

General Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27 September 2016

Title of review	Devolution
Scope	
Reason for enquiry	To inform the executive and cabinet on options/recommended actions open to the council in response to the national devolution deal agenda including the relative merits of applying to become a full constituent member of West Midlands Combined Authority.
Links to the corporate plan	<p>The review contributes to the following objective's contained in the Herefordshire corporate plan and other key plans and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a strong local economy, where businesses want to settle and flourish, where city and towns centres are vibrant, where a wide range of businesses support and encourage the growth of high value businesses and small enterprises and offer employment to local people. • To develop a skilled workforce. • To achieve a sustainable infrastructure that protects and promotes nature, communities and the country's economy.
Summary of the review and terms of reference	<p>Summary:</p> <p>To identify and assess the devolution deal options open to Herefordshire Council and make recommendations to the executive on the preferred option which will deliver the best economic growth and health and well-being outcomes for Herefordshire.</p>
	<p>Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish what options are open to HC • Review the potential for those options to achieve improved economic growth and health and wellbeing outcomes • Assess the potential implications for those options on democratic accountability and council resources (staff, budgets, property etc • Identify risks and opportunities associated with each option • Make recommendations to cabinet on preferred option and any further actions cabinet should undertake before coming to a considered view
What will NOT be included	•
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred option based on a compelling narrative with an intelligent analysis of the Herefordshire economic and health and well-being position and ambition for the next decade. • Understanding the cost benefit analysis of the preferred option. • Understanding the terms of engagement with the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Key Questions	To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Plus is the added value Herefordshire gets in economic investment and development terms from being a member of a combined authority. • Financial and staff implications for being a member of the West •
Cabinet Member	Cllr T Johnson (corporate strategy and finance)
Key stakeholders / Consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marches LEP • Health partners locally
Potential witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Bray, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy • Martin Neeves, chief executive, Coventry Council and chief executive, West Midlands Combined • Cornwall Combined Authority
Research Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic data • Housing data • Transport Plan • Adult and Social Care data
Potential Visits	Not applicable
Publicity Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred decision • Application to WMCA • WMCA's decision on Herefordshire Council's potential application as constituent member

--	--

Outline Timetable (following decision by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to commission the Review)	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	19 September
Collect current data available for circulation to Group for first meeting of the Group	15-30 September
Analysis of data	First week of October
Briefing Chairman of GOSC	26 September
GOSC meeting	27 September
Carry out stakeholder meetings (Spotlight meeting)	17 October (tbc)
Final analysis of data and stakeholder evidence	26 October (tbc)
Prepare options/recommendations	28 October (tbc)
Briefing Chairman of Review Group	31 October (tbc)
Present final report to General Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17 January 2017
Prepare cabinet report	17 January 2017
Present options/recommendation to Cabinet	(tbc)
Cabinet response/decision	(tbc)

Monitoring of implementation of agreed recommendations	
--	--

Group Members	
Chair	Cllr S Bowen
Support Members	
Support Officers	Vinia Abesamis