

Agenda

Council

Thursday, 14 July 2016, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

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বাংলা। আপনি যদি এই দলিলের বিষয়বস্তু বুঝতে না পারেন এবং আপনার জন্য অনুবাদ করার মত পরিচিত কেউ না থাকলে, অনুগ্রহ করে সাহায্যের জন্য 01905 765765 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন। (Bengali)

廣東話。如果您對本文檔內容有任何不解之處並且沒有人能夠對此問題做出解釋，請撥打 01905 765765 尋求幫助。 (Cantonese)

普通话。如果您对本文件内容有任何不解之处并且没有人能够对此问题做出解释，请拨打 01905 765765 寻求帮助。 (Mandarin)

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Türkçe. Bu dokümanın içeriğini anlayamazsanız veya dokümanı sizin için tercüme edebilecek birisine ulaşamıyorsanız, lütfen yardım için 01905 765765 numaralı telefonu arayınız. (Turkish)

اردو۔ اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی مشمولات کو سمجھنے سے قاصر ہیں اور کسی ایسے شخص تک آپ کی رسائی نہیں ہے جو آپ کے لئے اس کا ترجمہ کر سکے تو، براہ کرم مدد کے لئے 01905 765765 پر رابطہ کریں۔ (Urdu)

کوردی سۆزانی، ننگیر ناتوانی تێبگهی له ناوهرۆکی نهم بێلگهیه و دهستت به هیچ کس نایگات که و هههنگهه یهتوه بوته، تکلیه تملخون بکه بو ژماره ی 01905 765765 و داوای رهنۆینی بکه. (Kurdish)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਇਸਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ 01905 765765 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

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, 14 July 2016, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Agenda and Summons

Councillors: Mr A P Miller (Chairman), Mr A A J Adams, Mr R C Adams, Ms P Agar, Mr A T Amos, Mrs S Askin, Mr J Baker, Mr R W Banks, Mr M L Bayliss, Mr A N Blagg, Mrs S L Blagg, Mr C J Bloore, Mr P J Bridle, Mr J P Campion, Mr S J M Clee, Mr S C Cross, Mrs P E Davey, Mr P Denham, Mr N Desmond, Mrs E A Eyre, Ms L R Duffy, Mr A Fry, Mr S E Geraghty, Mr W P Gretton, Mrs J L M A Griffiths, Mr P Grove, Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Ms P A Hill, Mrs A T Hingley, Mrs L C Hodgson, Mr C G Holt, Mr I Hopwood, Mr M E Jenkins, Ms R E Jenkins, Mr R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P M McDonald, Mr T A Muir, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr S R Peters, Dr K A Pollock, Mr D W Prodger, Prof J W Raine, Mrs M A Rayner, Mr A C Roberts, Mr J H Smith, Mr R J Sutton, Mr C B Taylor, Mr J W R Thomas, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall, Mr G J Vickery, Mr T A L Wells, Mr G C Yarranton and Vacancy

1 Apologies and declaration of interests

To receive apologies and invite any councillor to declare any interest in any of the items on this 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, 13 July 2016). 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 meeting held on 12 May 2016 (circulated previously electronically).

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

5 Reports of Cabinet 1 - 10

To consider the reports of the Cabinet and to receive answers to any questions asked on the reports. Matters which require a decision by the Council are on **yellow pages**. Matters where decisions have already been taken are on **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, 7 July 2016.

7 Reports of Cabinet Members with Responsibility 13 - 30

To receive the reports of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure on current issues and proposed developments within their areas of responsibility and to receive answers to any questions on the reports (**green pages**).

8 Question Time 31 - 32

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 11 July 2016 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.)*

9 Reports of Committees 33 - 38

To consider the reports of the Pensions Committee and the Planning and Regulatory Committee (**white pages - attached**) which summarise the decisions taken by those bodies.

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**

Luncheon 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 luncheon 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 John Higginbotham, Committee and Appellate Officer by telephone on Worcester (01905) 766607 or jhigginbotham@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 5 July 2016

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COUNCIL
14 JULY 2016**REPORTS OF CABINET****(a) MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange**Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet recommends that Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme set out in the Exempt Finance Report enclosed as an Appendix to this report and that the capital cash limits are updated accordingly.**
2. Further to the report to Council in January 2015, members will be aware that the Council is committed to the delivery of a Parkway Railway Station in the triangle of land formed by the intersection of the Worcester-Paddington (Cotswolds) and Birmingham-Bristol railway lines and the B4084 near Norton.
3. Since the scheme was approved in principle by Cabinet, it has been progressing through Network Rail's Governance for Railways Investment Process (GRIP). There are 8 stages to the GRIP process, all of which must be completed. So far the scheme has reached and received approval for GRIP stage 4 (Single Option Development), other than final sign-off for signalling design. Work will commence on GRIP stage 5 (Detailed Design) once a Principal Contractor has been appointed.
4. A full detailed Planning Application was submitted to the Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee on 25 August 2015 and was approved subject to the satisfactory completion of relevant Conditions, the majority of which will be met by the Principal Contractor as part of the Detailed Design process.
5. As set out in the Exempt Finance Report (see Appendix enclosed separately for Council members **only**), the anticipated final cost of the scheme is higher than the estimate reported to Cabinet in December 2014 predominantly due to higher land and utility costs and increasing the construction cost estimate to reflect current construction market prices and a proportionately higher contingency sum. The financial details at present remain commercially confidential as the Council is currently in commercial negotiations with potential contractors.

6. As further set out in the Exempt Finance Report, the project is to be financed by funds allocated by the Worcestershire Local Transport Board, borrowing possibly from the Public Works Loan Board and a virement from capital resources. The cost of repaying the borrowing is financed by the Council taking a share of the Train Operating Companies' fare revenue and car park income generated over the 25 year borrowing repayment period. This is to be recovered as a fixed Finance Charge levied on the Train Operating Companies with the terms enshrined in a Funding Agreement between the Council and the Train Operating Companies. Because of the limited length of Train Operating Company Franchises the Funding Agreement will be the subject of a Direct Agreement between the Council and the Department for Transport which guarantees the Funding Agreement stays in force with successive franchisees for the 25 year borrowing period. The Direct Agreement will also require the Department of Transport to continue to specify the level of train services to the station that generate the increased fare revenue.

7. The Train Operating Companies will carry the fares income and car park revenue risk and will therefore be incentivised to grow patronage at the station. The combination of the Finance Charge and Car Park Service Charge income will be sufficient to repay the borrowing (other than that required for the proposed virement) over a 25 year period and to cover the Council's long-term maintenance and renewal obligations for the parts of the station and related highway infrastructure it retains ownership of. The Finance Charge will be determined at the outset of the Agreement and fixed for the 25 year borrowing repayment period.

8. A key finance principle is therefore that the cost of building and operating Worcestershire Parkway does not require additional revenue funding from the Council during the 25 year borrowing period or beyond. Cabinet has approved the finance required to deliver the scheme and is recommending that Council agree that the Capital Programme be adjusted accordingly.

9. The Cabinet has delegated the decision on the award of a Design and Build contract, and any enabling work contracts that are necessary for the delivery of the scheme, to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure. It has also delegated the negotiation of all final terms and conditions necessary to complete the scheme to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Director of Commercial and Change where appropriate, and authorisation to the Director of Commercial and Change to dispose of land including assets at an undervalue where considered appropriate to do so and in accordance with s.123 Local Government Act 1972.

10. Since the last Cabinet report in December 2014, the overall programme has been extended, primarily due to land acquisition and procurement matters and the target date for completion has therefore been moved from May 2017 to March 2018 with work starting on site in early 2017.

Capital Programme

Recommendation

11. The Cabinet recommends that:

(a) Council approves:

- (i) an increase of £0.9 million for the Pothole Action Fund and £0.8 million for Highways Maintenance schemes following receipt of increased capital grant income; and
- (ii) an increase of £0.7 million school improvements funded by Section 106 funding receipts;

as detailed in paragraphs 12 to 14, and that the Capital Programme cash limits are updated accordingly;

- (b) subject to the satisfactory receipt of future expected Section 106 funding, Council approves an increase of £0.7 million for school improvements as detailed in paragraph 15, and that the Capital Programme cash limits are updated accordingly.

Grants

12. The County Council has received confirmation of two additional amounts of capital grant funding from the Department for Transport:

- £0.9 million Pothole Action Fund

This is new money to be spent over and above the Council's existing planned highway maintenance expenditure and will be targeted to permanently fix potholes on the roads or to stopping them from forming in the first place

- £0.8 million Highways Maintenance Incentive Element

This is an increase to the existing approved Local Transport Capital Block Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance Funding of £16.2 million.

Section 106 Funding – Received

13. The Council has also been allocated Section 106 funding from planning notifications in relation to housing developments across parts of the county.

14. The following capital schemes listed below have been identified by schools as their priorities to address basic need issues at their schools and meet the relevant funding criteria for Section 106 funding:

- £0.5 million – Lickey Hills Primary School

The Section 106 agreement is specific in that the replacement of the temporary building on this school site was to be addressed. The school proposed to achieve this by relocating the library contained therein into the main school, create additional pupil toilet facilities, create a dedicated wet room & changing area for its Early Years Foundation Stage, and provide two small group teaching spaces

- £0.2 million – Stourport High School

This Academy has advised that it has recently been awarded Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) funding towards its plans to demolish and rebuild a new purpose built Sixth Form Centre. The total cost is estimated at £3.4 million and will provide better long-term sixth form provision in the Stourport catchment area.

Section 106 Funding - Proposed

15. The following capital schemes have also been proposed by schools but are subject to the future receipt of Section 106 funding when construction of housing proceeds:

- £0.3 million – Great Witley CE Primary School

This recently converted Academy has highlighted several issues with existing accommodation that include extending an undersized classroom, creating a small group teaching space and creating a new library

- £0.4 million – Swan Lane First School

The phased proposal is to provide a fully functional production kitchen that will provide hot meals for the students, create a small group teaching space, and provision of a 40 space Nursery. The total project cost is estimated at approximately £0.7 million with the school looking to fund the balance from other sources.

Supporting Information

- Exempt Appendix – Parkway Finance Report (This Appendix is NOT FOR PUBLICATION as supporting information as it discloses information in relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the local authority holding that information) and has been circulated separately to Council members only) and the public interest is best served by remaining confidential at this stage.

[Note that Council will be recommended to move into private exempt session should members wish to refer to the commercially sensitive information contained in the Exempt Appendix]

Contact Points

County Council 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) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers relating to the meetings of the Cabinet held on 19 May 2016 and 16 June 2016.

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COUNCIL
14 JULY 2016**REPORTS OF CABINET****(b) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Scrutiny Report: Increasing Physical Activity

1. In February 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) discussed the Worcestershire Public Health Annual Report 2014. A main theme of the annual report was how to increase opportunities for participation in physical activity. The County Council was keen to ensure that opportunities to access sport and physical activity were available to all, and scrutiny members were also interested to find out what impact the 2012 Olympics had had on participation rates. The OSPB therefore added Increasing Physical Activity to its scrutiny work programme.

2. The Cabinet has now considered a Scrutiny Report on Increasing Physical Activity and has agreed to receive the report together with the response to the findings and recommendation from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being, Transformation and Commissioning and Highways. The Cabinet has agreed to adopt the response of the Cabinet Members as the way forward.

The provision of effective Prevention Services for Children and Young People including optimising the use of Children's Centre buildings

3. Further to the report to Council in January 2016, a procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service has been carried out. An invitation to tender was published in March 2016 and no compliant bids were received. The Cabinet has therefore approved a future plan for delivering effective integrated prevention services within the available budget envelope, as soon as possible, and to vary, extend, align or integrate existing contracts of the Early Help providers and the public health nursing services by 1 October 2016 up to 31 March 2019. This will allow a two year period to work with existing providers towards integration to allow a procurement exercise to commence in time for a new service to be in place from 1 April 2019.

4. The Council has been considering how to optimise the use of its children centre buildings to deliver services. As a result the Cabinet has been presented with proposals to significantly change the current use of some children's centres within the county. Formal consultation on such change of use is needed and therefore the Cabinet has authorised consultation on change of use of those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change from how the centre is currently used and approved proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required. The Cabinet has noted a summary the of impact of the proposals for the future use of children's centre buildings and the need for further equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes.

5. The Cabinet has delegated the final decision for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analyses. Additionally, it has authorised the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health to take all necessary steps within their respective responsibilities to give effect to the Cabinet's decision including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and authorised the Director of Commercial and Change to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.

6. The decision was subsequently called in and the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel (OSPB) met on 1 July. The OSPB agreed to accept the decisions taken by Cabinet and clear implementation on 1 July, they did however agree to forward the following comments to Cabinet:

- that the final decision on the use of children's centres buildings, where consultation is required, is made at full Cabinet and not by Cabinet Member delegation. The OSPB believed that this would provide greater transparency of the decision in the public's eye, provide a further opportunity for public participation at a Cabinet meeting on the matter and to ensure all Cabinet Members fully understand the implications of the decision being taken,
- that the Children and Families O&S Panel should undertake further pre-decision scrutiny prior to the conclusion of the consultation and report back to the OSPB on this, the OSPB can then provide Cabinet with feedback before they take the final decision, and
- the Board welcomed the Cabinet Member's offer to hold meetings with local members on Children's Centre sites, in order to discuss local options.

Resources Report

Provisional Financial Results for the year ending 31 March 2016

7. In overall terms resource spending by Directorates was within the delegated cash limits coming in on budget whilst making identified savings. There have been significant areas of cost pressure which have been managed, the most significant relates to a £5.7m pressure in Children's Social Care Placements. The FutureFit savings target of £27.5m has been delivered.

FutureFit Programme Update

8. Since 2011/12 the Council has delivered savings of around £120m. There are existing plans (subject to detailed consultation where appropriate) to deliver nearly £50m of savings, with £24.8m savings in 2016/17, £13.4m in 2017/18 and a further £9.5m over 2018/19 and 2019/20. Around half of these planned savings are currently assessed to have some risk around their delivery and are subject to robust project management and support to ensure they remain on target for delivery. Based on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) there still remains a need to establish further savings to balance the budget of £57m over the period to 2019/20.

Capital Investment

9. The Council spent £141.7m on Capital Expenditure in 2015/16 which included £20.9m spent on school projects, £55.3m on local transport infrastructure, £54.5m Energy from Waste Loan Facility and £11m on other Council services. The major sources of capital financing were external borrowing £76m, capital grants and contributions £55.8m, capital receipts £3.7m and direct revenue contributions £6.2m.

Pension Fund Update

10. For 2015/16 the Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund had an operating surplus of £38.6m compared to a deficit of £11.2m for 2014/15. The deficit had been due to a £52.3m group transfer out of the Probation Service to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. The net assets of the County Council Pension Fund have decreased by £36.1m to £1.951billion at the end of 2015/16. The Pension Fund's Actuary has calculated that the Council's liabilities exceed its share of the assets by £380m at 31 March 2016.

Proposed Earmarked Reserves, New Investments and General Balances

11. An overall reduction in reserves in 2015/16 reflected planning assumptions to support increases and changes in demand for services ahead of revenue streams coming online in 2016/17 or in support of transformation projects to deliver better outcomes and value for money within the future resources available to the Council. A number of additions to specific earmarked reserves have been made in light of known future commitments and risks. General balances at the end of the 2015/16 financial year remain unchanged at £13m, which is consistent with the MTFP.

Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant (PHRFG)

12. The Council has now received final allocation of PHRFG of £30.7m for 2016/17 and an indicative allocation for 2017/18 of £29.9m. The reductions in allocations have not been as significant as initially expected, predicated on announcements for other areas of central Government spend. This has enabled a review of those services which were recommended to be maintained and has resulted in the proposal that funding continues in Child Development Services and Primary Care Mental Health not just for 2016/17 but also for 2017/18.

Borrowing and Lending Transactions 2015/16

13. In accordance with Financial Regulations and the County Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, the Chief Financial Officer has reported to Cabinet on the annual activities of the Treasury Management operation. The Cabinet has noted his report.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

Nichola Garner, Committee and Appellate Officer

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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 19 May 2016 and 16 June 2016

COUNCIL
14 JULY 2016**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he had received the following three Notices of Motion at the date the agenda papers were published. 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 – Diversity

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 Mrs F M Oborski, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs S Askin:

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. We at Worcestershire County Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Worcestershire County Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in Worcestershire that they are valued members of our community."

Notice of Motion 2 – Equality in Schools

5. This motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function and will therefore be referred to Cabinet for a decision.

6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr J Baker, Mr P M McDonald, Mr R M Udall and Mr R C Lunn:

"That Worcestershire County Council should take part in the Stonewall Education Equality Index and should encourage schools to take part in the Stonewall Schools Champions Programme or to use the Birmingham LGBT schools tool kit."

Notice of Motion 3 – Safe Place Schemes

7. This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.

8. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr J Baker, Mr P M McDonald, Mr R M Udall and Mr R C Lunn:

"That Worcestershire County Council condemns the recent upsurge in racial and xenophobic behaviour in and around the county and encourages local businesses within our towns to take part in a safe place scheme, to act as a refuge for those suffering from this kind of abuse."

Contact Points

County Council 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
14 JULY 2016**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY**

(a) Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care**Adult Social Care - Population and Demographic Context**

1. The population of Worcestershire is increasing and the demographic is showing increasing longevity. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population Estimates and Projections show the picture across the UK varies. Worcestershire has a larger proportion of the population aged 65+ (21%) than nationally (18%) and the numbers in this age group are expected to increase by 37% to about 167,000 by 2030. The numbers of people aged 85+ is projected to increase by 85% to 29,900 by 2030.

2. Worcestershire has a higher proportion of people aged 65 and over in the highest two social economic classifications. Overall Worcestershire is ranked 111th out of 152 local authorities in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (1 = most deprived) but there is variation across the different Districts. Almost 80% of people aged 65 and over in Worcestershire are owner-occupiers, compared to 74% in England. The highest level is in Bromsgrove at over 84%, whilst the lowest is in Redditch at just over 71%.

3. According to a November 2015 snapshot the numbers of older people living in residential care homes are predominantly self-funders (69%). This figure changes to 49% when looking at the numbers of people in nursing beds. Council-funded Deferred Payment Agreements are available to those owning their own property so that they do not need to sell their property in their lifetime to fund their care.

4. Legislation places a duty on local authorities to provide means tested care and support. The means test takes place after needs have been established. The test is applied on income, capital and property. Whilst the older people's population in Worcestershire has risen, and will continue to rise, the number of older people receiving a local authority funded social care service has fallen from 7,090 in 2010/11 to 5,668 in 2014/15. 336 clients previously funding their own care transferred to WCC funded care between April 2014 and March 2016.

5. The decrease in the numbers currently receiving a funded service has not been followed by a decrease in expenditure because the complexity of care has increased with increased frailty and those living longer with a disability and complex needs will require more intensive services. The balance of cost attributed to the health service or to the local authority is key to how we manage future expenditure. 99 service users who were previously funded through Continuing Health Care (CHC) transferred to local authority social care during the period April 2014 to November 2016.

6. Eligibility for funded support is decided by a personal assessment. The Access Centre handled 40,289 contacts last year of which 1,811 were safeguarding reports, 15,882 were contacts in relation to known service users and 22,596 new referrals for support of some kind. Of those referrals 7,795 were for the Patient Flow Centre leaving the remaining 14,801 as being for social care. Of these, one third were resolved by the Access Centre through the provision of information and advice, one third were sent through to the Rapid Response or Enhanced Care teams for urgent care and the remaining were sent on to Triage for further assessment.

Assessment

7. A combined assessment is now offered to adults with care and support needs and their carers so that needs and circumstances can be considered together. Separate assessments continue to be available if preferred. This whole family approach has been developed to provide a support framework to help both service users and carers to maintain their independence throughout the period of care. Every assessment is personal to the individual's needs and will result in an individual personal care plan.

8. In April 2015 the Triage and Assessment Team was introduced to make sure we have expert professional input close to the point of entry into the service and to continue working with vulnerable adults. From 1 July 2016 the seven days a week Access Service is being combined with the Triage and Intervention Team with the aim of reducing duplication, reducing hand off, improving information and advice. Through this new service Worcestershire County Council will also meet its specific duties for the assessment of people with sensory impairments.

9. The central recording system, Framework-i, has been reviewed and changes made. Reporting used to be through cumbersome form filling as well as extensive and confusing workflow and authorisation. System redesign has resulted in refined records and processes and authorisation points have been reduced and staff productivity has increased. Framework-i is now used when hospital discharges are planned reducing the risk of double recording individuals passing through and into both sectors.

10. We have introduced an online contact assessment for individuals and professionals. Thirteen locally based Area Social Work Teams have been created across the north and south of the county. Locality team structures will be the base point for further integrated care services. These align as much as possible with NHS GP localities. Out of County boundary surgeries are included where service users live just inside our borders.

11. Each Locality Team will have a Social Work Locality Manager. Local NHS managers will be considering how they can best ensure clinical staff (including District Nurses, Enhanced Care Teams, Pro-Active Care Teams (PACT) and Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapists) work together in their GP Localities, and will eventually aim for each of the localities to have a weekly multi-disciplinary meeting with staff, including social workers, voluntary organisations, etc. The implementation date for this new way of working will be confirmed during the summer.

Technology

12. The system redesign of Framework-i has supported access to daily real time information about demand, capacity and performance. Work is in progress to provide mobile technology to staff so that more time is available for face-to-face contact with service users.

13. In November 2015 funding of £2m was set aside to invest in the "New Technologies in Care Project". This project supports the identification of partners that will develop new technologies specifically to improve the outcomes and experience of people in receipt of local authority funded care. The procurement process to identify innovative partners has been published. The evaluation of applications will be the next stage. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board has included this project in its 2016/17 work programme.

14. The "Your Life Your Choice" website created in 2015, now has over 450 services available. In the first six months after the launch 13,567 people visited the website. To date there have been 29,844 individual visits. Some information on the site is now available in 'Easyread' and the website is fully Care Act compliant. The number of visits resulting in an online assessment was

537 (191 safeguarding and 346 adult social care). The website is improving all of the time and I urge those having difficulties using the site to contact Frances Howie who oversees this project so that any problems can be ironed out.

15. The Council has phased out the 0845 telephone number. Callers now access Adult Social Care services direct on 01905 768053 or through the Council's new web service "Your Life, Your Choice". This number can also be used for safeguarding concerns. Dual running numbers helped during the phase in period.

Care Act

16. A stock-take on compliance with the Act has taken place. Additional pressures have been noted in areas of increased carers assessments, flexible breaks and an increase in the numbers of people receiving home care. We are now responsible for working with prisons under the Act and the number of prisoners assessed during the year was 8 with 4 now receiving a service. The programme of learning and development for social work staff continued through 2015/16 to embed new practices required by Part 1 of the Act. In total over 3,000 training places were provided, within which 1,111 were half-day basic awareness training and the remainder more advanced training directed to specific job requirements.

17. Care Act revisions were published in March 2016 with minor additions/changes. Most revisions have been made for reasons of accuracy or clarity. Some are more substantial, such as those around safeguarding and the previously announced postponement to the funding reforms. The changes reflect learning from the first period of implementation and feedback from stakeholders and partners.

18. Of note are updates to the safeguarding chapter highlighting the growing prevalence of internet and doorstep scams and the role of professional and practice leadership in adult safeguarding. On this latter point, the guidance emphasises the need for expertise within organisations where practitioners and managers can go for advice and recommended courses of action.

19. There is a requirement under the Act for local authorities to provide a sustainable care home market offering wide choice to all of the population including self-funders.

The Domiciliary Care and Home Care Market

20. There are 209 care homes of all types across Worcestershire, 6 of which are owned by Worcestershire County Council. Recent calculations indicated that 41% of care homes were considered by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to be "part of a brand" (i.e. large enough to be regulated as a single company as part of the CQC Market Oversight Regime). This is notably more than the regional figure of 32% and the national figure of 33%. The county also has a higher number of smaller homes than is the case nationally. The CQC August 2015 report indicates that 62% of residential care homes in Worcestershire have less than 20 beds and only 3% have over 60 beds.

21. The workforce in care homes is predominantly female (89%). This mirrors the UK benchmark of 88%. It is too early to tell how the National Living Wage will impact upon the retention and recruitment of care home personnel. There is low unemployment across Worcestershire. The claimant count is 1.1% compared to 2.1% in the West Midlands and 1.8% across England. There are 44 providers of adult social care apprenticeship training in Worcestershire with 1,700 courses. This is in keeping with the national picture.

22. The CQC currently lists 92 providers of domiciliary care in Worcestershire. The number of providers has been rising with on average a 7% increase each year for the past two years. Providers are concerned there are now too many agencies. The development of Extra Care Villages could impact dramatically upon both the residential care market and the domiciliary care market.

Supported Living and Extra Care

23. The numbers of Supported Living Apartments have increased, alongside shared housing resulting in 210 service users with a learning disability currently living in their own accommodation with assured tenancies. In the last twelve months a range of new build apartments have been delivered including 14-supported living apartments at Hazel Court, St Johns, Worcester in partnership with Sanctuary Housing, 12 apartments at Hampton Mews, Kidderminster with Community Housing Group and 12 apartments at Samuel Place, Redditch with Bromford Housing. A further 8 apartments for service users with complex autistic spectrum conditions are due to be built at Upper Ford Lodge, Droitwich in partnership with Fortis Housing.

24. The ambition is to ensure all service users who are able to live in supportive housing are given the opportunity to do so rather than be placed in residential care. A total of 260 service users are under review to ascertain the potential numbers able to move into accommodation as this becomes available. New developments will be available countywide to facilitate service users the opportunity to live near family and friends. The strategy is in line with the Winterbourne View recommendations to bring people back into county, from out of county residential placements, where appropriate. We also aim to offer young people, coming into adult services, the opportunity to live independently, where appropriate.

25. Extra Care Housing offers a holistic approach to individuals over 55 years old who may have care and support needs. Over the last two years we have worked in partnership with District Councils and housing providers across the county to increase the numbers of self-contained apartments with 24 hour support. We have developed social care placements for 186 service users at schemes in Arch Hill Court, Kidderminster, St David's, Redditch, Terryspring Court, Redditch, Yates Court, Evesham, Meadow Court, Worcester, Noble House, Worcester, Clarence Park, Malvern and Gilbert Court in Bromsgrove. In addition we have also recently worked with Rooftop Housing to open the first purpose built dementia care Extra Care scheme in the region.

26. During May 2016 officers and members of the Cabinet including myself visited an impressive 'Retirement Village' in Birmingham which included a gym, restaurant, pub, garden centre, workshop, hairdresser, bowling alley and library as well as one and two bedroomed apartments that offered modern, secure, self-contained accommodation with a real sense of community support. I have ambitious targets in relation to Extra Care but I believe this offers the best opportunity to facilitate individual's ability to maintain their independence and wellbeing.

Support Groups and Carers

27. The number of carers seeking help and support in Worcestershire is a fraction of the number of the estimated 60,000 of carers that are thought to be caring for a family member. Assessments of carers have increased from an average of 307 per month to an average of 387 a month with 41% resulting in funding eligibility.

28. A Carers' Hub has been created. The tender was advertised in January 2016 and Worcestershire Association of Carers (WAC) was the successful bid. The Hub, jointly funded by Worcestershire County Council and the three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, will coordinate support for the 60,000 plus unpaid adult carers in Worcestershire. The launch on 1 July 2016 introduced new services, by providing a single point of access for information, advice,

support and training across local areas. The contract will run for two years. WAC meets on a regular basis and they hold an Annual Conference. Other consultative support groups exist which welcome carers to attend. These include the Older People's Consultation Group and Learning Disability Partnership Board.

29. The Learning Disability Partnership board meets four times a year and also has six sub-groups; Having a Place to Live, Having a Job, Staying Healthy, Living Well, Staying Safe, and Preparing for Adulthood. The sub groups report back review findings to the main Partnership Board meetings. The Staying Healthy sub-group is funded by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

30. The Learning Disability Partnership Board has recently reviewed Living Well & Staying Healthy. Progress has been made with Worcestershire's CCGs agreeing to fund a GP lead for people with learning disability. Community nurses have delivered training on "My next patient has a learning disability" to trainee GPs outlining what is a learning disability and has provided sessions to all student nurses in local universities in Worcester, Birmingham and Coventry.

31. In September 2015 the Staying Healthy sub-group reported on the Speakeasy Health Checkers Team review of GP practices. Health Checkers add a significant contribution in facilitating and communicating the views and experiences of people with a learning disability who have accessed health-funded services. Health Checkers have also carried out unannounced reviews of Worcestershire Royal and Redditch Alexandra Hospitals and have reviewed Community Hospitals and Accident and Emergency Services.

32. In February this year the chairman of the Speakeasy People's Parliament won a Prime Minister's Point of Light Award. The Speakeasy People's Parliament helps people with learning disabilities to have a voice and to speak up for themselves. They have a number of expert members and through the Parliament people with learning disabilities can set their own agenda and hold local decision makers to account. This national award for volunteering was won for her hard work with Speakeasy NOW, Worcestershire's self-advocacy organisation for people with learning disabilities.

Day Services and Employment

33. The Learning Disabilities Day Services Review has resulted in much improved opportunity for people living with a disability. Day services newsletters have been emailed regularly to all Members. The local offer has been improved across all Districts. New activity includes mainstream leisure, sporting and educational opportunities. The feedback from carers where new centres are now up and running has been extremely positive.

34. Three Springs Resource Centre in Pershore was the latest centre to open on Friday 22 January 2016. A carers' design group worked with officers to oversee the project. This resource centre required much more extensive renovation work than was needed at our Connect Centres. The carers have been delighted with the result expressing thanks to staff for a well-managed and well-organised move. The next Connect Centre to be opened will be within Evesham Library and is expected to open in October this year.

35. Setting an example of how to make positive change one of our Worcestershire young people, gained a place, and local authority funding, to go to Derwen Residential College in Oswestry Shropshire. CB aged 19 completed the initial educational programme and three years later chose to stay for a further two years on its live work programme designed to build vocational skills. CB was rewarded for her efforts with a one-day a week placement at a local Premier Inn. CB has also since moved to her own Supported Living flat.

36. The “Go Green” Kidderminster remodelling talks resulted in a social enterprise company being formed last year. A panel unanimously selected the Emily Jordan Foundation (Spokes) to deliver the contract. The successful transfer took place in July 2015. The Emily Jordan Foundation has experience in supporting trainees with moderate learning difficulty to move closer to getting a job. Go Green is a day service that recycles a range of clean materials like cans, plastics, foil, spectacles etc.

37. A Community Catalysts Worcestershire and Worcestershire County Council joint venture was recognised last year in a UK wide competition run by the Carnegie UK Trust, which celebrates groups and organisations that are empowering communities and putting wellbeing at the heart of their work. The joint venture supports local ventures and businesses that help older people and those living with a disability to help them to socialise, learn skills, keep fit or get a break from their caring responsibilities. A £5,000 prize was accepted at an award event in London on the 25 November 2015.

38. Micro enterprise projects currently include 84 separate community micro-enterprises and ventures that have between them capacity to support 1,712 people with 938 current users. They have created 98 jobs and 175 volunteering opportunities. There are 34 services offering opportunities to access training, employment or to develop life skills; 19 services offering opportunities to take part in a range of leisure activities including drama, art and sport; 17 day time support including lunch or social clubs; 11 offering support at home, supported housing, transport, and drop in and 3 potential micro providers of regulated services registered with the Care Quality Commission.

Working with Partners & External providers – Health

39. The Patient Flow Centre project is now well established. The Centre helps to improve hospital to home rehabilitation prospects for our frail elderly, providing timely support that helps them to return to independent living as soon as possible or organising long term care for those unable to return to independent living. Between April 2015 and February 2016, there were 5,005 referrals to the Patient Flow Centre for hospital to home (Pathway 1) services. The feedback from people and families has been exceptionally good.

40. A Worcester City pilot, Recovery at Home Service, which brings together Worcestershire County Council’s Urgent Promoting Independence social care service with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust’s Enhanced Care Team is now well developed. Both services provided care to patients recovering at home and by joining these we have improved the patient experience by reducing duplication as well as improving efficiency.

41. The Hospital Social Work and Rapid Response Teams have been brought together to create one urgent care Service. The new capacity means that a 7 day a week and 24 hour a day service can be provided.

Staffing

42. Richard Harling left the County Council in February to take up a senior position at Staffordshire County Council. Through his leadership we have managed some major strategic challenges and integration projects with health partners.

43. The Adult Services Directorate has restructured its service delivery teams to better integrate services with the wider health economy and I am sure this will greatly improve efficiency and quality. The staff and managers are to be congratulated and thanked for the way they have contributed to change and have worked towards positively working with health partners. Their dedication to the public they serve and the commitment and energy with which they approach

their work, the challenges and sometimes disappointments has been truly exceptional. This was absolutely true of the popular and talented manager at Exmoor House Bromsgrove, Jayne Rosewarne and Hospital Social Work Manager, Jonathan Monks, who both sadly died in 2015.

44. My personal thanks go to the senior management team whom I meet with on a regular basis. They have my absolute respect for their professionalism, leadership, flexibility and tolerance but above all for the care and sensitivity with which they deliver their work and set the standard for others to follow.

Sheila Blagg

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care

(b) Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure

45. It is a great privilege to offer this report to Council on the work carried out in the areas of economy, skills and infrastructure over the last 14 months. Naturally, it also reflects work for which I have had the briefest of responsibility, but in that time I have come to appreciate and value more fully the work of the officers involved, and of my predecessor, Simon Geraghty.

46. As the report deals with past activity, it does not reflect the impact of the result of the recent referendum, leading as it will to our leaving the EU. This will undoubtedly affect our funding under European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), although those programmes that have already received approval should hopefully continue.

47. By the same token, the Government has been at pains to emphasise that it wishes to see continued investment in infrastructure, both public and private. In that regard, the County Council will be pressing ahead with its plans for developments as outlined below.

48. With the above reservation, we have seen strong developments in the local economy over the last year, with exceptional rates of growth, and growth of productivity. This demonstrates the effectiveness of our “Open for Business” priority within the Council’s Corporate Plan.

49. As decided by Council the Business, Environment and Community Directorate has recently changed its name to “Economy and Infrastructure”, but this should not be taken to mean any downgrading of the importance of the environment, nor that the work on skills is a less important section of its work. It rather forms part of an objective of more cross-directorate working, so that the Council operates as a single entity, rather than groups of officers working in independent silos.

Economic Growth and Investment

50. The work of the growth and investment team directly supports the Open for Business theme of the Corporate Plan and the economic priorities of the County Council which focus on job creation and growth.

51. Worcestershire has recently been highlighted as an area of significant growth, having the third highest growth in prosperity between 2010 and 2014 out of all 39 LEP areas. The research, released by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), measured prosperity through a variety of indicators, including Gross Value Added (GVA), earnings, employment, skills and qualifications. The JRF research also highlighted Worcestershire as having the greatest growth in workforce skills during that period, measured in terms of the number of people in higher level occupations and the quality of educational attainment.

52. To support these findings the latest statistics released by the Office of National Statistics show that during a similar time period (2009 – 2014) Worcestershire’s productivity grew on average by 3.1%, in terms of GVA per hour worked, placing the county second of all 39 LEP areas.

53. Key highlights from our 2015/16 programme include:

- Support provided to over 2,700 new and existing businesses
- 350 new business have been established
- Over £5m given out in grants to support business growth and business start ups
- Creating 1,285 jobs within the county.

Key Programmes:

Worcestershire Innovation (WINN)

54. Partners across Worcestershire have come together recognising the need to galvanise the individual organisations' activities and efforts into a combined strategy for innovation across the county. They have come together under the brand of WINN.

55. Services will be delivered for the purpose of supporting businesses within the Worcestershire region in developing new, improved and valuable products and services, and accessing new markets, with the primary objective of increasing economic activity, productivity and GVA.

56. Partners include:

- Worcestershire County Council (WCC)
- Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP)
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce (HWCC)
- Malvern Hills Science Park (MHSP)
- Central Technology Belt (CTB)
- University of Worcester (UoW)
- Birmingham Science City
- QinetiQ.

57. The core objectives are to:

- Build and maintain a thriving innovation ecosystem in Worcestershire
- Facilitate/co-ordinate activity that enhances science and technology-based innovation in the county and wider national/international scale
- Provide focus for marketing, promotion and communication of innovation in and on behalf of Worcestershire.

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

58. Worcestershire County Council is a key partner in the WLEP, also performing the role of accountable body. Worcestershire County Council's Corporate Plan is clearly aligned to the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), and is committed to supporting the delivery of an **additional 25,000 jobs and increase in GVA by £2.9 billion by 2025**. This equates to growing the local economy by one third.

59. The Worcestershire LEP continues to provide funding for key infrastructure projects such as:

- Hoobrook Link Road
- Southern Link Road
- Bromsgrove Railway Station
- Malvern Hills Science Park

- Worcester Parkway
- Superfast Broadband Roll-out.

60. The £2m Worcestershire Growth Fund managed through Worcestershire County Council, supporting business expansion, job creation and increased productivity, including currently supporting 12 businesses creating over 120 jobs in the local economy, with further funding rounds still operating.

Business Support Programmes highlights:

61. Successes for 2015/2016

- **Worcestershire Expansion Programme:** a £2.2m Regional Growth Fund Project which has supported 22 businesses to date with their expansion plans. The project has created over 192 jobs, with private sector leverage of £13.8m
- **Women2Web:** successful in obtaining funding for a second year to support female entrepreneurs, promoting a digital skills programme funded by DCMS. Over 250 women have been supported - free networking, training, and business mentoring, which has now supported over 550 female entrepreneurs over the past 2 years
- **Enterprising Worcestershire:** Enterprising Worcestershire assisted 400 businesses to start trading, creating 503 jobs
- **Proof of Concept (POC):** £2.6m Innovation programme to help business with research and product development. The project has worked successfully with the Central Technology Belt to support 48 local businesses to bring new projects to market. The project to date has been linked to 26 new jobs being created.
- **Finditinworcestershire (FIW):** now has over 8,000 members, with an average of 125 businesses attending each month's networking event, advertising over £200m worth of contracts
- **Warndon Skills Centre:** £300,000 bespoke Construction Skills Centre in the heart of Warndon, Worcester. The centre was successfully launched in November 2015.

LEADER Programme

62. Worcestershire has been successful in securing a £1.96m LEADER programme which aims to create a vibrant, connected and enterprising rural area that inspires diverse and inclusive rural communities in which to live, work and visit. Rural businesses and community groups can apply for up to £35,000 to make a difference to the local area and grow the rural economy.

63. The programme opened at the end of November 2015 and since then has received a large volume of enquiries from businesses and organisations keen to apply.

64. This investment will create upwards of 85 new jobs within the county, contributing to the growth of small local businesses and Worcestershire's rural economy.

National Cyber Skills Centre (NCSC):

65. Worcestershire County Council continues to support NCSC, building a reputation for Worcestershire as a centre of expertise in cyber security. Over the past 12 months the

centre has worked with 336 businesses to providing training to reduce the risk of cyber-attacks.

66. A key objective of the Centre is to inspire the next generation of cyber talent, ensuring a pipeline of skills within the county. To support this aim, NCSC has worked with over 250 young people opening their minds to careers within the cyber industry.

New EU Funding Programme 2014-2020

67. Before the referendum, Worcestershire County Council had submitted eight European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bids totalling £16m with a County Council contribution of £700,000 and District Council contributions of £450,000. Of the bids submitted all have gone through to the full application stage with 3 having been contracted as follows:

Contracted:

- Business Growth – contracted
- Innovation – Proof of Concept – contracted
- ERDF Technical Assistance

Full Application Stage:

- Resource Efficiency – Approved
- Cyber Security
- Inward Investment
- Business Start-up
- Low Carbon Programme.

Worcestershire Business Central

68. The County Council has been working closely with partners over the past 12 months to develop a sustainable partnership for Worcestershire's growth hub - Worcestershire Business Central (WBC). The service is now successfully co-located within Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce.

69. The enhanced growth hub has continued to develop a proactive engagement strategy to ensure Worcestershire businesses are aware of the support available to them. WBC now has 9 members of staff, namely 4 Business Engagement Managers, focused on supporting business growth and the three key priority sectors of agri-tech, advanced manufacturing and cyber security, and 5 telephone-based support staff (4 of which are Council staff seconded to the team). The website continues to have approx. 5,000 visits per month and over the past 12 months the service has supported 605 Worcestershire-based businesses.

Worcestershire Local Transport Body

70. Following the Government announcement of the decision to devolve funding for local major transport schemes to Local Transport Bodies (LTBs) from 2015, the Department for Transport (DfT) required that each LTB develop an assurance framework, setting out its governance and working arrangements. The Worcestershire LTB (WLTB) assurance

framework was agreed with the DfT in 2013/14 and updated in 2015/16 to reflect the focus on Growth Deals.

71. During the last year the WLTB has approved Growth Deal funding to support important transport and highways works across the county. These schemes include Hoobrook Link Road in Kidderminster, Worcester Southern Link Road, Worcester 6, Cathedral Square Phase 1, flood alleviation schemes across the county and Worcestershire Parkway. In addition, the following schemes have been assessed and approved to be taken forward for future Growth Deal funding: A38 in Bromsgrove and Pershore infrastructure improvements including a new Northern Link Road to the Keytech Business Park and improvements to the Pinvin crossroads.

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan

72. The Local Transport Plan is a statutory document, which all Local Transport Authorities are required to produce, deliver and maintain under the Transport Act (2000) and the Local Transport Act (2008). The current plan was adopted in 2011 but is now in need of updating to reflect our growth ambitions and the Districts' Local Development Plans.

73. Pre-consultation with local members, Districts and parishes has recently commenced, with wider public consultation starting in October this year. The aim is to get it fully approved and adopted by full Council in Spring 2017.

Skills

74. Improving skills is a key objective of the Council and we work closely with the WLEP Employment and Skills Board to achieve this. The priority list of key skills to be developed are chosen by the business community working with the education providers. Our objective is to increase the employment rate, reduce the number of people on benefits, so as to increase Worcestershire's GVA.

Connecting Schools & Business

75. We have continued to develop links between businesses and schools working through the WLEP Employment & Skills Board, focussing on the 3 key work streams. These are: (i) providing increased work experience programmes, (ii) careers related support and guidance and (iii) careers related curriculum development. These key elements of the Connecting Schools and Business programme are focussed on developing the skills needed by students, alongside their formal qualifications to be fully prepared to enter the world of work.

76. The development of the "Worcestershire Skills Central" web portal has now been completed, adding the ability for parents across Worcestershire directly to access available work placements, ability to provide online feedback, links to our series of You Tube videos and links to useful careers related sites.

77. The Worcestershire Careers Central site has been fully launched containing information on Worcestershire's 10 Key Growth industry sectors, associated job roles and career pathway information. This was launched last June to coincide with the exam period for years 11 and 13.

78. The 2nd annual Worcestershire Skills Show was held on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at Sixways Stadium. This year we had over 1,500 young people attend from Worcestershire High Schools, an increase of 300 students compared to 2015. Our aim was to enable them to meet employers, attend workshops and gain a hands-on insight into what work with them would be like, as well as highlighting the skills needed.

Careers and Enterprise Company – Enterprise Advisor Programme

79. The Council worked with the Worcestershire LEP to secure £97,000 in January 2016 to operate the Government's National Careers and Enterprise Company Enterprise Advisor Programme. The programme places a senior business person as a volunteer in an advisory role, matched to a school, to work with them on the careers agenda and support them to meet their responsibilities to young people, joining up and bolstering support for Worcestershire initiatives.

University Technical College (UTC)

80. The Council has continued to endorse a UTC for Worcestershire. This is an all-ability state-funded 14-19 school, which is independent of the local authority, having a "science, technology, engineering and mathematics" (STEM) specialism, alongside business skills and a broad general education. The ethos and curriculum would be designed with employers, including Worcester Bosch, Mazak, Malvern Instruments and Morgan Cars, who then provide support for the UTC and work experience for the students. The application was submitted in the Spring and we hope to gain approval towards the end of August 2016.

Worcestershire Apprenticeships Clearing House

81. Launched in September 2015, the Council commissioned the Worcestershire Training Providers' Association to provide a "no wrong door" service for young people interested in apprenticeships, and employers wanting to offer apprenticeships. This initiative aims to support the reduction in the number of NEETs and increase the number of apprenticeships across the county. To date this has given rise to 255 apprenticeship starts and worked with 260 employers to create apprenticeships.

NEETs

82. The overall picture for the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) is positive, and improving. In March 2016, the actual, known, figure was 3.0%. This compares with 3.7% for the same period last year. The proportion of young people where it is unknown what they are doing at March this year stood at 5.7%, compared with 9.5% in March 2015. Despite the marked improvement, the unknowns remain a serious challenge, although substantial progress has been made, both in our working with schools and our tracking of students after they have left school.

Rail Strategy

83. The Council has part-funded the development of a comprehensive rail investment strategy from industry-leading consultancy SLC Rail. This valuable suite of documents will help to inform the Council's approach to the promotion and prioritization of rail investment in Worcestershire. The outcomes of this work, inclusive of suggested schemes, will be included within future iterations of the Local Transport Plan.

84. The emerging (draft) strategy proposes four overarching 'Conditional Outputs' for rail service development, which have the potential to deliver up to £55.2 million more GVA per annum and 1,269 new jobs across the County by 2043:

- two trains per hour Worcester-Oxford-Paddington
- one train per hour Kidderminster-Worcester-Paddington
- calls at Worcestershire Parkway by Bristol-Manchester and Plymouth-Newcastle services
- Regional Services between Kidderminster/Bromsgrove, Worcester and Cheltenham Spa, Gloucester and Bristol.

85. The above service aspirations are reliant on the following supporting rail infrastructure upgrades:

- Electrification of both the Bristol to Birmingham and Snow Hill lines
- North Cotswold line capacity upgrade
- Worcester Area and Droitwich Spa to Stoke Works capacity upgrade
- New car park capacity
- Worcester Shrub Hill Station Major Regeneration.

86. The Council is involved in West Midlands Rail Limited which is seeking to be directly involved in specifying and managing passenger railway services in the West Midlands.

87. The Council has had significant input into the consultation process, the tender specification and engagement with short-listed bidders.

Midlands Connect

88. Midlands Connect is a £5 million collaboration with central government that brings together 28 local authorities and 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships from across the Midlands. Together, the Midlands Connect Partnership and the Department for Transport are developing a transport strategy that identifies the major infrastructure projects needed to improve the connectivity of our region's key locations so we can help drive economic growth and power the Midlands Engine. The strategy is due to be published in March 2017. Several officers are involved in ensuring Worcestershire's strategic transport aspirations are considered as part of this strategy, in addition to Simon Geraghty who is on the Strategic Board.

Kidderminster Rail Station

89. Provisional sums of £2.5million from the Worcestershire LEP and £1.8million from the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP are now available for the further development of the proposed improvements to Kidderminster railway station. The County Council, in partnership with London Midland, Network Rail, Severn Valley Railway and Wyre Forest District Council, has commissioned architects to design the station building.

Major Infrastructure Projects (in delivery)

Worcestershire Parkway

90. Significant progress has been made to deliver Worcestershire Parkway in the triangle of land formed by the intersection of the Worcester-Paddington and Birmingham-Bristol lines just outside Norton on the B2084. The station will address Worcestershire's poor accessibility to and from London, arising from the current limited frequency and journey times of train services, as well as inadequate parking capacity. Progress includes:

- Progression of the scheme through **Network Rail's** Governance for Railways Investment Process (GRIP);
- **Planning:** Planning permission for the scheme was secured in August 2015. This is subject to the satisfactory completion of the relevant conditions, most of which will be met by the principal contractor as part of the detailed design process;
- **Land Acquisition:** A Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme was made and, following withdrawal of the objections, the Secretary of State has recently confirmed the order.
- **Construction:** The procurement of a principal contractor for the design and build of Worcestershire Parkway is well underway. This requires the final stages of the rail industry approvals to be concluded.

91. Following the formal rail industry approvals and letting of the design and build contract, the detailed work with the contractor will commence with a target completion of spring 2018.

Worcester Southern Link Road (SLR)

92. The Council is committed to the dualling of the Southern Link Road from Junction 7 of the M5 to the Powick Roundabout. Work is well underway with Phase 3, a c£33m scheme to dual between the Whittington and Norton roundabouts. This is one of the biggest upgrades to road infrastructure in the county for many years. The scheme has been identified as one of the highest priorities in terms of tackling both current and future levels of congestion.

93. Phase 3 includes the provision of a dedicated left-hand turn from the M5 approach to Whittington roundabout on to Crookbarrow Way and finally dualling the section between the two roundabouts including the extension of the rail bridge. Work is currently underway to improve the Norton roundabout with work about to start between Whittington and Norton.

94. Following this, the next phase of the Southern Link Road development will be to complete the dualling to Powick Roundabout. An application for development funding for **SLR Phase 4** (Carrington Bridge), likely to amount to £70 million, was submitted at the end of May 2016. An Outline Business Case will be submitted, as an interim submission, in July for the Local Majors Fund, with the full submission in December 2016. In addition to the preparation of the outline business case, market engagement work has taken place to inform the delivery and procurement strategy for the scheme, as well as survey and other preparatory works, using the £1.4m committed by the Council for the development of this strategic scheme.

Hoobrook Link Road

95. The link road is situated within the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park which is one of the strategic employment sites in Worcestershire. The link road will provide improved access, connect two key employment corridors, promote much needed economic growth and relieve traffic congestion. Construction started in May 2015 and continues to progress well, including the well-publicised major milestone of the bridge beam lift that took place in December 2015. The scheme is due to be completed this summer as planned.

Cathedral Square

96. Improvements to Cathedral Square are taking place to unlock development opportunity for the south end of Worcester High Street, bringing greater footfall and investment for this area of the city centre. The Council delivered Phase 1 of this scheme, highways realignment, as planned in October 2015. Phase 2, retail development, is well underway, with the final phase being the Public Realm work that will take place in 2017.

Worcester Six

97. The highways infrastructure to support the development of and future access to Worcester Six, just next to Junction 6 of the M5, was completed as planned this year. Wychavon District Council has recently given planning permission to Liberty Property Trust for the first two buildings on the site, amounting to over 200,000sq ft, intended to house technology-based businesses. This exciting development is one of the four game-changer sites in the County, creating thousands of jobs in their train.

Bromsgrove Station

98. This c£17.m (excluding electrification) project which is funded by Worcestershire County Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority includes a new station building with a footbridge and lifts, toilets, a ticket office and a 350 space car park. The scheme will enable additional and more frequent services to call at the station and will facilitate electrification of the line between Bromsgrove and Barnt Green by Network Rail. The new station is due to open this week, on 12 July 2016.

Major infrastructure projects (emerging)

99. Significant improvements to the A38 Corridor in Bromsgrove have been identified to mitigate the additional trips linked to development growth from the Local Plan. The Council is developing the Business Case to support a funding bid for Local Growth Deal funding. Improvements to key pinch points have been identified at a cost of over £30 million. In addition, we are awaiting the outcome of an £8 million bid to Highways England as part of their Growth and Housing Fund.

100. Pershore Northern Link Road/Pinvin Crossroads. As with the A38 above, the Council is compiling a Business Case to support a bid towards Local Growth Deal funding. This involves improvements to the junction at Pinvin and provision of a new link road to the Keytech Business Park.

Superfast Worcestershire

Update on Progress

101. As at 24 June 2016 the Superfast Worcestershire Partnership had fibre-enabled 332 green broadband street cabinets, meaning an additional 55,545 premises are now able to 'sign-up' with their preferred internet service provider to obtain improved broadband speeds. The fibre coverage across the county has increased from 73% to 92% of all premises, with business premises seeing a huge uplift from 44% to 86% now able to access fibre broadband.

Plans for Expansion

102. When the Superfast Extension Programme is completed in September 2017, the percentage of homes and businesses able to access fibre broadband in Worcestershire will increase to more than 95% - with 94% able to access superfast download speeds of 24megabits per second (Mbps) and above.

103. Programme efficiencies and good levels of take-up have enabled further reinvestment into the programme of up to £3.25m which was approved by Council in November 2015. A survey of stakeholders, including businesses and residents, has helped understanding of the priority areas for further intervention and the Council is currently working with BT to plan and agree fibre expansion plans across Worcestershire. Further details will be announced as soon as they are available.

Stimulating Demand

104. As a result of recognising the importance of promoting the benefits of fibre broadband and helping people understand how they can sign up for the service, a focused demand stimulation campaign has been running since December 2015 and is already showing good results. Overall take up at the end of May 2016 hit an impressive 28.2%, which remains above the national average of programmes working to similar timelines. Take up of more established cabinets, over 350 days old, is at over 34%, a trend which is on track to continue. Social media coverage is also very strong, with over 10,500 Twitter followers staying in touch and commenting on the programme.

Strategic Planning, Development Control and Waste & Minerals Plans

105. Work has continued on the emerging Minerals Plan, with agreement being reached on crushed rock apportionments with neighbouring authorities through the Duty to Co-operate, as Worcestershire does not produce any such material, and is unlikely to be able to do so. A second call for sites has been completed, and all relevant statutory bodies have now been consulted on these. The emerging plan will be published for consultation in November 2016.

106. Significant minerals applications have also been submitted, and either determined or progressing towards determination, reflecting the increase in demand from the housing market and infrastructure projects.

107. We have continued to work with the local planning authorities to develop their respective Local Plans and associated Infrastructure Development Plans, coordinating this work across the County Council. South Worcestershire Councils are expected to submit a Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule to the Planning Inspectorate this month, July 2016, which has been developed in partnership with the County

Council, and has been through public consultation. Subject to a successful Examination in Public, this will be adopted in 2017.

108. In April 2015, the County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, became the statutory consultee on all major planning applications submitted to Local Planning Authorities with regard to surface water management. In the first 12 months this has resulted in us commenting on 170 planning applications across Worcestershire, with a further 120 consultations.

Conclusion

109. In conclusion, I must place on record my grateful thanks to the officers who have assisted in the preparation of this report, chronicling as it does the hard work of the whole Economy and Infrastructure Directorate. No doubt in the coming months, I will also appreciate close examination of that work from my former colleagues on the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Panel, to the betterment of its output.

Ken Pollock

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure

COUNCIL
14 JULY 2016**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Strategy on substance misuse

1. Mr G J Vickery will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing:

"According to the draft Health & Well-being Strategy 2016-2020, one of the key principles underpinning the strategy is "taking actions that we know will work." In the list of priorities is action to deal with alcohol abuse but there is no reference to drug abuse. Does this mean that we don't know what to do about drug abuse?"

Question 2 – Apprentices

2. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning please inform me of how many apprentices this Council expects to employ over the next year?"

Question 3 – Asthma in school children

3. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being for please inform me of how many school children are suffering from asthma throughout the county?"

Question 4 – Eastham Bridge

4. Mr P Grove will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"The collapse of Eastham Bridge on Tuesday, 24 May was of a surprise to all. Eastham Bridge is vital to the rural community especially schools and also the economic viability of rural businesses. Communication with the local residents is vital for all concerned. Therefore would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways please give an update on progress to date, and the programme going forward?"

Question 5 – Safety at road bridges

5. Mr J Baker will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being, both present and past, recognise NOW the need to cage the bridge that goes over the A448 after yet another death from this bridge? Will they admit that they should no longer continue to ignore the need for action to be taken now to prevent more loss of life?"

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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
14 JULY 2016**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(a) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE**

LGPS Central Pool Business Case

1. By 15 July 2016 Pension Funds are required to make a final submission to the Government which fully addresses the Government's criteria for the pooling of assets, with enough information for the proposal to be evaluated by Government. Each pool must make a submission which covers the joint proposals and describes the proposed governance, structure and implementation plan.
2. The Committee has received details of the business case for the LGPS Central pool including: the £35bn scale of the pool, which exceeds the Government's requirements, the proposed authorised collective investment vehicle governance arrangements, an estimated base case cost saving over the period 2017/18 to 2032/33 of £183m for the total pool and also the pool's commitment to developing an improved capacity to invest in infrastructure. All costs incurred to date by the Fund in relation to LGPS Central and those predicted to be incurred through to the July submission are within the limit delegated to the Chief Financial Officer.
3. The Committee has also been provided with a scenario cost savings analysis to demonstrate the potential savings benefits of increased internal management as the pool establishes its internal investment management sub funds.
4. The Committee has endorsed the LGPS Central Business Case submission to government subject to the following qualification:

Allocation of the authorised Collective Investment Vehicle's Operator running costs to be further explored with other Pension Fund representatives to ensure fair sharing of costs across the Funds in the pool.

Worcestershire County Council Pool Business Case

5. The DCLG has instructed the Administering Authorities of the English and Welsh Funds that comprise the LGPS to make arrangements to reorganise the management of their Fund investments within collective Pools comprising of at least £25 billion of assets under management. The formative Pools are due to provide their proposed Business Cases to the DCLG by 15 July 2016.
6. DCLG has indicated that only a Pool submission is required rather than a Pool and Fund submission. DCLG will then offer a view on progress made and offer

guidance on the next steps. However, given the significance of this decision point, a more robust diligence exercise has been undertaken on behalf of the Fund on the Pool Business Case prior to the Pool submission to Government.

7. From the outset the over-riding principal has been that the Pool must work for the Fund. As with any project of this nature there will be some benefits, but also some compromises might have to be made in the interests of achieving these objectives.

8. The Committee has endorsed the Worcestershire County Council pool business case. The Committee has authorised the Chairman of the Committee in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to write to the Secretary of State to request that the principle be supported that Pooling should allow all funds to benefit from coming together to secure reductions in the cost of managing its assets in particular highlighting the impact on the Worcestershire Pension Fund business case. The Committee has also authorised the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to lobby the members of the LGPS Central pool in relation to the fair allocation of running costs for the Worcestershire Pension Fund within the pool.

Pension Fund Annual Report

9. The annual report is a key communications channel between the fund and a wide variety of stakeholders. The report contains information relating to fund investments, administration, governance, valuations, accounts and membership. The Committee has approved the Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16.

Pension Investment Update

10. The Committee has noted the Independent Financial Adviser's fund performance summary and market background.

11. The Committee has noted the update on the Investment Managers placed 'on watch' by the Pension Investment Advisory Panel, namely Nomura, JP Morgan – Emerging Markets and JP Morgan – Bonds.

12. The Committee has noted the termination of the Capital International mandate and transition of the assets to the LGIM passive equity portfolio.

Administering Authority – Administration update

13. The Committee has noted the general update from the Administering Authority in relation to End of Year Arrangements, Pension Fund Valuation 2016, 2016 Annual Benefits Statements, Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association – Local Authority Conference, Negative Pensions Increase, Current Government Consultations, Admissions to the Fund, and Pensions Ombudsman Decisions.

Mr R W Banks
Chairman

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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 28 June 2016.

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COUNCIL
14 JULY 2016**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(b) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PLANNING
AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

Applications

1. The Committee approved the following planning applications subject to detailed conditions:
 - Proposed minerals extraction of about 1.4 million tonnes of sand and gravel and erection of a temporary wharf with progressive restoration to a landscaped lake on land at Ryall's Court, Ryall Court Lane, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire
 - County matter application to vary condition 15 of planning permission 407501, dated 18 June 2001 to enable the continued temporary retention of aggregate wharf, aggregates processing plant, ancillary uses and structures, access and fresh water lagoons at Ryall House Farm Quarry, Tewkesbury Road, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, and
 - Retrospective application to vary condition 7 of planning permission reference number 407544 to extend the existing operating hours of an existing waste transfer station at Lydstep, Cleeve Road, Middle Littleton, Evesham, Worcestershire.
2. The Committee noted the Annual Review of activities carried out by the Council to manage and implement the Safety of Sports Grounds legislation.
3. Details of the above application can be found in the agenda papers for the Committee meetings held on 17 May 2016.

Mr R C Adams
Chairman

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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 Planning and Regulatory Committee held on 17 May 2016.