

## Article 9 - Joint arrangements

This article 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;  
One representative of Humanism.

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 those at Risk.

2.9.25 The multi-agency arrangements for protecting and safeguarding children is delivered by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, which brings together the following agencies:

- 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: Represented by the Superintendent Policing Commander (Herefordshire) - West Mercia Police.
- The Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Represented by the Head of Safeguarding & Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children.

2.9.26 [No longer used].

2.9.27 On the 1 July 2019 Herefordshire Adoption Service joined 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. Elected members do not sit on this panel.

2.9.28 Herefordshire Fostering Panel has a crucial role in the provision and monitoring of foster care for children and young people. There is no fixed panel membership or maximum number of members. An Independent Chair is 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 are not appointed to the Panel due to their status as a member of the Council but they may be selected by the Panel itself due to their expertise. However, the elected member cannot be the chairman (under regulation 22) or considered to be an independent member for the purposes of the quorum (under regulation 23)

2.9.29 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.

2.9.29a 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.

2.9.29b Lead responsibility for Corporate Parenting sits with the Cabinet member for Children and Families who chairs the meeting. Membership of the Panel includes the Cabinet Support member for children looked after and elected members nominated by each political group leader.

2.9.29c 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.

### **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.