

MEETING:	COUNCIL
MEETING DATE:	18 OCTOBER 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	LEADER'S REPORT
REPORT BY:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Classification

Open.

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

3. Wards Affected

County-wide.

4. Purpose

To receive a report from the Leader on the activities of Cabinet since the meeting of Council in July.

5. Recommendation(s)

THAT: the report be noted.

6. Alternative Options

6.1 There are no alternative options; it is a requirement of the council's constitution.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To ensure members are aware of the activities of Cabinet.

8. Key Considerations

8.1 A list of the decisions taken by the executive since the last report to Council 19 July is provided at Appendix A; none were dealt with under the urgency provisions within the constitution.

8.2 As I outlined in my report to Council in July we, like councils across the country, have to manage unprecedented financial challenges in the coming months and years together with increasing demand for services, and will be faced with making decisions to reduce funding and service levels which many of us find unpalatable. It remains the fact that those decisions, however difficult, must be made. Since the last meeting of Council, members from all groups have been working together to achieve a consensus on our future priorities to inform our future budget setting and provide greater clarity to the communities of Herefordshire about the role of the Council in

the future. I am immensely grateful to colleagues who have participated in this process and very much hope that all members will continue to engage fully in this debate moving forward.

- 8.3 As is apparent from Appendix A, as a Cabinet we have already started to take decisions on the future of some services; we will continue to bring forward detailed proposals for delivering further necessary service reductions and/or changes during the coming months, and will continue to update the executive rolling programme regarding the anticipated timing of those decisions. “Star Chambers” have also been held to challenge budget and savings proposals both for in year and future budget setting purposes; Cabinet will, at its meeting on 24 October, consider the proposed arrangements for wider consultation on these budget proposals, and briefings are being arranged for all members through Group Leaders.
- 8.4 Members will be aware that a decision on the Waste Management Contract had been scheduled for Cabinet consideration on 4 October. At the end of September, and following detailed discussions between the two councils involved (Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council) and central government, an additional funding option was suggested. As a prudent and responsible council we remain committed to finding the most cost effective waste disposal solution for the residents of Herefordshire and therefore, to ensure this further proposal could be developed to the level of detail required for proper consideration, the report was postponed to allow for this further work to be completed. A new timeline is being developed and will be reported as soon as it is available.
- 8.5 Following Cllr Russell Hamilton’s recent resignation I place on record my thanks to him for the dedication and commitment he has shown in the Pontrillas ward and to the people of Herefordshire during his time as an elected member. As a consequence of his resignation there have been some temporary adjustments to Cabinet Member portfolios pending a substantive appointment and these are reflected, in italics, in Appendix B.

9. Community Impact

- 9.1 The community impact of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

10. Equality and Human Rights

- 10.1 Cabinet have paid due regard to the public sector equality duty in their decision-making as set out in the relevant decision reports.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The financial implications of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

12. Legal Implications

- 12.1 The legal implications of any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1 The risks associated with any decisions of the executive have been set out within the relevant decision report and taken into consideration at the time the decision was taken.

14. Consultees

14.1 None

15. Appendices

15.1 Appendix A – Executive Decisions.
Appendix B – Cabinet Member Portfolios

16. Background Papers

16.1 None identified.