

# **Title of report: Herefordshire Council Plan - findings of the board working group**

**Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board**

**Meeting date: Tuesday 14 May 2024**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To provide the board with the findings of its working group tasked with reviewing a draft of the Herefordshire Council Plan and its accompanying delivery plan.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) The board agree the report and;**
- b) The board make any recommendations for delivery of;**
  - a. the draft Herefordshire Council Plan;**
  - b. the draft Herefordshire Council Plan delivery plan; and**
  - c. future iterations of the draft Herefordshire Council Plan delivery plan.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The board has already agreed to review the draft Herefordshire Council Plan and its delivery plan, and to consider its findings following the review. This report therefore presents no alternative options.

## Key considerations

2. The Herefordshire Council Plan is part of the council's budget and policy framework. It sets out the council's ambitions for the next four years, and details the work the council will undertake to meet those ambitions. Accompanying the strategy, which provides a medium-term strategic oversight, is a delivery plan for the strategy for the year until the end of April 2025. The delivery plan will be agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 27 June.
3. The Scrutiny Management Board originally scrutinised work to deliver the plan and its delivery plan at its meeting on 21 November 2023. At that meeting the committee agreed to set up a task and finish group in order to track delivery of the plan and to contribute to its development. Although the committee had drafted a terms of reference for this work, there was insufficient time to carry out the work contained in the terms. Accordingly, the committee agreed to hold a working group session with officers of the council and members of Cabinet. The committee received a copy of the draft Herefordshire Council Plan and its delivery plan in advance of this meeting.
4. During the working group session, the attending committee members offered their feedback on the draft plan. This is attached to this report as **appendix A**. The group were only able to cover the overarching draft plan in the workshop session, so offered their feedback on the delivery plan by email afterwards. This is also included in the appendix.
5. Since this work took place, officers producing the Herefordshire Council Plan and its delivery plan have worked extensively on both documents. Accordingly, many of the suggestions made by the working group have since been incorporated into the draft documents. This report is therefore focussed on accounting for the work that took place, rather than drafting recommendations for developing the plans.

## Community impact

9. Scrutiny of the draft Herefordshire Council Plan and its delivery will not have any direct impact on communities. However scrutiny, if done well, can add value by offering challenge to draft strategies. This in turn will result in more effective policy which in turns results in stronger communities.

## Environmental Impact

10. Whilst this is a decision on back office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the Council's Environmental Policy.

## Equality duty

11. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this is a decision on back office functions, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

## Resource implications

12. As scrutiny is not a decision-making body of the council, its recommendations do not have additional resource implications. Before the executive decides to adopt any recommendation made by a scrutiny committee, it will need to consider the resource implications of that decision.

## Legal implications

13. Although not required by legislation, the Herefordshire Council Plan forms part of the council's budget and policy framework. The council's constitution states that the plan should therefore be agreed by Council. Any recommendations from Scrutiny Management Board will need to be made to Council rather than Cabinet.

## Risk management

14. Scrutiny committees are not decision-making bodies. Any recommendations made by a scrutiny committee should be assessed for risk before being agreed by the executive.

## Consultees

15. There was no consultation undertaken in producing this report.

## Appendices

None

## Background papers

None identified

## Report reviewers used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	John Coleman	Date 01/05/2024
Finance	Karen Morris	Date 03/05/2024
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**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**