

General scrutiny committee:
Schedule of recommendations made to the executive and the executive responses (November 2021 and January 2022)

Meeting and agenda item	Recommendations	Response
15 November 2021 An update from the Police and Crime Commissioner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable be invited to the next appropriate meeting of Full Council to provide an update on the work of the force. 2. Local guidance on the personal security of councillors and how to highlight safety concerns be provided to all councillors. 3. The Neighbourhood Matters messaging service and the Local Policing Charter be brought to the attention of all councillors. 4. Consideration be given to joint communication protocol between the council and the police to ensure that local community safety messages are shared as widely as possible. 5. A bid be made to the Police and Crime Commissioner's initiative to support innovative projects and augment existing activity to reduce fly-tipping. 6. The Herefordshire Superintendent's road safety fund be promoted to all town and parish councils, with attention drawn to the relevant deadline. 7. Consideration be given to the establishment of a local forum for road safety, involving the council, the police, and other relevant partners. 	<p>Accepted</p> <p>The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable met with councillors following the meeting of Full Council on 4 March 2022.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>The West Mercia Police 'Public and personal safety guidance for local and county councillors' document is available here: Public and personal safety guidance</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>We will add this to a general communique to parish councils.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>HC Communications team will consider the practicalities and prepare recommendations.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>The Environmental Health team working with Waste Services will prepare a bid.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>A communique will be sent to all parish councils.</p> <p>Accepted</p> <p>Community Safety will prepare a briefing for Cabinet members to consider.</p>

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	<p>8. The process for making Traffic Regulation Orders be reviewed to ensure that it is as efficient and effective as possible, including the approach to consultation and messaging with communities and road users, and with discussions with relevant agencies to remove potential barriers to implementation.</p> <p>9. Consideration be given to guidance (including relevant templates) for town and parish councils to support them to develop road safety action plans and related measures, including how to access external funding streams.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>There is a proposal to repatriate the traffic management team from BBLP and part of that proposal is to facilitate a redesign of the processes involved.</p> <p>Not accepted</p> <p>There is insufficient funding or officer time to provide this service to the parishes. Each parish is able to commission a road safety audit should it wish to do so.</p>
<p>27 January 2022</p> <p>2022/23 budget setting</p>	<p>a) Consideration be given to the main purpose for the consultation on budget setting and examine how to make the consultation as effective and engaging as possible, so as to make the results meaningful and usable.</p> <p>b) Further analysis be undertaken comparing and contrasting the proportionate spend on environment and economy services with relevant comparator authorities.</p> <p>c) The government be asked to look more closely at rural levelling up.</p> <p>d) The future presentation of graphs, such as the budget requirement by directorate, include relevant percentages and actual amounts wherever possible.</p> <p>e) A written response be provided to the chairperson of the Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the further comments and concerns from members of that committee as</p>	<p>Next year's budget setting process for 2023/2024 will consider further the best use of consultation with all stakeholders. This year, a citizens' assembly was established, to make recommendations for priorities for Cabinet to consider, consultation next year could look to extend this approach.</p> <p>The analysis will be carried out and published prior to Full Council meeting on 11 February 2022.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council will write to the Government on this matter.</p> <p>This will be addressed in the papers for Full Council on 11 February 2022.</p> <p>Please find link to the council tax 2021/22 leaflet: Your Council Tax explained 2021/22 (herefordshire.gov.uk)</p> <p>Agreed. A written response will be provided.</p>

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	<p>soon as possible and in advance of the budget setting meeting of Council.</p> <p>f) The next budget include a programme to respond specifically to issues facing rural communities.</p> <p>g) The capital investment in highway maintenance in market towns is welcomed.</p> <p>h) Consideration be given to the use of 50% of the capital surplus for highways in 2023/24 and 2024/25</p> <p>i) The council should aim to become more targeted and to give funding support to those most in need.</p> <p>j) Consideration be given to the use of the existing earmarked reserves for Adult Services to offset the requirement for the 1% adult social care precept for 2022/23.</p>	<p>Agreed, this will be taken account of in next year's budget setting process for 2023/2024.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Whilst the budget setting process mainly focuses on next year's budget (year 1), we acknowledge that consideration should be given to the use of 50% of the capital surplus for highways in 2023/24 (year 2) and 2024/25 (year 3). We are currently working on the projects for the refurbishment of Shire Hall and HCCTP, city centre transport programme.</p> <p>The council do currently have headroom in the capital programme in future years and we will commit to undertake a value for money (VFM) audit and lessons learned exercise in 2022 on the previous £20m capital injection and the projects it funded. This will inform decisions about how best to improve the condition of our core and non-core road networks.</p> <p>We would welcome scrutiny being involved in that process in the coming year so as to be better placed to understand the options available to us as we enter the budgeting process for the 2023/2024 budget.</p> <p>Yes agreed, the Council should and will work with the General Scrutiny Committee and other political groups to develop an appropriate support scheme.</p> <p>These reserves are necessary to mitigate not only the increasing and largely unpredictable pressures existing in this service area, but also to recognise the risks inherent in the young and still developing Talk Community network and the continued need for that community network to receive pump-priming funding and</p>

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	<p>k) The next budget include a programme to respond specifically to the climate and ecological emergency</p>	<p>possible future funding injections in order for it to develop and grow.</p> <p>Additionally pressures for C&WB for 22/23 are £4.3 million which represent 5% of the overall gross budget, and these pressures do not presently take account of increasing inflation and the uncertainties regarding how sustained higher level of inflation will be in the care sector.</p> <p>The option of using c. £1.2 million of reserves as an alternative to levying the 1% Social Care Precept is a political decision, the consequences of which must be fully understood. The concern with this proposal is that by taking this level of funding for revenue activities from reserves means that £1.2 million of known and understood pressures will not be being funded in the core budget – effectively creating a deficit in the budget put before council.</p> <p>The consequence of this is that the council then enters future years with this deficit being further compounded. This risks continuing government caps on council's ability to raise income through local taxation will make balancing future budgets even more challenging.</p> <p>As we have only had a one year government settlement, it is not clear how government are proposing to fund social care costs in the future.</p> <p>We already have plans in train to utilise c.£500K of the C&WB reserve to provide hard working and often lower paid care workers in Herefordshire with a £500 bonus (subject to normal tax rules) assistance of funds from Workforce Retention Grant received from Central Govt. We believe that planning for such proposals targeted to support and reward the less well off is a better use of the available reserves than making a change to council tax proposals which will disproportionately reward the better off.</p> <p>Please also see recommendation i above.</p> <p>Agreed. For the 2022/2023 budget, we have a citizens' assembly up and running looking at these issues, their recommendations will be presented to Cabinet.</p>

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	<p>l) The Audit and Governance Committee be invited to consider the use of consultants and information providers.</p> <p>m) The recommendations of the Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be considered, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Cabinet will invite the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee to add this to the Committee's work programme.</p> <p>For full details of the recommendations and responses in relation to the other scrutiny committees, please see the following links:</p> <p>Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee recommendations and responses</p> <p>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee recommendations and responses</p>