



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 24 July 2026

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 Two motions have been received and will be debated at the meeting. The motions for debate are set out below:

Motion 1 – Building a Strategic Partnership between Herefordshire and Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine

(Proposed by Councillor Ed O'Driscoll, Seconded by Councillor tbc)

Council notes that:

1. Herefordshire has demonstrated its solidarity with the people of Ukraine since 2022 through the generosity of residents, voluntary organisations, businesses and public bodies.
2. Ross-on-Wye has signed a Friendship Agreement with the City of Ovruch in Zhytomyr Oblast, Hereford City Council has signed a Friendship Agreement with the City of Zhytomyr and several other Herefordshire communities are exploring similar partnerships.
3. A growing number of English county and unitary authorities have entered into Memoranda of Understanding with Ukrainian regions to foster long-term cooperation in areas including local government, education, culture, economic development, agriculture, healthcare and post-war reconstruction.
4. Zhytomyr Oblast is a natural regional partner for Herefordshire, reflecting shared strengths in rural communities, agriculture, environmental stewardship, heritage, tourism and community resilience.
5. HVOSS, through the Herefordshire Community Network for Ukraine, working in partnership with Herefordshire Council and many voluntary and statutory organisations, has an established and effective county-wide network supporting Ukrainian guests and developing friendship links between communities.

Council believes that:

1. Local government has an important role in fostering international friendship, democratic cooperation and mutual understanding.
2. A county-level Memorandum of Understanding would complement existing town and city friendship agreements by providing a strategic framework for wider collaboration.
3. Such a partnership should deliver mutual benefit through knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, educational links, economic cooperation and support for long-term recovery.
4. HVOSS is well placed to act as the Council's principal voluntary sector delivery partner, coordinating engagement with communities and partner organisations across Herefordshire, having well-established relationships in Ukraine through its staff team, who are themselves guests here from Ukraine and already making introductions and facilitating relationship-building.

Council resolves to request that the Executive:

1. Open discussions with the leadership of Zhytomyr Oblast with a view to developing a Memorandum of Understanding between Herefordshire Council and Zhytomyr Oblast based upon friendship, cooperation, mutual benefit and long-term partnership.
2. Recognise HVOSS, through the Herefordshire Community Network for Ukraine, as the Council's principal voluntary sector delivery partner in supporting the development of the partnership and coordinating engagement with communities, schools, businesses, cultural organisations, higher education, parish and town councils and the voluntary sector across Herefordshire.

3. **Allocate sufficient officer capacity and appropriate financial resources to facilitate the development and implementation of the partnership, including stakeholder engagement, translation and interpretation, exchange visits, partnership development and the pursuit of external funding opportunities.**
4. **Work with Hereford City Council, Ross-on-Wye Town Council and other town and parish councils developing links with communities in Zhytomyr Oblast to create a coherent county-wide partnership that complements existing Friendship Agreements and encourages further civic, educational, cultural and economic cooperation.**
5. **Produce a report within six months setting out the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, implementation plan, governance arrangements, resource requirements, opportunities for external funding and recommendations for the long-term development of the Herefordshire-Zhytomyr Partnership.**

Motion 2 – Securing Food Resilience in Herefordshire

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

Herefordshire is rooted in food production. The county has shown real joined-up, cross-party, cross-sector working and sits at the forefront of agroecological change. But farmers are under massive pressure - they are disproportionately more likely to be severely depressed than in other trades and facing financial hardship with 83,000 farming households in the UK estimated to be experiencing absolute poverty. This is still, to a great extent, hidden in our rural setting, though in our county food bank use has not diminished, with many recipients being working families. The national picture of food production is grim, with extreme weather disrupting growing conditions and the added risk of external supply chains for fuel and farm supplies being disrupted by global events. Herefordshire has the assets and the networks to respond positively to ensure a more secure food system and a county that all ages can make home.

This Council therefore resolves to request that the Executive:

1. **Support Sustainable Food and Farming: to secure food production and access for all in Herefordshire.**
2. **Deliver on the carried forward commitment made in the 25/26 delivery plan for a food resilience strategy drawing on the county's existing assets including the Rural Hub, the Food Alliance, and the Climate Adaptation Plan - and support a Food Partnership that has the institutional weight to enact that strategy.**
3. **Write to Government: Publicly support national measures needed to support both young and old to enter - and stay in - UK farming. Including writing to the Minister for Food Security describing how the 'Basic Income for Farmers' programme would do this here in Herefordshire and proposing our county as a candidate area**

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 currently no outstanding resolutions following the recent publication of executive responses; please access the recent decision containing executive responses through the following link:

[Executive responses to motions.](#)

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