



Update to outstanding resolutions concerning motion: Securing Herefordshire's Role in the UK and European Defence Industrial Strategy

| Date of meeting | Motion | Current Status |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 25 July 2025 | Securing Herefordshire's Role in the UK and European Defence Industrial Strategy | <p>In summary, since the council meeting at the end of July, we have;</p> <p>Held a meeting of leading defence and security businesses in the county in early September to understand opportunities and barriers to growth.</p> <p>We have drafted and now finalised the Defence and Security Prospectus, which was circulated to these businesses for comment.</p> <p>We have sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Ministry for Business and Trade highlighting local opportunities.</p> <p>We have supported the development of the new West Midlands Regional Defence and Security Cluster (being co-ordinated by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the MoD), ensuring Herefordshire businesses were invited and attended the foundation meeting in early October</p> <p>The Economy and Place Board have commissioned a refresh of the Economic Plan, which again will have a key focus on Defence and Security opportunities</p> <p>We have written to both local MPs and received positive follow-up from Jesse Norman</p> <p>Looking forward,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the county's first inward investment website, with a focus on defence and security, is due to launch in January 2026. We are planning a major presence with partners such as NMITE and local businesses at the SDSC-UK defence trade conference in February. We continue to be in discussions with leading defence and security businesses across the county as to how we can support their growth, including the potential for drone and communication technology test beds (raised as a need by local businesses) We are in discussions with international defence and security businesses interested in locating on the Hereford Enterprise Zone. |

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves to ask the executive to:

- 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.
- 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.
- Call on the Government to support rural areas like Herefordshire by:
 - Prioritising infrastructure upgrades in strategic industrial zones;
 - Establishing an investment support scheme modelled on Enterprise Zones;
 - Fast-tracking planning for clean-tech and defence-linked developments.
- Engage with UK defence primes and SMEs to promote supply chain expansion in the county, particularly for dual-use and green defence technologies.

5. Work with FE and HE providers to align training and apprenticeships with the emerging needs of the UK and European defence sector.
6. Ensure that all defence-linked investment is underpinned by Herefordshire's values of environmental responsibility, ethical governance, and community benefit.