work with officers to set new parameters and scope for the Community Involvement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Community Involvement Scheme 	TBA	March 2026
Ensure inclusivity by improving reach to rural residents, younger people, working families, and under-represented communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Community Involvement Scheme 	TBA	April 2026
Recommend resourcing and governance arrangements to support sustained, meaningful participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with planning officers in a 'good' local planning authority Draft recommendations 		May 2026
GROUP MEETING			May 2026

Objective Make recommendations to the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Draft report to committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report 		July 2026
Draft report and recommendations to Cabinet (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report 		July 2026

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

17 June 2026 **report deadline 9 June 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 11 June 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Land Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the operation of current council policy on enabling and enforcing appropriate land management and use (including riparian responsibilities) across the county; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to protect carriageways, ditches and verges. ○ To look at related enforcement issues – including planning breaches. ○ The impact on public rights of way. • To explore how the local authority can support adoption of sustainable farming methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement analysis • Current council planning regulation concerning land use management • MP office briefing on the withdrawal of the Sustainable Farming Incentive • Catchment Sensitive farming data (including regenerative farming) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Hodges, Group Manager Flood Risk Management • Leigh Whitehouse, Group Manager Streetscene, Network Management and Public Rights of Way • Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager • Kelly Gibbons, Development Management Service Manager • Mark Tansley, Development Manager – Enforcement
Bus Services task and finish group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal update from the group chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task and finish group chair
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 and Cabinet Member, Environment, both have a standing invitation to the meeting.

Committee Meeting

21 September 2026 **report deadline 11 September 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 17 September 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
<p>Transformation of the economy and environment directorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the transformed leadership structure and how it is performing currently, in particular where responsibility for delivering on the council's environmental priorities and targets, including net zero. Has embedding a commercial mindset impacted on the delivery of these environmental priorities and targets. Has transformation impacted on the overall resource dedicated to the environmental side of the directorate. Explore the case for a more distinct operational area for environmental matters under the Corporate Director. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer report List of environmental project currently undertaken by Herefordshire Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Hobbs, Corporate Director Environment and Economy
<p>Buses and passenger services task and finish group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the final report from the group and consider their recommendations, including testing the evidence on which they are based. To agree a set of recommendations to go forward from the committee to the executive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, buses task and finish group
<p>Flooding spotlight review – terms of reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree the terms of reference for a proposed spotlight review to scrutinise flood risk management and flood emergency responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spotlight review terms of reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting2 December 2026 **report deadline 24 November 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 27 November 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Rail Strategy <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"> John Hobbs Ffion Horton Roger Allonby David Land
Herefordshire Council Carbon Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to be agreed. Council-installed solar panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon Management Plan Cabinet paper (if available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Vaughan Daniel Lenain

Prospective spotlight review

March 2027

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Flooding and flood risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference to be agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Hobbs Other TBC

Bus and passenger services task and finish group

Work programme

Guide:

Not completed and overdue	Partially completed and overdue	On track	Completed
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Objective	Activity or information needed	Carried out by	Timeline
Initial review meeting		Task and Finish Group	July 2025
Create a central information repository	Setup Teams library and chat space	Simon Cann, Danial Webb	September 2025
Review Herefordshire Council's current powers and responsibilities.	Compile and provide overview of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing legislation in England and Wales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Transport Act 2008 ○ Transport Act 2000 ○ Bus Service Act 2017 ○ Bus Services (No. 2) Bill ○ Public Service Vehicle Regulations. • Overview of who is responsible for local transport in England (Commons library) • Any allied statutory guidance • Bus operator legislation and guidance. • How these apply in Herefordshire. 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos, task and finish group	Sep-Oct 2025

Objective	Activity or information needed	Carried out by	Timeline
Review current passenger transport operations in Herefordshire and how they meet current and future need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous council bus service reviews (c. 2019) • For both commercial and community operators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Routes and frequency ○ Passenger numbers ○ Subsidy • Home to school transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current services provided ○ Current providers • SEND transport • Adult Social Care Passenger transport 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Sep-Oct 2025
Current local authority and regional funding	2025-2026 and medium-term funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subsidised routes • community transport • other transport funding provided by the local authority 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Sep-Oct 2025
Review Meeting		Task and Finish Group	21 October 2025
Overview of current BSIP funding	Summary of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Bus Strategy • Herefordshire Bus Service Improvement Plan 2024 Briefing on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of the £3.2m BSIP grant (2025–26) (£1.3m capital, £1.9m revenue) e.g., shelters, passenger experience, supported services • Progress in delivering funded projects and services • Their contribution to improved services Site visit to any BSIP-related capital project	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Nov-Dec 2025
Assess Enhanced Partnership performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how the current enhanced partnership timetabling meets the objectives of the partnership. 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis,	Nov-Dec 2025

Objective	Activity or information needed	Carried out by	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways to apply learning from the group to new ways of meeting the objectives of the enhanced partnership. 	Natalie Amos, task and finish group	
Combining bus services with other transport services	Desktop research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current rail services and how they align with bus services Group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Rail or other responsible authority 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Nov-Dec 2025
Explore cross-border and cross-county transport	Map and list of current cross-border services to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency Operator Funding (if applicable) Examples from other local authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See previous work looking at other local authorities Identify opportunities for any cross-border service support 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Nov-Dec 2025
Review Meeting		Task and Finish Group	11 December 2025
Community Transport	Site visits to community transport providers. Attendance at bus service forum. Overview brief of Services in Herefordshire, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current services, routes and frequencies Cost Funding 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	Jan-Mar 2026
Home to school and other resident transport	Overview brief of home to school services in Herefordshire, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current services, routes and frequencies Cost and funding 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	March 2026

Objective	Activity or information needed	Carried out by	Timeline
	Meeting with Home to school co-ordinator Meeting with Transformation team		
Review Meeting		Task and Finish Group	26 March 2026
Examine how other rural local authorities provide sustainable services.	Internet research – what do they do in other rural local authorities? Suggested workstreams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand Responsive transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YorBus, CallConnect ○ Worcestershire on Demand Worcestershire County Council ○ The Robin (your bookable bus) Gloucestershire County Council • Use of powers of funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of enhanced partnerships – Oxfordshire, Cornwall ○ Branding • Integrating transport and social care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community transport ○ The role of third sector organisations Site Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shropshire DRT – Shrewsbury • Social care focused visit 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	June 2026
Bus franchising	Overview of Bus Services Bill Overview of approach taken by other local authorities Meeting with consultants or another local authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the barriers to franchising in rural areas? • Is this an opportunity for Herefordshire to pursue? • Are there partnership opportunities with other local authorities? 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	June 2026
Review Meeting		Task and Finish Group	June/July 2026

Objective	Activity or information needed	Carried out by	Timeline
Draft report and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft final report • Draft recommendations 	Simon Cann, David Land, Craig Lewis, Natalie Amos	September 2026
Present report to Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee		Task and Finish Group	September 2026

Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Committee work programme

Committee Briefing

30 June 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the work of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 	Joanna Newton, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board

Committee Meeting

27 July 2026 **report deadline 17 July 2026** pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 23 July 2026

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work to develop a new joint strategic needs assessment for Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 	Zoe Clifford, Director of Public Health
Adult Mental Health Acute Inpatient and Rehabilitation Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an update on the progress of the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Redesign and Acute Inpatient Improvement Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update report 	Herefordshire And Worcestershire Health And Care NHS Trust
Adult Social Care budget outturn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise financial outturn against budget Scrutinise performance against the performance management framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly budget outturn and performance monitoring 	Hilary Hall, Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting**14 September 2026 report deadline 4 September 2026 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 10 September 2026**

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Right Care Right Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on work to deliver acute community mental health support in Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence to be agreed 	Gareth Morris, West Mercia Police Zoe Clifford, Director of Public Health
Meeting the demand for adult social care task and finish group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree draft report and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final task and finish group report 	Chair, task and finish group
Adult Social Care budget outturn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise financial outturn against budget savings plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly budget outturn and performance monitoring 	Hilary Hall, Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting**14 December 2026 report deadline 4 December 2026 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning December 2026**

Topic and Objectives	Evidence required	Attendees*
Shaping neighbourhood health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse how the health partnership identifies health needs in communities. Scrutinise provision of current and future neighbourhood health services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2Neighbourhood health bid Taurus Out of Hours GP service Worcestershire Council papers 	Zoe Clifford, Director of Public Health
Adult Social Care budget outturn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise financial outturn against budget savings plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly budget outturn and performance monitoring 	Hilary Hall, Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

*The Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing and Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing, both have a standing invitation to the meeting.

Meeting the demand for adult social care task and finish group

Work programme

Guide:

Not completed and overdue	Partially completed and overdue	On track	Completed
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Objective To understand the extent of demand for adult social care services provided or commissioned in Herefordshire, and the likely change over time.

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
Understand Herefordshire's demographics and future demographic change	Demographic information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understanding Herefordshire</i> demographic data • <i>Future population of Herefordshire</i> report • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment report 	Charlotte Worthy/Herefordshire Research team	Dec 25-Jan 26
Understand the demand for adult social care in Herefordshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Market Position Statement</i> • <i>Market Sustainability Plan</i> • Current rates of demand for adult social care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Type of demand (domiciliary, residential, nursing) ○ Duration ○ Change over time 	Zakia Loughead	Dec 25-Jan 26
Compare demographic change and demand for adult social care compared to other local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research comparison with 'statistical neighbours' 	Danial Webb/Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd	Dec 25-Jan 26
GROUP MEETING		Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd	26 February 2026

Objective To explore the drivers of increased demand for adult social care, and the capacity of the local authority and other care providers to meet it.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Increased complexity of demand from an ageing population	Site visit – supported housing provider Site visit – third sector organisation working with older adults		Feb-Mar 26
The nature of funding for social care	Briefing on social care funding	Zakia Loughead ASC finance team	Feb-Mar 26
The size and structure of the social care market in Herefordshire	Overview of social care market Meeting with care providers	Zakia Loughead	Feb-Mar 26
Lack of housing growth, and flatlining tax base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview with Cabinet portfolio holders 		Feb-Mar 26
GROUP MEETING		Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd	22 April 2026

Objective To identify strategies and work carried out by Herefordshire Council and partners such as housing associations and other organisations reduce demand for social care services, or to increase revenue to pay for services.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Assistive technology	Visit to Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS) Team	TBC	May-Jun 26
Community based universal and targeted services	Meeting with Talk Community Meeting with third sector organisation Contact with, and desktop research on, other community teams in another local authority	Emily Lowe – Talk Community	May-Jun 26

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Market shaping and support	Meeting – service director Meeting – care providers’ network	Commissioning	June 26
Supported living	Meeting – director for housing support Visit to supported housing	Hayley Crane A supported housing provider	June 26
In-house services and the role of Hoople	Case study – Essex Meeting with Hoople		June 26
GROUP MEETING		Henry Merricks-Murgatroyd	17 June 2026

Objective To make recommendations to the executive on steps that should be taken to reduce service demand and to increase revenue.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Write draft report and recommendations	Draft report and recommendations	Task and finish group	August 2026
Agree draft report and recommendations with committee	Draft report and recommendations	Task and finish group	September 2026

Scrutiny Management Board

Committee work programme

Committee Meeting

6 July 2026 **report deadline 26 June 2026** member briefing 22 June 2026 pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 30 June 2026

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Management Plan Review the draft management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Plan 	Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance Liz Farr, Service Director, Education, Skills and Learning
Adult Social Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise the recent Care Quality Commission inspection report on adult social care Further scrutinise the council's budget and its plan for service transformation in light of budget pressures and the inspection findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Wellbeing budget for 2026-27 Medium-term financial strategy CQC inspection report and draft action plan Adult Social Care task and finish group initial findings 	Cabinet members for adult social care Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance Hilary Hall, Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Commercialisation task and finish group final report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree final report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Hoople working group terms of reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree terms of reference for a proposed working group of the committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

September 2026 **report deadline TBC 2026** **member briefing TBC** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning TBC**

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Inequalities task and finish group final report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree final report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Annual review of effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny annual review 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Committee Meeting

1 December 2026 **report deadline 23 November 2026** **member briefing 24 November 2026** **pre meeting lines of enquiry planning 27 November 2026**

Topic and objective	Evidence required	Attendees
Q2 Budget scrutiny Q2 Performance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget report Supplementary information as requested by the committee 	Cabinet members Rachael Sanders Jessica Karia, Head of Corporate Performance and Intelligence
Work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft work programme 	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Long list of potential topics

- Social Value in procurement
- Working with the voluntary sector and others to help deliver services
- Review of the workforce strategy
- Supplier risk management
- Emergency Planning
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy

Inequality and social mobility task and finish group

Work programme

Guide:

Not completed and overdue	Partially completed and overdue	On track	Completed
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Objective To define and understand the different dimensions of inequality (including but not limited to protected characteristics, rurality, socio-economic background and care experience) and social mobility in Herefordshire and the United Kingdom, including Herefordshire Council's understanding of inequality and social mobility.

Objectives	Evidence required	Responsible officer	Date
To define and understand the different dimensions of inequality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on different types of inequality, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wealth/income ○ Health ○ Rurality • Briefing on groups affected by inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protected characteristics ○ Military families • Overview of inequality as defined by other local authority scrutiny 	Danial Webb	Sep-Oct 25
To understand those dimensions that are particularly relevant to Herefordshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-ward indices of deprivation • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Economic data 	Danial Webb and Charlotte Worthy	Sep-Oct 25
To test Herefordshire Council's understanding of inequality, how it prioritises different elements of inequality, and its priorities to tackle and reduce inequality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herefordshire Council Plan • Meeting with leader and deputy • <i>(should this be merged with the above?)</i> 	Danial Webb and Charlotte Worthy	Sep-Oct 25

GROUP MEETING	Danial Webb	November 2025
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Objective To measure inequality and social mobility across the county and the different dimensions that impact on inequality and social mobility within the county and between Herefordshire and other parts of the UK.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Collect and analyse relevant datasets pertaining to Herefordshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-ward indices of deprivation • Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Economic data TBC 	Ian Sockett and Charlotte Worthy	Jan-April 2026
GROUP MEETING		Danial Webb	TBC 2026

Objective To identify the plans, strategies and actions deployed by the council to reduce inequality and improve social mobility, and the degree to which they are likely to or are actually reducing inequality and improving social mobility, and the degree to which they are not.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
**work yet to be planned			
GROUP MEETING			TBC

Objective To make recommendations to the executive on steps that should be taken to meaningfully reduce inequality and improve social mobility across the county.

Objectives	Evidence required	People to speak with	Date
Write draft report and recommendations	Draft report and recommendations	Task and finish group	June 2026
Agree draft report and recommendations with committee	Draft report and recommendations	Task and finish group	July 2026

Commercialisation working group

Terms of reference

Background

Herefordshire Council faces a potential funding gap of £27.3 million for the 2026-27 financial year, and further funding gaps in future years. The executive has already identified commercialisation as key to its transformation programme. The executive has also indicated that commercialisation and income generation will form part of the strategy to address the funding gap.

Commercialisation within local government represents both a financial opportunity and a cultural challenge. Commercialisation could deliver significant cost savings and income-generating opportunities but only as a result of cultural change. For example [guidance](#) from the Association For Public Service Excellence emphasises that commercialisation cannot simply be a reaction to budget deficits – it requires an embedded strategy, a commercial mindset within the local authority, clear governance, and a well-developed understanding of risk.

To assist the Cabinet in developing a budget to propose to council Scrutiny Management Board will undertake a working group of members investigating how the council could increase income in the short and medium term alongside greater commercialisation.

Initial recommendations will be provided informally to the Cabinet by the end of November,

Short- and Long-Term Opportunities

Short term: The working group will examine the opportunities of:

- reviewing and adjusting fees and charges,
- maximising income from council assets (such as property leases and car parks), or exploring asset repurposing or disposals.
- benchmarking against neighbouring authorities could identify under-priced services as well as gaining an understanding of work that has already been undertaken in this area and
- other opportunities for income generation

The working group will seek to understand the impact and the risks associated with any short term operations

Longer term: The working group will identify opportunities to increase income and to drive efficiency in future years across the life of the medium-term financial strategy including, but not limited to those opportunities presented by commercialisation.

Given the timescale the working group's recommendations, especially for future years may be quite high level. The working group will deliver the best-founded recommendations it can within the fixed (and tight) timescale.

Overall approach

We propose a three-stage approach

- Herefordshire council is already working on commercialisation and income generation. The working group will consider current plans and arrangements, challenge these and work with officers to identify areas that they may not have considered.
- The working group will also have regard to the impact of their proposals on local people and the risks that may be associated with them.
- If there is time the working group will also investigate the strategic issues relating to commercialization and make recommendations for the cabinet to consider.

The Working Group will also have regard to guidance and experience across the sector in regards to areas such as (not an exhaustive list):

- The purposes of commercial activity, namely the balance between maximising income (for example, through fees, charges, or property ventures), supporting broader social value and strengthening community resilience.
- How the council might operate in markets without distorting competition and maintaining fairness to local businesses-governance and risk management
- The cultural dimension, which cannot be overstated. Officers and members must share a mindset that sees prudent risk-taking as legitimate. Without organisational readiness – training, leadership commitment, and internal capability – commercial ambitions will fail.

The scrutiny process must therefore explore how Herefordshire can build this culture safely, balancing entrepreneurial ambition with its statutory duty to protect public assets. It must also concern itself both with the immediate opportunities to increase income and the longer-term changes required to inculcate greater commercialisation.

APPENDIX 2 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	Culture and 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.

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

FORWARD PLAN FOR 5 June 2026 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)

<p>Q4 Performance Report To review performance for Quarter 4 (Q4) 2025/26 and to report the performance position across all Directorates for this period.</p>	<p>Cabinet 25 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services Jessica Karia, Head of Corporate Performance and Intelligence <small>jessica.karia@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260976</small></p>	<p>Corporate Support Centre</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>
<p>Risk Management Update Quarter 4 2025-26 To provide an update on the status of corporate risks at the end of Quarter 4 2025/26 (March 2026) and provide assurance that risks are being managed effectively across the council.</p>	<p>Cabinet 25 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services Rachael Sanders, Director of Finance <small>Rachael.sanders@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383775</small></p>	<p>Corporate Support Centre</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>

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>CQC Assessment report and Improvement plan The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the outcome of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment and to approve Herefordshire's CQC Assurance improvement plan 2026-27</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Emma Evans, Head of Service Transformation & Improvement, Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing</p> <p><small>Emma.Evans@herefordshire.gov.uk, Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260460,</small></p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Food Waste Collection Implementation To approve the implementation of the food waste collection scheme</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment</p> <p>Sabrina Entwistle, Project Manager- Waster Services, Nicola Percival, Waste Services Manager</p> <p><small>sabrina.entwistle@herefordshire.gov.uk, npercival@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260991</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Part exempt</p>

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>Hereford Bypass Phase One – Assessment Report</p> <p>To seek approval from Cabinet to award the construction contract to the preferred bidder and authorise spending against the capital budget to construct Phase One of the Hereford Bypass.</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Herefordshire County Business Improvement District (HCBID) - Second Term Ballot</p> <p>To agree to vote in favour of the Herefordshire County Business Improvement District (HCBID) for the second, five year term (2026 – 2031).</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member economy and growth</p> <p>Nadine Kinsey, Economic Development Manager nkinsey@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>

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>Herefordshire Parking Strategy 2026 - 2041</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of a new Parking Strategy for Herefordshire. This report presents the new Parking Strategy, which sets out the Council's long-term vision, principles and priorities for parking across Herefordshire. The strategy is intended to guide decision-making, investment, and operational practice for both on-street and off-street parking, ensuring that parking plays a supportive role within the wider transport network rather than operating in isolation.</p> <p>The strategy has been developed to align with the Local Transport Plan, the Council Plan and other relevant corporate and place-based priorities. It recognises the role parking plays in supporting town centres, tourism, freight and servicing, enabling access for disabled users and residents, and creating safe and attractive public spaces. It also reflects the increasing importance of integrating parking with sustainable travel choices, technological innovation, and efficient asset management.</p>	<p>Cabinet 16 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member roads and regulatory services</p> <p>Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>

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>Update on the Phase 2 Phosphate Mitigation Schemes To provide Cabinet with an update regarding the Phosphate Mitigation Wetland schemes</p>	<p>Cabinet 30 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment</p> <p>Roger Allonby, Service Director Economy and Growth, Gemma Dando, Chief Operating Officer, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Susan White, Programme Manager</p> <p>Roger.Allonby@herefordshire.gov.uk, gemma.dando@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Susan.White2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260330, , Tel: 01432 260070</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>
<p>To re-commission the home care framework in Herefordshire To approve the re-commissioning of the council's home care framework, called Services In Your Home (SIYH), in Herefordshire. The new SIYH framework needs to be operational by 1 May 2027.</p>	<p>Cabinet 24 September 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Sharon Amery, Senior Commissioning Officer</p> <p>sharon.amery2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383734</p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>

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>Travel Plan Strategy</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for an updated Travel Plan process for Herefordshire. The updated approach sets out a clearer, more consistent and outcome-focused process for the development, implementation and monitoring of travel plans across new developments, existing organisations and key trip-generating sites.</p>	<p>Cabinet 24 September 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Recommissioning of Drugs & Alcohol Recovery Services</p> <p>To obtain approval to recommission drug and alcohol recovery services in Herefordshire for an initial five-year period (2028–2033), with the option to extend the contract by a further two years. (2033–2035).</p>	<p>Cabinet 17 December 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Natalie Johnson-Stanley, Public Health Lead - Substance Misuse / Tobacco Natalie.Johnson-Stanley@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383230</p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>NEW ITEM</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Decisions (Key and Non Key decisions)</p>					
<p>Portfolio: adults, health and wellbeing</p>					

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>To extend the council's current commissioned home care framework To approve an extension to the council's current commissioned home care framework for up to six months from 31 October 2026 to 30 April 2027.</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Before 26 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Helen Davies, Commissioning Manager <small>helen.davies3@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Herefordshire Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy The purpose of the report is to approve the 2026-2036 Herefordshire Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing David Collyer, Acting Consultant in Public Health: General Practitioner <small>david.collyer2@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Domestic Abuse Commissioning - 2026 To approve the recommissioning of domestic abuse services, via a competitive tendering process, commencing.</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 31 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Wendy Dyer, Commissioning Officer Communities <small>Wendy.Dyer@herefordshire.gov.uk</small> Tel: 01432 261673</p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>

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>Herefordshire Care Home Partnerships Framework</p> <p>To approve the procurement of a new multi provider partnership framework for the provision of care home placements and related services. The Council is looking to formalise partnership arrangements for a minimum of 500-550 placements across all providers. Estimated value of up to £320m across the framework term (maximum of 8 years).</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Before 31 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Ros Murphy, Commissioning Manager, Community Wellbeing</p> <p><small>ros.murphy@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY</p> <p>Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: children and young people</p>					
<p>Property Services Estates Capital Building Improvement Programme 202629</p> <p>To approve expenditure within the capital building improvement programme 2026-2029</p>	<p>Cabinet member children and young people</p> <p>12 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets</p> <p>Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Michael Griffin, Head of Major Projects</p> <p><small>katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Michael.Griffin2@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY</p> <p>Open</p>

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>Allocation of Basic Need Capital Grant for the Expansion of John Masefield High School and Weobley High School</p> <p>To seek approval for the allocation of Basic Need Capital Grant funding to support the expansion of John Masefield High School and Weobley High School in order to meet future demand for additional secondary school places.</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets 26 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member children and young people</p> <p>Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Children and Young People</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Recommissioning of Children’s Rights & Advocacy and Independent Visitors Services</p> <p>To approve the decision to recommissioning of Children’s Rights & Advocacy and Independent Visitors Services</p>	<p>Cabinet member children and young people Before 31 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member children and young people</p> <p>Ellie Jenkins, Commissioning Officer, All Age Mental Health / Wellbeing, Karen Stanton, Corporate Grant Lead - Corporate Support ellie.jenkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, kstanton@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260463</p>	<p>Children and Young People</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: community services and assets</p>					

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>Establish a new Alternative Provision Centre capital spend To approve the spend of the capital allocation to establish a new Alternative Provision Centre</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets 18 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development <small>Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Children and Young People</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Relocation of Herefordshire Pupil Referral Units Capital Spend To approve the spend of the capital allocation to relocate Herefordshire Pupil Referral Units onto a single site.</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets 18 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member community services and assets Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development <small>Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Children and Young People</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: economy and growth</p>					
<p>Portfolio: environment</p>					

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>Solar Car Ports at Plough Lane To approve the scoping and construction of solar car ports at Plough Lane</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment 1 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment</p> <p>Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager, Rosanna Willmott, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer</p> <p><small>katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk, rosanna.willmott@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192, Tel: 01432 261749</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Adoption of Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy To formally adopt the Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and accept associated government grant for delivery.</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment 31 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member culture and Environment</p> <p>Mandy Neill, Senior Landscape Officer, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager</p> <p><small>mandy.neill@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: finance and corporate services</p>					

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>Public Notices To approve a contract via a direct award process for the placing of public notices in newspapers circulating within Herefordshire.</p>	<p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services 17 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services Ed Bradford, Major Contracts Programme Director Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: local engagement and community resilience</p>					
<p>Portfolio: roads and regulatory services</p>					
<p>National Parking Platform (NPP) To agree to join the NPP to provide multiple options of cashless parking providers for all council pay and display car parks and on-street.</p>	<p>Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Before 26 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Michael Barnes, Parking Services Manager michael.barnes@herefordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>
<p>Portfolio: transport and infrastructure</p>					

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>Capability and Ambition Fund 2025/26 allocation</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to confirm what Herefordshire Council will deliver with the Capability and Ambition Fund grant</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 12 June 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager</p> <p><small>ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>29 May 2026</p>	<p>Non Key Open</p>
<p>Active Travel Capital Fund 2026/27</p> <p>This report is to confirm the work that will be delivered with the Active Travel Capital Fund that Herefordshire Council have received for 2026/27 financial year</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 1 July 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet member transport and infrastructure</p> <p>Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager</p> <p><small>ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk</small></p>	<p>Economy and Environment</p>	<p>NEW ITEM</p>	<p>KEY Open</p>



Appendix 3 Recommendations made by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, January 2025– March 2026

Monday 20 January 2025					
River Lugg Water Quality					
Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Recd Date	Response
1	Engage directly with Natural England and the Environment Agency to achieve the lifting of the housing development moratorium as soon as possible.	Tue 28-Jan-25	Thu 27-Mar-25	Fri 4-Jul-25	Partially agreed. The Council will take advice from its legal team in regard to any identified risk in respect of removing the Nutrient Neutrality requirement within the Lugg catchment. If positively advised by Legal the Council will seek a view from Natural England.
2	Ask for early consultation with Herefordshire Council and the Nutrient Management Board on the specific Diffuse Water Pollution Plan, for the Lugg and its tributaries, the Arrow and the Frome.	Tue 28-Jan-25	Thu 27-Mar-25	Fri 4-Jul-25	Agreed. This is already underway. The Council has a meeting diarised with the Environment Agency the author of the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan, to be attended by Welsh government and Defra to request the DWPP is shared with consultants responsible for drafting the catchment wide Nutrient Management Plan.
3	Engage with Government to ensure adequate funding for the actions in the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan.	Tue 28-Jan-25	Thu 27-Mar-25	Fri 4-Jul-25	Partially agreed. It is outside of the scope of the work of the Council to secure funding for the delivery of the actions included within the DWPP as this lies with the Environment Agency and Defra, however the Council can advocate via the Nutrient Management Board, Phosphate Commission and Wye Catchment Partnership to ensure funding is in place for the implementation of the plan
4	Arrange another Rivers Conference focusing on the Lugg, Arrow and Frome.	Tue 28-Jan-25	Thu 27-Mar-25	Fri 4-Jul-25	Agreed. The Council will host a third annual rivers conference in Autumn 2025, the focus of which is to be confirmed, but will encompass high levels of phosphate within the Arrow, Lugg and Frome.
5	Prioritise processing of strategic planning applications to progress private mitigation and to reiterate the request to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to participate	Tue 28-Jan-25	Thu 27-Mar-25	Fri 4-Jul-25	Partially agreed. Currently the allocations policy for credits is in date order, this decision was taken by Cabinet in May 2022 https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8816

	in the pilot scheme for the development of the nature restoration fund.				<p>A policy change would require further consideration with an accompanying rationale. Confirmation would be required from planning and legal that this could be delivered via the planning mechanism and a decision taken by Cabinet.</p> <p>A request has been made to MHCLG to participate in the pilot scheme for the development of the Nature Restoration Fund and can be reiterated at the next Nutrient Management Board meeting where the Deputy Director is due to attend.</p>
6	Invest, with partners, in a specific innovation process to consider approaches that have been successful in different locations or sectors and identify new approaches worth testing in the nutrient management context.	Tue 28- Jan- 25	Thu 27- Mar- 25	Fri 4- Jul- 25	Agreed. Already underway the Council holds a funding pot for river restoration which can be allocated to schemes that demonstrate innovative technology in removing legacy Phosphorous from soils.
7	With partners, identify key outcomes that will indicate the success of actions to move towards river restoration and agree how these will be collected and reported.	Tue 28- Jan- 25	Thu 27- Mar- 25	Fri 4- Jul- 25	Agreed. Already underway through the development of the Nutrient Management Plan which sets out actions and outcome-based reporting to record measurable reductions in phosphate levels.

Monday 24 March 2025

Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting

Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Recd Date	Response
1	Develops a plan to deliver progress on energy efficiency and retrofitting across Herefordshire, including targets, in line with their ambitions on net zero, to include the co-benefits that flow from this, including public health, wellbeing, and the cost of living	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Sustainability and Climate Change Team will draft a retrofit strategy for Herefordshire outlining how the council will directly and indirectly support, facilitate and encourage retrofit in the county. The ESSC will be consulted on a draft of the document once produced.</p>
2	Appoints a skills champion on the cabinet to drive forward upskilling across key business sectors, including energy efficiency and retrofitting, to support their growth ambitions for Herefordshire	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	<p>Developing skills across the county is a key priority for the council. Part of Councillor Graham Biggs role as Cabinet Member Economy and Growth is acting as the councils skills champion.</p> <p>There is a skills board in place chaired by David Williams principal of Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College. Councillor Biggs sits on this board alongside</p>

					<p>council officers. All of the main colleges and training providers in the county are also members of this board. There is a collective effort between the skills board and business board to host an event bringing a number of Herefordshire businesses together to discuss and make provision for workforce planning, skills gaps and future skills needs.</p> <p>In addition £400,000 of UKSPF funding has been allocated to support employment and skills.</p> <p>Retrofit is a key part of the above as a key sector in the environmental economy.</p>
3	Promotes the Publicly Available Specification 2035 (PAS 2035) standard for council-funded retrofit delivery and investigates equivalent standards for private schemes to consider	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	<p>Accept</p> <p>The next retrofit programme the council is gearing up to deliver is called Warm Homes: Local Grant which incorporates the use of PAS2035. This gives homeowners confidence the work is delivered to nationally recognised specifications and standards to ensure a high quality of work on their home.</p> <p>Through the creation of the Herefordshire Retrofit Strategy we will investigate what equivalent and alternative standards private homeowners could utilise instead of PAS 2035 and present the benefits and/or disbenefits of these alternative options.</p>
4	Arranges a summit of interest groups of landlords and tenants, To explore how to implement the Renters Right (Reform) Bill, when in force, with a focus on energy efficiency and retrofitting and a goal of improving living conditions for renters	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Housing Team are considering the implications for housing services. The changes should give renters properties that meet standards giving better quality of housing, security and better rights. For Landlords it will highlight obligations they need to sustain in a longer tenancy agreement. However, it may decrease the number of properties that are available to rent due to the more onerous obligations and thus financial burden placed on landlords to meet standards. Landlords also may decide to sell to their properties due to this factor – which could reduce the supply of private rental stock, making it more difficult to secure a rental.</p> <p>The Housing Team will create a webpage with information</p>

					for landlords and tenants – this can be a repository of information for both stakeholders. The Housing Team in conjunction with Environmental Health will look to hold a landlord forum with the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) to facilitate landlord training and accreditation. The Forum will take place once the Bill has been enacted.
5	Develops an able-to-pay market strategy which will: - identify the key barriers to able-to-pay investment - work with partners to overcome these barriers and - use the evidence of the growing market to encourage supplier investment in the retrofit market	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept We are currently exploring options available to the public to access private finance in support of domestic energy retrofit. Through the development of a retrofit strategy for the county we will explore the key barriers to 'able-to-pay' investment. Through the delivery of the strategy we will work with partners to overcome barriers that have been identified and look to stimulate private investment in the retrofit market as appropriate.
6	Investigates models of partnership with funders to offer private low interest finance to support the able to pay sector to retrofit within an able-to-pay strategy	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept Research has identified that a significant barrier to increasing finance for retrofit is the difficulty for lenders to prove that implemented measures will result in better energy efficiency. Currently there are a number of finance mechanisms and low cost loans but negative perceptions of borrowing, complex applications and uncertainty over eligibility are all hampering take-up. We will carry out further research into finance models that are available to residents to enable domestic retrofit.
7	Looks at ways to encourage small improvements and easy wins that would bring a disproportionate improvement to a property's energy efficiency.	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept We will explore this idea through our partner Keep Herefordshire Warm as well as via the Greener Footprints initiative in a similar way to the promotion of domestic energy retrofit last year Make your home more energy efficient - Herefordshire Zero Carbon and Nature Rich
8	Ensures that council funding towards intervention on retrofit skills continues to be used for projects that are appropriate for and reaching all retrofit-related companies in Herefordshire and focusing	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept For any future council funded projects that support retrofit skills we will ensure that the projects are appropriate for and targeted at all retrofit-related companies in Herefordshire

	on existing people working in the industry as well as current students.				where possible within the terms and conditions of the funding source.
9	Considers promoting a summary of all the sources of advice, help, and finance more widely.	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept The Herefordshire Council website acts as a single repository for all of the useful links residents need in respect of home energy. Home energy – Herefordshire Council This includes links to the Keep Herefordshire Warm advice service which acts as a one stop shop for residents who want to pick up the phone for advice or send an email asking for help. Keep Herefordshire Warm promotes its services via a marketing strategy that has resulted in all Herefordshire Households receiving a flyer in March 2025. Days such as Fuel Poverty Awareness day help to further promote the service.
10	Analyses what it would take to bring all private rented accommodation up to the EPC C standard and identify what the council would do to help as soon as the EPC C announcement is made.	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Accept The private rented sector (PRS) accounts for 9,294 properties (approximately 11.1% of total). Currently 2,043 households have an EPC C or higher. The majority are in Band D (3,570) and Band E (2,192), Band F (711) and Band G (178). The government is reviewing the Private Rented Sector EPC band C by 2030. To bring these Herefordshire properties up to Band C the investment required is estimated at £367 million. This estimate has been calculated using the Parity Pathways tool.
11	Writes and further petitions the Government to demand that the EPC C standard is introduced for the private rented sector.	Mon 24- Mar- 25	Sat 24- May- 25	Wed 28- May- 25	Decline The government has recently consulted on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) reform and the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES). The government is consulting on proposals to further raise the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard for rented buildings to an EPC band rating of 'C' by 2027 and to a Band rating of B by 2030.
Waste contract					
Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Recd Date	Response
1	Commission a piece of work, exploring further options for improving current reuse and recycling rates across the county, in advance of any	Mon 24-	Sat 24-	Wed 28-	No response received.

expansion of the waste collection streams to food and garden.	Mar-25	May-25	May-25	
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Monday 12 May 2025**Road Safety**

Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Recd Date	Response
1	Herefordshire Council develops a road safety strategy that supports the priorities under People, Place and Growth in the Council Plan and complements the policy produced by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.	Tue 13-May-25	Sun 13-Jul-25	Mon 14-Jul-25	<p>The current road safety strategy contained within the existing Local Transport Plan (LTP) produced in 2018 is currently being rewritten in preparation for the new LTP expected in (20??). It is vitally important this strategy encompasses those elements that address a Highway Authorities statutory duty, under various existing highway legislation such as the The Highways Act 1980, and Road Traffic Act 1988 amongst others.</p> <p>At present all elements contained within the existing strategy encompass all actions an authority can reasonably be expected to take, with regard road traffic collision data management, investigation / casualty reduction engineering, delivery of road safety educational initiatives, speed management & general traffic management across the highway network. It is also important these strategies reflect the levels of service achievable within current resources allocated to this field in order to ensure a both realistic and sustainable approach for the future.</p> <p>At present there is a high level of collaboration between Herefordshire Council & West Mercia Police across the principle areas mentioned above, which will underpin the new strategy moving forward.</p> <p>This will be reviewed during the various draft stages prior to being formally adopted.</p> <p>The currently consulted on LTP has a requirement to support improved Road Safety with the following policy</p>

					<p>LTP Policy TN7: Road Safety</p> <p>To reduce the number of people being injured on our transport network we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor collision data to identify priority locations for improving road safety. • Take targeted action to further reduce fatalities and injuries on our network. • Support safer speeds to improve perceived and actual road safety. • Deliver education programmes and infrastructure to improve safety for vulnerable road users, <p>Investment will be prioritised in those areas with the highest numbers of vulnerable road users and/or collision history.</p> <p>Once adopted officers will be required to work on imbedding the policy</p>
2	The executive should seek opportunities to improve the road network environs in the five market towns to make them safer and to feel safer for all road users.	Tue 13- May- 25	Sun 13- Jul- 25	Mon 14- Jul- 25	<p>The upcoming revision of the current LTP will also contain a section relating directly to the Market Towns. Previous assessments of all market towns undertaken by BBLP as part of the Levelling Up Fund already exist however current progress is unclear and will require a review against existing priorities following completion of the new LTP.</p> <p>The interpretation of feeling safe is subjective therefore it would be impossible to properly monitor and target this recommendation. It should also be a drive for the Council to ensure all roads are safe as this is a legal obligation for all roads. - rephrase – road safety important, feelings of safety delivered across a whole range i.e. maintenance, LTP policy, As per the response to Recommendation 1 the LTP has a road safety policy requirement</p>
3	Herefordshire Council to work with West Mercia Police to unlock behavioural, perception of safety, and geographic data about near miss and dangerous driving reporting, to better inform	Tue 13- May- 25	Sun 13- Jul- 25	Mon 14- Jul- 25	<p>This is difficult to address as while we will investigate and where appropriate act on concerns raised, we have no formal way of collating reports that we receive and any response or action we take into a single source of</p>

	<p>decision-making about engineering, education and speed limit zone solutions.</p>			<p>information. Concerns and reports can come to us through a number of different channels such as phone calls to our Operational Call Centre, Operation Snap submissions, the contact us page on our website, Neighbourhood Matters, e-mails to our generic Road Safety Team inbox, direct contact with Safer Neighbourhood Teams and direct contact with Traffic Management Advisors. As there is no single point of contact it would be a significant undertaking to co-ordinate these and to report formally.</p> <p>Operation Snap is probably the easiest to quantify, but again, the resource needed to do this could have an impact on the overall number of submittals we then act on.</p> <p>The validity of using these reports as a basis for action could be questioned as they can sometimes give a disproportionate picture of what is happening on the network. We have had instances, particularly with Operation Snap, where a co-ordinated plan of action by an individual and/or a small number of residents in a particular area shows a high number of reported incidents and suggests a major problem with one type of incident at a particular location.</p> <p>While useful, reporting of this nature does not necessarily give an accurate reflection of concerns held by the wider public or the number of incidents happening across the network as it relies on people actually reporting them rather than "suffering in silence". An individual's perception of risk and danger differs from one person to another, so it does not give the degree of quantifiable, fact based evidence that injury RTC reports do.</p> <p>Information on collisions where there has been a personal injury is collected by the Police, passed to Herefordshire Council, and more detailed collision investigation done by the Accident Investigation & Safety Manager. Where</p>
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					<p>appropriate any remedial works at collision cluster sites/routes is then channelled into the future maintenance programmes etc. Herefordshire Council, BBLP and West Mercia Police's Traffic Management Advisor have a long standing, close working relationship on this and all highway matters.</p> <p>Collision data is also assessed by the Police and targeted enforcement is conducted on areas where there is a particular issue such as "high harm" motorcycle routes. Link to LTP</p>
4	For the council to undertake an evidence-based increase of the road safety education budget, or to transfer funding from schemes for children to older adults.	Tue 13- May- 25	Sun 13- Jul- 25	Mon 14- Jul- 25	<p>It would not be appropriate to remove funding from children road safety education to that for older adults as these are vulnerable road users. The Council does offer older adult driver training and additional funding would allow for the scope of the offer to be increased.</p> <p>There would be scope to work with the emergency services to delivery joint educational training opportunities; for example, both West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council funded young adult road safety education videos one of which focuses on Herefordshire; this model shows how we can collaborative on initiatives.</p> <p>Retain work with children, we do offer older training, when budgets are set me will consider opportunities to increase funding to increase the offer.</p>
5	West Mercia Police to consider the balance of factors that contribute to road danger when undertaking road safety enforcement.	Tue 13- May- 25	Sun 13- Jul- 25	Mon 14- Jul- 25	<p>West Mercia Police are committed to enforcing all road traffic legislation, and while speed enforcement may appear to have the highest public profile, our the police Operational Policing Units undertake all forms of enforcement year round in conjunction with NPCC campaigns such as summer & Christmas drink/drug drive, tyre safe, mobile phone use and driving without seatbelts. In addition, our speed enforcement officers are now able to provide evidence of additional offences such as drivers using mobile phones, not wearing seat belts, driving whilst not in proper control etc so while speed enforcement is the priority for</p>

					<p>them the activity contributes to the wider enforcement picture.</p> <p>This recommendation cannot be accepted as Herefordshire Council do not have the ability to direct police resources.</p>
6	The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) eligibility criteria should be made more transparent.	Tue 13- May- 25	Sun 13- Jul- 25	Mon 14- Jul- 25	<p>There is currently no one specific eligibility criteria for the provision of Traffic Regulation Orders. These are assessed on an individual case by case basis by trained Traffic Engineers, and depend upon a multitude of factors that are determined upon investigation. It is vitally important these are evidence based / data led and follow both national and local best practice guidance / regulations, in order to ensure consistency of application.</p> <p>The Traffic Management Team have reviewed TRO information which is available online and have found it to be no longer fit for purpose. What happens now? Some changes have already been made to provide more transparent information with some more slight amendments and updates to be progressed imminently. The Team are to also upload a copy of the prioritised waiting list so current applications can be seen online. The stages of the application process to also be amended to ensure clarity.</p>

Monday 16 December 2025					
Carbon Neutral Housing					
Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Recd Date	Response
1	The Executive should commission a piece of work in collaboration with housebuilders (including housing associations) to quantify the impact of implementation of the Future Homes Standard on the achievability of the new housing target for the County of 27,260. This should include the future availability of new affordable and social housing.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 26	Tue 17- Feb- 26	<p>Partly Accept</p> <p>A Local Plan viability study for Herefordshire is the most appropriate and robust mechanism for assessing the impact of the Future Homes Standard (FHS) because it will independently and transparently test the cumulative effect of mandatory national requirements alongside local planning policies over the full plan period to 2045, rather than treating the FHS in isolation.</p>

2	The Executive should continue discussions with relevant industry partners to evaluate the skills required to deliver the Future Home Standard in the County and how this will feed into a joined-up approach by the Council including colleges, the youth employment hub and those involved in career advice.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	Accept Building Regulations applicable to domestic properties are a Level 2 surveyor. All surveyors currently working for Herefordshire Council are capable of domestic projects with a floor level not exceeding 7.5m.
3	The Executive should implement a review of the Council's policy and operational readiness and preparedness of planning and building control to ensure they are fit for purpose for when the Future Homes Standard finally comes into force, including training requirements.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	Partly accept Building Control have restructured to meet the current demands, however, recruitment is troublesome at this time, partly due to Herefordshire's time-consuming procedures and partly market conditions. The FHS appears to be a change to the Building Regulations 2010 and not a structural change to the Building Act 1984. A change to the Building Regulations is much easier to accommodate and will inevitably be supported with LABC training. The new structure, once fulfilled should be in a position to accommodate the changes. Planning: FHS considerations to be incorporated into Local Plan preparation process.
4	The Executive undertake a review/audit of the government support being put in place to assist the market to deliver the quantum of carbon neutral homes.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	Agree The Warm Homes Plan was released in January 2026. This aims to triple the number of homes with solar power by up to 3 million homes, deliver 450,000 heat pump installations, upgrade 5 million homes in total and double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks by 2035.
5	In the development of the Local Plan 'building control standards' are reviewed to ensure they are aligned with the Future Homes Standard and provide viable and affordable compliance with the development of 'carbon neutral' homes.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	Reject The Herefordshire Local Plan will include specific policies addressing climate change and carbon neutrality, with all policies and proposals underpinned by a viability assessment to ensure deliverability. The Future Homes Standard, which will apply to all new homes once it comes into force, is expected to be implemented, following legislation anticipated in 2026, with full compliance subsequently required. Government is yet to produce a formal timetable for the FHS. National guidance is clear that

					local plans should not duplicate statutory requirements, including Building Regulations, or repeat matters already covered by national policy. This is a long-standing principle set out in the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (and the consultation draft version) and in national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This ensures that local plans are clear and that unnecessary duplication is avoided
6	The Local Plan – through building control policies ensures that every new home built is fitted with solar panelling and/or renewable heat sources to reduce the pressure on the national grid.	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	<p>Reject</p> <p>The Future Homes Standard, which will apply to all new homes once it comes into force, is expected to be implemented, following legislation anticipated in 2026, with full compliance subsequently required. Government is yet to produce a formal timetable for the FHS. The Herefordshire Local Plan will include specific policies addressing climate change and carbon neutrality, with all policies and proposals underpinned by a viability assessment to ensure deliverability. However, national guidance is clear that local plans should not duplicate statutory requirements, including Building Regulations, or repeat matters already covered by national policy. This is a long-standing principle set out in the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (and the consultation draft version) and in national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This ensures that local plans are clear and that unnecessary duplication is avoided.</p> <p>Note: alongside the consultation draft NPPF, Government is also consulting on its draft Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance (ending on 10 March 2026). This includes a section on how the design of new buildings can maximise adaptation, mitigation and resilience to extreme weather and other effects of climate change.</p>
7	The Executive encourages government and other stakeholders to investigate and consider options that allow a more balanced approach to the financial products available for home buyers to allow for downstream energy cost savings to provide a more attractive purchase options carbon	Fri 19- Dec- 25	Thur 19- Feb- 25	Tue 17- Feb- 26	<p>Agree</p> <p>The Warm Homes Plan was released in January 2026. This aims to triple the number of homes with solar power by up to 3 million homes, deliver 450,000 heat pump installations, upgrade 5 million homes in total and double the amount of heat OFFICIAL demand met via heat networks by 2035. It</p>

	neutral homes for those who have income but lower equity.			states that innovative financial products will be made available via various schemes to help improve the housing stock that will include low and zero-interest loans for households irrespective of income. No further detail has been supplied.
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Monday 2 March 2026

Local Cycling, Walking, and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan

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Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Rec dDate	Response
1	Define "wheeling" clearly and ensure compliance with the definition (incl.Equality Act considerations) in all projects in the plan.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Agreed LCWWIP draft will be updated to include the Wheels for Wellbeing's definition of 'Wheeling', which has greater alignment with the Equality Act 2010
2	Ensure the Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives are at the front of the LCWWIP.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Agreed LCWWIP will be updated to move LTP objectives to beginning of document
3	Work with Active Travel England to use the DfT audit/prioritisation methodology to give more weighting to safety and perceived safety when selecting routes and projects outside Hereford city.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Agreed Herefordshire Council is working to apply DfT audit and prioritisation methodologies

4	Reintroduce a dedicated capital programme line for crossings, dropped kerbs, and other safety/cohesion measures, rather than relying solely on ATE or Section 106 funding.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	To be considered as part of 2027/28 budget setting process
5	Integrate and make best use of the extensive public rights of way network in upgrades and route choices, including first/last mile links to public transport.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Partly agree Transport Planning and Rights of Way Officers will work collaboratively to ensure that opportunities may be presented to encourage greater connectivity.
6	Ensure alignment across the suite of transport strategies (LCWWIP, LTP, bus strategies, etc.) and with active travel projects already in delivery; cross check against market town movement studies.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Disagree LCWWIP already has a section showing alignment with council and national policies and plans
7	Balance the plan content and investment between walking, wheeling, and cycling, avoiding an emphasis on cycling infrastructure alone.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Fri 01-May-26	Partly Agree LCWWIP will be updated to include references and alignment to the Hierarchy of Road Users
Waste Recovery Contracting					
Rec. No.	Recommendation	Date Sent	Due Date	Rec dDate	Response
1	Consider in good time the risks emerging from legislative and industry regulatory changes to the viability of the energy from waste facility in Worcestershire.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Wed 13-May-26	Accepted 1. Commission a report on the viability of the EfW facility beyond the current life of the waste disposal contract. 2. Include viability report outcome within the options appraisal for procurement of new waste disposal arrangements.
2	Publish a clear timetable for introducing a separate food waste collection service, including funding approach and dependencies.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Wed 13-May-26	Accepted Completed briefing paper with timeline was taken to Cabinet Members for discussion 19 March 2026
3	Consider ways Herefordshire Council could minimise waste produced in Herefordshire.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Wed 13-May-26	Accepted Officers will research further ideas for waste minimisation options to include in updated Waste Management Strategy, to be published January 2027.
4	Work with Talk Community to look at the possibility of community larders or fridges in rural locations.	03-Mar-26	Sun 03-May-26	Wed 13-May-26	Rejected

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