

Agenda

Council

Thursday, 17 May 2018, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

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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, 17 May 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 Chairman

To elect a Chairman of the Council to hold office until his or her successor becomes entitled to act.

3 Vice-Chairman

To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until immediately after the election of a Chairman at the next Annual meeting of the Council.

4 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, 16 May 2018). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed below.

5 Minutes

To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting held

on 15 February 2018 (previously circulated electronically).

6 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman (both the retiring Chairman and the incoming Chairman).

7 Reports of Cabinet 1 - 8

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

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

8 Constitutional Matters 9 - 14

To consider a report on (a) findings of the Council Working Group, (b) Council Meeting dates 2019, and (c) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Member Bodies (**Yellow pages**).

9 Notices of Motion

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, 10 May 2018.

10 Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility 15 - 24

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

11 Question Time 25 - 26

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 14 May 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.)*

12 Reports of Committees 27 - 38

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**);
- b) Pensions Committee (**White pages**);

- c) Planning and Regulatory Committee (**White pages**); and
- d) Standards and Ethics 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.

- **Council Photograph**

Arrangements are being made for a photograph to be taken of the whole Council. Details will be included in the Chairman's Announcements circulated on Council day. It is envisaged that the photograph will be taken either during the lunch break or at the end of the meeting, whichever is earlier.

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) 766621 or slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 9 May 2018

COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018**REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A
DECISION BY COUNCIL**

Worcestershire 5G Consortium**Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet recommends that Council notes the additional £4.81 million income and matching expenditure that will form part of the Economy & Infrastructure revenue budget in 2018/19 for the Worcestershire 5G Consortium project.**

Background

2. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium has been successful in its bid for Government funding to test and explore 5G (fifth generation). Understanding of 5G technology is emerging, it will build on the foundation created by 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE), the current standard. This has the potential to revolutionise the Internet of Things (IoT).
3. From its launch, the Worcestershire 5G Consortium will begin one of the country's most comprehensive industrial 5G Testbed trial with a team of 5G specialists and business experts pioneering the concept of 'Industry 4.0' i.e. the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. The consortium of partners includes national network operators and research and development facilities.
4. The 5G Testbed will provide a revolutionary platform for local and national businesses to develop next-generation technology focused on improving the UK's industrial productivity. Founder companies Worcester Bosch and Yamazaki Mazak have already been selected to experiment with preventative and assisted maintenance using robotics, big data analytics and augmented reality. QinetiQ, the multinational defence technology company, will use the Test Bed to advance cyber security application, providing assurances on the 'security by design' of IoT technology.
5. Worcestershire is one of the fastest growing economies in the country. As part of the 'Open for Business' agenda and promoting World Class Worcestershire, the County Council works in conjunction with Worcestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) on programmes and projects that drive economic growth for the county, as part of the Strategic Economic Plan. In November 2016 colleagues in Worcestershire, including representatives of Cabinet, WLEP Board, senior County Council officers and partners from the local district councils, identified that Digital Connectivity would continue to be an important strand of this work and in particular noted the opportunities presented by the development of 5G technologies.

6. Since November 2016, considerable work has taken place developing the connectivity plans within Worcestershire. This preparatory visionary work was given a 'call to action' in the shape of a national funding programme launched by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which invited applications for funding for a Phase One 5G Testbed and Trials Programme.

7. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium submitted one of only six successful bids into Phase One of the Government's 5G Testbed and Trials programme to test and explore 5G connectivity to revolutionise the way future business will operate both in the UK and globally. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium has secured £4.8m in grant funding from the Government, and £3m in contributions from the partners over an initial 12 month period to deliver one of the country's most comprehensive industrial 5G testbed and associated trials. This could give Worcestershire businesses the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovative new technologies with the aim of creating new jobs, educational programmes and driving internal investment into the county.

Project Summary

8. The aim of the project is to deliver a quantified assessment of how 5G technology can increase industrial productivity and support new business models.

9. The testbed will comprise of 5 individual and interconnected indoor test areas located at:

- Yamazaki Mazak
- Worcester Bosch Group
- QinetiQ Malvern
- Malvern Hills Science Park (MHSP), and
- Heart of Worcestershire College (planned as next phase connection).

10. The businesses and organisations at these sites are part of the 'trials' and are supported by the other partners in the bid including; Telefonica, BT, Huawei, AWTC and 5G Innovation Centre at the University of Surrey. WLEP and the County Council take on the role of lead partners managing the programme, processes and coordinating activity.

11. With Worcestershire as the exemplar, the benefits of this investment will be:

- to put the Midlands Engine at the heart of the UK in Advanced Manufacturing
- to stimulate use cases to improve productivity and improve underperformance
- used as a fundamental building block of the Midlands Engine Vision for Growth and our response to Section 2.19 of Government's Midlands Engine Strategy, and
- to help to bridge the £54bn gap in productivity.

12. Within the 5G testbed trials, local businesses, namely Worcester Bosch and Yamazaki Mazak, will focus on ways to increase industrial productivity through preventative and assisted maintenance using robotics, big data analytics and Augmented Reality using 5G technology. The cyber security aspect involves QinetiQ providing assurances on the 'security by design' of 5G and IoT technologies.

13. Whilst the initial trial focuses mainly on 'industry' and 'security' type applications of 5G technology the social benefits it may present are not being overlooked. The project includes work with the Heart of Worcestershire College and University of Worcester, seeking to establish new content and courses to ensure local students have the opportunity to learn about new technologies and skills for the expectant changes in the job market.

14. Partners are excited by the opportunities that 5G technology could offer and recognise there is an element of risk in the work being undertaken as testing and trialling new technologies and pioneering new models are not without their inherent risks. The combination of partners within the project consortium offers a balance of small and medium sized enterprises through to global organisations. All commercial partners have been required to contribute financially to the project and are evidently committed to make the project a success.

The role of Worcestershire County Council

15. The Council will not be delivering the project in totality but will secure project and programme management and subject matter experts in conjunction with WLEP using part of the grant award and will act as the accountable body for the grant, receiving it on behalf of the consortium. The amount of grant awarded to the consortium for the 2018/19 period is £4.81 million. As a public body the Council is able to claim back 100% of eligible costs incurred on the project. It is anticipated that the grant would be used to fund additional revenue spending during 2018/19 only. The additional income and matching expenditure would form part of the Economy & Infrastructure budget in 2018/19. The Council, in conjunction with partners, also has a role to "champion" the project across the country.

16. The Cabinet has endorsed the work undertaken on the project, noting both the Council's role as the lead partner and accountable body for WLEP (managing the programme, assuring and financing partners' claims and drawing down the funding) and the potential opportunities and risks that accompany the project. The Cabinet has authorised officers to finalise and agree the necessary agreements to progress and support the programme and to take necessary actions to progress and support the Worcestershire 5G Consortium, including supporting investigations for alternative funding sources to potentially extend the project.

New Capital Investment - Social Care Case Management System

Recommendation

17. The Cabinet recommends that Council approves the addition of £2 million to the Capital Programme for Social Care Case Management System replacement and the capital cash limits be updated accordingly.

18. The current social care case management system for the Council is the Framework-I suite for Adults and Children's Services. This was procured more than ten years ago and whilst it continues to provide vital support is nevertheless reaching the end of its life cycle. The existing system will not be supported by the current provider from December 2018 so there is a need to consider a replacement.

19. The current options available through the social care IT sector which has undergone significant change over recent years will be considered, and investment will be needed in a replacement system to support the Council's existing and future needs. An effective system is crucial to supporting service transformation across Children's and Adult services.

20. The replacement of this system will be complex involving experts from across the Council and will be managed by the Director of Children, Families and Communities with the support of a Steering Board. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning will also be on the Board.

21. The proposed benefits will be:

- Improved quality of social care service delivery through IT systems that are up to date and maintained in line with latest professional practice
- Resilient and stable IT platforms that do not compromise productivity
- Compliance with statutory requirements around practice and legislation
- Capability to extract and analyse high quality data for better service delivery
- Provides a trusted and secure platform for partners and residents to share information and engage with Council delivered and commissioned services.

22. Approval of the allocation of £2 million from the existing contingency within the Capital Programme for the replacement of the social care case management system is therefore sought. There is also the potential for additional revenue costs in 2019/20 which will be dependent on the solution selected once procurement is complete. These will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Mr S E Geraghty
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 and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 April 2018.

COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Children's Social Care Services Alternative Delivery Model - Business Case Approval

1. Further to the report to Council in January 2018, preparations had been made to take forward to Full Business Case (FBC) the two options of the Wholly Owned Council Company and the Strategic Partnership with another Local Authority as the outline recommended Alternative Delivery Models (ADM). However, it soon became clear that a viable partner could not be found for the Strategic Partnership Model and therefore it was not developed in detail within the FBC.

2. The development of the FBC for the Wholly Owned Council Company was taken forward using the 'Five Case Model' which comprised the strategic case; economic case; commercial case; financial case, and the management case. The FBC demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the proposed Wholly Owned Council Company model, activities required, technical and financial considerations and risks associated with implementing this option. The Cabinet has therefore approved the development of a Wholly Owned Council Company (the Company) as the ADM to deliver children's social care, subject to agreement and funding support from the Department for Education. It has also agreed the proposed scope of services for transfer to the Company, including the likely support model, as suitable for formalising into a detailed implementation and consultation plan and as the basis for establishing the Company.

3. The development and implementation of the detailed programme and consultation plan to establish the Company has been delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families and for Transformation and Commissioning. A further programme update report will be received by the Cabinet in October 2018 and will include recommendations relating to the draft contract, any modifications in scope and confirmation of VAT implications in order to help inform Council budget planning for 2019/20 and to determine the model for transfer of staff within scope. The ambition is that at the point of transferring services into the Company the Service will be performing well and the Company will have a positive platform to sustain the improvement and further improve outcomes for children and young people.

Plastics and Non-Recyclable Cups - Notices of Motion from Council 15 February 2018

4. In February 2018, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to Cabinet for determination:

"This Council recognises that discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups are a major environmental pollutant.

Council therefore resolved to:

1. Cease the use of single plastic water cups and replace them with washable, reusable alternatives
 2. Request our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives."
5. At the same meeting, the Council also agreed the following Notice of Motion and asked Cabinet to consider the request:

"That this Council asks Cabinet to join others in the battle against single-use plastic by encouraging the use of alternative materials for cups, bottles, cutlery and straws at all its buildings, cafes and public events."

6. The Cabinet has received details of actions relevant to the Notices of Motion that are currently being taken by Council officers and has agreed that a full and detailed report will be made to its next meeting on 14 June 2018.

Use of Children's Centre Buildings - Transfer of the Outreach Centre at the Grove Primary School, Malvern

7. In 2016 the Cabinet agreed a range of recommendations relating to the provision of effective prevention services for children and young people including optimising the use of children centre buildings for delivery in localities. As part of the proposals approval was given for the children's centre outreach centre, locally named 'Sunshine at The Grove' located at the Grove Primary School in Malvern, to continue to be used by the Parenting and Family Support provider (Action for Children) for the delivery of services. Action for Children had since reviewed their use of the building and sought agreement to relinquish the lease on the centre as they do not have an ongoing need for it.

8. The Cabinet has therefore agreed proposals for the future use of the centre to be leased to the Grove Primary School for the continued provision of early childhood services. The proposal will increase sustainable efficiency and avoid the use of capital funds to create new spaces to meet the Council's duties in relation to the sufficiency of early years delivery. The Director of Children, Families and Communities has been given authority to take all necessary steps to effect the proposals.

Resources Report

9. The Cabinet has noted that an overall financial pressure of £6.3m has been forecast by the end of the financial year 2017/18. The Council has faced significant financial challenges, both with the need to support increased service provision for Children's Services Placements and Safeguarding and the impact of increased demographic and other cost pressures across Adult Services. Other areas of cost pressure include agency staffing costs for children's social care and increased waste disposal costs. The Council will use a number of one off measures to balance the 2017/18 financial year, including using earmarked reserves, capitalisation of costs, use of specific grants and Better Care Fund monies, and reviewing the Minimum Revenue Provision accounting policy. The Council plans to keep general balances the same at £12m with no future plans to add to or reduce this amount.

10. The Cabinet has also noted the response to the Government's consultation "Fair Funding Review: A review of relative needs and resources." The Government is looking to remove some of the complexity within the current formula and to increase transparency. The review will set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities and deliver an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and relative resources. The implementation date for the review is currently set to be 2020/21. In general, the Council has welcomed the consultation proposals and agreed that a simple process is required. The Council continues to make a case for being included in an Area Cost Adjustment calculation, the omission of which reduces funding unfairly when many neighbouring authorities who have similar employment and labour costs do receive this support.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

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 29 March and 19 April 2018

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COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

(a) Council Working Group Report

Recommendation

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the Council:

- a) considers the changes to the arrangements for Council meetings proposed by the Council Working Group set out in this report;**
- b) authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make any changes to the constitution if required as a result of consideration of the proposals**

Background Information:

2. At its meeting on 14 September 2017 Council resolved to re-convene the cross-party Council Working Group to consider how better use might be made of the opportunities that full Council meetings represent, and how every Councillor can make a strong personal contribution for the benefit of residents and the county.

3. As part of this work the Council Working Group has continued to progress the findings from the Councillor survey undertaken in December 2016, the results of which inform this report.

4. Membership of the Council Working Group consists of the following Councillors: Mr Tom Baker-Price, Mr Brandon Clayton (Chairman), Mrs Liz Eyre, Mr Marcus Hart, Mr Peter McDonald, Mrs Jane Potter, Mrs Mary Rayner, Prof John Raine, Mr John Smith, Mrs Liz Tucker and Mr Richard Udall, with officer support from Legal and Democratic Services.

5. At its meetings so far, the Group has focused on the mechanics of the Council meeting in response to comments from Councillors in the survey about the length of meetings. The table below summarises the proposals from the Group relating to Questions, Notices of Motion and CMR reports.

Procedural proposals

6. **Question Time** – the constitution provides for 30 minutes to be set aside for dealing with formal written questions submitted by councillors. The current deadline for such questions to be submitted is 3 days before the meeting, which is after the initial publication of the agenda. Currently questions received by the time of agenda publication are included with it, and others received after this but prior to the constitutional deadline are circulated separately. Where a Councillor submits more than one question they are asked at the meeting to confirm which they wish to ask first.

7. The Council Working Group proposes to move the deadline forward as below so as to ensure that all formal questions are contained in the initial agenda, which also identifies the order of priority where a Councillor wishes to ask more than one question.

8. **Notices of Motion** – The current deadline for Notices of Motion to be submitted is days before the meeting, which is after the initial publication of the agenda, This means that they are not necessarily all included with the initial agenda, often with later Notices of Motion circulated separately. The Council Working Group proposes to move the deadline forward so that all Notices of Motion are included with the initial published agenda for the meeting. To address concerns in the survey of Councillors about the length of Council meetings, it is also proposed to introduce a time limit of 90 minutes at each meeting for dealing with all Notices of Motion. It is acknowledged that on occasion the Council may wish to exceed this and if it is agreed to change the constitution provision is also proposed to enable this to happen.

9. The current PSO relating to Notices of Motion requires that they "*relate to the statutory functions of the County Council or affect the County*". In order to make best use of Council time, the Group has considered how wide the interpretation of the phrase "*affect the County*" should be. The Council Working Group is recommending the PSO should be clarified to state that to qualify under the second limb they must affect the County in particular rather than being national issues.

10. **CMR reports** – as part of addressing members' concerns about the length of Council meetings it is proposed to introduce a 30 minute time limit for questions on CMR reports. The Group did consider whether to recommend that reports were submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel instead of Council, with all members invited to the meetings. It was suggested that this would enable more in-depth questioning, but on balance it was felt that it was important all members had the opportunity to consider the reports at a Council meeting.

Continuation of Council Working Group

11. Finally, the original terms of reference of the Group included member development and the effectiveness of committees. Continuation of the Working Group will enable these areas to be progressed.

Proposals:

12. The majority of the members who participated in the Council Working Group supported the changes set out in this report to take effect from the next Full Council Meeting. Mrs Tucker and Prof Raine have asked that their objection to the report is noted.

Question Time:		
Current constitution	CWG Proposal	Notes
No Councillor usually able to ask more than 2 questions	No change to number but Councillors asked to rank questions in order of importance at time of submitting any second question	To help Chairman in running the meeting and speed up the process
Some questions are published with the agenda, others separately, depending on when received. Deadline: noon on 3 rd calendar day before meeting.	Deadline: noon on 9 th Calendar day before the meeting (normally Tuesday of the week before Council)	Questions published with the agenda to bring all paperwork into one place. NB: waiting to ensure the agenda includes all formal questions means we are very unlikely to publish the Council agenda on that Tuesday, so publication would usually be on the legal deadline on the Wednesday of the week before the Council meeting
Notices of Motion:		
Current constitution	CWG Proposal	Notes
Deadline: noon on 7 th calendar day before the meeting	Deadline: noon on 9 th calendar day before the meeting (Tuesday)	To enable all NoM to be included with initial agenda NB: waiting to ensure the agenda includes all Notices of Motion means we are very unlikely to publish the Council agenda on that Tuesday, so publication would usually be on the legal deadline on the Wednesday of the week before the Council meeting
No time limit on discussion of NoM at the Council meeting	Introduce a total time limit of 90 minutes for all discussions on NoM agenda	To address feedback from the survey of Councillors (Dec. 2016) which indicated many felt the meetings are too long.

		<p>Council would be able to agree to continue beyond 90 minutes by agreement at the meeting.</p> <p>Any Notice of Motion not moved at the meeting would be postponed until the next meeting.</p>
Currently NoM must relate to the statutory functions of the County Council or affect the County – no further requirements ref content	Notice of Motions must <i>"relate to the statutory functions of the County Council or affect the County in particular"</i> .	To clarify the approach to be taken and focus debate on matters of direct relevance to the county.
CMR Reports:		
Current Situation	CWG Proposal	
Unlimited questions and no limit on the length of reports. .	Shorter reports encouraged and 30 minute maximum time limit permitted for questions and answers.	To address member feedback about the length of meetings
Future of Council Working Group:		
<p>The Council Working Group, have further agreed work streams to progress as identified through the results of the Member Survey 2016 which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member development and • The effectiveness of committees. <p>In addition, the Council Working Group agreed it would be useful to undertake an annual survey to identify any training or support needs and any information gaps Councillors may have.</p>		

(b) Council meeting dates 2019

Recommendation

13. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the Council approves its programme of meetings for 2019 as follows:

17 January 2019
14 February 2019
16 May 2019
18 July 2019
12 September 2019
07 November 2019.

14. County Council meeting dates are currently scheduled up to November 2018. To enable the 2019 meetings programme to be produced and help members plan their commitments, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services suggests that further meetings of the Council are now scheduled for 2019. In accordance with the usual practice and pattern of meetings, further meetings (Cabinet, Committees and Panels) will be arranged in the light of the Council dates and members notified in due course.

15. Members may wish to note that the remaining Council meetings for 2018 are scheduled for 13 September and 8 November 2018.

(c) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Member Bodies

16. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the constitutional appointments as set out in the Appendix to this report (to follow) be confirmed.

17. The Council receive regular reports on appointments which need to be made to various chairmanships and vice-chairmanships. The nominations for a number of appointments are set out in the Appendix to this report.

Contact Points

Worcestershire 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 background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

For the Council Working Group - Agenda papers and Minutes of Council on 14 January 2016, 12 January 2017, 13 July and 14 September 2017

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COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018

**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY
– CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Introduction

1. I am very pleased and privileged to offer this report to Council on the work carried out in the areas of economy and infrastructure over the last two years. At the time of my last report in July 2016, I had barely assumed responsibility for the economy and infrastructure, and, a year ago, I was stripped of the additional area of skills.
2. That said, I am confident that this report chronicles a great deal of important and productive work in these two areas that are of such vital importance to the County and all of its residents and businesses.

Economic Growth and Investment

3. 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. Worcestershire continues to be identified as an area of significant growth, with the Gross Value Added (GVA) in the county growing every year since 2011, and at a faster rate than the West Midlands and England.
4. On 27 November 2017 the Government published the 'Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future'. The White Paper sets out the Government's final plans for supporting Britain's industrial sectors, improving productivity, driving growth across the country and making British business more competitive.
5. The strategy is structured under five foundations of productivity: ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment, and places. It draws together in one place a range of new and existing policy and related funding. The Industrial Strategy also sets out 4 grand challenges:
 - Put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution
 - Maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth
 - Become a world leader in shaping the future of mobility, and
 - Harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society.

The Council is now working with partners to identify the opportunities for Worcestershire and the implications of the strategy post Brexit.

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP)

6. 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 Worcestershire LTP4 was adopted on 9 December, 2017. The compendium of documents that make up this plan can be viewed here: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LTP.

7. Delivery of a number of schemes identified in the Local Transport Plan is already underway. Detailed programming of schemes listed is in progress, and delivery plans will emerge in a robust and timely manner.

Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy

8. The Council has adopted a comprehensive rail investment strategy for the county. This Strategy sets out an ambitious investment plan for Worcestershire's rail infrastructure and services providing additional capacity to support change in travel demand essential to support Worcestershire's growth aspirations

9. The adopted Strategy, supported by an impressive business case, provides a valuable lobbying tool to stimulate investment in Worcestershire's rail infrastructure and services. This Strategy has been shared widely with partners in the rail industry, and will help influence wider regional and national strategy and underpin future planned rail industry investment.

10. The Strategy focuses on four overarching 'conditional outputs' for rail service development, which collectively have the potential to deliver up to £55.2 million additional GVA per annum and 1,269 jobs across Worcestershire by 2043. Specifically:

1. Two trains per hour Worcester to Paddington;
2. One train per hour Kidderminster/Droitwich Spa/Worcester/Paddington;
3. Additional calls at Worcestershire Parkway for Bristol/Manchester and Plymouth/Newcastle services;
4. Regional service between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove, Worcester and Cheltenham Spa, Gloucester and Bristol.

11. This is supported by key aspirational infrastructure schemes, essential to facilitate this new connectivity, including:

- North Cotswold Line dualling and wider capacity upgrade;
- Worcester Area and Droitwich Spa to Stoke Works capacity upgrade;
- Worcester Shrub Hill station regeneration;
- Electrification of both the Bristol to Birmingham and Snow Hill lines;
- New car park capacity and/or new stations if demand requires it.

12. Together with partners at West Midlands Rail and the Department for Transport, Worcestershire County Council has had a significant involvement in the letting of the contract for the West Midlands Rail Franchise, using the Rail Strategy to specify investment requirements for Worcestershire. The new franchise was let on 10 December, 2017 to West Midlands Trains; a consortium of Abellio, JR East and Matsui. Further details of agreed franchise commitments can be viewed here: <http://maps.dft.gov.uk/west-midlands/>

North Cotswold Line Task Force

13. Worcestershire County Council has spearheaded the development of the North Cotswold Line Task Force; a collaboration of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Herefordshire and ourselves as Local Authorities, with the common aim of securing major investment in the North Cotswold Line.

14. This Task Force has a dual role:

- To prepare the business case for investment in the North Cotswold Line
- To lobby for investment in the route's infrastructure and services from the rail industry.

It is expected that the outputs from the business case work will be published in Summer 2018.

Midlands Connect

15. 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 have developed 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 available to view here: www.midlandsconnect.uk, this includes proposals for investment in the A46 corridor and regionally significant rail corridors which pass through Worcestershire.

Digital Connectivity

• Broadband

16. The Superfast Worcestershire Programme will enable superfast broadband connectivity to more than 96% of homes and businesses in Worcestershire by the end of 2019, whilst at the same time supporting proactive communities in the remaining 4%, through a number of alternative schemes. To date the programme has already enabled fibre to an additional 70,000 premises, 60,000 of these are able to receive superfast speeds. Since the programme began the superfast coverage across the county has increased from 69% of all premises to 94.7% and the coverage of business premises has increased from 44% to 90% across the county.

17. The programme continues to undertake 'Demand Stimulation' activity to encourage and ensure people are aware of the need to 'take-up' services on the new infrastructure. Current take-up remains above the national average, compared to other programmes across the country, with our second contract amongst the top five performers. Positive 'take-up' ensures benefits are realised across the county and provides an opportunity for re-investment into the programme through the 'Claw-back' mechanisms within the contract.

• 5G

18. Working alongside Worcestershire LEP, the County Council have been engaging mobile network operators on improving their existing mobile phone services, 2G, 3G and 4G. Conversations with all four operators have already delivered positive outcomes in the county, with further coverage and service benefits expected.

19. Worcestershire is one of only six successful bids into Phase One of Government's 5G Testbed and Trials programme to test and explore 5G connectivity, to revolutionise the way future business will operate both in the UK and globally. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium, involving public and private sector companies has secured £4.8m in grant funding from the Government and is progressing one of the country's most comprehensive industrial 5G testbed and associated trials. This could give Worcestershire businesses the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovative new technologies, with the aim of creating new jobs, educational programmes and attracting investment into the county.

Major Infrastructure Projects

- **Southern Link Road (SLR)**

20. The Council is committed to the dualling of the Southern Link Road from Junction 7 of the M5 to the Powick Roundabout. At c£100M, 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.

21. Work is well underway with **Phase 3**, which will ultimately see completion of the dualling between Whittington and the Ketch Roundabouts. Works already undertaken include the completion of a dedicated left-hand turn from the M5 approach to Whittington roundabout on to Crookbarrow Way, the widening of Norton Roundabout and provision of two running lanes for westbound traffic travelling towards Malvern. Current works on site include the construction of a new railway bridge which will be installed under a blockade of both road and rail traffic at the end of May 2018.

22. In March 2017, an application for £54.5m funding for SLR **Phase 4** (aka Carrington Bridge), estimated to cost £62 million, was submitted to the Department for Transport and Programme Entry was secured in November 2017. The selected procurement route is via Early Contractor Involvement and Stage 1a of the ECI Contract was awarded to the successful tenderer in May 2017.

23. The planning application for the scheme was submitted in October 2017 and planning permission obtained in March 2018. The next stage includes concluding statutory processes ready for commencement of the main works in Spring 2019. Ahead of this some advanced enabling works are planned to take place in 2018. This includes: the relocation a high voltage overhead pylon, flood mitigation, preparation of replacement common land and environmental mitigation works.

- **Worcestershire Parkway**

24. In January 2017 Worcestershire County Council appointed Buckingham Group Contracting Limited to undertake the design and construction works for Worcestershire Parkway. 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. Detailed design works have progressed and early works on site commenced in 2017. Current site activities include erection of station building steelwork, installation of the new B4084 roundabout and associated infrastructure and works to the PROW path. Construction works will continue through 2018 / early 2019.

- **Hoobrook Link Road**

25. The Hoobrook Link Road is situated within the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park which is one of the strategic employment sites. The new road was completed in September 2016. This includes a 57m single span bridge over the River Stour and Staffs and Worcs Canal, two new 3 way signalised junctions on Stourport Road and Worcester Road and construction of 650m of new Highway linking both junctions through the former British Sugar site.

- **Pershore Infrastructure Improvements**

26. The c£11.6m Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme is progressing, this consists of:

- The provision of a northern link road that connects the employment sites of the Keytec Business Park with the A44
- The provision of capacity enhancements at Pinvin crossroads to alleviate existing and projected congestion in the area, and
- Upgrading of the Wyre Road / Station Road Junction.

27. Construction is expected to commence in 2019 and the benefits of the scheme include: supporting growth in employment and the economy, improving access from Keytec Business Park to the A44 and reduction in congestion.

- **Churchfields Urban Village Highways Infrastructure Improvements**

28. Development of the Churchfields Scheme is underway. This c£5.7m scheme seeks to deliver improved access to the Churchfields Masterplan area in order to unlock significant housing-led development. The purpose of the scheme is to increase capacity on the highway network to enable the redevelopment of the Churchfields area and to provide an improvement scheme for Blackwell Street that improves the air quality within the Air Quality Management Area.

29. Work is underway to progress securing land and planning decisions. Construction is currently expected to start around mid-2019.

- **Kidderminster Rail Station**

30. The Kidderminster Railway Station project is making good progress and number of key milestones have been achieved over the last few months, including the next stage of the design. Worcestershire County Council's term highways contractor, Ringway, has been engaged and is preparing for the highways construction works on Comberton Road.

31. Positive progress is being made with Network Rail regarding the station and forecourt works and the procurement of the detailed design and construction contract is currently underway.

32. The team are working through the funding details and a review of the full business case with WLEP and GBSLEP.

- **Public Realm Programme**

33. Public Realm schemes have been completed at Cathedral Square in Worcester, Teme Street in Tenbury Wells, Alcester Street in Redditch and Droitwich High Street. This programme of works has made significant improvements to some of the County's most important public areas, serving as thoroughfares, shopping areas, business

locations and meeting places. Forthcoming Public Realm schemes include Worcester Street in Kidderminster and the Shambles in Worcester.

- **Bromsgrove Eastern Bypass A38 Corridor**

34. Development of the A38 Bromsgrove Eastern Bypass Corridor Major Scheme Business Case is ongoing. This major scheme, proposed to be delivered in a series of Phases, will see significant capacity improvements delivered at a number of junctions along the A38 Bromsgrove Eastern Bypass, from M5 Junction 4 (Lydiate Ash) to M5 Junction 5 (Wychbold). The total scheme is currently estimated to have a value of approximately £40 million. A number of funding bodies are being approached currently to enable this critical major scheme to be pursued, subject to final funding approval the emerging programme could see work starting at the end of 2018.

Strategic Planning, Development Control and Waste & Minerals Plans

35. Minerals Local Plan: we have continued to develop the plan for the 4th stage consultation late in 2018. A fourth call for sites was undertaken to address the short fall in supply and our land banking requirement. This has resulted in further new sites coming forward which are currently being assessed for their deliverability.

36. Notable planning decisions have included:

- Southern Link Road, phase 4 which was granted planning permission in March 2018
- New Road, Worcester flood alleviation works, which was granted planning permission in December 2017
- Malvern Vale Primary School, and
- Worcestershire Parkway - continued to be supported following the grant of planning permission with the discharge of conditions.

37. The Planning Validation document has been updated and the new version adopted. This provides guidance on the documents which need to be submitted in support of a planning application to the County Council.

38. In partnership with the Green Infrastructure Partnership for Worcestershire, Worcestershire County Council is leading on the review of the evidence bases for the Green Infrastructure Strategy, prior to a review of the strategy itself. This work commenced in 2017.

39. The team has continued to work in partnership with the district councils in Worcestershire, concentrating on supporting the review of local plans and infrastructure delivery plans. This has been ongoing throughout financial year 2017/18 and will continue in the current year.

Worcestershire Innovation (WINN)

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

41. Services are 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.

42. Successes this year include; the development of a network of more than 650 local business people, a number of business events, launch of the Make it Happen Challenge supported by local businesses, and a funding package is now in place for The Kiln to establish an exciting new innovative co-working space in Worcester from summer 2019.

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

43. 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**.

44. The Worcestershire LEP and the county council continue to co-invest in improving the connectivity of the county. Projects include:

- Southern Link Road
- Malvern Hills Science Park
- Worcestershire Parkway
- Superfast Broadband
- Kidderminster Station, and
- Flood Relief Programme.

45. In addition setting the strategic direction for skills and enterprise infrastructure remains a core priority along with a strong focus on key sectors including Agri Tech, advanced manufacturing and cyber security, defence and IT; in response to the emerging industrial strategy, consideration is being given to the impact of the ageing society work, and links to the medical technology sector in Worcestershire.

Business Support Programme

- **Worcestershire Growth Fund:** a £2m Local Growth Fund Project which has supported 25 businesses with their expansion plans. The project will create more than 200 jobs, with private sector leverage of £3m.
- **Enterprising Worcestershire:** Enterprising Worcestershire assisted more than 300 people to start a business in the past 12 months. In addition to the core business start-up service a new bespoke programme has commenced targeting those newly created businesses with high growth potential, we currently have 12 businesses on this programme with a further 23 expected to join the programme over the next 12-18 months.
- **Proof of Concept (POC):** a £2.1m Innovation programme to help business with research and product development. The project has worked successfully with the Central Technology Belt to support 55 local businesses to bring new projects to market. The project has allocated over £1.3m of grant funding which has generated approx. £3.5m of private sector investment.
- **FinditWORCESTERSHIRE (FIW):** now has over 8,000 members, with an average of 90 businesses attending each month's networking event. The events are now primarily focussed on winning new businesses/meet the buyers.

- **Be Cyber Secure.** Provides county based SMEs with support to improve their cyber security and achieve cyber certification, through diagnostics and free specialist advice in 2017/18. We have assisted 69 local businesses to improve their cyber security and also provided funding of over £125k to implement recommendations within the businesses.
- **Investing in Growth:** This EU funded project provides a broad spectrum of support to enable inward investment and internal business expansion from investment readiness, advice and guidance. This supports SMEs to become investor ready and gain access to appropriate business finance grants of up to £50,000 for inward investment, promoting Worcestershire as a key business location. To date the project has supported 20 businesses with their investment plans and provided grant funding to 14 businesses of over £500k, generating private sector investment of over £750k.

LEADER Programme

46. 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 £50,000 to make a difference to the local area and grow the rural economy. Since launching the current LEADER programme in November 2015, we have allocated over £1.5m to more than 51 businesses supporting Worcestershire's rural economy.

47. The LEADER Programme is supported by a local board known as a Local Action Group which has an independent chair and representatives from public sector, Worcestershire LEP, NFU, CLA, Visit Worcestershire, ACRE and private sector representatives from forestry and farming.

Worcestershire Business Central

48. The County Council has worked closely with partners 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. The County Council has allocated 4 members of staff to the team.

49. 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 4 telephone-based support staff.

50. The website continues to have approx. 5,000 visits per month and over the past 12 months the service has undertaken over 550 visits to Worcestershire-based businesses and undertaken over 2,000 business diagnostics, which has led to 1,535 referrals on to support agencies, programmes, national schemes, etc. to ensure Worcestershire based businesses receive the support they need to realise their growth plans.

Game Changer Sites

• Worcester Six

51. Worcester Six is a 72 hectare (178 acre) site set immediately to the east of the M5 motorway at junction 6 that has much to offer including access to one of the best road transport networks in the UK. With outline planning consent for 1,500,000 sq ft (140,000 sq m) of manufacturing, offices, R & D and logistics buildings, Worcester Six is set to become one of the region's flagship developments.

52. Targeted at technology rich manufacturing companies that can draw on local skills specialisms in IT, defence and cyber sectors, Worcester Six also provides new floor space for manufacturing, offices, Research and Development and logistics. On site 420,500 sq ft is now let or under construction, creating circa 165 jobs.

53. Current and future Worcester Six occupiers/investors include:

- Kimal
- Spire Healthcare
- Material Solutions, part of Siemens, and
- Liberty Property Trust

• Redditch Eastern Gateway

54. The Redditch Eastern Gateway development is an exciting opportunity to build on the town's wealth of engineering and manufacturing expertise. The new development aims to promote and enhance supply chain links and to further develop the skills of the local labour market. Redditch, Bromsgrove and Stratford upon Avon District and Borough Councils all approved the project in March 2018 with Outline Planning consent granted.

55. Stoford Developments Ltd, the appointed developer at Redditch Eastern Gateway are now seeking occupiers for the one million sq ft premium employment space and is set to deliver up to 2,500 jobs to the area. Achieving an increase in economic growth and productivity, through the development of high-quality headquarters-style manufacturing facilities, the site provides an opportunity to transform the Redditch economy and re-position the area as a location of choice for growing local companies and prospective inward investors. The focus is on driving 'high value added jobs and skills' onto the site seeking to attract leading edge sectors and businesses.

• Malvern Hills Science Park and Technology Park

56. Malvern Hills Science and Technology Park describes the combination of the Malvern Hills Science Park and the QinetiQ site. Malvern Hills Science Park (MHSP) has been developed over four phases and is currently fully let accommodating over 30 technology-rich companies employing over 350 people. Phase 5 is now under construction and is due for completion this Summer providing a further 17,000 sq ft of Technology/R&D workspace for new and existing tenants to expand into, releasing space in Phases 1-3 to accommodate new businesses.

57. Additional employment land adjacent to it is being created from land surplus to QinetiQ core site and will provide high quality development of up to 300,000 sq ft of B1 (b) office and ancillary uses, to accommodate HQ, manufacturing, research and development and training facilities.

- **South Kidderminster Enterprise Park**

58. The South Kidderminster Enterprise Park (SKEP) is an area within Wyre Forest District that is a key focus for employment and regeneration. Located along Stourport Road in Kidderminster, North Worcestershire, the area benefits from an existing skilled labour force whilst being on the edge of the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation.

59. The largest site within the SKEP is the former British Sugar Site, now known as Silverwoods. The site is being developed in phases and is also the location of the new Hoobrook Link Road. The road has opened up further commercial development opportunities on this site and has improved connectivity within the corridor as a whole.

60. The SKEP benefits from an adopted Local Development Order (LDO). The LDO provides a simplified planning regime for business related activities within the area. Since its inception in 2012 development under the LDO has resulted in circa 150,000sq ft of new commercial premises, the investment of £25million and the creation/safeguarding of circa 350 jobs.

61. Whilst a number of sites have been developed since 2012, there remain key parcels of land that are already serviced and available for commercial activity. The majority of the corridor is also located within the UK's identified 'Assisted Area', bringing further benefits to companies looking to operate from here.

Conclusion

62. In conclusion, I must reiterate my grateful thanks to the dedicated team of officers who have carried out the hard work of the whole Economy and Infrastructure Directorate detailed here. I must also place on record my thanks to those who have helped in the preparation this report, and I anticipate the close examination of the work chronicled herein by the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Panel.

Ken Pollock

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure

COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Traffic issues on the A456 and adjoining roads, Kidderminster

1. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"On Friday April 27th there was yet another Road Traffic Accident at the notorious Husum Way Junction with the A456 in my Division. Regularly there are accidents at this junction or at the adjacent dangerous junction of the A456 with Hurcott Lane in Cllr Rayner's Division. Many residents want either an island or traffic lights installed here but these solutions have been dismissed in the past, largely on cost grounds.

Given that accidents are now occurring at least once a month and speed of traffic on the A456 is often a contributory factor would the Cabinet Member please ask Highways Officers to urgently investigate the much cheaper solution of: extending the 30mph Speed limit towards Blakedown on both sides of the A456 Dual Carriageway and installing permanent Speed Cameras on the Kidderminster side of the junction approaching Hurcott Lane and the Blakedown side of the carriageway approaching Husum Way and placing a Weight Limit on Borrington Road, Tennyson Way and Husum Way to discourage HGVs from using the route from Spennells Valley Road and through the Comberton and Offmore Estates as a short cut to the A456?"

Question 2 – Traffic Island arrangements on the A442 Worcester Road, Kidderminster

2. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Whilst I applaud the decision to open up the second lane of the A442 Worcester Road, Kidderminster where it exits the traffic island towards the Silverwoods Junction at the Worcester Road/Wilden Lane and Chester Road South, Kidderminster, this will be of little assistance to residents of my Division wishing to turn right at this traffic island to access Chester Road and Spennells Valley Road. For these residents it is the large physical size of the traffic island and the restricted road lanes around it which causes the problems.

Will the Cabinet Member please request Highways Officers to Commission a study into increasing the capacity by reducing the size of the island?"

Contact Points

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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
17 MAY 2018**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(a) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Final Accounts 2016/17 – Lessons Learned Update Report

1. A number of actions were identified in the previous Lessons Learned report to the Committee in December 2017, some of which were already in place in preparation for the 2017/18 final accounts process. This included ensuring that the experienced Finance Manager resumed the role of being the named point of contact with External Audit, taking responsibility for coordinating all queries as they arise. The External Auditors at that time noted that the action plan was very demanding and the Council was also faced with the added pressure of producing the 2017/18 accounts using the new ledger for the first time within a compressed timescale.
2. The last report acknowledged that there were many lessons to be learned from the finalisation of the accounts process for 2016/17. Whilst the experienced in house team are in place and there is an increased level of scrutiny and governance at finance leadership team, the main challenge will be the ability to ensure the necessary reports are available from the new financial system within the timeframe required.
3. Overall, the interim audit work has gone well and to plan. There have been examples where improvements to the information provided to the external auditors can be made, and this is being addressed through training and a continued focus on quality assurance.
4. The Council is currently reproducing the 2016/17 key financial statements and as a result have identified some process improvements for extracting the information from e5 (the financial system). This includes specifying and scoping additional reports from both the payroll and financial system. Some data quality improvements have been identified and are being addressing. There is continuing work to review the output from Liberata from their year-end dry run for both reporting and process.
5. The Committee has noted the Lessons Learned update report and the review of the technical accounting policies. The Committee has agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee be provided with regular updates on any issues that may arise with the closing of the 2017/18 accounts.

HR/Finance Systems Implementation – Lessons Learned Report

6. The Committee requested a report on the governance arrangements associated

with the commissioning of the HR/Payroll system in particular its past and future impact on the Audit of Accounts process.

7. The closing of the accounts to an earlier timescale, with a new financial system was noted as particularly challenging. Work is currently taking place with Liberata to ensure that year end reporting is available for the closure of accounts process. Assurance work is being carried out by internal audit and by Liberata's auditors and is due to be reported in time for the final accounts completion.

8. There are lessons to be learned from the implementation of the new HR/Finance system. The key messages include issues around engagement of key stakeholders, particularly schools. The improvement board and the contract management board actively manage the contract and activities. In addition, regular operational meetings take place between Council and Liberata staff. This includes specific meetings around closure of accounts issues.

9. The Committee has noted the governance arrangements associated with the HR/Finance systems implementation. The Committee has requested that a further report be brought to the Committee meeting on 26 July 2018 to include: summary details including categorisation of any under/overpayments since go live; the number and type of wider issues (including complaints) raised by Council and School employees to understand the proportionality of the issues experienced; and a copy of the audit report provided to the external auditor.

External Audit Plans – Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire County Pension Fund

10. John Gregory, Director and Helen Lillington, Audit Manager presented the external audit plan for Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire County Pension Fund to the Committee on behalf of Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor. The Committee has noted the external audit plan for Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire County Pension Fund.

External Audit Plan – Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Worcestershire County Council and Pension Fund

11. John Gregory, Director and Helen Lillington, Audit Manager presented an external audit report - Informing the audit risk assessment for Worcestershire County Council and Pension Fund to the Committee on behalf of Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor. The Committee has noted the external audit report.

Internal Audit Progress Report 1 November to 31 January 2018

12. The Committee has noted the Internal Audit Progress Report for the period 1 November to 31 January 2018. The Committee has requested that the findings of the audit review of the lessons learned report into the Evesham Abbey Bridge project be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Work Programme

13. The Committee has noted its future work programme.

**Mr N Desmond
Chairman**

Contact Points

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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 Audit and Governance Committee held on 16 March 2018.

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COUNCIL
17 MAY 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 - update, Year end Preparation, Membership, Administration Forum, Data Quality, Government Actuary Department Reporting, and Admissions to the Fund.

Pension Investment Update

2. The Committee has noted the Independent Financial Adviser's fund performance summary and market background.
3. 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.

Alternatives Investment

4. In order to maintain the Fund's proportion of UK and overseas commitments to infrastructure, the Committee has approved the commitment of £25m to Hermes Fund II, the latest fund launched by Hermes Infrastructure, following the appropriate due diligence undertaken by Bfinance (the Fund's specialist procurement adviser) and sign off by the Pensions Committee Chairman.
5. Bfinance also considered the underweight position in relation to Corporate Bonds and have assessed alternative investment options outside of Bonds given the current interest rate and market environment. Bfinance recommend that in the current market environment, corporate private debt offers an attractive risk adjusted return with strong downside protection and yield.
6. In January/February 2018, BFinance undertook a portfolio design of the proposed investments in terms of style, size and geographic exposure along with analysis of proposals from interested managers and preparation of a report in order to select a short list of suitable specialists capable of managing the mandate successfully. As a result of BFinance's analysis and the subsequent recommendation by the Pension Investment Advisory Panel, the Committee has approved a £65m allocation to a new corporate private debt mandate with EQT (a leading global integrated alternative

investment firm) and associated amendment to the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

Equity Protection Strategy

7. River and Mercantile were appointed to implement and manage the static options equity protection strategy and Fund officers have been working with them 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.

8. The first few weeks of implementation of the mandate focused on building the collateral pool (through trades aligned with LGIM disinvestments). As that pool builds, the bulk of the trades will start which given the size of the investment will take a couple of weeks as a minimum.

9. The Committee received a presentation from representatives of River and Mercantile who informed members that the Equity Protection Strategy had been implemented according to plan at the appropriate price. In addition, as a result of the volatility of the market, an increased level of downside equity protection had benefited the Fund. The Committee has noted the implementation of the Equity Protection Strategy update.

LGPS Central Update

10. On the 17 January 2018, LGPS Central Limited received FCA authorisation. The Company has been authorised to operate as an Alternative Investment Fund Manager. This allows it to act as the operator of an Authorised Contractual Scheme, and provide a range of discretionary and advisory investment services to its clients. Adverts have been placed for the roles in risk and compliance to support Chief Risk and Compliance Officer (CRCO), finance roles to support Head of Finance and have commenced interviews for the Head of Operations role.

11. In addition to previous appointments, the role of General Counsel and the CRCO has been appointed to, which was a critical role for the FCA application approval. Appointment to the Deputy Chief Investment Officer has taken place and a further two Investment Directors appointed for Fixed Income, and Manager of Managers and Absolute Return. Interviews for the Investment Director of Active Equities role are ongoing but expected to have concluded shortly.

12. The Updated Strategic Plan has been approved by the Shareholders Forum on 20 February. The Shareholders have also approved an operating budget for 2018/19 of £9.1m.

13. The Committee has noted the LGPS Central Update. The Committee has noted an LGPS presentation made by the Non-Executive Chair, Joanne Segars and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Warwick-Thompson of LGPS Central.

Mr R W Banks
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee 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 papers for the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 19 March 2018.

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COUNCIL
17 MAY 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 construction of Worcester Southern Link Road Phase 4 (SLR4), including dualling of A4440 between Ketch and Powick Roundabouts with foot and cycleway improvements, new road bridges alongside existing Powick Common Viaduct and Carrington Bridge and cycle/footbridge, at Hams Way, Worcester Southern Link Road, A4440 Temeside Way, Worcester subject to detailed conditions.
2. Details of the above application can be found in the agenda papers for the Committee meeting held on 27 March 2018.

Mr R C Adams
Chairman**Contact Points**

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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Tel: 01905 846621
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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 meetings of the Planning and Regulatory Committee held on 27 March 2018.

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COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(d) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE STANDARDS
AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Local Government Ethical Standards – Stakeholder Consultation

1. The Committee is responding to a stakeholder consultation issued by the National Committee on Standards in Public Life to inform its review of local government ethical standards. The questions are grouped into the following areas: general, codes of conduct, investigations and decisions on allegations, sanctions, declaring interests and conflicts of interests, whistleblowing, improving standards, and intimidation of local councillors.
2. The Committee considered that the existing local Code of Conduct arrangements worked well since its introduction to ensure high standards of conduct by Worcestershire county councillors and was clear and easily understood and covered an appropriate range of behaviours. The 'pan-Worcestershire' code for principal authorities was seen as good practice and beneficial to the public and members.
3. The current requirements for registering and declaring councillors' interests were considered satisfactory in that they set out the expectations clearly and, did not unnecessarily or disproportionately interfere with the workings of democracy although by their nature largely relied on the honesty and integrity of individual councillors and indeed their knowledge of the potential interest.
4. The Council has adopted clear and fair processes for investigating and deciding conduct complaints. The Committee was confident that allegations of councillor misconduct would be investigated and decided fairly and with due process as set out in the local processes. The Committee considered that the role of the Independent Persons, the existing arrangements to declare councillors' interests and manage conflicts of interest, and the arrangements for whistleblowing were satisfactory.
5. The Committee considered that a satisfactory process was in place should the Monitoring Officer be subject to a conflict of interest or undue pressure. Should such a situation arise he/she would consult the Chairman of the Standards and Ethics Committee and if necessary delegate functions to the deputy Monitoring Officer or engage external support.
6. The Committee considered that the Government should re-instate the voting rights of Independent Members on Standards Committees.

7. Some concern was expressed over the lack of any sanction. Members discussed a number of options including an instruction to apologise, receive additional training and the reintroduction of a 6 month suspension. The Committee came to a majority view that there should be additional sanctions short of disqualification but there was no clear consensus on the nature of those sanctions.

8. The Committee acknowledged that it was difficult to gauge the extent of intimidation of councillors locally without undertaking a survey and there were very limited measures available to prevent and address intimidation by the public.

Code of Conduct and Complaints Update

9. Since the last report to the Committee in October 2017, the Council has received 3 formal complaints that a County Councillor has breached the Code of Conduct for members. The Committee received a summary of the details of the formal complaints and has noted the resolution in each case. There have been no referrals to the police for breach of the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) provisions.

Mr R P Tomlinson
Chairman

Contact Points

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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 Standards and Ethics Committee held on 25 April 2018.