
Article 9 - Joint arrangements

This articles explains how the council works with other bodies.

2.9.1 Joint arrangements generally

2.9.2 Joint arrangements for Council functions

2.9.3 The council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise Council, or a mixture of Council and executive functions, or to advise the council on any matter. These arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee with these other local authorities, including the determination of terms of reference.

2.9.4 Joint arrangements for cabinet functions

2.9.5 The cabinet may establish joint arrangements with one or more councils to exercise executive functions. These arrangements may involve the appointment of joint committees, including the determination of terms of reference.

2.9.6 Joint executive arrangements have been made in respect of:

- West Mercia Energy (with Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, and Worcestershire County Council), and
- West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (with Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council, Wychavon District Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council).

2.9.7 (Not used).

2.9.8 Appointments to joint committees

- 2.9.9
- (a) Except as in (b) below, the cabinet may appoint only members of the cabinet to a joint committee dealing solely with cabinet functions, and those members need not reflect the political composition of the council as a whole.
 - (b) Councillors who are not members of the cabinet may only be appointed to a joint committee where the relevant functions do not extend to more than two-fifths of the county by area or population. In such cases, the cabinet may appoint a councillor who represents a ward wholly or partly in the area covered by the joint committee.

2.9.10 Access to information

2.9.11 The rules on access to information and confidentiality as set out in part 4 section 2 will apply to members of joint committees in the same way as they do to members of the council.

2.9.12 Delegation to and from other local authorities

2.9.13 Full Council or the cabinet may delegate their respective powers and functions to another local authority or the executive of another local authority.

2.9.14 The decision whether or not to accept such delegation from another local authority will be taken by full Council or the cabinet as appropriate.

2.9.15 The council has made no such delegations to date.

2.9.16 Contracting out

2.9.17 Full Council, for functions it is responsible for, and the leader or cabinet members, for executive functions, may contract out to another body or organisation functions which may be carried out by an officer subject to the relevant legislative requirements.

2.9.18 Consultative committees**2.9.19 Standing advisory council on religious education (SACRE)**

2.9.20 In accordance with the Education Act 1996 (as amended) the council has established a Herefordshire SACRE to provide advice on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship.

2.9.21 The council appoints the membership in accordance with the legislation, in four groups, as follows:

- Group (A) One Roman Catholic representative (nominated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy);
One Free Church representative (nominated by Churches together in Herefordshire);
One representative of other faiths as a whole;
One representative of the Bahá'í faith;
One representative of the Muslim faith;
One representative of the Sikh faith;
One representative of the Jewish faith;
One representative of the Buddhist religion;
One representative of the Hindu faith;
One representative of the Quaker faith.

Other than for the Roman Catholic and Free Church representatives the representatives should, as far as possible, be nominated by the appropriate local faith group.

- Group (B) Three Church of England representatives (nominated in consultation with the Diocesan Education Authority).

Group (C) Three teachers' representatives, with one drawn from each of the primary, secondary and special education sectors (nominated through recommendation of recognised teacher associations) and one co-opted member.

Group (D) Three Herefordshire Council members as local education authority representatives

2.9.22 Other bodies

2.9.22.1 Agreed Syllabus Conference

2.9.22.2 The Council is required to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years or upon request by SACRE more frequently.

2.9.22.3 This conference will have the same composition as SACRE. There is no provision for co-opted members.

2.9.23 Safeguarding arrangements

2.9.24 In accordance with legislative requirements the council has established an adults safeguarding board. This is chaired by an independent person accountable to the chief executive of the council for the effective operation of the board; and works closely with the director for adults and communities. Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) main statutory objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect **Adults those at Risk**.

2.9.25 ~~Children and Social Work Act 2017 reformed the framework supporting the delivery of multi-agency services to protect and safeguard children. Regulations for implementing these changes required all local authority areas in England to have adopted new arrangements by no later than September 2019. Responsibility for the new-The multi-agency arrangements for protecting and safeguard children is delivered by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, which Safer Children and Young People Partnership brings together the following agencies that are required to work together to safeguard children and young people in line with statutory guidance Working Together (WTG) 2018. Act created The three local safeguarding partners in relation to a local authority area in England these partners are jointly leading the partnership are:~~

- ~~The Local Authority - Herefordshire Council: Represented by Chief Executive and the Director of Children's Services.~~
- ~~The chief officer of police for a police area any part which falls within the local authority areas - Represented by the Superintendent Policing Commander (Herefordshire) - West Mercia Police: Represented by the Superintendent Policing Commander for Herefordshire Local Policing Area.~~
- The Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Represented by the Head of Safeguarding & Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children.

2.9.26 ~~Herefordshire Safeguarding Childrens Board (HSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant agencies in Herefordshire will co-operate~~

to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in the area in accordance with Working Together 2018.

- 2.9.276 [On the 1 July 2019](#) Herefordshire Adoption Service joined ~~on 1 July 2019~~ a regional adoption agency Adoption Central England (ACE) following central government's requirement that all local authority adoption services are redesigned into regional adoption agencies by 2020. Adoption panels are required by law and membership is set out in detailed regulations. ~~The adoption panel contributes to the running and quality assurance of the Local Authority's adoption service and receives annual reports on the service and its performance. In doing so it has overriding responsibility to promote good practice, consistency of approach and fairness in all aspects of the adoption service, in accordance with its procedures and values. The adoption panel carries out the functions and duties as set out in the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 and will meet the requirements of statutory Adoption Guidance, and the National Minimum Standards for Adoption. There is no fixed membership or maximum number of members or maximum tenure of office. The Agency will retain a Central List of persons considered to be suitable panel members. The List will be maintained by agency advisers. The central list should include (in addition to the independent chair) social workers with at least 3 years relevant post qualifying in child care social work, including direct experience in adoption work. Elected members do not sit on this panel. The Medical Adviser. The purpose of the panel is to ensure that the best interests of the child are safeguarded and that applicants are treated fairly.~~
- 2.9.278 Herefordshire Fostering Panel [has a crucial role in the provision and monitoring of foster care for children and young people.](#) ~~The making decisions about approval, the terms of approval and assessing continuing ability of foster carers to meet the needs of children is a central task focused on ensuring the child's welfare is paramount~~ ~~monitors the range of foster carers available to the local authority in comparison with the needs of children and plays a key role in the improvement of standards within the fostering service.~~ There is no fixed panel membership or maximum number of members. An Independent Chair ~~is~~ **must be** appointed and the membership must be drawn from a Central list of persons with the appropriate qualifications and/or experience, in accordance with the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011. ~~Elected members do not sit on this panel.~~
- 2.9.298 [Corporate Parenting Board](#) [The Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out the corporate parenting principles for the council as a whole to be the best parent it can be for children in its care. These are largely a collation of existing duties local authorities have towards looked after children and children leaving care. Local authorities are required to publish their support offer to care leavers and to promote the educational attainment of children who have been adopted or placed in other long term arrangements.](#) ~~Herefordshire Corporate Parenting Panel ensures that the council and statutory partners undertake their duties as Corporate Parents as defined in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Effective Corporate Parenting requires commitment from all council employees and elected members and must have an authority wide approach. The Children Act 1989 places a responsibility on the NHS, Housing and Education services to fulfil their function to provide help and support to the council and children and young people as part of their corporate parenting~~

responsibility. The Children Act 2004 further emphasised the need for the collaboration of services across the local authority and the agreements required in order to provide the right services to children and young people who are looked after.

2.9.30 The Corporate Parenting Board is an advisory body. It has two main functions:

To support and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Schools on matters related to corporate parenting.

To advise, guide and provide leadership to the county council on issues relating to care experienced children and its corporate parenting responsibility.

Lead responsibility for Corporate Parenting sits with the Cabinet member for Children and Families who chairs the ~~meeting~~Corporate Parenting Panel. Membership of the Panel- includes the Cabinet Support member for children looked after and ~~cross party elected members~~ representatives nominated by each political group leader, party lead. Membership should include Cabinet members for Economy and Place (housing), Adults, opposition lead for Children and Families and representative from fostering panel. Key officers should include Director of Children's Services and Senior Nominated Officers, Deputy Chief Executive for Corporate Services, Health Representatives, Adult Services Representative and Director of Finance. The governance for the Corporate Parenting Panel is provided by Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. Membership of the Panel will be cabinet member/ Cabinet Support member for Looked after Children (Chair) and an elected member nominated by each political party leader. The Panel reports to the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board, Children's Scrutiny panel and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

NEW The Council's Improvement Board for children services is chaired by a DFE advisor, membership is agreed by the board itself. Elected members on the board include the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member of children's and families. The role of the board is to oversee implementation of the improvement plan and report on progress against the objectives in the plan.

2.9.30 Community safety partnership board

2.9.31 In accordance with legislative requirements the council has established a community safety partnership, chaired by the cabinet member with responsibility for community safety. Their role is to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area. **To consider — do we want more detail here?**

2.9.32 Other partnerships

2.9.33 The council may, from time to time, work in partnership with one or more organisations in order to achieve a shared objective or aim, or in accordance with statutory requirement. The council has an agreed framework for partnerships' governance and maintains a register available for public inspection of such

partnerships which are considered strategic. ~~To note – partnership arrangements being considered by A+G~~