



Title of report: Hereford Western Bypass Phase One – Assessment Criteria - recommendations from Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 30 April 2026

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

Non-key

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To provide Cabinet with the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee on 15 April 2026, concerning phase 1 of the Hereford Bypass. To further provide draft responses to the recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) Cabinet note the recommendations**
- b) Cabinet accept the draft responses to the recommendations attached as Appendix 1 to this report.**

Alternative options

1. Cabinet may choose to reject the recommendations and the suggested responses to the recommendations. This is not recommended, as supporting officers have already stated that they intend to incorporate the suggested recommendations into the assessment criteria used as part of the determination whether to proceed with phase 1 of the Hereford Western Bypass.

Key considerations

2. Earlier this year, Cabinet requested that the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the work taking place to agree the full business case for phase one of the Hereford Bypass.
3. The Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to participate in this work. It decided to scrutinise not only the full business case, but the assessment criteria that Cabinet will use as part of their determination of the full business case for the bypass.
4. The initial work, scrutinising the assessment criteria, took place on 15 April 2026. The committee's recommendations to Cabinet following this work were as follows:
 - a. Move from pass/fail assessments to scored or graded assessments, to ensure more granularity in traffic outcomes, safety outcomes, land acquisition, carbon reduction, woodland mitigation, biodiversity net gain, construction price, social value, affordability, and value for money.
 - b. Widen the criteria for measuring social value to include the distribution of impacts on people in Herefordshire.
 - c. Ensure clearer reporting of project risks, assumptions and uncertainty.
 - d. Ensure the report to Cabinet incorporates high/medium/low growth risk scenarios.
5. Appendix 1 details draft recommended responses to the recommendations from officers.

Community impact

6. There is no direct community impact relating to the recommendations contained in this report.

Environmental impact

7. There is no direct environmental impact relating to the recommendations contained in this report.

Resource implications

8. There are no direct resource implications relating to the recommendations contained in this report. Any additional work arising from these recommendations forms part of the normal business of the council.
9. information within it should be considered exempt from publication.

Legal implications

10. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

Risk management

11. There are no risks associated with consideration of the recommendations in paragraph 4 of this report.

Consultees

12. None

Appendices

None

Background papers

None identified.

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report