



## **Title of report: Motions on notice**

**Meeting: Council**

**Meeting date: Friday 10 October 2025**

**Report by: Director of Governance and Law**

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision.

### **Wards affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

To consider motions received on notice.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT: the motions listed at paragraph 6 are debated and determined by Council.**

### **Alternative options**

- 1 There are no alternative options to the recommendation; the constitution makes provision for motions on notice to be debated and decided by Council.

### **Key considerations**

- 2 The constitution provides that members of Council may submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by the proposer and seconder and submitted not later than midday on the seventh working day before the date of the meeting. A member cannot propose more than one motion on notice per meeting and a maximum of three motions will be debated at meetings of full Council.
- 3 Motions must be about matters for which the council has a responsibility or which affect Herefordshire.
- 4 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

- 5 Up to one and a half hours will be allocated to debate motions on notice but that time may be varied at the discretion of the chairman.
- 6 Three motions have been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motions for debate are set out below:

### **Motion 1 – Child Friendly Herefordshire**

(Proposed by Councillor Toni Fagan, Seconded by Councillor Ben Proctor )

#### **Council notes:**

- The saying that “*it takes a community to raise a child*” is especially true for local government.
- As corporate parents, councillors have a direct responsibility for children in the care of Herefordshire Council.
- As civic leaders, councillors also have a wider responsibility for running and shaping the county in which all young people grow, learn, and thrive.
- Recent years have demanded reflection on how we discharge these responsibilities, but reflection also offers opportunity: to imagine and create a different - better future.

#### **Council believes:**

- A Child Friendly Herefordshire requires councillors, officers, and partners across all sectors to commit to placing children and young people at the heart of decision-making.
- Listening to and acting on the voices of children and young people is central to improving their lives and building a stronger county for all generations.
- Every child and young person in Herefordshire deserves to be safe, loved, heard, and supported to reach their full potential.

#### **Council therefore resolves:**

1. To adopt a formal policy of *Child Friendly Herefordshire*, embedding the principle of putting children and young people’s safety and wellbeing at the heart of all decisions.
2. To ensure children and young people have meaningful opportunities to shape decisions that affect them, both now and in the future.
3. To ask the executive to work with partners across public services, schools, health, business, transport, community groups, and voluntary organisations to create a county-wide partnership for Child Friendly Herefordshire.
4. To ask the Leader to report annually to Council on progress towards making Herefordshire a county where children and young people thrive.

### **Motion 2 – Protecting Community Safety in Herefordshire - Opposing Cuts to PCSO Hours**

(Proposed by Councillor Robert Owens, Seconded by Councillor *tbc*)

#### **This Council notes that:**

- Police Community Support Officers (PCSO’s) are an essential part of neighbourhood policing in Herefordshire, reducing crime and the fear of crime, playing a crucial role in community engagement, crime prevention, and the early intervention of anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- The Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia has proposed a significant reduction in PCSO working hours, meaning that PCSO’s will no longer be on duty

after 8.00pm, despite the police precept being raised by 5.05% this year, an increase of £14 per person.

- This decision has been made even though incidents of ASB occur disproportionately during the evening hours; precisely the time when PCSO's would now be absent from their communities.

This Council believes that:

- The restriction of PCSO hours represents a serious threat to public safety and community confidence in local policing across Herefordshire.
- Visible and proactive community policing is vital in rural areas, market towns and Hereford City. All residents rely on local officers for reassurance, deterrence, and a swift response to low-level but persistent issues.
- The decision to limit PCSO hours appears to have been taken without sufficient consultation with local authorities or the communities most affected by ASB and crime.

This Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the decision of the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner to limit PCSO evening working hours across Herefordshire.
2. Request the Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, urging a reversal of this decision in recognition of the significant impact it will have on community safety and the visibility of policing in Herefordshire.
3. Request the Leader of the Council to communicate the Councils opposition to these proposed changes with both of Herefordshire's MP's and encourage them to raise the issue in Parliament, and to call for increased support and funding for neighbourhood policing in rural counties such as ours.

**Motion 3 – Improving access to employment, education and leisure for young people aged 16–19 through bus provision**

(Proposed by Councillor Rebecca Tully, Seconded by Councillor *tbc*)

This Council notes that:

1. Access to affordable, reliable and accessible public transport is essential for young people aged 16-19 "to access services including education, employment and healthcare throughout Herefordshire and beyond" (Draft Local Transport Plan-LTP5)
2. Disabled residents in Herefordshire are due to be able to use their concessionary bus passes before 9.30am from November 2025, (a move requested by Herefordshire MENCAP, March '25 Full Council)
3. Where pilot targeted bus schemes have been introduced, evidence shows that bus travel increases and there is an economic and public health benefit
4. The current transport assistance scheme for 16-19 yr olds charges users £1030 per person annually and is limited to travel before 6pm, weekdays, term time only
5. The current transport assistance scheme for 16-19 yr olds is used by 333 in-county individuals out of an estimated 3500 individuals
6. Increasing accessibility for young people supports the council priorities of people, growth,

place and transformation, and the objectives of the LTP

7. A Bus and Community Transport Task and Finish Group is currently examining how bus provision can be improved using the provisions of the current Bus Services Bill and is due to present to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in June 2026

The council acknowledges that the current funding landscape is extremely challenging. Targeting support for 16–19-year-olds offers a potentially good return on investment, given the relatively low cost and high social impact. Offering incentives to travel on existing services—especially in partnership with operators—is a strategy that delivers long-term benefits, increasing bus ridership without damaging existing revenue streams or requiring investment into new routes or infrastructure.

Council resolves to:

1. Support in principle the expansion of affordable, accessible bus travel for 16–19 year olds in Herefordshire to:
  - a. Improve access to education, employment, and training
  - b. Reduce social isolation
  - c. Enhance health outcomes
2. Request the executive prepare proposals for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget for:
  - a. The provision of a pilot extension of the transport assistance scheme for 16-19yr olds in education to enable travel on evenings, weekends and holidays. This pilot would include evaluation of impact.
  - b. Identification of potential funding sources, including BSIP revenue grant and the Local Transport Grant revenue allocation; anticipated savings in other service areas (e.g., Economy, Public Health); and bus operator partnership or sponsorship opportunities.
3. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport, urging support for pilot schemes and action on the Transport Committee's recommendation to explore national free or discounted travel for young people, alongside long-term, devolved funding for bus services.

#### **Updates – outstanding resolutions**

- 7 The constitution provides that the report to Council, containing notices of motion on hand, will also include detail of progress of all outstanding resolutions. There are outstanding resolutions with respect to motions considered at earlier meetings of full Council; updates of progress against these resolutions are provided below:

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
7 March 2025	Minor Injury Units	Further to the meeting of Cabinet and the Integrated Care Board, work to draw up a blueprint for local multi-disciplinary health delivery is underway. It is being informed by Herefordshire's successful Neighbourhood Health bid that was approved by NHS England in early September. Initial discussions have been held with the new Managing Director

		of Wye Valley NHS Trust and the paper is due to be submitted by end of October 2025.
<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the reinstatement of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire as soon as possible to alleviate pressure on A&amp;E services and improve access to urgent care for residents across the county; and</li> <li>Calls upon the Executive to work with NHS partners and other stakeholders to facilitate the reopening of Minor Injury Units in Herefordshire.</li> </ul>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Securing Herefordshire's Role in the UK and European Defence Industrial Strategy	<p>Work has started on taking forward a plan to action this motion and build on current work to support the Defence and Security sectors in Herefordshire.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently finalising a Defence and Security Prospectus for Herefordshire, having established and engaged with a forum made up of some of the leading local businesses in the sector.</li> <li>Drafted a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade, which addresses the points set out in the motion, and which is intended to be sent in mid-October, when Prospectus is complete and can be sent, as supporting documentation.</li> <li>Using the Defence and Security Prospectus, and associated collateral to plan to engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, including potential attendance at defence and security trade events in early 2026.</li> <li>Working closely with NMITE to encourage them to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector. NMITE have already been successful in attracting funding from AWE Nuclear Security Technologies, (the Ministry of Defence's nuclear capability partner), to be able to offer 12 fully-funded student places on their new BSc (Hons) Construction Management degree, to support the nuclear weapons sector.</li> <li>All engagement with the defence and security sector is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of</li> </ol>

		<p>environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit.</p> <p>6. A spin-off from the engagement with the local defence sector has highlighted that there is a need for a dedicated secure area for testing of military grade drones, so work is ongoing to explore suitable opportunities.</p>
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> This Council resolves to ask the executive to:</p> <p>Develop a Herefordshire Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Prospectus, highlighting the county's strategic readiness to host defence-related investment, including a munitions facility, with a focus on clean and sustainable manufacturing.</p> <p>Formally write to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade, urging them to consider Herefordshire as a location for one of the planned new factories and associated supply chain investment.</p> <p>Call on the Government to support rural areas like Herefordshire by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prioritising infrastructure upgrades in strategic industrial zones;</li> <li>○ Establishing an investment support scheme modelled on Enterprise Zones;</li> <li>○ Fast-tracking planning for clean-tech and defence-linked developments.</li> </ul> <p>Engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, particularly for dual-use and green defence technologies.</p> <p>Work with FE and HE providers to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector.</p> <p>Ensure that all defence-linked investment is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit.</p>		

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
25 July 2025	Housing Targets	The motion has been noted in respect of housing targets and will be taken into consideration as part of plan preparation. The Council has recently issued a 'call for sites' and this is the first stage in plan preparation to see what land is potentially available for development. If there is insufficient land to meet the requirements of the county over a 20 year plan period, a lower level of growth can be justified (a lower housing requirement). This will not be

		known until the 'call for sites' process has been concluded and all sites have been assessed.
<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>Whilst this council will – as requested by government – “make every effort to allocate land in line with our housing need, as per the standard method”, this Council fully supports our officers and our Cabinet in their actively seeking to “justify a lower housing requirement than the figure the method sets, on the basis of local constraints on land and constraints on delivery”.</p>		

## Community impact

- 8 Herefordshire Council's adopted code of corporate governance provides the framework for maintaining high standards of corporate governance in order to achieve the council's vision of “people, organisations and businesses working together to bring sustainable prosperity and well-being for all, in the outstanding natural environment of Herefordshire.”
- 9 In accordance with the code, the long-term nature of many of Herefordshire Council's responsibilities mean that we should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the council's purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.

## Equality duty

- 10 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:
 

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 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. If any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action, the cabinet will have regard to the equality duty when determining its response to the request.

## Resource implications

- 12 None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

## **Legal implications**

- 13      None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) consider taking some action the implications of such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

## **Risk management**

- 14      None arising from the recommendation; if any motion results in a request that the executive (cabinet) take some action the risks associated with such action will inform any decision by cabinet.

## **Consultees**

- 15      None.

## **Appendices — None**

## **Background papers — none identified**