

Agenda

Council

Thursday, 18 January 2018, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Democratic Services on telephone number 01905 846621 or by emailing democraticservices@worcestershire.gov.uk

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Thursday, 18 January 2018, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Agenda and Summons

Councillors: Mrs A T Hingley (Chairman), Mr A A J Adams, Mr R C Adams, Ms P Agar, Mr A T Amos, Mr T Baker-Price, Mr R W Banks, Mr R M Bennett, Mr C J Bloore, Mr G R Brookes, Mrs J A Brunner, Mr B Clayton, Mr P Denham, Ms R L Dent, Mr N Desmond, Mrs E A Eyre, Mr A Fry, Mr S E Geraghty, Mr P Grove, Mr I D Hardiman, Mr A I Hardman, Mr P B Harrison, Mr M J Hart, Ms P A Hill, Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr A J Hopkins, Dr C Hotham, Mr M E Jenkins, Mr A D Kent, Mr R C Lunn, Mr P M McDonald, Mr S M Mackay, Mr L C R Mallett, Ms K J May, Mr P Middlebrough, Mr A P Miller, Mr R J Morris, Mr J A D O'Donnell, Mrs F M Oborski, Ms T L Onslow, Dr K A Pollock, Mrs J A Potter, Prof J W Raine, Mrs M A Rayner, Mr A C Roberts, Mr C Rogers, Mr J H Smith, Mr A Stafford, Ms C M Stalker, Mr C B Taylor, Mr R P Tomlinson, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall, Ms R Vale, Ms S A Webb and Mr T A L Wells

1 Apologies and Declaration of Interests

To receive apologies and invite any councillor to declare any interest in any of the items on the agenda.

2 Public Participation

To allow a member of the public to present a petition, or ask a question relating to the functions of the Council, or to make a comment on any matter on the agenda.

Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case Wednesday, 17 January 2018). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed below.

3 Minutes

To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 November and 7 December 2017 (previously circulated electronically).

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

5 Reports by Cabinet 1 - 10

To consider the reports of the Cabinet and to receive answers to any questions asked on

those reports as follows:

- a) Report of Cabinet – Matters which require a decision by Council (**Yellow pages**); and
- b) Report of Cabinet – Summary of decisions taken (**White pages**).

6 Notices of Motion 11 - 12

To receive the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on any Notices of Motion received by him (**Lilac pages**).

Councillors are asked to note that any Notices of Motion must be received by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services no later than noon on Thursday, 11 January 2018.

7 Report of Cabinet Member with Responsibility 13 - 18

To receive the report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being on current issues and proposed developments within his area of responsibility and to receive answers to any questions on the report (**Green pages**)

8 Annual report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board 19 - 42

To receive the annual report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board and answers to any questions on it (**Grey pages**).

9 Question Time

To receive answers to any questions asked by Councillors (**Orange pages**).

(Members are reminded of the timescale adopted by Council for notice of questions. A Councillor may only ask a question if:

- *It is delivered in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon on Monday 15 January 2018 or*
- *If it relates to urgent business, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is notified at least half an hour before the start of the meeting.)*

10 Reports of Committees 43 - 48

To consider the reports of Committees and to receive answers to any questions asked on those reports as follows:

- a) Audit and Governance Committee – Summary of decisions taken (**White pages**) (To follow);
- b) Pensions Committee (**White pages**); and
- c) Planning and Regulatory Committee (**White pages**).

NOTES

- **Webcasting**

Members of the Council are reminded that meetings of the Council are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

- **Catering Arrangements**

Lunch will be available at 1.00pm or thereabouts in the Lakeview Room. This will be provided for all Councillors, without payment, and for pre-notified guests, who must be paid for in advance. An indication of any guests wishing to take lunch should be given to staff in the Business Support Unit at least three days before the Council meeting.

Agenda produced and published by Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP. The above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk

To obtain further information or a paper copy of this agenda please contact Simon Lewis, Committee Officer by telephone on Worcester (01905) 846621 or slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 10 January 2018

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COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A
DECISION BY COUNCIL**

Churchfields Urban Village Highway Infrastructure Project**Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet recommends the addition of £5.7 million to the Capital Programme with £1.3 million being provisionally secured through Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and developer contribution, with the balance to be secured by Wyre Forest District Council through additional Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP funding and/or Housing Infrastructure funding, for the purpose of completing the Churchfields scheme.**

Background

2. The Council and Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) have deployed resources available to progress the Churchfields Urban Village Highway Infrastructure scheme. Churchfields is a strategically important residential development, located to the north of Kidderminster town centre. Following the launch of the ReWyre Initiative, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) recognised Churchfields as one of a limited number of priority housing locations in the West Midlands. The aim is to recreate a residential community around a host of existing and new community assets.

3. The project seeks to deliver improved access to the "Churchfields Masterplan" area in order to unlock significant housing-led development. It would facilitate the delivery of over 275 dwellings. These homes, forming parts of Phases 2 and 3 of the housing-led urban village masterplan, cannot be progressed without the highway improvements this project would deliver. The purpose of the project is to increase capacity on the highway network to enable the redevelopment of the Churchfields area and provide an improvement scheme for Blackwell Street which improves the air quality within the designated Air Quality Management Area. This in turn enables the potential to regenerate Horsefair Local Centre in line with the Adopted Masterplan and the emerging Local Plan Review.

Business Case and Funding

4. The County Council completed and submitted an Outline Business Case to Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) in March 2017. The overall cost of the scheme is estimated at £5.7 million with the following funding breakdown:

- £4.4 million from GBSLEP and Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- £1.0 million from Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), and

- £324,000 – S106 contribution from Phase 1 of the scheme.

5. Full funding for the scheme is yet to be secured with £4.4 million required from GBSLEP and/or HCA. Worcestershire County Council will support WFDC to identify opportunities to secure the required funding. WFDC has an extant bid with GBSLEP through Local Growth Fund 3 (LGF3) that is currently being developed through the business case. In the meantime funding is being sought from the recent Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Failure to secure the required funding will require further decisions regarding progress of this scheme

6. In September 2017 WFDC submitted a funding bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund for £2.7 million. There is no financial contribution committed from the County Council to deliver this scheme. Any contingent funding risk will rest with the scheme promoter (WFDC). GBSLEP, in August 2017, asked the County Council to submit a draft of the Final Business Case. The Outline Business Case concludes that the economic case is sound and represents high value for money.

7. The Cabinet has approved the project and the submission of a planning application for the project and applications for other relevant consents. It has also supported the commencement of a public engagement and stakeholder management exercise by WFDC with support from the County Council. The Cabinet has approved the acquisition of the land required for the scheme and delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to agree the arrangements in relation to this and to finalise the award of the contract and other necessary agreements for the delivery of the scheme, subject to funding being secured. The Cabinet has supported the work required to secure the funding, noting that no funding is required from the County Council.

8. Whilst recognising the project is funded by other parties, as the project is being delivered by the County Council an addition of £5.7 million to the Capital Programme is now required.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this

report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 14 December 2017.

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COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

2018-19 Draft Budget and Council Tax

1. The Cabinet has considered proposals for the 2018-19 Draft Budget and Council Tax. The report brought together the results of the County Council's strategic financial policy, the detailed budget preparation work taking account of the latest inflation and demographic pressures, the estimated overall funding position from central Government and the overall impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). In planning for next year's budget a revised approach has been adopted with Directors and Cabinet Members working on solutions to live within an agreed "resource allocation" based on an appropriate level of the budget for their services and Corporate Plan priorities.
2. The net expenditure budget for 2018-19 set out a provisional budget requirement of £325.6m and an indicative financial planning gap of £1m. Proposals have been put forward to strengthen the base budget. The impact of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement will be worked into the draft budget with the intention of closing the funding gap in time for the February 2018 budget approval by Council, taking full account of consultation responses and any updates. Looking forward the Council will be more self-sufficient as reliance on central Government for funding will reduce and this continues to be reflected in the MTFP and through the budget proposals. A strong and successful economy producing income, through Council Tax and Business Rates, would enable the Council to sustain the services and investments that Worcestershire residents and businesses want to see.
3. The Cabinet has approved the draft budget for consultation which includes a proposed Transformation and Reforms Programme. It has also endorsed the plan to address a forecast remaining savings requirement of £1m as a result of updating the MTFP together with an investment of £10.5m for Children's Social Care. The Cabinet has delegated authority to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Financial Officer, to manage individual allocations of the Highways Infrastructure Investment Fund within the overall investment sum of £37.5m.
4. The full detail of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released in late December 2017. Any significant updates will be presented at the February 2018 Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet has agreed that it is minded to recommend to Council in February 2018 an increase in Council Tax Precept by 4.94% in relation to: 1.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future' and the priorities identified by the public and business community; and 3% Adult Social Care Precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

Future Provision of Overnight Unit-Based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities

5. The Cabinet has approved proposals to launch a consultation with families, professionals and wider stakeholders on a scheme to redesign the delivery of overnight unit-based short breaks provision for children with disabilities in Worcestershire and in particular to consider the future use of the unit in Ludlow Road, Kidderminster for overnight short break provision. Improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, including those with a special education need and/or disability, is a key priority within the Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2021. As part of a wider review of services for children with disabilities, a review and re-commissioning of short break provision was underway. A Position Statement had been produced to describe and assess the quantity and use of unit-based overnight provision. The Statement had raised a number of questions relating to the commissioning of this provision including value for money and differences in regulation of the four units providing services. In addition, families had indicated that in relation to short break provision they wanted available, accessible, continuous and flexible services, information and guidance and worthwhile respite for both child and parent.

6. The development of the Position Statement has supported a review of all overnight unit-based provision and the development of a proposal to consult on a number of proposed changes to service re-design. The future re-design proposals include: a review of needs of all families currently accessing overnight unit-based provision; ceasing delivery of that provision at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster and providing suitable and alternative provision for existing users, increasing the capacity at Providence Road, Bromsgrove and reviewing the use of Osborne Court, Malvern. The Cabinet has approved consultation with families, professionals and wider stakeholders on this basis and delegated the final decision of the future provision of unit-based overnight provision to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, to be implemented by the Director for Children, Families and Communities.

Fair Funding Consultation Outcomes for 2018-19 and 2019-20 - National and Local Changes to the Funding Arrangements for Schools

7. The Government has made significant changes to the funding formula factors for schools from April 2013 which have had an impact both for schools and central local authority services. The national policy for the Schools and High Needs Blocks Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and other funding matters have been confirmed for 2018-19 and 2019-20. The cost per pupil (the Guaranteed Unit of Funding) for Worcestershire for 2018-19 has been confirmed as £4,264.17. Beyond 2019-20 the DfE had indicated the National Funding Formula (NFF) policy from 2020-21 will be subject to the new Comprehensive Spending Review round. The Council's current Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) for 2017-18 is based upon stability from the 2016-17 local formula. The Council in conjunction with its key partners continues to lobby central Government for a fairer allocation of funding as part of the NFF consultation process.

8. In respect of the proposed formula development for 2018-19 and 2019-20 there was a balance of considerations between the desire for stability given the number and scale of changes since 2012-13 and the desire for a LSFF that could appropriately serve all schools in the county and the impact of the DfE NFF proposals. Taking all the considerations into account the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) concluded that there were effectively only two options of principle to consider:

- Option 1 - retain the current Council LSFF for 2018-19 and 2019-20, whether a more protective Minimum Funding Guarantee was required to support schools and the redistribution of any additional Schools Block DSG as a consequence of NFF
- Option 2 - introduce the NFF as far as was practicable and affordable as the Council LSFF in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

A detailed consultation document was circulated to all interested parties requesting comments on the two options for the LSFF.

9. The Cabinet has considered all the issues including the feedback from the consultation, the involvement of the WSF members and schools during the consultation and the former's views on the LSFF issues for 2018-19 and 2019-20 and other matters. The Cabinet has approved the LSFF for Worcestershire mainstream schools from April 2018 to apply for 2018-19 and 2019-20 to be consultation Option 2 based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the NFF parameters. It has authorised the Director for Children, Families and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility, to make the required submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency by 19 January 2018 for the approved LSFF for 2018-19 taking account of any impact and change on the approved units of resource, Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping arrangements as a consequence of the October 2017 census and other 2017 data changes and the final 2018-19 DSG and similarly for 2019-20 when the timescales are known.

Children's Social Care Services Alternative Delivery Model - Options Appraisal and Model Recommendation

10. Members will be aware that the inadequate Ofsted inspection judgement in January 2017 placed Worcestershire in the category of persistent and systemic failure. The Commissioner's report in September 2017 concluded there was currently insufficient evidence to demonstrate fully that continuing to provide services in-house would deliver and sustain the necessary improvements. This led to a further Statutory Direction which directs that the Council would move those services under direction into an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) and required the Council to carry out an options analysis with an outline recommended model by the end of December 2017.

11. The Council has therefore initiated a programme to analyse, design and implement an ADM for Children's Social Care. The programme consists of Phase 1 to complete an Options Analysis with a recommended form of ADM by 31 December 2017 and Phase 2 is the completion of a Full Business Case on the recommended model of the ADM by 31 March 2018. A 'go-live' target date to implement the preferred ADM was April 2019.

12. The Cabinet has considered the range of ADM configurations available to local authority children's services and the scope of the services for the ADM. It has noted the output of the options analysis into the range of ADMs developed in consultation with the Children's Services Commissioner. Following consideration of the five shortlisted ADMs, the Cabinet has approved the selection of the Wholly Owned Council Company and Strategic Partnership with another Local Authority as the outline recommended models to progress to full business case, each proposed model being subject to the agreement of the Commissioner and Secretary of State. The full business cases of these models

will be received by the Cabinet at its meeting on 29 March 2018 in order to make a decision, subject to ministerial approval, around the ADM form and implementation for Worcestershire.

Transport Hierarchy - Notice of Motion from Council 9 November 2017

13. In November 2017, the Council referred the following motion to Cabinet for determination:

"As the Department for Transport's own research shows, investing in walking and cycling brings huge economic, social and health benefits, with the cost-benefit ratios outperforming highway-only schemes. Increasing investment in walking and cycling not only provides economic benefits, but also huge health benefits by allowing people to be more active, thus reducing levels of obesity and other serious conditions.

The transport hierarchy, which is embedded in the Manual for Streets, the Council's Streetscape Design guide and LTP4 Network Management Plan, states that the design of new roads or improvements to existing roads should consider the needs of pedestrians first, cyclists second, public transport third and other vehicles last.

Taken together it is clear that we should be focusing our efforts as much as possible on investing in improvements to walking and cycling.

The All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group's Get Britain Cycling report proposed creating a cycling budget of at least £10 per person per year, increasing to £20. The national Conservative Party backed the £10 target in 2015 and in September Labour backed the £10 target for walking and cycling.

The Council proposes that the Cabinet should set a budget target of £10 per person per year to be spent on walking and cycling, rising to £20 per person per year by 2025".

14. The Cabinet has acknowledged the importance of walking and cycling to the transport infrastructure of Worcestershire and particularly the potential value that increased active travel has to improving the health and well-being of residents. However, it did not support the specific financial commitment or related escalator set out in the Notice of Motion which was therefore rejected. Expenditure by the Council on cycling and walking project activity identified a budget estimate of £9 per head of population in 2017/18 up from £5 in 2013/14. The Council will continue to commit spend considered appropriate and affordable given the ambitions set out in the Corporate Plan and in the context of the challenges facing the organisation. It will also maintain the commitment made to Active Corridors set out in the Local Transport Plan 4 and ensure Local Planning Authorities make appropriate provision for Active Corridors through the Local Development Plan process.

Balanced Scorecard Performance and Corporate Risk Update

15. The Cabinet has noted the refresh of the Corporate Balanced Scorecard to reflect the new Corporate Plan. It has received the latest update of the Corporate Balanced Scorecard for Quarter Two 2017/18. Currently there are 73 indicators reported in the Scorecard - 25 of these are rated 'green' representing good performance or progress and 9 are rated as 'red'. 5 of those indicators rated 'red' have had a performance update in Quarter Two 2017/18 and actions are being taken to improve their performance.

16. The Corporate Risk Register provides a mechanism for collating and reporting risks that could affect the delivery of corporate objectives. The Cabinet has considered an overview of risks identified at the end of Quarter Two 2017/18 including more detail about the highest risks. It has noted the latest refresh of the Corporate Risk Register including actions to mitigate the two risk areas that are rated 'red'.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 14 December 2017.

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COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he has received the following Notice of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

Notice of Motion 1 – Transition support for young people leaving care in Worcestershire**3. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**

4. Notice of Motion standing in the names of: Mr T Baker-Price, Ms S A Webb, Mr A Stafford, and Mrs J A Potter.

"This Council recognises the challenges young people face transitioning out of the care system into adulthood. Research from The Centre for Social Justice found that 57% of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt when leaving care.

This Council aspires to champion the children and young people in its care, enabling them to have the best possible outcomes. To improve outcomes for Care leavers this Council believes the cliff edge of the current council tax system needs to be reformed to help Worcestershire's young people transition into an independent and successful adult life.

This Council believes care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils for the first time, requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.

This Council resolves to underline its commitment to corporate parenting and improving outcomes and requests Worcestershire's six council tax billing

authorities to support the transition of care leavers who become council tax payers by:

1. Reducing their net liability for council tax under the national scheme and after council tax support to zero, until the care leaver's 21st birthday.
2. Introducing a transitional discretionary discount scheme to enable a reduction of liability for council tax up to and including zero from their 21st birthday until the care leaver's 25th birthday."

Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY**

Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being

1. I would like to thank Council for this latest opportunity to report on matters relating to health and well-being. The last report on this was presented to Council in January 2016, and the period since then has been a busy one.
2. In July 2016, a new Public Health Directorate was formed, led by the Director of Public Health. This separation from the former Directorate of Adult Services and Health has enabled clearer focus on my priority to effectively deliver the Council's duties to improve the health and well-being of all our residents, paying due regard to narrowing health inequalities.
3. We continue to work in a challenging environment. The health of our population continues to be good in the most general terms, but there are significant variations within the population. Pressures on our services come from rising need, and in the context of limited finances. Our response has to be to work more strongly in partnership with others across the health and care system, and also to retain a clear investment in evidence-based prevention.

Health and Well-being Board (HWBB)

4. I am the Chairman of the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB) which continues to lead efforts to improve health and well-being and to integrate health and social care services, including agreement and oversight of the Better Care Fund. The HWBB includes Cabinet Members for Health and Well-being, Adult Social Care, and Children's Services; the Chief Executive, Directors of Public Health, Adults Services, and Children, Families and Communities; the Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCG) Accountable Officers and Clinical Leads; elected members from the District Councils; West Mercia Police; the Voluntary and Community Sector; HealthWatch; NHS England and a representative of Housing Authorities. The Board has three sub-groups: the Health Improvement Group; the Health Protection Group; and the Children and Families Strategic Group. Each Group has membership from relevant partner organisations and there is strong engagement. Membership of Groups and the Board is reviewed on a regular basis and the invitation to the representative of Housing Authorities to the Board is the most recent change. I continue to keep membership under review.
5. The Board has an active programme of work. It meets in public quarterly; holds private development sessions; and leads public stakeholder events. The stakeholder events have been a useful way to work with partners to build a shared understanding of some of the main challenges to health, and all have been well-attended and focused on increasing knowledge and taking action. Recent topics have included: reducing the harm from alcohol; mental health and well-being; and social prescribing.

6. The Board receives updates on work to improve outcomes in its three priority areas:

- improving mental health and wellbeing
- increasing physical activity, and
- reducing the harm caused by alcohol.

7. Each of these priority areas relates to major causes of avoidable ill health and premature death, and is linked to outcome data suggesting a worsening situation, and/or one which is worse than would be expected for Worcestershire. I have been glad to see that a great deal of work is going on across the county to address these areas, and I have noted that the return on this work may not be seen for some time. I have been particularly interested in the work going on in Districts, which underlines how important it is for all our partners to consider the health impact of their work.

8. The Board receives an annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), prepared by the Public Health Directorate. This is a very full report, bringing together a great deal of data to describe the health of our residents and highlight priorities for commissioners in the future. This report has allowed us to understand where we can best work together, and the need to target our resources at those areas and communities where outcomes are the poorest.

9. From this year's JSNA, key areas of note were:

- The population in Worcestershire is generally healthy compared to England. However, health inequalities remain and there are significant pockets of ill-health
- Local data shows that our most affluent Districts (Bromsgrove, Wychavon and Malvern Hills) on average experience the longest life expectancy, and the greatest proportion of life spent in good health
- A focus needs to be placed on more deprived populations to reduce inequalities in healthy life expectancy. Finding new ways to tackle lifestyle issues is essential – the majority of the population are now over-weight or obese, many are physically inactive, smoke, and/or drink too much. Diseases linked to these lifestyles such as stroke, coronary heart disease and diabetes are predicted to rise significantly in future years and this will bring significant new demands across health and social care
- Some data about children shows below average outcomes, including: excess weight in reception-age children; breast-feeding initiation and school readiness among children who qualify for free school meals
- There is a narrowing gap in key indicators between Worcestershire and England – we must ensure that Worcestershire remains significantly better than England for indicators such as cardiovascular disease and cancer mortality, and
- Other specific emerging issues being monitored and reviewed in more detail include infant mortality rates, drug misuse deaths, violent crime, homelessness and autistic spectrum disorder.

10. The HWB has received regular updates on the use of our Better Care Fund (BCF), and expenditure is agreed with our Clinical Commissioning Groups. The fund is used to promote service integration to improve outcomes and examples of recent work include the opening of the Worcestershire Step-down Unit, and recruiting Social Workers on

Acute wards to improve Patient Flow. This has also improved the Acute hospital delays by more than half since 2015.

11. The HWBB remains committed to co-producing services with users and carers, and has demonstrated this through development of its Autism Strategy, a Carers' Strategy and a Learning Disabilities Strategy. The Board has continued to receive updates on progress of these on an annual basis, and I have been glad to hear some positive feedback from service users who have addressed the Board.

12. We have seen some significant changes to our local health services in the last few years, in particular in the siting of emergency surgery, maternity and children's services. These changes were essential in order to protect patient safety, but I am very aware that major improvement challenges remain. I regularly invite the chief executive of the Acute Hospitals Trust to discuss improvement plans at the HWBB Board and I also make sure that the Chairman of HOSC can participate there too.

13. We have recommissioned the HealthWatch service in the last two years, and the service stayed with the same provider. I have been glad to ensure that HealthWatch are active contributors to the work of the HWBB.

Health Protection

14. The Council has a duty to seek assurance that arrangements are in place to protect the health of the public from communicable diseases and other threats. This assurance role means that officers are involved in oversight of performance of services such as vaccination and immunisation; and screening. This performance is reported to the HWBB Health Protection sub-group, which also receives reports on preparedness and response arrangements for health and other emergencies and on arrangements for testing our plans.

15. Overall, uptake of immunisation and screening programmes is in line with or slightly above national averages, and I have taken a particular interest in increasing the flu immunisation rates which play such an important part in reducing the pressures on people and systems during the winter months. We are in discussion with colleagues from NHS England and the CCGs about how best to promote higher uptake in those areas where it is lowest, and about how to improve our overall performance to being amongst the best. I am keen to make sure that we have a good understanding of variation across the County, and to advocate for improved performance in areas with lowest coverage.

Community Safety

16. I am responsible for the delivery of the Council's duty under Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to exercise its functions with due regard to, and do what it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behavior, the misuse of drugs and alcohol and reduce offending. I attend the Safer Communities Board which takes a leadership and strategic role for oversight of partnership community safety activity and delivery against a range of actions through its annual Community Safety Agreement. I regularly attend both the North and South Community Safety Partnerships which are responsible for the delivery of local community safety objectives, and this provides me with a good oversight of the partnership working between District Councils and statutory partners. Additionally, I meet with the Chairs of both Adults' and Childrens' Safeguarding Boards

and the Safer Communities Board on a regular basis to ensure close co-operation on our respective business plans. The Director of Public Health has corporate responsibilities for the Council's community safety role so I am well briefed on this portfolio. Our teams support the key governance and operational groups that focus on community safety priorities across the county.

17. We continue to support the Childrens' Safeguarding Board focus on the challenges of domestic abuse as it affects children and young people, we have led on Domestic Homicide Reviews, completed very successful promotions of the annual 16 days of action against domestic abuse and supported the Police Crime Commioner's (PCC) bid to the Home Office for a programme to work with domestic abuse perpetrators. There has in particular been further strengthening of our work under Prevent to challenge the risks of radicalisation and we have county wide plans in place to work with the police and partners to join up this work. We have reported to both Safeguarding Boards on progress with Prevent work and how the Channel Panel has managed its referrals. This has also involved briefing members on Prevent work and we have just launched a new awareness raising programme for all council staff on their Prevent responsibilities. We work very closely across the system, and in particular with the PCC, supporting his work with victims of crime, reducing offending, tackling cyber-crime and securing opportunities for joint commissioning. The team also supports the work of members and the operation of the Police and Crime Panel which scrutinises the PCC and his strategic plan delivery.

18. Annual community safety reports are presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, with the latest being in September 2017. These reports setting out full details of the work of the Council and its key partners.

Prevention

19. The Council has identified the importance of prevention in ensuring the best possible future for all our residents. We have agreed that our approach should be based on: developing healthy public policy; encouraging and enabling individuals, families and communities to take greater responsibility for their health and well-being; and commissioning effective prevention services.

20. We have made progress in all of these areas. For example, to develop healthy public policy we have produced a Supplementary Planning document to ensure that health impact assessment will underpin development in the County; created a Health Impact Assessment Toolkit; and promoted the consideration of the health consequences of licensing applications.

21. To encourage people to take greater personal responsibility for their own health, we have made significant progress in the wider availability of good information, tailored to meet the needs of those who can experience difficulty in finding this. We have further developed the Your Life Your Choice website as an excellent source of information; strengthened the role of libraries in information giving; and significantly increased access to training in the use of the internet, creating new venues and a network of digital volunteers. Through the Go On Worcestershire partnership, for example, from September 2015 to September 2017 we supported over 11,800 digitally excluded residents to use the internet. We have also promoted Health Walks, currently 256 volunteer walk leaders support 38 walks a week across the county. We have further matured volunteer health champions, including promoting the uptake of training as Dementia Friends. We now have 17,606 Dementia Friends in Worcestershire, nine

Local Dementia Action Alliances and two more in development. We have worked with the Diocese of Worcester to support the development of Dementia Friendly churches, and have collaborated with our health champions to deliver a range of public facing communications campaigns throughout the year, including the Public Health England One You campaign, which has evaluated well

22. In commissioning effective prevention services we have had to use resources wisely. The Public Health Ring-fenced Grant (PHRFG) has been reduced and in 2015 Cabinet, following consultations, we made hard decisions about a reprioritisation of spend. For example, there have been reductions to spend on drug and alcohol services; smoking cessation services; sexual health services; and services for public health nursing. I have made sure that the performance and outcomes of these services are closely monitored by our staff, so that the impact of innovation and service redesign is well understood. I can report that there has been no evidence that reductions in spend have resulted in reduced outcomes. Indeed, in some areas, such as drug and alcohol services, there are further signs of improvement for service users achieving abstinence and completing treatment in Worcestershire. This has increased above the national average for England for the first time in many years. The Service was subject to Scrutiny from HOSC earlier this year who made positive recommendations about its effectiveness. We have reached large numbers of residents through our prevention services. For example, 748 have attended strength and balance classes in 2016-7; 2,458 have attended specialist drug and alcohol services; 146 have attended behaviour change services in disadvantaged areas; 18,105 have received an NHS health check; and there were 11,102 attendances at Sexual Health clinics in 2016/17. Our universal prevention services are comprehensive: for example, in 2016/17 over 11,000 children from Reception and Year 6 were weighed and measured, representing 97% of the cohort, which is above the national performance average for measurements; and our post-natal developmental reviews also exceeded national performance figures.

23. In this reporting period we have recommissioned some of these services so that they are more strongly focused on prevention and on targeting people with the greatest needs. For example, in the school nursing service we have introduced targeted health reviews in Reception year for some schools located in more disadvantaged areas and extended "Time 4U" drop in sessions in some High Schools. In sexual health services we have enhanced the range of digital advice, support and on-line testing services and identified additional sexual health nursing outreach for targeted vulnerable groups. The introduction of a telephone advice service and clearer skill mix in health visiting services has meant that experienced Health Visitors have been able to provide more intensive home visiting support for those families in need whilst better utilising nursery nurses to undertake some of the routine universal health reviews for other families. We have sought innovation too and an example is our work with the pregnancy stop smoking service, where we have been piloting an additional and hard hitting intervention for women still smoking during their dating scan which is seeing promising results.

Working with the NHS

24. We are continuing to work closely with health colleagues across the system, and to seek to integrate health and care services where this can bring an improvement for patients, for example through integrated neighbourhood teams. During the last two years we have collaborated strategically on the production of a Sustainability and Transformation Plan, contributing data and intelligence to an understanding of priorities,

and bringing discussion of the plans to the HWB Board. I have recently supported invitations to an all-member briefing on STPs, and look forward to good attendance.

Finally

25. I would like to thank the Director of Public Health for her hard work and all the Public Health staff for their support in the face of significant pressures, as well as my Cabinet colleague Cllr Adrian Hardman with whom I work closely.

Cllr John Smith OBE

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being

COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD**

Recommendation

- 1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the Council receives the annual report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board for 2017.**
2. The Council will be asked to receive this report and to receive answers to any questions on it.

Supporting Information

Appendix - Annual report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board for 2017.

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017

January 2018

www.worcestershire.gov.uk



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Foreword

I am grateful to the Council for the opportunity to present the 2017 Scrutiny Annual Report. I do so as the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) since May 2017 and thus would like to pay special tribute to those members of the OSPB who contributed and participated in the work of the Board up until May 2017 and are no longer Members of the Board.

I would also like to pay a special thanks to the previous Chairman, Richard Udall for his time and patience in supporting me taking over the role and his willingness to share his experiences and insight. Richard was and continues to be a compelling advocate for role of Scrutiny and I know the entire Board thank him for his stewardship over the previous four years. Tom Wells was a dedicated Member of the OSPB and Chairman of the Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Tom was able to offer personal experience and was articulate in describing the challenges facing his Panel. I would like to thank Tom for his service.

It is my strong belief that there has never been a more important time for our Scrutiny functions. We are currently in the middle of a difficult and a challenging Budget process that will set the priorities and direction for this Council in the years to come. It is vital that our Scrutiny Panels rise to the challenge to ensure that decisions are being taken that are in the best interests of the residents we serve. We must never duck asking the difficult questions to Cabinet Members and Officers. The Public expects us to leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of policies that always put the best interests of the Public at the heart of decision making.

This shouldn't be reserved to simply 'in house services' but those that are commissioned by us to provide services to the Public. Ensuring the 'quality assurance' of these services to our residents is and will continue to be one of the most challenging aspects of Scrutiny work.

To do this, we must ensure that all Councillors play a role in Scrutiny and are able to use their experiences and expertise to the fullest to shape and affect our work. With this in mind, I am working with the Board and Officers to improve Councillor's access to key information such as performance data.

I would like to thank all Scrutiny Members and the Board for their hard work and commitment over the last twelve months including those Members who have been appointed as Cabinet Members. I would also like to welcome those new Members to the Board.

This Report highlights some of the key work undertaken over the past twelve months, but is not exhaustive and I would be happy to provide or seek any further detail or information that Members feel they would like.

None of this work could be achieved without the dedication and diligence of the Scrutiny Team. We are fortunate to be blessed with Officers that continue to go the extra mile on behalf of Members and ultimately the Public. They are a credit to our organisation and I would like to express our deepest thanks for all that they do.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice-Chairman Liz Eyre. Liz has offered invaluable insight into the working of the Council and has been a pleasure to work with since I took on the role in May. We are both dedicated to improving our Scrutiny functions and further involving Members. Whilst we are making progress we are acutely aware we have much more to do and I look forward to the challenges ahead.



Councillor Chris Bloore
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Introduction

This Report highlights some of the key pieces of work from the past year. The complete Work Programme can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

The remits of all the Scrutiny bodies and their memberships can be found at **Appendices 2 and 3** and **Appendix 4** shows activity data.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB)

The OSPB has considered a range of issues in 2017. These have included strategic Council-wide matters, such as Equalities and Diversity, the work the Council Working Group and a discussion with the Leader about the approach to the Budget for 2018-19 and Scrutiny's role in this.

The Board also met with the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to consider his proposals for taking on the governance of the fire service. The Board submitted its comments to Council when it considered the proposals as a statutory consultee. In fulfilling its role to co-ordinate the Scrutiny function, the Board has agreed Scrutiny Reports on the 2017/18 Budget, Commissioning: Staff Terms and Conditions, the Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service and an Update Report on Footways.

Induction

As part of reviewing progress of the Council Working Group in March, the OSPB recommended that Member training should include a general session for all Members to gain awareness of Scrutiny and a session focussing on Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

Appropriate training was delivered by Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) as part of the Induction process following the County Council elections. The sessions were well attended and feedback from participants was positive. Practice from the training has been adopted in the way we work. For example, Panels now hold a briefing session prior to meetings to run through lines of enquiry and agree the approach to specific items. This has helped keep meetings focussed.

Scrutiny Annual Work Programme for 2017/18

Last year, the Board's had consulted extensively on the Annual Work Programme for 2016/17 and proposals from last year were considered alongside those from Councillors this year. The Work Programme was drawn up following consideration by each Panel individually, so that their individual priorities could be taken into account.

Call-in

The Board considered one Call-in in December this year.

A Call-in is essentially one of the tools available to non-executive Councillors to hold the Executive to account for the decisions that they take, Call-in is not a process to question the merits of a decision, it is a process to ensure that the principles of good decision making have been applied to the decisions that have been taken by Cabinet.

The Call-in related to the Engagement on Options for Future Delivery of Connect Short Term Service and Council-Provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability.

The Board accepted the decision of the Cabinet on this, but arising from this discussion the Director of Adult Services agreed to include Group Leaders in the engagement process.

Community Safety

The Board's Lead Member for Community Safety, Paul Middlebrough led the Board in its Annual Crime and Disorder meeting to consider community safety issues.

The Board considered the County Council's role, with partners, in relation to:

- Prevent/Cohesion
- Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking
- Cyber Crime
- Sexual Violence

The Board supported the suggestion that community safety issues could be considered during the year, possibly at specific Panel meetings, depending on the nature of the topic discussed.

Budget 2018/19

At its meeting in October, the Board discussed its approach to Scrutiny of the 2018/19 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan with the Leader of the Council. The Leader outlined a different approach to this and the Board modified its approach from that taken in previous years. In November, each Panel reviewed the Budget for 2017/18 including progress of planned savings to establish the background for further Scrutiny during January of proposals in the draft Budget.

Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Supported Employment for People with Learning Disabilities

The Panel has considered employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. In March the Panel learned that within Worcestershire there were 1276 eligible service users, and 53 referrals since May 2013. At the start of the new service, 5.55% of people were in paid employment (68 people in paid work). The last published figure gave 6.40% people in paid employment (81 people in paid work). This was pleasing, although the culture shift to the new service would take time. The target set for year ending 2017/2018 was to reach 128 people in paid employment.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

The Panel welcomed the Independent Chairman and Board Manager to its September meeting and considered the Board's Annual Report 2016/17 and the activities of the Board.

Arising from this item the Panel suggested to the Cabinet Member that more information for the public about Power of Attorney might be helpful as there appeared to be a general lack of awareness about this. It also suggested that a nominal training budget for the Board would be helpful in supporting its work.

Social Work with Adults: Strengths Based Approach

The Panel has discussed this topic on two occasions this year and has been impressed with the concept and the enthusiasm which was displayed by two social workers who attended the Panel meeting in September to report on progress with the pilots of the "three conversation" model.

The overall aim of this approach is to reduce the number of multiple contacts made to social workers. This had led to delays in the time taken to see clients and a reliance on some services which could be avoided with earlier support. In September the Panel learned that the pilots were showing a positive impact in terms of increasing or maintaining independence and empowering social workers in their role. The Panel will keep updated on progress with this.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Support for Children with Disabilities During Transition to Adulthood

The Panel met with the Adult Care and Well Being Panel to consider arrangements for children with disabilities when they transfer between Children's and Adult services.

The Panels heard that generally arrangements were made early and enabled a planned transfer. However, in order to decide whether any further scrutiny is necessary, the lead Scrutiny Members for Adult Services and Children and Families, are carrying out some further work to understand more about the Council's support to young people with disabilities as they make the transition to adulthood. Feedback from service users and their families so far has been very positive, and one area being followed up is to look at experiences of those in mainstream schools.

Service Improvement Plan and Alternative Delivery Model

On 24 January 2017, Ofsted published their report entitled 'Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board'. The overall judgement for Worcestershire was 'inadequate', which was disappointing and un-satisfactory for the children and young people of Worcestershire and everyone involved in supporting those services.

The Panel considered the Ofsted Report and its implications for Scrutiny at a meeting a few days after publication, in January 2017. One of the recommendations from this Meeting, that Corporate Parenting training should be mandatory for all Councillors, was implemented following the May County Council Elections.

The main focus for the Panel since this Ofsted judgement has been Scrutiny of the Service Improvement Plan. The Panel has held, and will continue to hold, additional meetings in order to carry out its role effectively which includes the consideration of feedback from Ofsted monitoring visits at regular intervals.

In addition, the Panel has participated in a learning event supported by the Local Government Association (LGA), with representatives from the Corporate Parenting Board, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, to clarify the roles of each body and establish how they can work effectively. As part of this the Panel considered its Work Plan for the year and identified ways in which this could be achieved outside formal Panel meetings, to maximise its capacity.

The other main item that has occupied the Panel is the proposals for an Alternative Delivery Model for Children's Services. The Panel has been involved in pre-scrutinising the proposals considered by Cabinet in December and at its suggestion a briefing for all Councillors was arranged to explain the outcome of the options appraisal prior to consideration by the Cabinet. The Panel has a key role to play in enabling the input by non-Cabinet Members to the development of the options prior to the deadline for submission of the proposals at the end of March 2018.

Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan 2017-2021

The Panel considered the draft Children and Young People's Plan prior to this being agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and Council.

The Panel considered the Plan to be good but was concerned that partners were committed to supporting its delivery. This concern was reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board when it signed off the final draft for recommendation through to Council.

Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17

The Panel considered the Annual Report of the Board for 2016/17.

The Board had achieved a number of objectives during the year, including an updated framework for a Whole School Approach to Healthy Relationships and a refreshed Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy.

Throughout the year, the Board received updates on the move to create a single 'family front door' to manage all contacts and referrals to Children's Social Care. Following their Inspection in October 2016, Ofsted inspectors expressed concern that referring agencies were not routinely using the Levels of Need (Thresholds) Guidance leading to a high volume of inappropriate referrals and thresholds were not always being applied consistently during the daily triage process. The Board was already aware that the Levels of Need (Thresholds) guidance did not adequately address the early help pathway and that this was a gap. The Levels of Need (Thresholds) Guidance has since been significantly redrafted and would be reviewed again during 2017/18 to reflect the early help pathway when approved by the Board.

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Place Partnership

The Panel has received an update about how the relationship with Place Partnership Ltd (PPL) is developing.

The Partnership provides estate management services to each of the organisations which are shareholders in the Company including the County Council. The Panel examined the way in which the company provided services on a day to day basis. It noted that savings of £3.6m had been achieved so far and heard how the Company operated on a day to day basis. It recommended that Members were informed of work planned for Council buildings in their divisions so they in turn could inform residents.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Local Transport Plan 4

In January, the Panel considered the content and consultation arrangements for the draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). Overall, the Panel was broadly content and supportive of the strategies and schemes set out in the draft LTP4 document, aside from some queries about how long implementation would take.

Highways Development Management Processes – sections 278 and 106

The Panel has considered an update on improvements to the Development Control Process related to developer funded infrastructure. The main aims of the discussion were to understand:-

- How to get developer-funded Highways Infrastructure built quicker for the benefit of residents and road users
- How can Network Control help ensure the planning conditions imposed on developers to build certain highways infrastructure by certain key times (i.e. before the houses are occupied) are met?
- How will Highway Liaison Engineers help Councillors be informed and involved with major developer-funded highways infrastructure in their division at planning stage, and once planning has been approved?

The overview followed Member aspirations to speed up highways development management processes and the Panel considered that Officers had demonstrated progress with this. However, the Panel did ask for some further information including updates on implementation of the 10 point plan where a number of outcomes are due for completion in 2018-19.

Delivery for Cycling

In January 2017, as part of the Consultation process, the Panel discussed the Local Transport Plan 4. At the time, the Panel made some comments in relation to cycling and this item sought to follow up and find out more detail about provision of facilities.

Encouraging cycling supports priorities in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is estimated to boost the Worcestershire economy by £5m per year.

The Panel was surprised that currently there was no specific budget for cycling in the Council plan. Provision for cycling facilities was usually met via bids for specific grant funding. It was agreed to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board that it should request that a specific amount should be included in the 2017/18 financial year for cycling and that a budget for cycle way improvements be ring fenced for future years to ensure continued focus on this.

Footways

At its October meeting, the Panel followed up on recommendations made by the Footways Scrutiny Task Group in early 2017.

The Panel asked about progress with the Guidance on Well Managed Highways Infrastructure and was informed that Officers were working with regional colleagues on this. The Panel would be provided with a further update in due course.

The Service had received an additional £6m funding, but the Panel considered that whilst the Service was generally operating well, further work could be done to assess whether the County Council was obtaining best value for money in its current arrangements for footway repairs and construction.

Broadband

The Panel looked the Broadband Programme including progress with Contract 2 (to increase the number of premises with access to superfast Broadband speeds by September 2017), communications to residents and value for money.

Panel Members raised queries concerning people who did not know when they would have access to superfast Broadband, for example, those trying to sell their homes. Officers will look at the possibility of providing details to local Members about where the rollout is planned to take place before December 2018. The Panel considered that the programme has been successful but asked that Local Members are kept informed about progress in their divisions. Local Members also have a part to play in encouraging the take up of self-help schemes.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

Review of Acute Hospital Services

The Committee has been involved at regular intervals in scrutinising the progress of the Review of Acute Hospital Services since this began in 2012. The final decision was made by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) in July 2017.

One of the main concerns expressed during the Consultation related to transport to the main hospital sites and this was addressed in the final proposals. It was noted that a Department of Transport bid had been submitted to establish a community transport option, which would be based on Home to Hospital and possibly become more integrated to include other appointments.

The Committee was pleased to note that a capital sum of £29.6m had been agreed for works to improve the capacity at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital site. However, it was disappointed to learn that this was subject to completion of a business case as it supported the Trust's aim to complete the building works by 2020.

The Committee continues to receive updates on the implementation of the proposals.

Quality of Acute Hospital Services

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) issued a Section 29 Notice to the Acute Trust in January 2017. This is a statutory warning notice issued when significant improvement is required in an NHS trust and a simple warning is not enough.

The Committee has received details of, and updates on, the implementation of the Trust's Improvement Plan. Progress has been achieved in some areas, such as dealing with fractured neck of femur. However, issues remain and the Committee will continue to receive updates.

Cancer Services Update

The Committee followed up a previous review of proposals to change how cancer services are provided to find out how the services are operating currently.

Scrutiny Task Groups

Commissioning: Staff Terms and Conditions

This Scrutiny looked at how the Council ensures that those it commissions from are fair employers. The Task Group is reported in January 2017 and the report was considered by Cabinet in February 2017.

Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service

This Scrutiny investigated how the County Council, with partners, is developing prevention and recovery approach and an effective service to help reduce drug and alcohol misuse. It is also investigated how effectively the Council is working with other agencies to improve the help and advice provided to addicts and their families. The Task Group reported in January 2017 and its Report was considered at Cabinet in February 2017.

APPENDIX 1 - Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board	
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan • Call-ins • Panel/Committee Updates • Leader of Council Q&A • Crime and Disorder Annual meeting • Budget Scrutiny Process
Transitions	<p>On 21 June a joint meeting of the Adult Care and Well-being O&S Panel and the Children and Families O&S Panel was held to discuss issues relating to the transition between Children's and Adult Services. Following the meeting, Members expressed an interest in setting up a scrutiny task group to investigate further. The Chairmen of both Panels have met with Officers to start the scoping process.</p>

Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	
1.	Three Conversation model (new model for social work)
2.	Outcome-based Commissioning – homecare and care providers
3.	Staffing – sickness, recruitment, retention and agency spend
4.	Isolation (including social isolation)
5.	Prevention work and its success in keeping people independent – possible task group
6.	<p>Technology in Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of successful IT across the health and care sector with a view to showing success against: - supporting people to stay at home, promoting independence, increasing quality of life, reducing the cost of care and protecting personal dignity. • The claim is always that IT increases the potential for loneliness, is this correct?
Standing item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management • Quality Assurance • Safeguarding • Budget Scrutiny Process

Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	
	<p>The main focus of the Panel's work is to follow up to the Ofsted report and the implementation of the Service Improvement Plan, and this will be a standing item on all agendas. In this context, Panel Members have highlighted the following particular concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workload of social workers (including travel time and key workers); and • The need to consider comparative figures in relation to performance of agency staff, recruitment and retention, and caseloads.
1.	<p>Vulnerable Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child employment and labour • Education at home
2.	<p>0-19 Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's centres
3.	<p>Alternative Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Referral Units • Review of current provision of service and how it is delivered • Babcock Prime • Migrant Children
4.	<p>The performance of Babcock Prime (with a particular focus on performance at KS2)</p>
5.	<p>Assistive Technology</p>
Standing item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management • Quality Assurance • Safeguarding • Budget Scrutiny Process

Corporate & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	
1.	Worcestershire County Council - Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability of the Place Partnership • How do we use our property? • Review of capital monies and property
2.	Worcestershire County Council Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What future skills/roles does the Council need? • What skills gap exists? • Does WCC pay and reward effectively? • Does WCC have a strong succession management system? • Does WCC recruit the required talent and behaviour? • Do WCC Managers support a performance driven culture based on achieving the best outcomes for the people of Worcestershire? • Are the corporate values embedded across the organisation?
3.	What can Worcestershire County Council do to maximise income generation?
4.	How can Worcestershire County Council support Local Business? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can Worcestershire County Council use Social Value Act to procure services locally?
5.	Culture: How can we utilise the Culture of Worcestershire to maximise the benefit to the County? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of cultural offering and how it can be improved • Role of Council and partners • Funding opportunities – are they being utilised?
6.	Councillor IT
7.	Information sharing with District Councils
8.	Road safety (particularly around schools)
9.	Commissioning – How do we manage and ensure value for money and quality service?
10.	Communications – How do we ensure residents have easy access and we communicate service levels? WCC brand and the postal service
11.	The Council's role in post-Brexit subsidy mechanisms for rural activities.
Standing item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management • Quality Assurance • Budget Scrutiny Process

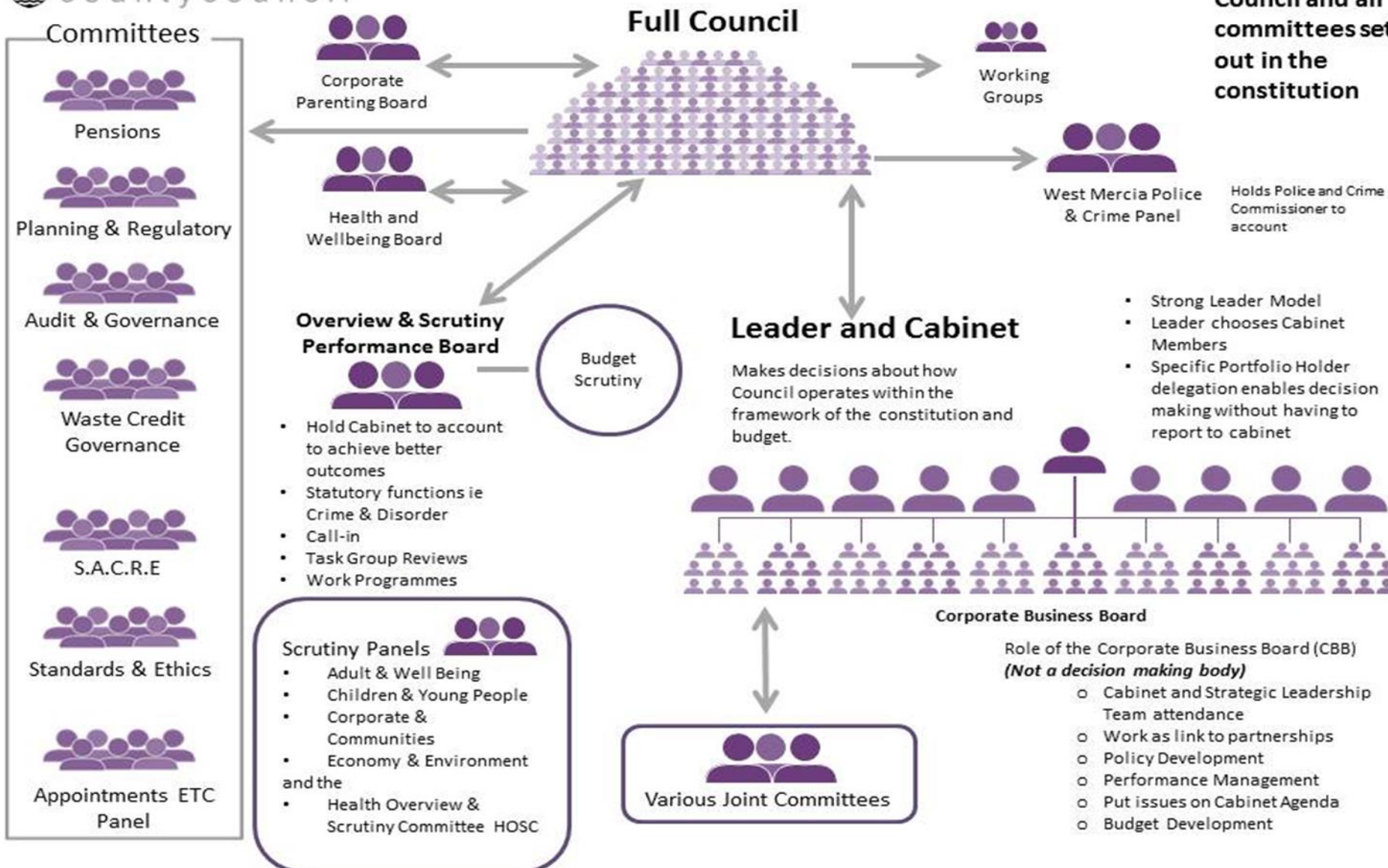
Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	
1.	Highways development control – improving joined-up working and include Highway's Engineers capacity (task group?)
2.	Footways – update on implementation of recommendations agreed from the interim scrutiny report (mini review)
3.	Cycle paths – how to improve getting around the county
4.	Local Transport Plan 4 – how plans are implemented
5.	Annual review of the Worcestershire LEP's contribution to all sectors of Worcestershire's economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability, remit, resources and performance • Relationship with partners • Agriculture and Tourism economies
6.	How to improve getting around the County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion • Roadwork's • Cycle Paths, footways, footpaths and bridle paths • Public transport • Transport and access to hospitals • Buses (task group?)
7.	Cleaning programme for gulleys and drains (mini review)
8.	Asset management – incorporating lessons learned from Evesham's Abbey Bridge
9.	Budget scrutiny (mini task group of panel Members)
10.	Flood risk management
11.	Broadband update
12.	Transport and Access to hospitals
13.	Relationship with Highways England
14.	Residents zonal parking schemes and additional car parks
Standing item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management • Quality Assurance • Budget Scrutiny Process

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	
1.	Implementation of the clinical model for the future of acute hospital services in Worcestershire – checking implementation and impacts
2.	Sustainability Transformation Plan (Partnership) – overview and continue to receive updates and check proposals arising from this
3.	Community hospitals and minor injuries units – roles of these and plans for the future
4.	Quality of acute hospital services – continue to be updated and check the implementation and impact of action being taken
4.	Mental Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Adults – review following implementation of new ways of working as outlined in the briefing to HOSC Members in August 2017 • Children including child and adolescent services - update
5.	Ambulance Services update
6.	Cancer Services – update since last discussion in 2015
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial Variation considerations • Quality Accounts

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Governance Model

Role of Full Council and all committees set out in the constitution



APPENDIX 3 – Membership

Overview & Scrutiny Performance Board

Chris Bloore - Chairman
Liz Eyre - Vice-Chairman
Alastair Adams - Economy and Environment
Juliet Brunner - Adult Care and Well Being
Paul Middlebrough - Crime and Disorder Lead Member
Fran Oborski - Children and Families
Kit Taylor - Corporate and Communities
Paul Tuthill - Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Adult Care and Well Being O&S Panel

Juliet Brunner - Chairman
Liz Tucker- Vice-Chairman
Rob Adams
Tom Baker-Price
Andy Fry
Phil Grove
Paul Harrison
Pattie Hill
Shirley Webb

Children and Families O&S Panel

Fran Oborski - Chairman
Jane Potter– Vice Chairman
Pat Agar
Bob Banks
Rita Dent
Pattie Hill
Steve Mackay
Tracey Onslow
Shirley Webb
Bryan Allbut – Church of England rep
Charmian Richardson – Parent Governor

Economy and Environment O&S Panel

Alastair Adams - Chairman
Paul Denham – Vice Chairman
Bob Brookes
Brandon Clayton
Matthew Jenkins
Adam Kent
James O'Donnell
Ceri Stalker
Rebeca Vale

Corporate and Communities O&S Panel

Kit Taylor – Chairman
Mary Rayner – Vice Chairman
Adam Kent
Robin Lunn
Richard Morris
James O'Donnell
Prof John Raine
Andy Stafford
Peter Tomlinson DL

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Worcestershire County Council
Paul Tuthill – Chairman
Pat Agar
Bob Brookes
Phil Grove
Prof John Raine
Mary Rayner
Chris Rogers
Andy Stafford
Peter Tomlinson DL

District Councils
Frances Smith – Wychavon DC – Vice Chairman
Tony Baker – Malvern Hills DC
Charles Hotham – Bromsgrove DC
Nina Wood-Ford – Redditch BC
Mike Johnson – Worcester City Council
Anne Hingley – Wyre Forest DC

APPENDIX 4 - Performance and Activity Measures

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
No. of Scrutiny Reports published	3	5	7	7	2	2
% of scrutiny recommendations accepted by Cabinet	98	80	100	95	100	88
"Short scrutinies" ¹	39	68	45	54	45	79
No. of call ins received	0	1	0	2	0	2
Total no. of issues considered	45	75	53	63	47	85
No. of meetings serviced ²	44	61	51	65	58	56

¹ Number of separate issues considered

² OSPB/Panels/HOSC/Task Groups

Further copies of this report are available from:

Overview and Scrutiny Team
Legal and Democratic Services
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2NP
Tel: 01905 766916
E-mail: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk
<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny>

This document can be made available in other formats (large print, audio tape, computer disk and Braille) on request from the Overview and Scrutiny Team on telephone number 01905 844963 or by emailing scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

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COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(b) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PENSIONS
COMMITTEE**

Administering Authority – Administration Update

1. The Committee has noted the general update from the Administering Authority in relation to Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) Reconciliation exercise, Year end update, Administration Forum, Legal update, staffing update, and Admissions to the Fund.
2. GMP is an element of the pension payable by the fund to members. As it is related to state pension and contracting out it 'acts' differently to standard benefits payable from the fund, it therefore needs to be recorded separately. Over time the records held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have become out of kilter with Pension fund records. This is a universal problem across the entire pension industry.
3. The Fund has a duty to undertake a GMP reconciliation exercise (for active, pensioners and deferred members) and to complete this exercise by 31 December 2018. The Committee has granted delegated authority to the Interim Chief Financial Officer to proceed with procuring external support and manage the delivery of the Fund's Guaranteed Minimum Pension reconciliation exercise.

Pension Investment Update

4. The Committee has noted the Independent Financial Adviser's fund performance summary and market background.
5. The Committee has noted the update on the Investment Managers placed 'on watch' by the Pension Investment Advisory Panel, namely JP Morgan – Emerging Markets and JP Morgan – Bonds.
6. Taking into account JP Morgan's recent strong performance and as JP Morgan have now outperformed their performance target over the past three year, the Committee has agreed that JP Morgan - Emerging Markets be removed from list of 'on watch' managers.

LGPS Central Update

7. LGPS Central Shareholders have approved the appointment of the Board roles, which include the Chair, Non-Executive Directors (x2), Chief Executive Officer and

Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer. In addition, Jason Fletcher has been appointed as the Chief Investment Officer and started with the Company in October 2017. Interviews have been held for the role of General Counsel, and an offer has been made. Suitable office accommodation has been identified in Matlock, within the Council offices and plans being developed for its layout. With regards to the Wolverhampton offices, the Company is currently working in Mander House and are in the process of formalising the lease arrangements.

8. The application for the LGPS Central (operator) was submitted in July 2017, and a follow up meeting held in August 2017. A number of queries have been raised by the FCA with regard to technical regulatory questions and the controlled function roles, in addition, subsequent queries around IT, in particular cyber security, have been received. January 2018 is the target authorisation date, which is currently Amber in the risk register due to the requirement for the recruitment to the controlled functions.

9. Progress is being made with the implementation of services procured to date, and work continues on the remaining services, which include internal auditor, tax advisor and legal advisor.

10. The Pensions Policy for LGPS Central was agreed by Shareholders in October 2017, which sets out a two-tiered approach, one for those who join the company from Partner Funds, and those who join externally. Pension benefits are linked to the grade the staff join the company. The Committee has noted the LGPS Central update.

Equity Protection Strategy

11. The Pension Fund's Actuary has recommended that the Fund consider using an equity protection strategy to:

- a) Reduce the likelihood that further deficit contributions will be required at the 2019 valuation; and
- b) Seek to “bank” some of the recent upside with a few to potentially reducing contributions at future valuations.

12. Following the Pensions Committee decision to grant delegated authority to the Interim Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to work with advisers to implement an equity spread protection strategy for the Fund's equities, Fund officers, working with the Fund's independent Financial Adviser, undertook further research with potential providers for the solution.

13. Following this research, a static options hedge solution was considered to be the best option. After a bidding process, the Pension Investment Advisory Panel recommended that River and Mercantile be appointed to implement and manage the static options equity protection strategy. Fund officers will work with River and Mercantile during December 2017 and January 2018 to design and implement a strategy that optimises the level of downside protection gained from selling returns above 5% p.a. from the Fund's passive UK, U.S. and European equities over an 18 month period.

14. The Committee has noted the planned appointment of River and Mercantile to implement a static options equity protection strategy.

Alternatives Investment

15. Since June 2017 the market value of the Fund's assets has increased to c. £2.7bn and following further modelling undertaken by Bfinance (the Fund's specialist procurement adviser) an additional £75m is now recommended to be committed to ensure c. 100% deployment of the strategic asset allocation to pooled property and infrastructure funds. This would comprise of a £50m allocation to the overseas infrastructure funds selected in June 2017 (First State Investments and Stonepeak) and a £25m allocation to the latest fund launched by Hermes Infrastructure (Hermes Infrastructure Fund II) to maintain the proportion of UK and overseas commitments to infrastructure, subject to appropriate Bfinance due diligence.

16. The Committee has approved the following top-up commitments: £25m First State; £25m Stonepeak. The Committee has granted delegated authority to the Interim Chief Financial Officer to commit £25m to Hermes Fund II, subject to appropriate due diligence being undertaken by Bfinance and sign-off by the Chairman of the Committee.

17. Following Bfinance's recommendation that in the current market environment, corporate private debt offers an attractive risk adjusted return with strong downside protection and yield, the Pension Investment Advisory Panel has endorsed an initial £50m allocation to corporate private debt. The Committee has granted delegated authority to the Interim Chief Financial Officer to undertake a search for a £50m allocation to a new corporate private debt mandate. Any commitments to corporate private debt vehicles, and an associated amendment to the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement, will be subject to approval by the Committee.

Mr R W Banks
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 1 December 2017.

COUNCIL
18 JANUARY 2018**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(c) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PLANNING
AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

Applications

1. The Committee has approved the application for the proposed flood alleviation works to improve the flood resilience of the A44 Road at New Road, Worcester subject to detailed conditions:
2. Details of the above application can be found in the agenda papers for the Committee meeting held on 5 December 2017.

Mr R C Adams
Chairman

Contact Points

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County Council: 01905 763763
Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report
Simon Lewis, Committee Officer
Tel: 01905 846621
Email: slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meetings of the Planning and Regulatory Committee held on 5 December 2017.

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