

**Appendix C. Annual Reports from Outside Bodies**

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<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	<p>Councillor Phillip Howells (Ward Member for Ledbury West)</p> <p>Appointed in June 2019 after the first meeting of the newly elected Council in 2019</p> <p>This report was submitted in August 2021</p>
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	<p>The Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board (LSIDB) manages water levels in areas of special drainage need.</p> <p>It is a local independent public body covering low-lying land within the county and unitary authorities of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Bristol City.</p> <p>This is vital work enabling the use and improvement of agricultural land, protects the built environment and facilitates future development.</p> <p>The LSIDB's responsibilities include contributing to the management of flood risk and protecting and enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural areas. The drainage board's administrative area covers approximately 21,000 hectares of land alongside the Rivers Severn, Cam, Frome, Leadon and Little Avon.</p> <p>Whilst main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency, the LSIDB manages ordinary watercourses and the surrounding land that will derive benefit or avoid danger as a result of drainage operations.</p> <p>Works are funded via charges on development, drainage rates paid by landowners and a special levy upon the eight local authorities within which the Board operates.</p>
<b>What is the role of the council on this body?</b>	<p>The appointed member serves on the LSIDB Management Board. Drainage boards are locally based, providing a service to their community with locally elected members in control.</p> <p>The membership comprises 29 people, 14 of whom are directly elected by landowners, or their nominees, within the Board's area paying drainage rates to the Board, the remainder being councillors appointed by the 8 local authorities which jointly make up the land included within the Lower Severn area.</p> <p>There are also 5 sub-committees for which Board Members are invited to apply to be members. This includes the Treasury Sub-Committee which has a membership quota of 5 Board Members. I put myself forward for this committee and was appointed.</p>

	<p>I have served on the committee since November 2019 and attended the first possible meeting after that on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. I was re-appointed for the years to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 and similarly to March 2022.</p>
<p><b>What have been the main achievements of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b></p>	<p>Being in the most northernmost and the top end of the LSIDB administrative area, Herefordshire constitutes a very small part of its coverage, reflected in the small proportion of the levy, so it is not a significant contributor to the Council's corporate policies.</p> <p>It is however a very significant contributor for Councils further south and into the Severn River estuary area, into which water from the Herefordshire rivers in its coverage area flows.</p> <p>The Board is proactive on a programme of regular maintenance on waterways and related pumps and other water management infrastructure in its area, but it is also consulted on any development proposals to check there is no adverse impact on the area due to increased rates, surface water run off or infringement of Boards Byelaws.</p> <p>As the Drainage Authority in the area the staff administer the issue of consents to discharge water within its area or for structures such as bridges and culverts proposed to be erected over watercourses. This is a requirement under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Board's own Lands Drainage Byelaws available from the office.</p> <p>Whilst Herefordshire is a small part of the LSIDB operations, I do feel that our planners probably do not make enough of the advice and support that is available from the Board in areas such as the Leadon Valley around Ledbury, which is seeing increasing significant flooding in recent years.</p> <p>I would recommend that the LSIDB are consulted on a more regular basis, if not already doing so (and my understanding from their specialists is that Herefordshire does not avail itself enough of the technical advice and support on offer as part of its subscription). I suggest this is particularly important with reference to the Viaduct site which has had very significant flooding in the past two years due to the extreme rain conditions we had in 2020 especially.</p> <p>Flooding of the river Leadon is of increasing concern to organisations downstream from this site which is to the north of Ledbury, with the extreme flooding in 2020 especially threatening to overcome the flooding barriers erected by Ledbury Rugby Club to a level never felt likely. Landowners further south going towards Dymock are also increasingly alarmed at the extent of flooding of the Leadon in recent years.</p>

	<p>It is felt by many that the Viaduct development when approved can only exacerbate flooding on the flooding plain which is increasingly channelled into a narrower area already due to developments over recent years and it is felt this can only get worse with the Viaduct development. Some advice from the LSIDB would be of considerable help to provide some reassurance to concerned land owners about this problem and if/how it could be alleviated (eg. advice on farm practices that can reduce the flooding levels).</p> <p>To this end, the Chair and Principal Officer of the LSIDB accepted my invitation to visit Ledbury (rarely done given we are small part of their area, but they nevertheless recognise the river Leadon does have some impact on their area further south, so it is important for them to understand the local conditions) in June 2021.</p> <p>Cllr Matthew Riddle (Chair) and Kieran Warren (PO) came to Ledbury on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. We looked at the Viaduct site, several sites along the River Walk by the bypass and lower down the river by Dymock where flooding impact can still be seen.</p> <p>I learned that in fact, although not a main river, the River Leadon unusually currently comes under the authority of the Environment Agency and not the IDB. The IDB would nevertheless be keen to establish a dialogue with Herefordshire planners to ensure we make good use of our subscription and get their advice/recommendations on flooding and any related drainage matters.</p>
<p><b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight or issues that you feel should be drawn to the council's attention?</b></p>	<p>None specifically that are particularly relevant to Herefordshire, but I am impressed by the quality of the management and engineering teams to deliver on the Board's obligations.</p> <p>I have no doubt that the relatively small contribution made by Herefordshire to the LSIDB are well and necessarily spent in proportion to our demands on the LSIDB operations.</p>
<p><b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b></p>	<p>Herefordshire Council is one of eight Councils and Unitary Authorities covered by the LSIDB area and which are levied annually as members.</p> <p>Rates are fixed in February each year. On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 the rate fixed for Herefordshire Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £11,447.09 which represented 0.81% of the levy total. (This compares to a levy of £11,077.83 in the previous year.)</p> <p>From an annual income and expenditure budget in excess of £1.5m, the main expenditure items are on payroll and the regular maintenance programme costs (over 60% together) for the waterways network within its remit.</p>

Its main financial challenge is the management of constructing, maintaining and replacing when needed a small number (6 in total) of expensive and powerful pumping stations in the lower reaches of its area which are required to manage water flows and flooding dangers.

The EGM in December was called because the rolling programme of depreciation and reserves accumulation to meet expected future pump investments was under strain to meet substantially increased costs and urgent decisions had to be made to manage the finances involved.

**If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provide links to where these can be found (below).**

The LSIDB annual financial statements of how it raises income to meet its expenditure budgets can be found on the LSIDB website at <https://lowersevernldb.org.uk/finance-rates/>

Its development and operations guides and documents can be found on the website at <https://lowersevernldb.org.uk/development/>

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<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Herefordshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	The Group is chaired by Cllr Barry Durkin who is the council's nominated Armed Forces Champion
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	<p>HAFCP is tasked with delivering the aims of the Herefordshire Armed Forces Covenant to ensure that those who serve, or have served in HM Armed Forces, and their families are treated fairly.</p> <p>HAFCP is committed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces communities in their areas</li> <li>2. Nurture public understanding and public awareness of the issues affecting the Armed Forces community</li> <li>3. Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community</li> <li>4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life</li> <li>5. Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community.</li> </ol> <p>We do this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By implementing a framework to gain a better understanding of local issues in relation to members of the Armed Forces community</li> <li>• Prioritise and address key areas of need, driven by an Action Plan</li> <li>• Collaborate with delivery partners to access funding</li> <li>• Raise awareness and delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant to wider stakeholders such as employers, healthcare providers, the business community and local communities</li> <li>• By reporting back annually to the original signatories who signed on behalf of Herefordshire and wider armed forces community</li> <li>• Herefordshire Council is preparing to action the new statutory duty which is being introduced in 2022 to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant in Housing, Education and Health</li> </ul>
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	The council has a duty to lead on the delivery of the Covenant and supports the HAFCP to identify, assist and/or lead on initiatives and activities that address the above aims. Over the past 12 months there have been notable landmarks and shifts in HC's ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved HC funding to sustain the Armed Forces Covenant partnership officer role beyond MOD funding, (2018-2020), in partnership with Worcestershire County Council.</li> <li>• HC officers sit on HAFCP (Housing, Education, Post-16 Training) to embed strategy, policy and service delivery</li> <li>• Upholding HC's Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award status by encouraging external organisations to sign the Armed Forces Covenant via our procurement process.</li> <li>• Also introduced new feedback question into Business World to better understand how many of our workforce have a direct relationship to the Armed Forces and how, as an authority, we can tailor any necessary help and support</li> <li>• Integrated the Armed Forces community into HC's Equality Policy as a recognised group with a dedicated action plan</li> <li>• Addressed and integrated actions of best practice already in service delivery – ahead of HC's duty of due regard in the forthcoming Armed Forces Covenant legislation that will come into practice for all local authorities in 2022</li> <li>• Fed into regional and national forums in preparation for forthcoming legislation. Contributed to government consultations overseen by the MOD (Armed Forces Covenant), the Office of Veteran Affairs and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The veteran self-build project located in Leominster was completed at the end of 2020 on land transferred from Herefordshire Council to Stonewater Housing. Nine veterans, a number who were homeless, worked alongside developers, Harpers, supported by homeless charity, Alabare. The veterans obtained construction qualifications whilst building their own homes. A total of 19 homes (ranging from one to three bedrooms), were built with the majority going to veterans and their families. As well as gifting the land, Herefordshire Council were key strategic and funding partners in the project.</li> <li>• Funding from both Herefordshire Council and Homes England through the Almshouse Consortium enabled The Buchanan Trust to build four new veteran properties on their farm estate at Bosbury, Herefordshire.</li> <li>• The Veteran Support Centre has now become a Charity in its own right as Herefordshire Council continues to support the employment of the Veteran Centre Manager and a short term member of staff to undertake the development and formalising of the veteran to veteran volunteering project. Funding has been secured by Herefordshire Council from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust until March 2023 for the Veteran Centre Manager. The centre has increased footfall and engagement through the new centre manager appointed in April and the charity</li> </ul>

	<p>continues to make great strides in gaining local support through the trustees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful funding applications supported by the partnership network to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to support local armed forces initiatives</li> <li>• Additional Strengthening local delivery cluster bid secured from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust by Herefordshire Council to support bespoke face to face and online training for armed forces awareness in the Council and partners, particularly in relation to the imminent roll out of the new legislation.</li> <li>• Communication strategy has increased reach through social media, news items and regular subscribed newsletters</li> <li>• Actively participated in Armed Forces Week 2020</li> </ul>
<p><b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b></p>	<p>This body does not receive any funding by the Council, however, it does support the two officers whose roles are to provide the point of contact for the armed forces on behalf of the Authority and the partnership and deliver aspects of the action plan and provide secretariat roles as required.</p> <p>The post of the armed forces covenant partnership officer is a permanent role shared with Worcestershire county council split 50/50 over 3 day working period.</p> <p>Armed Forces work forms approximately 30/40% of the Grants &amp; Combined Programmes Manager's role.</p>
<p><b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b></p>	
<p>Can be made available on request by contacting <a href="mailto:governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk">governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk</a></p>	

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	RIVER LUGG INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst and others
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	The RLIDB manages water levels within its drainage district for agricultural and environmental needs and undertakes works to reduce flood risk to people, property and infrastructure.
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	The RLIDB currently maintain a network of some 219km of watercourse throughout its district using the powers vested to it by the LDA 1991. This meets with the Council's Local flood risk management strategy and supports their role under the FWM Act 2010.
<b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b>	<p>The appointment of a new contract manager (JBA) and a new area engineer (Anne-Clare Landolt) proceeded smoothly. Thanks are due to Hoople for their administrative support and hard work in ensuring a seamless transition. The Chairing of the board has also changed (after over 10 years of Service Charles Pudge stepped down but agreed to remain as vice chair to support the new chair), the chairmanship has now passed to Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst an appointed member of the board from Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>The new area engineer has been getting on with the job and liaising with local residents, parish councils and rate payers.</p> <p>The Board has collaborated with the Council on specific flooding issues in and around Wellington Village and facilitated meetings with RMA's and Parish councils to discuss them.</p> <p>The Board are involved with the Herefordshire Black Poplar project - It is a very rare tree (around 200 left in the county)- The RLIDB are ideally placed to introduce these trees into habitats that suit the owners AND the maintenance of the watercourses- they are a BAP species , providing great environmental and historical value.</p>
<b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b>	Yes. All land within Drainage District are deemed to derive benefit from the activities of the Board and therefore subject to contribute to the annual expenses of the Board. For the purposes of rating, the properties are divided into a) Agricultural Land and Buildings and b) Other Land (domestic and non domestic properties)

	<p>Occupiers of Other Land pay council tax, business rates or local services support rates to the Council who then are charged a special levy by the Board in proportion to the annual value of this Other land.</p> <p>The Levy paid by the Council goes towards the annual expenditure of the Board which includes the watercourse maintenance works, Environment Agency precept, administration costs that include insurances, audit, biodiversity, management etc.</p>
<p><b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b></p>	
<p>RLIDB do not produce a business plan but a link below will take you to our policies</p> <p><a href="https://www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk/idbs/river-lugg-idb/governance/policies/">https://www.shiregroup-idbs.gov.uk/idbs/river-lugg-idb/governance/policies/</a></p>	

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Nutrient Management Board
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	Cllr. Elissa Swinglehurst (Chair)
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	To identify and deliver actions that achieve the phosphorus conservation target of the River Wye SAC. The primary mechanism for achieving this will be through the delivery of the Nutrient Management Plan.
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	The board is a partnership organisation with EA, NRW, NE, WUF, CLA, NFU, Farm Herefordshire, DCWW and others. Each partner is responsible for identifying, funding and delivering actions to contribute to the purpose outlined above. The main activity is therefore multifaceted and incorporates P reduction via investment in STW from DCWW (50m), delivery of constructed integrated wetlands (HC) and a range of voluntary measures intended to address agricultural diffuse pollution (CSF, WUF). The condition of the river is of crucial importance to the council's corporate policies both in terms of economic growth and environmental quality. The activities of the board align with the council's corporate policies.
<b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b>	Subsequent to the Dutch judgement the NMP has been through a process of revision to identify the 'gap' between the fully implemented AMP 7 investment and the required reduction in P to reach targets. There has been on going work to identify actions that will be effective and ways in which these actions can be evidenced to bring certainty to the plan. Due to the challenges around agricultural diffuse pollution it is not possible to use the plan as mitigation and therefore the current iteration is not striving to meet that aim, instead it is focussed on finding, funding and delivering practical solutions. The long list and short list of solution based thinking has been submitted to government for the spending review via ministers and MPs. Some additional resource has been forthcoming in the meantime to support the work of the EA in implementing the FR4W, the government has also listened to the board's request for a strategic approach and a task force has been formed to address the problems of the river and this taskforce will be working with the Autumn spending review to allocate additional resources. Communication between agencies is crucial and the board has widened its membership to increase engagement with neighbouring authorities and with the construction industry which has been very hard hit in the Lugg catchment.  Engagement with the board has increased exponentially over the last 2 years, the meetings can have 70 plus attendees and many members of the public. The board is seeking to support initiatives like the citizen science project and welcomes input

	<p>from the friends groups, WSA, Alison Caffyn, CPRW, CPRE and others.</p> <p>CSF and WUF have continued with their farm visits and are working with the supply chain to investigate alternative disposal methods. HC has commissioned integrated wetlands and a phosphate trading platform. DCWW continue with their planned programme of improvements.</p> <p>Our understanding of the problem is growing all the time – the role of legacy phosphate has now become an important element thanks to the work of Leeds and Lancaster Uni RePhokus group. The board is looking for ways to support on farm demonstration of regenerative farming and zero tillage techniques.</p> <p>There are multiple activities being undertaken by the individual board members to be part of the solution to a complex problem. ‘Success is not final, failure is not fatal – it is the courage to continue that counts’. We have no benchmark other than a healthy river ecology and we are very far away from that.</p>
<p><b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b></p>	<p>The NMB does not have a budget to buy a biscuit. However the council is supporting the board by providing administration and a high level of officer time and engagement. The council is also funding the constructed integrated wetlands which, whilst they will not be a game changer, will be a step in the right direction.</p>
<p><b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b></p>	
<p>No although some of the individual members probably do.</p>	

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Worcestershire Pensions Fund
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	Cllr Trish Marsh
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	Administer the pension's scheme for Herefordshire Council staff, as part of the much larger pension scheme for Worcestershire County Council and those of many other bodies, such as schools and parish councils.
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	Economic: Managing the pension fund so that it supports the payment of pensions to Herefordshire Council officers, both past and present.  Sustainability: improving the profile of investments towards responsible investment
<b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b>	The fund has done considerable work in the last year to look at its carbon intensity and ESG performance. We took some significant steps on our responsible investment journey in LGPS scheme year 2020 to 2021, including completing <a href="#">an environmental social governance (ESG) audit and a sustainable development goals (SDGs) mapping exercise</a> .  See more at: <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/info/11/responsible-investment-2">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/info/11/responsible-investment-2</a>
<b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b>	No
<b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b>	
<a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/</a> <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/downloads/file/166/business-plan-feb-2020">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershirepensionfund/downloads/file/166/business-plan-feb-2020</a>	

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	L. G.A – Local Government Association ( Assembly)
<b>Name of the council’s representative</b>	Cllrs Barlett, Jlnman, Phillips and Sheldon
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	<p>The principle representative body of the Local Government sector for England and Wales.</p> <p>The four reps are appointed to the general assembly which meets once a year – this year online in July.</p> <p>LGA national political groups appoint their own lead and committee members</p> <p>For information</p> <p>Independent group</p> <p>Cllr Sheldon is a regional lead</p> <p>Conservative group</p> <p>Cllr Phillips is a member of the Resources Board and a lead member for workforce.</p>
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council’s corporate policies?</b>	<p>LGA communicated with &amp; submitted evidence to HMG to support our annual financial settlement and covid grants. Working on emerging LG finance reform and the CSR submission.</p> <p>Helping to shape emerging legislation and regulations across the whole of the LG sector.</p> <p>Conducted surveys, published reports to support our own development work including Climate change.</p> <p>Provides access and contact to various national public bodies.</p> <p>Is a source of good practice, advice and offers support in training, developing of councils, departments, officers and elected members.</p>
<b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b>	Achieved considerable funding for local authorities during the pandemic and was critical in lobbying government during the crisis.
<b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b>	Yes – annual subscription and travel costs for certain activities. The LGA publish an annual report to each authority stating the value of the Association to each particular council
<b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b>	

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Bringsty Common Manorial Court
<b>Name of the council's representative</b>	Cllr. Nigel Shaw
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	To represent views of commoners and residents of Bringsty Common and provide local management on behalf on HC.
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	Light touch management of open common land, increasing bio-diversity by late cutting of grassland; cutting firebreaks and provision of a football pitch and other open space for sports and recreation
<b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b>	Visits by Butterfly Conservation Trust and support by them to promote habitat improvement. Facilitation of bus shelter donated by Whitbourne Parish Council to Brockhampton Group Parish Council, sited on common in accordance with a section 38 permission obtained by me at my own cost.
<b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b>	None. Council funds emergency maintenance such as removal of dangerous trees etc.
<b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b>	
Annual report by Chair on a <a href="#">Facebook</a> site, together with meeting agenda's and minutes.	

## **Framework for a Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Services Advisory Board**

### **Introduction**

Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Services move from Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust ('GHC') to Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust ('WHCT') on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

As GHC are a Foundation Trust one of their key governance mechanisms for engaging with Service User Carers and the public is their Membership and Governing body/Council of Governors. The Council of Governors has provided a forum where elected representatives from the membership, or other significant parties, ie Local Authority or Commissioners, can come together with the Trusts Senior Leadership Team, Non-Executive and Executive Directors, to hear about the performance and service delivery/development plans of the Trust. Part of a Governors role is to share this information with the wider membership, so that they can canvas members for their views and subsequently inform and influence the work of the Trust.

The Council of Governors' aim to be a supportive critical friend, helping the Trust shape services and communications with the wider membership and public so that the work of the Trust is informed and influenced by members and public views. The Governors can set up engagement events with the membership and wider public and lead those engagement events with support from the Trust. This approach has helped 'de-stigmatised' meetings and increased member and public confidence in the work of the Trust whilst 'personalising' interactions with the Trust.

Whilst WHCT are not a Foundation Trust and they have many mechanisms for engaging with their service users, carers and the Public, the elected Herefordshire Governors of GHC, supported by Herefordshire Healthwatch, would like to propose a framework for WHCT to consider to try and maximise the benefits from the legacy members and Governors of GHC.

The aim of this proposal would be to develop a strong service user, carer and public voice for Herefordshire, who could provide the Trust with informed views on a range of issues to support continuous service development and improved delivery of care and outcomes for the people of Herefordshire. The arrangements would also fundamentally seek to support the Trust in challenging the stigma faced by mental health service users, carers and services and ensure that Herefordshire services integrate and embed into WHCT at the earliest opportunity.

### **Proposal**

There are currently 491 registered Herefordshire members within the GHC membership not including staff members. There are two Council members elected from this membership, an appointed Local Authority Council member and an appointed CCG Commissioner Council member

There are GHC staff Governor Council members, but at the current time, the Staff Governor members are all from outside the direct Herefordshire staff group which will transfer to WHCT and so staff governors will not be available to support any proposal post transfer of the services to WHCT.

There is also a Herefordshire aligned Non Executive Director (NED) member of the Trust Board who has worked closely with the Council of Governors in their full NED role. They have also provided specific focus and joint working with a Herefordshire specific focus with the Herefordshire specific Governors in relation to their work associated with the transfer of services to WHCT. The Non-Executive Director member of the Trust Board will remain as a Non-Executive member with GHC post transfer of the services to WHCT and would not be available to support any proposal, although they have been involved in discussing this proposal.

The two membership elected Governors and the Local Authority appointed Governor are very active in their support of the work of the Council and in their engagement with GHC in relation to progressing the arrangements associated with the transfer of services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

The 3 Governors have explored opportunities for linking up with Herefordshire Healthwatch colleagues in relation to this future proposal. Herefordshire Healthwatch have indicated that they would like to explore the opportunity for them to support a key role in working with WHCT and the Herefordshire governing body members and wider membership identified earlier, to form a Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Services Advisory Board.

The proposal will be to form a body who can be informed, can inform and who can influence the work of WHCT within Herefordshire specifically, whilst also working across the wider Trust to support better integration and embedding of the services and service users and carers transferring to WHCT with the new Trust.

The intention of the Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Advisory Board ('HAB') would be to compliment other arrangements for engagement and development of service users, carers and public involvement in the services, through initiatives such as Volunteers and Experts by Experience arrangements. It is acknowledged that Board members maybe Experts by Experience or Volunteers in their own right, but that is a separate role to their role as a member of HAB.

Board membership could consist of:

- 4 Elected members (2 already elected and proposed that they would have an initial 2 year term of office before re-election to offer some expertise and 'corporate memory' to the Board.
- 2 Herefordshire staff members
- A Local Authority/Council representative (again it is proposed that the existing Council representative be asked to continue in this role for continuity/'Corporate memory' benefits

- A H&W Commissioner representative (WHCT might want to think about this role as it hasn't really delivered the benefits originally envisaged with 2g/GHC to date)
- A representative from the Herefordshire Experts by Experience group
- A designated WHCT Board Non Executive Director who can provide a link to the main WHCT Trust Board
- The Herefordshire Social Inclusion worker
- Two Herefordshire Healthwatch representatives
- WHCT's Director of Strategy and Partnerships
- A further WHCT Board member
- Comms and Administration support as appropriate and provided by WHCT

These circa 12 – 13 individuals, would meet as a Board circa 10 – 12 times a year. They would also support 6 wider membership/public engagement events across Herefordshire during the year.

The wider public engagement events would initially be focused on:

- Hereford City
- Bromyard
- Ledbury
- Kington
- Leominster
- Ross-on-Wye

The meetings would need to be planned and advertised and would be co-production engagements involving the Board members, Herefordshire Healthwatch, Experts by Experience, Volunteers and appropriate staff from the Trust. The meetings would be focused on engagement aimed at informing and being informed of Herefordshire residents views on the plans, proposals and services delivered by the Trust. The meetings would also seek to increase the Herefordshire “membership”, Experts by Experience and Volunteers supporting and commenting on the work of the Trust.

A more detailed Terms of Reference could be developed if the Trust is supportive of these proposals.

### **Progressing the Proposals**

WHCT and GHC need to engage with the GHC existing membership, Experts by Experience and Volunteers to advise them of the proposed changes in the leadership and delivery of services in Herefordshire.

It is proposed that this is progressed through writing to these three separate groups and inviting them to continue in their membership, Experts by Experience or Volunteer role with WHCT as services transfer.

Each group would also be offered the opportunity to meet with representatives of WHCT to talk about their future plans for supporting Experts by Experience, Volunteers and Members.

The Experts by Experience (48), engagement is already planned and will be progressed during normal working hours, as can the engagement with existing Volunteers (5). The engagement with the membership however, probably needs to be planned as a series of early evening meetings, probably held in the 6 localities suggested earlier, if the opportunity for members to engage with WHCT is to be maximised. Membership engagement events during the day, have from experience, proved to be poorly attended and Members have commented that they don't enable many of them to consider attending because of other commitments. Having said this, engagement with the membership has generally proved challenging irrespective of the time and location of meetings.

However the group developing this proposal, acknowledge that a consistent approach to engagement has not been developed and so the proposal to try and consistently engage in home communities may be beneficial if supported and advertised to the Membership and others beforehand.

In considering a first event the group with members to progress this proposal, colleagues feel that an agenda, something like;

- Hear about the changes in the leadership and delivery of Mental Health and Learning Disability Services in Herefordshire
  - WHCT/GHC representatives (could be WHCT reps only)
- The work of our Volunteers and becoming a Volunteer with us
  - led by the Social Inclusion lead and an existing Volunteer
- The work of our Experts by Experience and becoming an Expert by Experience with us
  - Led by the Social Inclusion lead and an existing Expert by Experience
- Becoming a member and our proposal for members to support the work of our Herefordshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Services Board (HAB)
  - Led by the Trusts Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Healthwatch and the 3 existing Herefordshire Council of Governor members.

### **Recommendations**

Healthwatch and the 3 Council of Governor members would welcome meeting with WHCT (and GHC representatives if appropriate) to discuss this proposal with a view to engagement events, being arranged towards the end of March 2020 if the Trust are supportive of this approach.

<b>Name of the Outside Body</b>	Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee
<b>Name of the council's representatives</b>	Cllr B. Durkin Cllr J. Hardwick Cllr P. Symonds Cllr Y. Watson
<b>What is the main purpose of this outside body</b>	<p>The role of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is one of advising and guiding the statutory authorities regarding issues, initiatives and strategies relating to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The JAC is established under agreement by the Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire County Council, to help deliver the duties and obligations arising from Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The JAC has, for many years, been a strong partnership, its constitution and membership reflecting the cross-border nature of the Wye Valley AONB. The committee meets formally three times a year, usually in early March, July and November in the Forest of Dean District Council Chamber in Coleford.</p> <p>The JAC oversees the review and adoption of the statutory 5 year AONB Management Plan and it's delivery through the AONB Unit Business Plan. The JAC is supported by a Technical Officers Working Party, AONB Steering Group and the AONB Unit which is staffed by employees of the representative local authorities; Forest of Dean District Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire County Council. Monmouthshire County Council provides the Clerk to the JAC. Herefordshire Council are treasurers for the AONB Unit's finances. This governance structure offers the benefits of local accountability through elected members and access to specialists, with both local and national knowledge, supported by dedicated professional staff.</p>
<b>What have been the main activities of the body that have helped support the achievement of the Council's corporate policies?</b>	<p>Due to Covid restrictions the Wye Valley AONB JAC did not meet formally in July 2020 and met via Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p> <p>At the November 2020 meeting the JAC resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) request from the constituent local authorities the financial contributions for the Wye Valley AONB Partnership for 2021/22.</li> <li>(ii) encourage the constituent local authorities to finalise and agree the AONB Memorandum of Understanding for 2021 – 2024</li> <li>(iii) approve the Post Consultation Draft version of the AONB Management Plan and recommend the Plan for adoption by the local authorities and government agencies, subject to the Habitats Regulation Assessment modified screening.</li> <li>(iv) endorse the realignment of the five year period of the AONB Management Plan to cover 2021-2026.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(v) welcomed the successful accomplishments of the Wye Valley River Festival 2020.</li> <li>(vi) endorse the proposed undergrounding of overhead power lines across Offa's Dyke Path National Trail on The Kymin.</li> <li>(vii) Note the report outlining progress with the respective Reviews of Designated Landscapes England and Wales.</li> <li>(viii) receive the report regarding the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).</li> <li>(ix) Receive the report regarding activity of the Wye Valley AONB Unit and various partners</li> </ul> <p>At the March 2021 meeting the JAC resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) note the current situation and activities of partner organisations in relation to water quality issues in the River Wye and its tributaries.</li> <li>(ii) welcome the offer of the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales for a presentation at the next Joint Advisory Committee meeting on 5th July 2021.</li> <li>(iii) endorse the AONB Unit Work Programme for 2021/2022.</li> <li>(iv) formally endorse the 'Art in the Landscape' National Arts Strategy with the National Association for AONBs;</li> <li>(v) welcome and support the progress with establishing a possible Community Interest Company (CIC) to take forward the Wye Valley River Festival, taking account of the five tests previously endorsed in the Wye Valley River Festival Business Plan 2019-2024.</li> <li>(vi) receive a report regarding progress with the implementation of the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes in England and welcome the announcement of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.</li> <li>(vii) receive a report regarding progress with the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales, welcoming the additional Welsh Government funding and the establishment of the National Designated Landscapes Partnership.</li> <li>(viii) receive a report regarding activity through the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there other achievements you would like to highlight?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AONB Management Plan was finalised and adopted by the 4 constituent local authorities</li> <li>• Wye Valley AONB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary talk was presented by Andrew Blake, AONB Manager, via Zoom to nearly 100 people</li> <li>• AONB Unit delivered Natural Flood Management, Riparian Tree management &amp; Farm Advice projects with Environment Agency, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Wye &amp; Usk Foundation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Parish Councils in the AONB were contacted and asked for potential schemes for undergrounding of low voltage power lines.</li> <li>• Nature Recovery Network mapping work commenced with Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Wildlife Trusts, Natural England and Malvern Hills AONB Partnership.</li> <li>• Landslips on the Wye Valley Walk were assessed and diversions signposted with Balfour Beatty Living Places/Herefordshire Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Forestry England</li> <li>• AONB Unit maintained active participation in the Wye Catchment Partnership, Wye Navigation Advisory Committee, Herefordshire Meadows Network, Offa's Dyke Collaboratory and Dark Skies Wales</li> <li>• Phase 1 Habitat mapping continued where Covid guidance allowed</li> <li>• AONB Fixed Point Photography monitoring continued where Covid guidance allowed</li> <li>• The AONB Unit delivered the £194,700 Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) programme for Welsh Government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Does the council provide any funding to this body? If so, how has this money been deployed?</b></p>	<p>HC annual contribution to the AONB budgets is £23,860 Total AONB budgets in 2020/21 were £596,272 meaning the AONB Unit levered in over £12 for every £1 of local authority contribution.</p>
<p><b>If the outside body produces a business plan and/or annual report, please provides links to where these can be found (below).</b></p>	
<p>The JAC Report on the Business Plan is here: <a href="https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24102/5.%20Work%20Prog%20report.pdf">https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24102/5.%20Work%20Prog%20report.pdf</a></p> <p>The Full Business Plan for 2020/21 is here: <a href="https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24103/5a.%20AONB%20Business%20Plan%2020-21.pdf">https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s24103/5a.%20AONB%20Business%20Plan%2020-21.pdf</a></p> <p>The Annual Report for 2020/21 is due to be presented to the next JAC on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021. The JAC report on the delayed Annual Report is here: <a href="https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s29171/11.%20Annual%20report.pdf">https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s29171/11.%20Annual%20report.pdf</a></p>	