

- **Chief Executive's Announcements – 12 October 2018**

- Poppies: Weeping Window has won the Visit Herefordshire Best Event Award for 2018, having attracted 196,000 visitors at Hereford Cathedral in March/April.
- The refurbishment of High Town continues with Commercial Street (Phase 2) well progressed since May. Work will pause at the end of November for Christmas shopping, and recommence in January, to be completed by end March 2019.
- Dignitaries and members of the memorial fund commemorated the death of Lance Corporal Allan Leonard Lewis VC on 21 September, 100 years to the day of his passing. Following a dedication at Hereford Cathedral to honour his memory, and all those awarded the Victoria Cross during The Great War, a bronze statue was unveiled at the Old Market.
- The Herefordshire Museum Service, working with Trustees of the Waterworks Museum have relocated 'Emma', the council's vintage steam road roller, to her new home at Broomy Hill. Built in 1920, Emma is of great interest to enthusiasts as one of just two remaining road rollers historically owned by the council.
- The 40th neighbourhood development plan has been adopted, re-enforcing Herefordshire Council's position as having the most adopted NDP's in the country.
- Upheld complaint against GMTV - Ofcom have partially upheld the council's complaint regarding the conduct of a prominent TV presenter who decided not to read out a statement from the council, resulting in viewers of GMTV not being given the opportunity to understand the Council's position.
- On 7 September, a very positive Guardian report featured Herefordshire's welcome to families coming to the county as refugees - entitled "From darkness to the light: Syrian families find peace in rural England", the report recorded the support of agencies and the welcome people have received from residents of the county.
- We have joined a regional approach to recruit children's social workers. This remains the most challenging area for us as a council in terms of permanent and agency recruitment, just as it is challenging for councils nationally.
- We have developed an action plan in response to the Ofsted report and the service is closely monitoring progress on our key actions to improve. Performance information has been updated and is being monitored on a weekly basis. It was pleasing to see the praise from Ofsted for some of our services and staff, and that no child seen was seen to be at risk of significant harm and where there were concerns these were dealt with promptly. We recognise that we need to improve our children's services and particularly create the conditions for good social work practice to flourish.
- Following some really good school attainment results for our children and young people in Herefordshire over the summer, appropriate letters of congratulations, or of encouragement, were sent from the council to schools across the county with some schools placing these letters on their websites. Officers continue to work with our schools and settings to ensure our results keep improving.
- Over the summer holidays around £393k of maintenance work was completed at schools across the county. This has improved safeguarding arrangements, fire precautions and other necessary works to help schools deliver a high quality and safe education.
- We will be carrying out flu vaccinations for council employees in the next few weeks with the aim of increasing uptake through onsite clinics.
- We are delighted that our social care community brokers were winners of the Care Innovation award at the recent Health and Social Care awards.

- Our Homefirst service staff consultation has been completed, enabling us to move to '7 day extended hours' from 1 Oct. This will greatly increase the capacity of this important service.
- Last year, Herefordshire Council took part in a pilot initiative aimed at the 'smartphone generation': broadcasting experts, healthcare professionals and young people were brought together to make a series of magazine-style audio podcasts that address key themes in teen health. The series has just been nominated for 'Best Podcast' in the Audio & Radio Industry Awards (ARIAS) 2018 - the principal awards of the UK's audio and radio industry - a fantastic achievement for everyone involved in the project. It is brilliant that school nursing, other healthcare services for teens and young people from around the country will be noted alongside familiar household names like Chris Evans, Eamon Holmes and Nicky Campbell. The awards event is on 18th October 2018
- All older people in Herefordshire care homes now benefit from the "Red Bag" scheme. This is a nationally recognised programme of best practice to support people during hospital admissions and transfers of care. Herefordshire is one of only a few local authorities to have such a wide reaching scheme.
- Our new partner for the housing allocation system (which replaces Homepoint) is Civica. The new system is more user friendly and will help people to find and apply for affordable housing. The system will go live in February 2019.
- Our new project management system (called VERTO) is now being fully rolled out from this month across directorates. The system is already up-and-running in the adults and communities directorate. Verto will enable us to ensure that major projects are delivered well and efficiently, and communicated in an effective way.
- Look out for the "Care Heroes Flash Mob" at the Old Market on Saturday, 13 Oct !