



Title of report: Motions on notice

Meeting: Council

Meeting date: Friday 9 October 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 – Evening Meetings

(Proposed by Councillor David Hitchiner, Seconded by Councillor *tbc*)

Introduction

Statutory Council meetings to which the public have access are held during the normal working day. This limits the ability of members of the public who are in full time employment to attend in person. It is also a discouragement for members of the public who may consider standing for election as they must take time off from their work to attend these meetings.

During the previous administration some Cabinet meetings were held outside Hereford (in Leominster and Ewyas Harold) and on one occasion in the evening. This was discontinued because Covid made it so difficult and it does indicate that making such arrangements is practical.

This motion is intended to be one small step towards opening up meetings to more members of the public and enable younger councillors to come forward for election.

This notice of motion proposes that:

The Executive be asked to consider how practical, and review the cost implications, of holding statutory Council meetings (including Full Council meetings) in the evenings and also in Market Towns and report back to Full Council.

In broad terms the request is that one or two Full Council meetings each year should be held in the evenings and the times and locations of Cabinet meetings shall ensure that at least one third are held at locations other than Hereford (but in Herefordshire) and at least one third are held in the evening.

The times and locations of all meetings of the Planning and Regulatory Committee, Scrutiny Committees and the Audit and Governance Committee be considered by each Committee.

Motion 2 – Agricultural Water Security in Herefordshire

(Proposed by Councillor Ed O'Driscoll, Seconded by Councillor Terry James)

Council notes the significant challenges faced by Herefordshire farmers and growers following the prolonged periods of extreme heat and dry weather this summer, highlighting the importance of reliable access to water for the resilience of our farming sector and the food it produces. Council recognises that increasing on-farm water storage can improve resilience, but that the cost and complexity of planning, regulation and construction can present significant barriers.

Council therefore resolves to request the Executive:

1. Convene a Herefordshire Agricultural Water Security Roundtable, bringing together a representative group of local farmers and growers, the NFU, CLA, Herefordshire Rural Hub, the Environment Agency, water companies and relevant Council services, to identify the principal barriers to improving agricultural water resilience and where the Council and its partners can most effectively assist.
2. Review recent agricultural reservoir and water-storage applications in Herefordshire to

identify unnecessary costs, delays, uncertainty or complexity and learn from schemes which have successfully progressed through the planning system.

3. Explore the creation of a clearly signposted farm-reservoir planning pathway, providing farmers with greater clarity about planning and environmental requirements at an early stage and helping appropriate schemes navigate the process as efficiently as possible.
4. Explore opportunities to reduce the financial barriers faced by farmers developing water-storage schemes, including identifying available national or external funding, grants and support, and considering whether earlier or better coordinated planning advice and other practical assistance could help reduce the costs associated with bringing appropriate schemes forward.
5. Ensure agricultural water resilience informs the emerging Herefordshire Local Plan, taking account of the evidence and recommendations arising from this work.
6. Report the findings and recommendations of this work to Full Council no later than 5 March 2027, including actions that can reasonably be taken locally and any changes which require representations to Government, regulators or other bodies.

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
24 July 2026	Building a Strategic Partnership between Herefordshire and Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine	The Leader of the Council has responded to the Ukrainian Ambassador who had written to him following the council motion. The Leader has indicated that he is exploring how best to build on the strong connections that have already been established with the region. Work on a draft Memorandum of Understanding is underway, including discussions with other local authorities who already have these in place with other regions. Work to develop the specification for the work to be delivered by the voluntary sector to support the development of the partnership is also underway.
RESOLVED: 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.

Date of meeting	Motion	Current Status
24 July 2026	Securing Food Resilience in Herefordshire	A letter has been drafted and will be provided following consultation with Group Leaders.
RESOLVED: 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.		

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