

Agenda

Council

Thursday, 12 September 2019, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

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

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

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

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

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

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

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

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

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

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

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

DON'T FORGET

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

**Thursday, 12 September 2019, 10.00 am, County Hall,
Worcester**

Agenda and Summons

Councillors: Mr R P Tomlinson (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 A T Hingley, 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 J 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, Mrs E B Tucker, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall, Mrs R Vale, Ms S A Webb and Mr T A L Wells

1 Apologies and Declaration of Interests

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

2 Public Participation

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

Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case, 11 September 2019). 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 18 July 2019 (previously circulated electronically).

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

5 Reports of Cabinet 1 - 4

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 – A report on the organisational Redesign Programme will follow after the Cabinet meeting on 5 September 2019**); and
- b) Report of Cabinet – Summary of decisions taken (**White pages**).

6 Constitutional Matter - Appointment of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board 5 - 6

To consider the appointment of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (**Yellow Pages**).

7 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20 7 - 18

To consider the future work programme recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (**Yellow pages**).

8 Notices of Motion 19 - 22

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 3 September 2019.

9 Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being 23 - 34

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

10 Question Time 35 - 38

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 3 September 2019 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.)*

11 Reports of Committees 39 - 42

To consider the report of the Audit and Governance Committee and to receive answers to any questions asked on that report (**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 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 Simon Lewis, Committee Officer by telephone on Worcester (01905) 846621 or slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 4 September 2019

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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Adult Services – Care and Support Services – Direction of Travel

1. An Adult Services Strategy has been developed which sets out the Adult Services vision and the role the Council has in the market. All current services have been reviewed and Cabinet approved the Strategy for the direct provision of services by the Council's Care and Support Services, which sets out the Council's role in the market.
2. Investment in Howbury House in Malvern has allowed the home to care for people who would otherwise have needed to be placed in other more expensive care home placements. The feasibility of developing a high-needs dementia unit within Howbury House is also being explored but achieving this change would require a capital investment of £206k over the next 5 years. Cabinet noted therefore that future capital resources are likely to be required over the medium-term to fund the desirable works.
3. In order to deliver its vision of promoting independence for adults the Council will expand its current reablement service so that it responds to people in the community as well as those discharged from the Acute hospitals. The estimated cost of the expanded service would be £740k per annum and modelling has shown projected net savings of £1.0m per annum from base budget when fully established from April 2020. This proposed service is currently the subject of a bid for Business Rates Pilot Funding to fund the service for an initial 12-month period. Cabinet approved in principle the creation of a community re-ablement service and delegated the final decision to the Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

Libraries Re- modelling

4. Considerable progress has been made over recent years in modernising Worcestershire's library services and ensuring value for money. It is proposed that a Libraries Strategy should be developed following a strategic review and needs assessment process. The Strategy would be able to demonstrate that any proposal to fundamentally change the service delivery model would continue to secure the delivery of a comprehensive and efficient service. A full needs assessment had been undertaken and a formal public consultation was held.
5. The Council was also successful in its application for a peer review through the Arts Council England and Local Government Association partnership. The review concluded that the Council should build on the existing needs assessment and consultation feedback and invest more time in developing and setting out a vision for the future of libraries in a new library strategy which can be delivered within the current financial envelope and also continue to build on more innovative service solutions.

6. Cabinet noted the feedback and findings from the public consultation and peer review and agreed a Worcestershire Libraries Strategy should be developed to set out the longer-term vision for a service across Worcestershire which continues to meet the statutory duty and used to inform the decisions around change and resource allocation for front-line library provision from 2020/21.

7. Cabinet were also informed that savings in 2019/20, which are greater than agreed in the original plan, have been delivered with measures that do not directly impact frontline library service provision. In addition, Worcester City Council have agreed to contribute towards the running costs (£157,000) of both St John's and Warndon libraries. The 2018/19 savings were met in full and the plan for 2019/20 is to achieve £395k savings which comprises the MTFP savings target of £145k plus £250k of early delivery of the 2020/21 target. This leaves £205k to be delivered in 2020/21 which will be identified through the development and implementation of the Libraries Strategy.

8. A further report will be received by Cabinet in Autumn 2019 to consider and approve the Libraries Strategy and implementation plan.

Recommissioning the Council's Customer Services

9. The Worcestershire Hub Shared Service (WHSS) was commissioned to Civica in May 2015 on an 8.5 year contract. The current total annual contract price is £1.044m with Worcestershire County Council contributing £716k per annum.

10. Following the exit of Malvern Hills District Council from the contract on 28 February 2019 and pending future exit of Worcester City Council alongside the reduction in telephony and face to face contacts, it was an appropriate time to review the County Council's own position regarding the contract with Civica and whether it still represents value for money for the Council.

11. The technology landscape within the Council has evolved since the service was commissioned and modern and more cost-effective systems mean the Council should review this arrangement. There are also currently several other externally facing contact centres within the Council which were not within the original scope of the contract.

12. Cabinet has therefore agreed to the recommendation to recommission the Council's Customer Services. This involves giving Civica 12 months' notice of cancellation, negotiating the transformation cost recovery payment required of c£0.7m and creating a new Customer Services Strategy that is aligned with the Organisational Redesign Programme. The Council's Commissioning Cycle would then be followed to recommission the service.

Balanced Scorecard and Corporate Risk Update – Quarter 4

13. The Cabinet has received the latest update of the Corporate Balanced Scorecard for Quarter Four 2018/19. Currently there are 61 indicators reported in the Scorecard. 24 of these are rated 'green' representing good performance or progress. The staff sickness rate was highlighted as demonstrating positive performance progress. 7 Performance indicators were currently assessed as red, with 6 having a

performance update in Quarter Four 2018/19. Actions were being taken to improve their performance. 11 of the remaining indicators are rated amber, the rest (19) were unrated (grey) at Quarter Four.

14. The Corporate Risk Register provides a mechanism for collating and reporting risks that could affect the delivery of corporate objectives. The Cabinet has considered an overview of risks identified at the end of Quarter Four 2018/19. There are 127 individual risks entered in the Risk Register. The register had been reviewed significantly since Quarter 2 and out of date or duplicate risks have been removed. 14 risks are identified as high/'red' risks. The Cabinet has noted the latest update of the Corporate Risk Register including actions to mitigate the risk areas that are rated 'red'.

Quality of Utility Works on the Public Highway – Notice of Motion

15. Following a Notice of Motion at Council on 14 February 2019, Cabinet has noted the information provided by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways, setting out how the Council can ensure that statutory undertakers, utility companies and 3rd parties not meeting the required standards when undertaking works on the highway are held to financial account and scrutiny. The Council has a duty to co-ordinate all works and the right to protect the highway infrastructure it manages and maintains. The works promoter is responsible for carrying out the works safely and expeditiously to minimise impact.

16. The Council scrutinises applications to minimise disruption and to ensure site works are carried out safely and to an adequate standard. The utility companies are held to account for all works to the public highway and are responsible for rectifying all noted defects. Financial penalties are imposed with fixed penalty notices for breaching permit conditions, defect charges and overrun charges. Works are stopped for dangerous activity and rectification notifications are issued. Improvement meetings are held regularly with all utilities to improve performance.

17. In May 2019 the Permit Scheme to collect a fee for each permit for works was modified to enable greater resource. There were now additional staff to monitor site works. This resource will be reactive to monitor emergency works. In future a lane rental scheme may be introduced for utility companies on strategic town centre streets. This will introduce a daily fee for road space occupation which will incentivise utility companies to pursue detailed works scheduling and make better emergency arrangements to minimise road space occupation. Congestion on the network will then be further reduced due to shorter works periods. Cabinet has noted the information in response to the Notice of Motion and endorsed the approach to holding those undertaking utility works on the highway to financial account and scrutiny.

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

Kate Griffiths, 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 and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 July 2019.

COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER – APPOINTMENT OF THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PERFORMANCE BOARD**

Recommendation

- 1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the Council appoint the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board.**
2. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, Mr C J Bloore has tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board. Council is therefore invited to appoint a successor to Mr Bloore as Chairman of the Board. The Board is politically balanced but under the Council's Constitution arrangements, the Chairman cannot be a member of a political Group forming part of the administration.

Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council: 01905 763763
Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
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Sheena Jones, Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager
Tel: 01905 846011
Email: sjones19@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

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

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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

Recommendation

1. **The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board recommends that the 2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme be endorsed.**

Summary

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board has agreed a suggested 2019/20 Work Programme to be considered by Full Council. The work programme was developed following consultation with all scrutiny Members and is attached as an appendix.

Background

3. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for its Overview and Scrutiny function. The 2019/20 Work Programme has been developed by taking into account issues still to be completed from 2018/19, the views of Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members and the findings of the budget scrutiny process.
4. The 2018/19 Scrutiny Work Programme was used as a starting point for the development of this year's Work Programme. However, Members were also free to suggest other priorities. The Work Programme was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members in July in informal meetings and agreed by the OSPB on 24 July.
5. Suggested issues have been prioritised using scrutiny feasibility criteria in order to ensure that Work Programme topics are selected objectively and the 'added value' of a review is considered right from the beginning.

Specific Contact Points for this report

Chris Bloore and Liz Eyre, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Sheena Jones, Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager, 01905 846011

Sjones19@worcestershire.gov.uk

Supporting Information

Appendix - 2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme

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 minutes for the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board held on 24 July 2019

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

2019/20 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board	
Standing Issues for Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning work for Scrutiny Panels • Establishing Scrutiny Task Groups (agreeing Terms of reference and Reports) • Call-ins • Advising on Council's Policy Framework ie Sustainable Community Strategy (if any), Corporate Plan, Children and Young People's Plan, Local Transport Plan, Youth Justice Plan, 'Act Local in Worcestershire' framework, such other plans and strategies as required by law to form part of the Policy Framework • Crime & Disorder Annual Meeting • Annual Update from Worcestershire LEP • Budget Scrutiny • Quarterly Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring - Feedback from Scrutiny Panels • Refresh of the Scrutiny Work Programme • Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan
Other Issues	Scrutiny Report: Family Front Door
	Passenger Transport Strategy and Consultation
	Update on the Autism Pathway
	Social Mobility ie the movement of individuals, families, households, or other categories of people within or between social strata in a society. It is the opportunity for those from underprivileged backgrounds to break the boundary of their social class – this would be cross cutting

Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Standing Issues for Scrutiny (already scheduled)	Performance and In-year budget monitoring (Q1 -Q4)
	Budget Scrutiny
	Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
	Safeguarding Adults
Other Issues	Task Group: Care Workers
	Support for Children with Disabilities during Transition to Adulthood – further work?
	Provider Services and Re-ablement
	Visits – Social Work Locality Teams
	High cost packages of care for Learning Disabilities
	Green Paper on Social Work for Older People
	Prevention Work (with HOSC)
	Visit – Patient Flow Centre
	Task Group: Learning Disabilities (taking one aspect, such as Respite or Support for Carers or Access to Services)
	Feedback from ‘Making Decisions about your Future’ summer roadshows and general awareness of how the Directorate engages with residents in relation to what their needs are and how residents can plan for their future social care and health needs
	Health and Social Care inequalities
	Regular review of the Adult Services Business Plan
	Transport for adults with learning disabilities

	Liquid Logic
	Support for Carers
	Implications for Adult Services from the NHS Long-term Plan
	Overview of services provided to adults of working age

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel	
Standing Issues for Scrutiny (already scheduled)	Worcestershire Children First (alternative delivery model)
	Service Improvement Plan/Ofsted Monitoring following the Ofsted Inspection Report (January 2017)
	Performance and In-year budget monitoring (Q1 -Q4)
	Budget Scrutiny
	Children's Safeguarding
	Outcomes of Ofsted ILACS inspection (17-28 June 2019)
Other Issues	Overnight Unit-based Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities – ongoing Scrutiny
	School Attainment at KS2 2019
	Educational Outcomes for children and young people educated in Worcestershire schools for 2019
	Review the service delivery contract for Worcester Children First
	School Organisation Plan (2019-24)

	Update on the Assessment Pathway for Children and Young People who may have Autism
	Update on the Joint Local Area SEND Written Statement of Action/ Improvement Plan
	Children's Centres
	Commissioning a 0-19 Prevention and Early Intervention Service for Children and Young People
	Children who are educated 'otherwise' (including elective home education and alternative provision)
	Development of Edge of Care Services
	Sufficiency work including private residential provision used by the council (as suggested by Director of Children, Families and Communities) To include placements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of placements in Worcestershire • emergency placements • costs • availability
	Medical Education Provision

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Standing Issues for Scrutiny (already scheduled)	Performance and In-year budget monitoring (Q1 -Q4)
	Budget Scrutiny
	Worcestershire Councillors' Divisional Fund (Annually)
	Worcestershire County Council Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Policy

Other Issues	Place Partnership
	Commissioning including the Development of Procurement Strategy
	Employment Policies and Procedures – Bullying and Harassment
	Feedback and Progress on the Maximising Income Generation session (March 2019) including fees and charges
	Liberata
	Volunteering
	Culture: How can we utilise the Culture of Worcestershire to maximise the benefit to the County?
	Working with District Councils and other partners to share information
	Communications – How we ensure residents have easy access and we communicate service levels? WCC brand and the postal service.
	Visit to an Open Library
	Travellers – an update on the service
	Adult Education service – revenue raised and how it is being utilised.
	The Council's process for handling Freedom of Information (FOI) and Subject Access requests (SAR) and how the Council complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
	Commissioning - What do we ask for on the contracts and is it something that the partners are delivering and are able to full filling the obligations of contracts?
	Contract progress and KPI's on Commissioning.
	County Hall: Is it fit for purpose? Value for money? Usage?
Progress Monitoring of the Organisational Change program.	
IT enhancements and progress.	

	Trading Standards
	Re-commissioning of the customer services contract (Civica)
	Compliments and complaints handling and learning

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Standing Issues for Scrutiny (already scheduled)	Performance and In-year budget monitoring (Q1 -Q4)
	Budget Scrutiny
	Broadband annual update
	Flooding annual update
	Economic growth – What is WCC doing to attract new businesses into the area and to help existing businesses invest and grow?
Other Issues (agreed/already scheduled)	Infrastructure for growth – with the growth in new housing, how is WCC building the infrastructure to cope with the growth in demand for its services - (recycling centres, roads, etc)
	Residents zonal parking schemes and additional car parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What schemes are being looked at? • Can income be generated – how are services such as dropped kerbs marketed?
	Countryside Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the service, resources and issues related to Public Rights of Way • Success of the “Countryside Volunteer Access Groups” and how to promote it
	Severn Trent Works Teams
	Visit – Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station
	Visit - Highways Control Centre – Warndon (coordinates highways issues)

	Task Group - IT for Economy and Environmental Services – with special emphasis on systems used by Highways/Ringways
	Task Group - Cycleways
	Task Group – Residents Parking
	Street Lighting – update
	Look into climate emergency and how the council can cut its CO2 emissions to net zero as soon as possible
	Include monitoring of progress against the new goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.
	Visits for panel members to Worcestershire Parkway and the Archives & Archaeology Service at the Hive
	Invite Ringways the Panel to look at “new ways /new developments/ new efficiencies in highway maintenance that will benefit Worcestershire residents”.
	The strategy of the Highways Dept and Highways England to deal with the traffic flows on local roads and at pinch points arising from emergency closures of the M5 M42 M50 from incidents and accidents
	Identification and review of diversionary routes (including routes affected by major roadworks i.e. southern link Ketch roundabout) This could include notification to residents on roads affected through social media, electronic signage, controlling traffic at pinch points

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Standing Issues for Scrutiny (already scheduled)	Performance Monitoring (Public Health)
	Budget Scrutiny Process (jointly with Adult O&S Panel)
	Quality Accounts

	Quality and Performance of the Acute Hospitals
Other Issues	West Midlands Ambulance Services Annual Update
	Stroke Services
	Dental Services Redesign
	Public Health – Ring Fenced Grant Update
	Public Health - Smoking Cessation Update
	Update on proposal to form one NHS CCG
	Audiology Services
	Substantial NHS Service Changes requiring consultation with HOSC
	Quality and Performance of the Acute Hospitals (including capacity and preparations for winter pressures) - ongoing
	Access to GP Services
	Mental Health (all age groups)
	Public Health (holding the Health and Wellbeing Board to account as appropriate and specifically updates on smoking cessation and funding arrangements
	STP - ongoing workstreams (including updates on Neighbourhood Teams and Maternity Systems) / communication strategies / structure and governance (balance between the 2 Counties) / role of community hospitals / capital programme / capacity
	New development and how this is factored into NHS plans for the future (incorporate into GP access on current work programme)
	Recruitment and development of staff in the health sector
Mental Health Care waiting times	

	Effectiveness of vaccination schemes
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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reports that he has received the following 6 Notices of Motion. The Constitution provides that any submitted motion must be moved and seconded at the meeting. Otherwise, unless postponed with the consent of the Council, it will be treated as withdrawn.
2. If a motion is in relation to the exercise of an executive function it will be referred to the Cabinet for decision (if applicable this will be indicated below). Otherwise the Council may decide itself to determine the Motion, or refer it to the Cabinet or another appropriate Committee for advice before determining it at the next available meeting.

Notice of Motion 1 – Public Footways

1. **This motion is not in relation to the exercise of an executive function and the Council may decide to determine the Motion.**
2. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mrs E B Tucker, Prof J W Raine, Mrs F M Oborski and Mr M E Jenkins:

"This Council understands the important contribution that walking makes to people's health – even just getting out of the house and walking to the shop, walking the dog, or a short walk in the fresh air can make all the difference.

For people with weak ankles, walking disabilities or frailties of aging, it is particularly important that roadside paths are in a safe and level state.

Council asks for the Cabinet Member for Highways to take a report to Cabinet setting out the current criteria that trigger maintenance work on footways and what changes to those standards are required for safe walking by less able or less confident walkers. This should include equalities advice plus input from outside organisations and include the safety of people using buggies.

We also ask that the report reviews the construction specifications for housebuilders where they affect the public footway. Pedestrian safety and the convenience of flat and level paths should take precedence over the desire of householders to reduce the gradient of their driveways."

Notice of Motion 2 – Road Verge Biomass Harvesting

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 E B Tucker, Prof J W Raine, Mr M E Jenkins and Mrs F M Oborski:

"Lincolnshire County Council is letting its grass verges grow wild over summer in order to encourage pollinators such as butterflies and bees instead of mowing them. At the end of the summer, the grass will be cut and the long cuttings sent to be used as biofuel. The money made from the scheme will be put back into maintaining the verges for next year.

The Council has produced a "tool kit" for other interested councils, so others could trial this energy production technique, and charities the RHS and Plantlife have endorsed such schemes.

See <https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-gardening/wildflower-hub/verges-faq> for more information.

This is a great idea that Worcestershire County Council should investigate. Council asks for the Cabinet Member with Responsibility to commission a report into the feasibility of implementing a similar scheme in Worcestershire."

Notice of Motion 3 – Preparations for Brexit

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

6. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Prof J W Raine, Mrs E B Tucker and Mr M E Jenkins.

"Number of jobs in county at risk of being affected by BREXIT. What preparations are being made by the Council and colleagues?"

Many jobs within Worcestershire will be at risk when the UK leaves the European Union, and even more so if the departure is done without a deal. This Council asks for an urgent report on its own preparations to support the local economy and residents of Worcestershire throughout this challenging time, and on the mechanisms in place to co-ordinate with other organisations such as the Local Resilience Forum and District Councils".

Notice of Motion 4 – Employment agencies

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 R C Lunn, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P M McDonald, Ms P Agar, Mr A Fry, Mr P Denham and Mr C M Stalker.

“Council is concerned about a recent disclosure that it paid £823.00 per day since July 2017 for one agency worker. To secure value for money and to protect Worcestershire from poor reputational risk, Council requests the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to establish an urgent review into the use of employment agencies by the County Council. To uncover total spend, assess value for money and to recommend any new methods of engagement”.

Notice of Motion 5 – Bewdley Fire Station

9. Council may decide to determine the Motion should the Chairman be satisfied it meets the constitutional requirements of PSO 17.

10. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr P M McDonald, Mr R C Lunn, Ms P Agar and Mr P Denham.

“Council calls upon the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority to reconsider and review their future proposals for Bewdley Fire Station, especially after the decision of both the Police and the Ambulance Services to withdraw from the proposed Blue Light Hub.”

Notice of Motion 6 – Royal Mail and Post Office Services

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

12. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Mr R C Lunn, Mr P M McDonald, Ms P Agar, Mr A Fry, Mr L C R Mallett, Mr P Denham and Ms C M Stalker.

“Council has the power to act as champion of the consumer by investigating the Post Office and the Royal Mail and by scrutinising the provision of their services within the county. Council is concerned by the number of recent Post Office closures in the county and asks the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to consider a scrutiny exercise into the services provided by both the Royal Mail and the Post Office”.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

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) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY
– CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**

Introduction

1. I would like to thank Council for this latest opportunity to report on matters relating to health and well-being. The last report on this was presented to Council in January 2018 and the period since then has been a busy one.
2. We continue to deliver our work in a challenging environment. The health and well-being of our residents is generally good, but there are significant variations within the population. Pressures on our services come from meeting the rising needs of a population with greater numbers of older people in poor health and the additional needs of people experiencing health inequalities. We continue to manage the annual reduction in our Public Health Ring-fenced Grant (PHRFG) which is allocated directly to us from central government.
3. I am politically responsible for a wide-ranging and complex programme of work which is shaped around meeting the statutory duties of the Council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 regarding public health; the statutory duties of the Council under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and the statutory duties of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act. We have clear governance in place around this work, and this is set out below. In order to give members a clear idea of the breadth and value of the work done within the Directorate, a table setting out financial information is attached as an Appendix.

Health and Well-being Board

4. I am chairman of the Health and Well-being Board, which is a statutory body, leading our strategic approach to improving health and well-being and strengthening integration between health and social care. The Board includes partners from the County Council; District Councils; NHS Commissioning bodies; NHS England; Worcestershire Healthwatch; the Voluntary and Community Sector; and a representative of Housing Authorities. The Board has three sub-groups, set out below, and receives annual updates from each.
5. Since my last report, the Board has approved its annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which is a statutory requirement and produced by the Public Health Directorate. This comprehensive report summarises the health of our local population, reports progress against areas which have been identified as a priority by the Board, and highlights areas which may be of emerging concern. We have noted generally good health, pockets of poor health in particular lined to health inequalities, and emerging issues around antibiotic prescribing, air pollution, school readiness, educational

outcomes, and oral health. Each of these issues is subject to more detailed investigation, surveillance, and action where needed.

6. The Board received the Director of Public Health's annual report in September 2018: 'Prevention is Better than Cure'. This drew attention to the need for a refreshed, system approach to prevention as an investment for a healthier future and a means of improving outcomes and reducing demand. It also recommended that partners work differently with communities, so that people are helped to help themselves and each other through community asset building and a shared approach with our residents. These recommendations have been taken forward through the Prevention Board of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership and progress is being made.

7. The Board has received regular updates on the use of our Better Care Fund, which is focused on promoting service integration and independent living.

8. The Board continues to receive annual updates from countywide strategies relating to health and well-being. For example, the Autism Strategy and the Carers' Strategy have recently been presented and I have been pleased to welcome service users to the Board at these meetings. There is a positive story of steady improvement in both areas and fuller the involvement of service users in service planning.

9. The Board has received regular updates on the NHS. As we move through a time of complex organisational change for the NHS, we have worked hard together as partners to produce a Sustainability and Transformation Plan, and the Board has now begun to consider the implementation of the NHS 10 year plan. We continue to champion the needs of Worcestershire residents in the context of a two county NHS system.

Health Improvement Group

10. This group has a focus on delivering health and well-being at District level. Membership includes elected members from each District Council; and others such as the NHS and VCS are also involved. In the last year the HIG has reviewed the Health and Well-being Plans from each District, and has shared good practice. It is an effective way to link the Health and Well-being Board to local work, and communication is two-way in this regard.

11. Districts have been delivering a range of programmes at work which bring to life the Board priority to empower others to take responsibility for their own and their families' health. For example: I was delighted to see that Bromsgrove has achieved recognition and registration as a Dementia Friendly Community; Malvern Hills have introduced Balanceability to introduce very young children to cycling; and Wyre Forest have produced an 'Activities for Older People' booklet.

12. Good practice updates have included topics such as improving health and well-being through licensing, and HIG was pleased to welcome a presentation from a local 'Men in Sheds' scheme, which brings together older men to share practical skills and work together on projects, with the result of reduced social isolation and a more resilient community. There are a number of successful projects in the county now with a new shed setting up in Worcester and interest in Evesham.

Health Protection Group (HPG)

13. This Group oversees health protection matters such as Emergency Planning and Preparedness; Regulatory Services; Immunisations and Screening; and Infection Control. Membership includes representatives from: the NHS; Public Health England; elected members from County and District councils; Worcestershire Regulatory Services, and the VCS. The HPG prevents and manages risks to health and ensures that all relevant partners work well together to achieve this.

14. For example, we work with NHS colleagues to make sure that our immunisation and screening uptake remains good, and that risk is well-managed. Overall our rates are good, with the childhood immunisations for example being above the national average at all ages, but we make sure that we understand and address pockets of lower take-up. We collaborate with Public Health England to ensure that clear messages about the importance of immunisation are given, and that messages are adapted for target populations. National evidence shows that parents are far more likely to trust the NHS and their healthcare professional than they are social media, and so our public health nurses routinely promote immunisations with new parents as part of the health visiting and 0-19s prevention service.

15. Our Emergency Planning work is robust and reports into the HPG. We play a full part at strategic, tactical and operational levels to make sure that risk is minimized and that response plans are up to date and understood. We lead or participate in exercise to test our plans, and in this year we have taken part in an exercise using the scenario of animal disease outbreak. We have also reviewed our arrangements for humanitarian assistance in recovery phase, taking learning from the Kerslake Review following the Manchester Arena bombing in 2016. The Director of Public Health co-chairs the Local Health Resilience Partnership, taking forward the programme of work to keep our residents safe in the event of emergencies.

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group

16. This Group was set up to develop and help implement Worcestershire's Children and Young People's Plan, further supporting successful delivery of the all-age Joint Health and Well-being Strategy. It brings together senior leaders from all relevant agencies to take a whole systems approach to improving outcomes for children and young people and met for the first time in October 2018, and is chaired by the Director of Public Health.

17. The Group has developed a dashboard against which progress can be measured and partners have committed to cooperate to solve areas of slower progress. I have noted the value of this Group in bringing people together so that there are no overlaps or gaps in the services we deliver to our children and young people, especially to the most vulnerable.

NHS Partnership

18. I make sure that this Council plays its full part to collaborate, where appropriate, with the NHS, working in close alignment to plan and deliver the right services for residents. The Council has a statutory duty to deliver specialist public health advice to the NHS and the Public Health Directorate discharges this duty at top level through the

STP Board and sub-groups, and more operationally through preparation of specialist intelligence to inform specific funding and funding policy decisions. At operational level, we have linked public health consultants and public health practitioners to primary care Neighbourhood Team, to make sure that public health and prevention is embedded. We play a full part in the Local Maternity System Board, and in the STP Prevention Board.

19. However, this partnership work does not detract from our focus on seeking assurance on performance. This year, I have met with senior leaders from the NHS to raise concerns about our local NHS services, and will continue this focus as we move through another cycle of NHS change.

Community Safety

20. As CMR for Health and Well-being I am politically responsible for the delivery of the Council's duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), which requires each Authority to exercise its functions with due regard and to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, the misuse of drugs and alcohol and reduce reoffending. This is a corporate responsibility for all Council Directorates, although the corporate leadership sits with the DPH and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 gives some duties to the DPH in this regard too.

21. The Safer Communities Board takes strategic oversight of all these community safety matters and I present annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board. The discussion in the July 2019 meeting highlighted the wide range of our work, including tackling domestic abuse through the DRIVE programme, commissioned with the Police and Crime Commissioner to change perpetrators' behaviours, working with the police and agencies to review and implement the partnership approach to tackling serious and organised crime and ensuring an effective approach to Preventing violent extremism and supporting those who may be vulnerable and susceptible to negative influences. The Board was also briefed on the new and dynamic approach to disrupting and preventing child criminal exploitation and supporting young victims through the recently launched Worcestershire GET SAFE multi-agency approach.

22. Looking forward, the Council will be responding positively to the Government's soon to be enacted new duties to take a Public Health approach to tackling crime and serious violence and also its proposals requiring upper tier Local Authorities to oversee and commission accommodation for domestic abuse victims and their families.

Shaping Public Health and Prevention Services

23. In commissioning our public health services, we have had to manage reducing grant allocations from central Government. We have monitored our core services closely, such as public health nursing, sexual health, substance misuse, and NHS Health checks, to ensure that performance has been maintained despite reductions in funding.

24. I am pleased to report that our residents have continued to be served well by these services, and that we have reached large numbers. In focusing on prevention, it is important to identify problems as early as possible, and to deal with them effectively. We commission NHS Health checks for people aged 40 – 74, and the Healthy Child Programme for children and young people aged 0 – 2.5 years in order to identify potential problems at an early stage. These two programmes have performed highly

and have reached large numbers of their target populations. In 2018/19 94% of new births received a new-birth visit by their health visitor within 14 days. This continues to be higher than the national average of around 88%. In Worcestershire the percentage of children receiving a 2.5-year review by the age of 2.5 years also continues to exceed the national average. In 2018/19, 16,600 people received an NHS Health Check in Worcestershire. This represents 9.2% of the eligible population, which is significantly better than the England and West Midlands average.

25. I am pleased to report continued improvement in our substance misuse services, which reach some of our most vulnerable population. We have seen a steady improvement since we placed this service with a different provider in 2016. Between December 2017 and November 2018, 812 service users accessed structured alcohol treatment in Worcestershire. 42.86% of these successfully completed treatment and did not re-present again for further treatment within 6 months. This is significantly better than the national average of 37.86%. During the same period, 1175 services users accessed treatment for opiate dependency and of those 8.26% successfully completed treatment achieving abstinence and did not re-present within 6 months. This is significantly better than the national average of 5.91%. This data does not include the increasing numbers of service users maintaining improvements in their treatment journey through substitute prescribing, accessing recovery services to improve their health, wellbeing, employment opportunities and community integration. The current contract for delivery of a substance misuse service will need reprocurring by the end of the financial year. The Public Health team has completed a data-driven and evidence-based needs assessment to ensure that the new service we commission further drives performance, improvements in wellbeing and reduces demand.

26. Our sexual health services continue to serve our population well and rates of conceptions for young people under 18 years in Worcestershire continue to reduce. Recently published data indicated that in 2017 this rate in Worcestershire was significantly lower than both the West Midlands and England average. In addition, the rate of new sexually transmitted infections in Worcestershire was also significantly lower than both the West Midlands and England averages in 2018. This is a reversal of the national trend which has shown an increase in the rate of new sexually transmitted infections since 2017.

27. We also commission more general prevention services, such as the Strength and Balance classes which play an important part in reducing the risk of falls. In 2018/19 more than 1100 service users were referred in to the strength and balance service. Of those that completed a course of exercise classes 78% showed that they had maintained or improved their timed 'up and go' score, which is a validated measure of functional fitness. The Health Walks programme also encourages local people to be physically active by taking part in volunteer led walks. In 2018/19 15 new walks were set up and 552 new walkers joined walks across the county. 10 of the new walks set up were located in areas of high deprivation.

28. We have invested in two areas of significant innovation: tackling loneliness and social prescribing. We have used the Public Health Grant to pilot new ways of working, and are starting to see strong results with impact for service redesign. The Reconnections service has supported over 1400 older people between May 2015 and June 2019. 64% of participants have reported a reduction in their loneliness score. Social prescribing investment has enabled NHS funding (local and national) to be drawn into an innovative approach to meeting the social needs of people who visit their GPs

with non-medical problems. Again, early data shows promise with over 1100 people being supported by the social prescribing pilot between 2018 and 2019. Of those who had pre and post wellbeing measures taken, 73% improved their sense of wellbeing following a social prescribing intervention.

Public Health Investment in Wider Council Services

29. I continue to support investing in maximising the health impact of wider Council services, as reported to Council in the budget report at its February 2019 meeting. This is important in strengthening our approach to prevention and in making sure that our most vulnerable populations are well served.

30. For example, we invest in Early Help Services for Children and Young People, and commission a fully integrated, evidence-based 0-19s Prevention Service, which includes Early Help as well as public health nursing and our Healthy Child Programme. This makes sure that families can benefit from an integrated approach which delivers a service to all, and additional services to those who need them most.

31. We also invest in prevention services for Older Adults, including Information and Advice services; carer's support; household adaptations and repairs; and we contribute to the core payments for all Extra Care Housing residents, enabling a health and well-being offer in those settings. In all these areas, our aim is to enable people to live independently for as long as possible, taking responsibility for their own and their families' health.

32. We have also used the PHRFG to support libraries, which play such an important part in enabling residents to live well. This includes the Books on Prescription scheme, where in the last financial year 7,635 books were borrowed on topics such as carers, dementia, and mental health and well-being for adults and children and young people.

33. Investment in Council Trading Standards services has meant that a greater level of public protection can be afforded. Our focus is on health and well-being and this year tobacco control measures such as reducing illicit tobacco supply have been delivered proactively and in a timely way. Other work, such as on doorstep 'scams' helps people to feel safe in their own homes, and more widely health is protected by the on-going work on food safety and standards.

34. Investing in the Council Planning team ensures that health impact assessment can underpin development in the County. This is key as we move into a phase of ambitious growth and can make sure that the built environment makes a healthy place for our people.

Current Spend

35. A detailed breakdown of current Public Health budget and spend is attached as an Appendix.

Finally

36. I would like to thank the previous Director of Public Health, Dr Frances Howie, for her hard work and am delighted to welcome Dr Kathryn Cobain as interim Director. I would also like to thank all the Public Health staff for their support in the face of

significant pressures, as well as my Cabinet colleague Cllr Adrian Hardman with whom I work closely.

John Smith
Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Well-being

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Appendix

	Mandatory/Non Mandatory	2019/20 Budget £m	2019/20 Forecast £m
Adult Services:			
Living Well Service	NM	350	350
Smoking in Pregnancy	NM	164	164
Health Checks	M	1.000	1.000
Walking for Health	NM	30	30
Worcestershire Works Well	NM	35	35
Obesity, Diet & Exercise	NM	20	16
Falls Prevention	NM	335	335
Fluoridation	M	200	200
Healthwatch	NM	92	50
Digital Inclusion	NM	0	1
Prevention Initiatives	NM	50	50
Health Chats	NM	2	2
Time for change	NM	0	25
Substance Misuse Contract	M	3.798	3.836
Domestic Abuse Contract	NM	417	417
Social Prescribing	NM	100	100
Sexual Health Contract	M	3.950	3.950
GUM OoA	M	300	300
		10.843	10.861
Children's Services:			
Children's Early Help	NM	2.350	2.350
Positive Activities	NM	400	400
Young Adult Carers	NM	35	35
0-19 Health Services	M	7.775	7.775
LAC 16+ Nurse	M	27	27
		10.587	10.587
Other Adult Services:			
Carers Hub Contract	NM	617	617
Stroke Contract	NM	92	92
Social Impact Bond	NM	135	135
Postural Stability Initiative	NM	100	100
Social Mobility Project	NM	0	113
		944	1.057

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Appendix Cont

	Mandatory/Non Mandatory	2019/20 Budget £m	2019/20 Forecast £m
DAS Services:			
Info & Advice Contract	NM	241	241
Adults Housing Support	NM	100	100
LD Reablement	NM	60	60
Housing Care & Repairs	NM	362	362
Home from Hospital	NM	98	98
PH ICU/Finance Staff	NM	277	261
Warmer Worcestershire	NM	19	19
Connect Services	NM	603	603
Extra Care Housing	NM	572	572
		2.332	2.316
Other WCC Services:			
Libraries Service	NM	300	300
Countryside Service	NM	100	100
Trading Standards	NM	250	250
Planning Service	NM	70	70
3 Conversation Model	NM	84	84
		804	804
Strategic Functions:			
Public Health Team	M	1.671	1.663
Medicines Management	NM	32	32
PH Recharges	NM	318	318
Emergency Planning	NM	108	118
Contribution to PH Reserves	NM	721	604
		2.850	2.735
Total Public Health Spend		28.360	28.360

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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Archives Member Advisory Group

1. Mr T Baker-Price will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Could the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities please update this Council on the progress of the members advisory group for archives?"

Question 2 – Stationary vehicles with engines running in Upton-upon-Severn

2. Mr P Middlebrough will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"At Upton upon Severn Town Council meeting on 20 July, Town Council members expressed concern at the number of vehicles running their engines when stationary in the town and even when offloading material at the recycling centre in Hanley Road carpark, on the grounds that it produces unnecessary carbon emissions.

In the spirit of this council's pledge made this May, to work with partners across the county, such as town and parish councils to make Worcestershire County Council in all areas where it is directly responsible, carbon neutral by 2050, will the Cabinet Member heed these important suggestions by:

- Introducing signs at recycling centres asking drivers to switch off their engines when offloading
- Consider signage along the main streets in Upton upon Severn asking drivers to switch off their engines when stationary, as a forerunner to schemes elsewhere in the county."

Question 3 – Recycled materials

3. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"Could the relevant Cabinet Member inform me what steps the County Council takes to ensure that all recycled materials received by the Council and the companies who receive these materials "further down the line":

1. treat all such products in an ecologically and environmentally appropriate manner; and
2. avoid export of these products to 3rd World Countries?"

Question 4 – MMR Vaccine

4. Mr A D Kent will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being:

"The MMR vaccine is a combined vaccine which prevents against Measles Mumps and Rubella diseases.

Many parents have stopped their children being vaccinated with MMR which has seen a significant and dangerous increase in mumps and measles cases in England.

Can I ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being what steps can be taken in Worcestershire to ensure all those who have not been vaccinated receive information on how to access the vaccine and the clear benefits?"

Question 5 – Road resurfacing

5. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility explain why Gloucestershire County Council require a higher quality of tar from Ringway than we do to resurface the county's roads?"

Question 6 – Ship-naming

6. Mr R M Udall will ask the Leader of the Council:

"The Leader will be aware that the Ministry of Defence have commissioned five new Type 31 Frigates. Worcester has a proud tradition of supporting the Royal Navy, the first HMS Worcester was launched in 1651. Others were launched in 1698, 1735, 1769, 1843 and 1919. The last HMS Worcester was decommissioned in 1945. Will he use his influence with county members of parliament and the Ministry of Defence in order to campaign for one of the new frigates to be named HMS Worcester?"

Question 7 – Brexit

7. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Every Local Authority has been required to appoint a Brexit Lead. Could the Leader tell me:

1. The name of the County Council Brexit Lead; and
2. Given that University of Birmingham estimates that 25,000 jobs in Worcestershire are at direct risk from a No Deal Brexit can the Leader tell me

what advice this Council is giving to local employers whose businesses and employees may now be at risk?"

Question 8 – Residents Parking Schemes

8. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility agree with me that an 80% yes vote by those voting on top of 50% +1 of all available houses being in favour, makes it unrealistically difficult for any road to implement a residents parking scheme?

Surely the 50% plus 1 house and a simple majority of those voting should be enough? Will he recommend revising the policy?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846621

Email: slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

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

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COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2019**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Internal Audit Annual Report 2018/19

1. Internal Audit is required by professional standards to provide a written annual report. The requirements of auditing professional standards that an annual report be presented to those charged with governance is discharged through the Annual Report and it identifies that the Council's overall control environment is moderate, which is in line with previous years' judgements. The Committee has endorsed the Internal Audit Annual Report 2018/19.

Statutory Accounts and Pension Fund 2018/19 – External Audit Findings Report

2. Peter Barber, Key Audit Partner and Helen Lillington, Engagement Manager from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, presented the External Audit – Findings Report for the Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2018/19 and Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2018/19. The report summarises the conclusions and key issues arising from the recent audit of the Council's financial statements and their assessment of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources. It also summarises the conclusions and key issues arising from the recent audit of the Pension Fund's financial statements.

3. The key issues in relation to Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2017/18 were:

- Grant Thornton anticipates issuing an unqualified audit opinion, subject to outstanding queries being resolved
- Grant Thornton identified a number of misclassification and disclosure changes. All material changes have been adjusted. There remain a small number of non-material changes which have not been adjusted in the accounts and these are recommended by Grant Thornton as future improvements which are accepted.

4. The key issues in relation to Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2018/19 were:

- Grant Thornton anticipates issuing an unqualified audit opinion, subject to outstanding queries being resolved
- Grant Thornton have identified a small number of presentation and disclosure changes and they have all been adjusted.

5. The Committee has noted Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report for the Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2018/19 and Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2018/19 be noted. The Committee has authorised the Chief Financial Officer to sign the Letters of Representation on behalf of the County Council.

Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

6. The Council is required, as part of its ongoing review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2018/19. This has been signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. The AGS will form part of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

7. The AGS is primarily retrospective. It reports on the assurance framework and measures in place for the financial year 2018/19 and takes into account any significant issues of governance up to the date of publication of the Statement of Accounts. The AGS outlines the actions taken or proposed to address governance issues identified.

8. The AGS includes the following governance issues as areas for improvement. Items which were included in the 2018/19 AGS and remain governance issues following review in 2018/19: Sustainable improvement in Children's Services; Ensuring the delivery of the Council's vision and corporate objectives, in line with the Medium-Term Finance Plan; and Staff capacity, recruitment and retention. The following new issues have been identified as part of the 2018/19 review process: Sustainable improvement in Children's Services; Serious harm or death of a child or young person; Activity exceeds budget allocation; Serious harm or death of a vulnerable adult; and Staff capacity, recruitment and retention.

9. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, have considered the AGS as part of their external audit, and have confirmed that it is consistent with their knowledge of our organisation and the financial statements. The Committee has approved the AGS 2018/2019.

Annual Statutory Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019

10. The financial position reported in the Council's Statutory Accounts for 2018/19 was an overspend of £2 million against the net budget of £324 million, with an accounting deficit, which includes adjustments of £49.7 million, for pension's actuarial costs, capital costs and other financial adjustments, of £52.6 million. The Council's General Fund reserve balance remains at £12.2 million, whilst there has been a decrease of £2.9 million on available earmarked reserves taking their balance at 31 March 2019 to £81.5 million.

11. The value of the Pension Fund's net assets increased by £94.3 million from £2,701.0 million at 31 March 2018 to £2,795.3 million at 31 March 2019. During the year a surplus resulted on the Pension Fund accounts totalling £16.8 million, a decrease of £98 million from a surplus of £114.8 million in the previous year. This was mainly due to some Fund contributors paying their 3-year contributions fully in 2017/18.

12. The Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the McCloud pension case has indicated that the LGPS pension fund is likely to be liable for adjustments relating to age discrimination relating to the implementation of transitional arrangements on changing benefits. The Pension Fund, on behalf of the employers in the scheme, commissioned an updated valuation for the actuary to take account of this judgement. This resulted in a £6.5 million increase in past service liabilities and a £1.3 million projected service cost increase for the County Council.

13. The external audit has identified a number of non-material corrections which have been agreed and completed. There have continued to be improvements in the quality of the working papers including reporting from the e5 financial system and the quality of some source documentation, which caused several issues in the 2017/18 accounts.

14. The Value for Money assessment has concluded that the Council has proper arrangements in all significant areas. The Committee has approved the Final Accounts Pack, including the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2019. Since the Committee, the Accounts have been signed off unqualified and on time and are available at http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/download/44/worcestershire_county_council_financial_accounts

Internal Audit Progress Report – July 2019

15. Six audits have been completed in the first quarter of 2019/20 with one 'limited' assurance. In addition, two reports have been issued in draft and a further six audits started. The report also identifies two additions to the Audit Plan. A new Chief Internal Auditor has been appointed and the system is due to go live in August 2019. At the same time additional resources is being sourced on a temporary and permanent basis to ensure delivery of the Plan in year.

16. The main issue Committee have had particular focus on is the progress of recommendations. The total of recommendations outstanding have fallen by 16 and all of request for responses were received. Overall this level of understanding and compliance is a significant improvement from 12 months ago. The Committee has noted the Internal Audit Progress Report.

Corporate Risk Report

17. The Corporate Risk Register provides a mechanism for collating and reporting risks that could affect the delivery of corporate objectives. In April 2017 the Council adopted an electronic risk register tool to hold in one place all the major risks identified by individual Directorates and major projects. A scoring system is used to rate individual risks. This allows risks to be ranked and provides a view of the highest risks identified across the organisation.

18. At the end of Quarter Four 2018/19 there were 127 individual risks entered in the risk register of which 14 were identified as high / "red" risks. The risks in the register have been reviewed significantly since Q2 2018/19 (when 187 risks were reported) and risks that no longer exist have been removed, whilst similar risks entered multiple times by different directorates have been rationalised.

19. The highest risks have been grouped into five risk areas, following discussion by the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) and the Performance and Transformation Board as follows: Safeguarding vulnerable children; Education; services for vulnerable adults; Compliance management of the council's estate; and business continuity response to major event. Two further risk areas that have previously been reported as high / "red" are highlighted as medium / "amber" following significant mitigating activity during 2018/19 as follows: financial control; and staff capacity, capability and productivity.

20. The Committee has noted the Corporate Risk Register including mitigating actions identified in respect of red risk and agreed that reports be received on a quarterly basis.

Work Programme

21. The Committee has noted its future work programme.

Mr N Desmond
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

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Email: slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

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

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 29 July 2019.