

MEETING:	COUNCIL
MEETING DATE:	7 MARCH 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	LEADER'S REPORT
REPORT BY:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

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

Recommendations

THAT:

- (a) the report be noted.

Alternative Options

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

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To ensure members are aware of the activities of Cabinet.

Key Considerations

- 3 A list of the decisions taken by the executive since the last report to Council on 17

January is provided at appendix A; none were dealt with under the urgency provisions within the constitution.

- 4 As the Chairman has already indicated, our thanks go out to all staff, contractors and those in the community who contributed to ensuring services continued to be delivered and vulnerable people were supported through the recent exceptional storms and flooding; once again Herefordshire has proved its resilience as a county.
- 5 The bad weather has undeniably taken its toll, leaving a significant legacy of potholes and other storm damage which we must work to rectify. Although the council will of course be looking to access financial assistance from the funding being made available nationally, this will in no way meet the full cost of the work needed. Although every effort will be made to deal with the problem of potholes it would be wrong to give the impression that there will be a quick fix to the longstanding road conditions problem that exists nationally and which has been worsened by the effects of the recent bad weather. As well as developing a programme to ensure that work is prioritised as effectively as possible, in response to a number of enquiries received we will also be exploring ways in which the council can provide support to enable communities and individuals to take action themselves where they are in a position to do so.
- 6 We are also able to provide advice and information on a range of support measures being established for individuals whose homes have been affected by flooding and businesses affected by the flooding; further information has been circulated to all members to enable them to support their constituents, and is available on the council's website at the following link: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/community-safety/emergencies/what-to-do-after-flooding>
- 7 Following approval of the budget by Council, further reports will be brought to Cabinet on 13 March to determine how the one-off funding identified in the two budget amendments (affecting home to schools transport policies and arts commissioning grants) will be used.
- 8 The Herefordshire Business Summit, mentioned in my report to Council in January, is taking place on Friday 28 February. Led by the Herefordshire Business Board the summit will bring together a wide range of business leaders from the private, public and third sectors including our two MP's; the focus of the event will be the developing plans for creating growth in Herefordshire and the Marches.

Community Impact

- 9 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.

Equality and Human Rights

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

Financial Implications

- 11 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.

Legal Implications

- 12 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.

Risk Management

- 13 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.

Consultees

- 14 None.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Executive Decisions

Background Papers

- None identified.