

Summary of recommendations from the Scrutiny Management Board 14 May 2024 to the Executive in relation to the council and delivery plan, and future planning cycles, with executive responses.

Recommendation 1	If the ambition of the County Plan is to be scaled back to focus on the work only of the Council itself, that a broader and longer term County Strategy/Plan be developed with input from partners and stakeholders to guide action and investment.				
Executive Response	Not Accepted - the Herefordshire Council Plan recognises partnership working and it is an underpinning theme in the Council Plan, see page 15.				
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress	

Recommendation 2	The Council Plan recognises the increasing importance of partners and partnership working to the operation of the council.				
Executive Response	Accepted - the Herefordshire Council Plan recognises partnership working and it is an underpinning theme in the Council Plan, see page 15.				
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress	

Recommendation 3	The Council Plan should be aligned in resource terms with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.				
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned, see page 37 and 39 of the Herefordshire Council Plan.				
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress	

Recommendation 4	The Council and Delivery Plans should be clear in showing how council resources and effort is spread fairly across city, Market Towns and rural communities.			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - where it is not specified, delivery is relevant for the whole Herefordshire, which includes Market Towns and rural communities as well as the City.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 5	Council 'Transformation' is a means to an end, not an end in itself. It should be explained primarily in terms of its beneficial impact on residents and communities.			
Executive Response	Partially accepted – all transformation activity will ultimately benefit residents and communities.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 6	The Delivery Plan should contain real, tangible in-year deliverables which progress and support the stated objectives.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 7	Deliverables should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) and should relate to tangible items that are deliverable within that financial year.			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - milestones are now included to show more specific activity and the Delivery Plan outlines what will be delivered in 2024 - 25.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 8	The Delivery Plan should follow the structure and sequencing of the Council Plan to make it straightforward to follow.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 9	Plain language should be adopted throughout to ensure the documents are accessible to and understandable by all.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 10	The importance of tackling river pollution should be more evident.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 11	The importance of improving life for children and families should be more evident.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PLANNING CYCLES 12-14

Recommendation 12	The Council Plan should be aligned in resource terms with the Medium Term Financial Strategy.			
Executive Response	Accepted			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 13	The Delivery Plan for the following year should be drafted alongside the development of the budget for that financial year.			
Executive Response	Accepted			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Recommendation 14	The importance of improving life for children and families should be more evident.			
Executive Response	Accepted and actioned			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress