

Agenda

Council

Thursday, 11 November 2021, 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, 11 November 2021, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Agenda and Summons

Councillors: Cllr Steve Mackay (Chairman), Cllr Alastair Adams, Cllr Salman Akbar, Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Martin Allen, Cllr Alan Amos, Cllr Marc Bayliss, Cllr Dan Boatright, Cllr Bob Brookes, Cllr David Chambers, Cllr Brandon Clayton, Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Lynn Denham, Cllr Nathan Desmond, Cllr Allah Ditta, Cllr Matt Dormer, Cllr Aled Evans, Cllr Elizabeth Eyre, Cllr Laura Gretton, Cllr Peter Griffiths, Cllr Karen Hanks, Cllr Ian Hardiman, Cllr Adrian Hardman, Cllr Paul Harrison, Cllr Marcus Hart, Cllr Bill Hopkins, Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Adam Kent, Cllr Adrian Kriss, Cllr Aled Luckman, Cllr Luke Mallett, Cllr Emma Marshall, Cllr Karen May, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Tony Miller, Cllr Jo Monk, Cllr Dan Morehead, Cllr Richard Morris, Cllr Tony Muir, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Tracey Onslow, Cllr Scott Richardson Brown, Cllr Andy Roberts, Cllr Josh Robinson, Cllr Linda Robinson, Cllr Chris Rogers, Cllr David Ross, Cllr Mike Rouse, Cllr Jack Satterthwaite, Cllr James Stanley, Cllr Emma Stokes, Cllr Kit Taylor, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Craig Warhurst, Cllr Shirley Webb and Cllr Tom 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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the Monday before the meeting (in this case 8 November). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed in this agenda and on the website.

3 Minutes

To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021 (previously circulated electronically).

4 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

5 Fire and Rescue Authority 1 - 4

To consider the annual report of the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority to be presented by Cllr Kit Taylor, Chairman and to receive answers to any questions asked about this report. It is planned that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer will attend the meeting.

6 Constitutional Matters 5 - 6

To consider the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 Reports of Cabinet 7 - 10

To consider the reports of the Cabinet and to receive answers to any questions asked on the report of Cabinet – Summary of decisions taken.

8 Notices of Motion 11 - 14

To receive the report of the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance on any Notices of Motion received by him.

Councillors are asked to note that any Notices of Motion must be received by the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance no later than noon on 2 November 2021.

9 Report of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility 15 - 24

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

10 Question Time 25 - 28

To receive answers to any questions asked by Councillors.

(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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance by noon on 2 November 2021 or*
- *If it relates to urgent business, the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance is notified at least half an hour before the start of the meeting and the Chairman agrees the matter is urgent’.)*

11 Reports of Committees 29 - 44

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

- a) Audit and Governance Committee;
- b) Pensions Committee;
- c) Planning and Regulatory Committee; and
- d) Standards and Ethics Committee.

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.

- **Armistice Day Ceremony**

There will be an adjournment to allow members to attend the Armistice Day ceremony which will take place at 11.00am.

- **Catering Arrangements**

Lunch will be available for members at 1.00pm or thereabouts. Details of the arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

Agenda produced and published by Abraham Ezekiel, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance 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, 3 November 2021

This page is intentionally left blank



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

2020/21 Annual Report to Worcestershire County Council

Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Councillor C B Taylor, from Worcestershire County Council, was elected as Chairman of the Authority and Councillor R Phillips, from Herefordshire Council, was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Fire Authority Changes

Following the elections to Worcestershire County Council there has been a significant change to the membership of the Authority, resulting in 10 new Members from Worcestershire County Council. To enable Members to fully understand the depth and breadth of the organisation a number of Member training sessions were delivered to underpin the three key strategies, Prevention, Protection and Response. Furthermore, changes to the Service's operational exercising programme are also delivering opportunities to expose Members to live operational activity, albeit in a controlled environment.

Appointment of Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Jonathon Pryce was appointed Chief Fire Officer on 1st April 2021, following the retirement of Nathan Travis. Guy Palmer was appointed Assistant Chief Fire Officer on 1st April 2021, following the promotion of Jonathon Pryce.

Organisational Change and Employee Relations

The Service has published its updated Community Risk Management Plan 2021-2025 (CRMP) after a comprehensive period of public consultation. To support this three new core Strategies have been created - Response, Protection and Prevention closely linked to mitigating risks highlighted in the CRMP. The new core strategies have been promoted across the workforce and are supported by key performance indicators reported on regularly.

Enabling plans sit beneath the core strategies, for example the Fire Authority has approved the Environment Sustainability Plan 2021-25 for publication.

To support organisational change the Service has prioritised recruitment drives for Wholetime and On-call Firefighters. Working collaboratively with partners remains a priority, for example the Service has recently welcomed cohorts of school children to take part in the Dying to Drive scheme.

Leadership development is critical for the management cohort, and during the past 18 months the Service has been working with Trans2 (a specialist leadership company) to deliver training programmes promoting self awareness and positive leadership skills.

Covid-19

At the height of the pandemic, HWFRS has also been a strong supporter of partners in the LRF, such as Local Authorities and health providers, undertaking a range of activities such as PPE distribution and face-mask fit testing, as well as helping to plan to support patient transport services, if required. As the country moved through the various stages of unlocking we supported vaccination programmes with logistical support. The Service has maintained a keen eye on compliance within the workplace and managers are regularly reviewing arrangements within their areas to ensure we remain safe in terms of cross contamination, yet agile enough to still deliver the service the public have come to expect.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

The Service has been working to close an improvement plan following an inspection in 2018. All outstanding actions relating to the 2018 HMICFRS inspection have now been closed.

The HMICFRS inspected the Service twice more recently. The first in October 2020 reviewing the Service's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; the second in April 2021, for a full inspection themed around the pillars of Efficiency, Effectiveness and People.

Their full report of findings and recommendations is due to be published in December 2021. In the interim the Service has unfortunately received a formal cause of concern in relation to its prevention activity. An action plan to show how the Service will discharge the concerns was provided to the inspectorate by 31 August 2021 and a large part of the concern has been discharged by the end of October 2021.

Whilst disappointing, the areas of note were already being addressed, and the Service is working through the action plan, expecting a revisit from the inspectorate later this year.

Strategic Alliance with Shropshire Fire Authority

The Strategic Fire Alliance between Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services continues to make progress in the four priority areas which are as follows:-

1. Fire Control – 999 Mobilising Function: scoping the future requirements for ensuring a resilient Command & Control function (taking into account the Grenfell Tower and Manchester Arena Inquiry recommendations).
2. Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP): aligning Community Risk Management Planning processes (to use within the 2021-2025 CRMP).
3. ICT: developing organisational arrangements for the provision of Information & Communications Technology functions.
4. Procurement: identifying areas of potential efficiencies and alignment in the procurement of goods and services, as well as procurement practice.

5. Fire Investigation: driving compliance to support criminal investigations on behalf of both organisations is underway.

Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Case for Governance of Fire and Rescue Service

Following the judicial review challenges brought by Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority, the Home Office Minister wrote to the PCC in June 2020 indicating that if the PCC wished to continue with his bid to take over governance of the Fire and Rescue Services, it would be necessary for him to submit an updated business case sometime after the May 2021 PCC elections.

No further business case has been submitted at the moment.

In the meantime the government has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding the role of PCCs. A consultation paper on the future of Fire and Rescue Services is expected to be published this Autumn and it is expected this will include further proposals in relation to governance. We wait to see whether these will include proposals to mandate the transfer of governance of all relevant Fire and Rescue Services to the Police and Crime Commissioners where boundaries are coterminous. It is anticipated that any such change would require primary legislation.

Property Update

Following the dissolution of Place Partnership Limited, the Fire Authority entered into an agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia to deliver our property management functions. The new service became operational on 1st April 2021 and continues to transition and develop well.

The new Wyre Forest Fire Station has been operational for over 12 months, and was officially opened in September 2021.

Broadway has a one fire engine on-call station which has been recognised for some time as being in a very poor state of repair and lacking the facilities necessary for a modern fire station. The existing site is quite constrained but following abortive attempts to identify a suitable alternative location, the Fire Authority resolved to redevelop a new station on the existing site. A detailed planning application was submitted in May 2021 and this was approved by the local authority on 6th October 2021.

The replacement of Redditch Fire Station has been part of the Authority's approved capital programme for several years. We are working in collaboration with West Mercia Police who are also keen to relocate from their existing premises, to provide a joint facility building upon the concept of the Bromsgrove joint Fire/Police station. Architects have been appointed and are developing proposals in order to submit a planning application to the local authority.

The Service currently has strategic training facilities (STFs) at Wyre Forest, Evesham and Peterchurch. These provide 'hot fire house' training environments which are essential for the proper training of staff and maintenance of skills in a realistic environment. There has been a long-term strategy to provide a fourth STF in the north of Herefordshire so as to minimise travel time and improve training opportunities

across both counties for all locations, particularly for on-call crews in that area. A potential site has now been identified at Leominster Police Station, and proposals are being developed to submit a planning application to the local authority.

Hereford Fire Station was identified in 2011 with a number of other capital schemes, and is the only one which has not so far been delivered. The main reason for this has been the difficulty in finding a suitable site. However, this has not been for the want of trying and a number of alternative proposals have been investigated over the years. A proposal for redevelopment of the existing fire station site at St. Owen Street is now the preferred option, proposing a new four bay fire station with associated accommodation, improving access and egress from the site and enhancing car parking. The proposals also provide space for partners, office space for prevention and protection teams, and dedicated rooms for level one incident command training and assessments.

In February 2021 the Service published an Environmental Sustainability Plan (2021-2025) which sets out how we will continue to improve the ways in which we use our resources to ensure the least harm to our environment. Each year this grows in importance as our awareness is raised on the critical importance of changing our behaviours with regard to climate change and sustainability. Legislation and regulation reflect this priority and we are committed to ensuring we meet our requirements and where possible exceed expectations. Work continues in this area to develop plans and to date twenty-two fire stations have been surveyed and assessed concerning energy use, including carbon emissions.

Notable Incident

HWFRS responded to a major fire in a metal recycling business based in Park Street, Kidderminster. At the height of the blaze 28 appliances from across the two counties and neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services attended along with a number of specialist appliances and officers. The incident required a multiagency response and we worked with our partners within the Local Resilience Forum to limit the impact on the surrounding environment and community. The Chief Fire Officer was extremely pleased with the how the organisation responded and dealt with the incident, in particular the time taken to bring the incident under control and return the local area to near normality within 24 hours, thereby supporting local businesses and residents.

**Cllr C B Taylor, Chairman and Cllr R Phillips, Vice-Chairman
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority**

FURTHER INFORMATION is available in the Fire Authority Annual Report 2021-22 on the Service's website at www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/our-publications/

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS – VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP OF
HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Recommendation

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that the nominee of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), Cllr Frances Smith, be appointed as Vice Chairman of the HOSC.**
2. The Council from time to time appoints Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of member bodies to fill certain positions within its constitutional structures.
3. The Council is asked on an annual basis to agree the appointment of a Vice Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the nomination of the District Councils has been made.
4. The Council's Constitution states that the Vice Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be selected by and from the District representatives on that Committee. The nomination from the District representatives made at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 September 2021 was Cllr Frances Smith, representing Wychavon District Council.

Contact PointsSpecific Contact Points for this report

Abraham Ezekiel, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

Tel: 01905 843287

Email: aezekiel@worcestershire.gov.uk

Sheena Jones, Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager

Tel: 01905 846011

Email: sjones19@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

School Sufficiency And Organisation for the Pershore Education Planning Area

1. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for all children resident in the county who wish to attend a state funded school.
2. Changes to schools in the Pershore education planning area over several years by DfE and WCC has led to uncertainty and sustainability concerns across the education planning area. This creates a risk to ensuring clear and quality education journeys for pupils in Pershore and the surrounding rural villages and ensuring the sustainability of a number of small rural schools.
3. A number of schools in the Education Planning Area (EPA) have varied their age ranges so that it is now made up of education tier journeys.
4. Cabinet has approved a pre-publication consultation with stakeholders on the proposal for a coordinated change of age range to align schools in the Pershore EPA to a single, two-tier (primary and secondary) system of education. A report of the consultation findings and full proposals will be presented to Cabinet in February 2022.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

5. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIPs) are a part of the vision and ambition set out by Government. They are strategic documents which set out the proposed network for walking and cycling within a defined geographic area. They enable a long-term approach to the development of networks, typically over a ten-year period and set priorities for investment in relevant infrastructure. They also set out a narrative to explain and justify the proposed network, looking at considerations such as barriers to walking and cycling, trip attractors, existing links and infrastructure
6. LCWIPs are not statutory documents however funders, including the Department of Transport (DfT), are increasingly targeting their funding at schemes within LCWIPs and to understand how their funding will contribute to delivery of the wider network
7. The current Local Transport Plan (LTP4) sets out the County Council's strategic aspirations for walking and cycling and identifies proposals for a series of overarching active travel corridors.
8. It is proposed to develop a series of LCWIPs for the county focussed on the individual towns and Worcester City. These documents will build on the overarching strategic active travel corridors set out in LTP4, providing details of the proposed

routes for walking and cycling, trip attractors and considering any barriers to proposals. This builds on the significant progress made in implementing active travel corridors since LTP4 was adopted in 2017.

9. Cabinet has authorised the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport both to approve individual Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for public consultation and modification and to adopt individual Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for implementation

Worcestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan

10. The Department for Transport (DfT) has recently published the National Bus Strategy (NBS) outlining its ambition to improve bus services in England. The County Council, as the Local Transport Authority, has decided that it wishes to enter an Enhanced Partnership with Local Operators by the end of March 2022. This decision will have implications for the local bus network in Worcestershire, the majority of which is currently operated on a commercial basis.

11. Creation of a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Enhanced Partnership would allow both the County Council and bus operators to benefit from increased levels of Government funding. If these are not created and implemented, the Government will not release funding.

12. If Worcestershire County Council does not commit to delivering a Plan, the Department for Transport will cease £0.55 million per annum in Bus Service Operators' Grant (BSOG) funding. The absence of Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership would mean the loss of Bus Service Operators' Grant. This would require the withdrawal of circa 20% of the Council's current supported network, leaving a significant number of rural areas without any bus service.

13. Prior to the pandemic Worcestershire delivered its Passenger Transport Strategy (agreed by Cabinet in November 2019). This will translate into the various aims of the BSIP and will make it easier for WCC to achieve the deadlines set by the Department for Transport. Worcestershire is using the work carried out to deliver its Passenger Transport Strategy as the basis of its Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP).

14. Cabinet has committed to the development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan to set out the Council's vision and priorities for the future of bus services in Worcestershire. This will be used as a high-level bidding document to secure capital and revenue grant funding from the Department for Transport.

15. The CMR will approve the BSIP and operational policies, together with the statutory Enhanced Partnership. The BSIP will be based on the previously agreed Worcestershire Passenger Strategy.

Establishment of a Charitable Body to Support Museum Funding

16. The Joint Museums Committee has approved in principle the set up this year of a charitable body to support fundraising for the City and County museums.

17. This charitable body will enable the museums to apply for a wider range of grants towards projects and future development and will create a more tax-advantageous vehicle for individual's donations.

18. The charity will be overseen by a board of trustees who will be advocates for the museums' development in the local community and to grant-giving foundations. They will have a scrutiny role ensuring funding is spent as intended.

19. The establishment of the new charity is not intended to change the way the joint museums service is governed by the Joint Museums Committee or managed operationally.

20. Cabinet authorised the Strategic Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities, to enter into all necessary legal agreements to establish the charitable body.

Adult Social Care – Annual Local Account

21. Adult Social Care is required to publish an annual Local Account. The account is a summary of activity, setting out the Council's priorities, showing improvements, where further change is needed and including feedback from service users. This promotes transparency, scrutiny and accountability to adult social care service users and the public, as recipients and funders of public sector services. Cabinet has received the report which covered the last financial year and stated how the council has performed as a provider and commissioner. It also includes future developments within the wider People Directorate and People Strategy that support positive outcomes for users of adult social care.

22. The report highlights the development of services such as Here to Help, how residents and existing service users have been supported through the challenges of the pandemic, significant investment in reablement to promote people's independence and the Council's commitment to working with our health colleagues to promote timely, safe discharge from hospital to a person's usual place of residence, despite the challenges of Covid. Cabinet has endorsed the report, which will feature on future agendas on an annual basis.

Resources Report – Revenue Budget Monitoring – Month 4 (31 July) 2021/22

23. This report set out the 2021/22 outturn forecast for the Council's £355 million net revenue budget as at Month 4 (31 July 2021), the estimated financial impact of COVID-19 and progress to date on the savings and reforms programme.

24. At month 4 the Council was forecasting a £1 million cost pressure whilst achieving savings of over £10.5 million in year.

25. In addition to this, the Council is managing around £36 million of additional one-off funding to support its response to COVID-19 working alongside partners and suppliers to ensure vital support services are enabled across the County area. Costs are broadly in line with the additional funding allocated by Central Government. Looking forward, the Council will be refreshing its Medium-Term Financial Plan noting the continual need to invest in the priorities that support vulnerable children and adults, ensuring road and infrastructure improvements support strong economic

growth for the county area whilst acknowledging the financial risks on our income as we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

26. This report also noted the latest position with regard to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block.

27. The most significant cost pressure was the WCF forecast position of a £1.164 million deficit (less than 1% of the WCF budget) mainly related to increased demographic pressures in Placements for Looked After Children. There has been a Covid-19 impact on the ability of WCF to move children and young people onto permanent arrangements which contributed to increased costs, however the primary increase is due to the rising cost of residential and external foster care provision.

28. The report showed that the Council's treasury activities were managed successfully within the approved Prudential Indicator limits.

29. Total long-term debt outstanding is within plan and stood at £522.7 million at 31 March 2021 at an average rate of 3.27% (3.33% for 2019/20).

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) 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 23 September 2021.

[Browse meetings - Cabinet - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/worcestershire-council/cabinet-meetings)

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021
NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion Received

1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance reports that he has received the following 5 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 – Automated external defibrillators

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 Cllr Emma Stokes, Marcus Hart, Cllr Ian Hardiman, Cllr Bob Brookes, Cllr Emma Marshall, Cllr Alan Amos, Cllr Adrian Hardman, Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Simon Geraghty, Cllr David Chambers, Cllr Scott Richardson Brown and Cllr Richard Morris:

“This Council notes that across Worcestershire, sadly far too many people still lose their lives as a result of cardiac arrest.

This Council resolves to call upon the relevant Cabinet Member(s) with Responsibility to work with all relevant agencies and partners and our own officers to raise the profile and locations of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) across Worcestershire to ensure residents from across the County know the importance and location of them.

This Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member(s) with Responsibility update members following the conclusion of this work.”

Notice of Motion 2 – Not every disability is visible

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 Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Dan Boatright, Cllr Lynn Denham, Cllr Josh Robinson, and Cllr Luke Mallett:

"This Council notes that:

In the UK 1 in 5 people have a disability. 80% of these disabilities are invisible. The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible public toilets to install new signage. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with 'invisible illnesses' such as Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.

There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them, including those with temporary impairments, such as having knee surgery or a broken bone. This has caused considerable distress to individuals and unnecessary conflict.

The Government has decided recently that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people - known as Changing Places - will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues, in England from 2021. The signs produced by the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK have two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words Accessible Toilet and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'.

Council resolves to ask the Cabinet member to put in place arrangements for the Council to:

1. Ensure that accessible toilets on Council premises bear these signs, including library facilities in shared spaces or rented from other organisations (such as the Hive or Pershore Library);
2. Work with contractors, service providers and companies renting county council owned premises to do likewise with their accessible public toilets;
3. Seek advice from the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK on the information and training we should provide to Council employees. This is to ensure they understand these illnesses and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them;
4. Work with schools and libraries to promote inclusive attitudes to disabilities to prevent potential embarrassment;
5. Ensure that any Changing Places toilets in county buildings are properly signposted for visitors; and
6. Ensure that the requirement to provide new Changing Place toilets is included within the Council's future plans for new public buildings in the County."

Notice of Motion 3 – Health impacts of pandemic

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 Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Tom Wells, and Cllr Martin Allen:

“The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on all our lives. In particular, it has highlighted and exacerbated the existing health inequalities that exist within our society.

There are various areas where these effects are felt, often cutting across the council departments of health, adult care and children’s services.

Examples of the concerns are:

- The impact on children born during the pandemic
- School readiness of children on free school meals
- Worsening educational outcomes and risk for the most disadvantaged
- Impact on mental health
- Black, Asian and other ethnic groups carry a disproportionate toll due to the pandemic.

This motion calls for the creation of a scrutiny task group or member advisory group that can undertake a cross-departmental investigation of the impact of the pandemic on health inequalities and find solutions that reverse these impacts.”

Notice of Motion 4 – Shortage of seasonal workers

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

10. Notice of Motion standing in the names of Cllr Matt Jenkins, Cllr Beverley Nielsen, Cllr Natalie McVey, Cllr Martin Allen, and Cllr Tom Wells

“There is a crisis amongst local horticulturalists resulting from the shortage of seasonal workers, leading to thousands of tonnes of fruit and produce rotting in our fields.

We need to urgently support this industry, which is core to our county and reputation. It is suffering for its third year running under the allocations of the pilot Seasonal Workers Scheme, which has not been made permanent as a piece of legislation, making it almost impossible for these businesses to plan ahead for the next year.

These businesses pay good salaries, National Living Wage as a minimum, offer good conditions and the sector is world renowned for innovation, investing around 5% annually in R&D – more than twice the government’s national R&D target.

With the black pear as the symbol of our county and our fruit growers in jeopardy, we urge active engagement by our Cabinet with this vital sector on behalf of our county.

This Notice of Motion:

1. Calls on Worcestershire County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy & Skills to have emergency discussions with local farmer and fruit grower representatives from the NFU in our county; and

2. Calls on the Cabinet as a whole to set up a crisis management response team to help support these businesses.”

Notice of Motion 5 – Declare a Biodiversity Emergency

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 Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Dan Boatright, and Cllr Lynn Denham:

“Council declares a Biodiversity Emergency and commits to doing the following:

- Produce a biodiversity strategy to support sustainable land management, which is sympathetic to wildlife and the prevention of wildlife habitats being unnecessarily destroyed and to seek ways to create and care for wildlife-rich spaces across Worcestershire
- Work with partners to review and update all existing relevant strategies
- Establish a Member Advisory Group to assist with the future revision of a biodiversity strategy and report annually on actions taken.”

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**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 opportunity to bring my inaugural Health and Well-Being report, following my appointment in May 2021. Since the last report by my predecessor, it has been a challenging time for the portfolio in the face of the pandemic and I am proud of the Council's response and many achievements accomplished during this tumultuous time.

2. 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; the statutory duties of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act and the statutory duties, of which there are numerous which sit under Trading Standards. We have clear governance in place around this work, set out below. In order to give members a clear idea of the breadth and value of the work done, a table setting out financial information is attached at **Appendix A**.

COVID-19 Response and Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)

3. The COVID-19 Health Protection Board meets monthly and is chaired by the Director of Public Health (DPH). It is a system wide meeting that has representation from the NHS, District Councils, the University of Worcester, Education and Adult Social Care. Its remit is to support problem solving of issues caused by COVID-19 and enable the system to reduce compounded inequalities. The chairs of each District Council Incident Management Team report to this board and it, with the DPH, holds the overall governance for the use of the COMF.

4. In total £12.985 million has been carried forward from the 2020/2021 COMF allocation and WCC has been given an additional £2.94 million for the 2021/2022 COMF allocation. Therefore, the total available is £15.925 million, until March 2021/2022. The allocation and spend has been closely reviewed and adapted, many proposals for COMF allocations have been developed collaboratively with District Councils and wider partners. Initially there were substantial allocations against COVID-19 testing for those without symptoms and surge testing. However, as the pandemic has continued these items have been funded directly from Department for Health and Social Care. Therefore, the DPH has taken the opportunity to reallocate COMF resource, with a focus on acute response and reducing the impact of COVID-19 on communities that are most adversely affected. Currently over £14 million of COMF has been allocated, with plans being reviewed to spend the remainder by the end of the financial year. Work continues within Public Health and with wider stakeholders to explore opportunities for allocation that will protect the health of the

Worcestershire population against COVID-19.

5. The Local Outbreak Response Team continues to provide support to high-risk settings, such as care homes, schools and workplaces, to control outbreaks of COVID-19. This is a multiagency response including Public Health at Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Infection Prevention and Control from the Clinical Commissioning Group. At the time of writing, most of the demand is being driven by outbreaks in schools. The team work closely with Worcestershire Childrens First (WCF) to support headteachers to implement their Outbreak Management Plans, recommending additional measures such as testing when required. This acute response will continue until at least March 2022, with a contingency for a further three months available if required, all allocated from COMF funding.

Health and Well-being Board (HWB)

6. As the new Chair of the HWB, I bring a refreshed focus to having this vital board functioning and recognised as an effective 'system leadership partnership'.

7. The HWB is a statutory body, leading our strategic approach to improving health and well-being and strengthening integration between health and social care. Its membership 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. This brings an opportunity to work together to drive better local outcomes, and to influence the developing Integrated Care System (ICS) to support delivery of the same.

8. The 2016-2021 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) has been extended by a year to allow further engagement work around the new JHWS. In preparation, much work has been undertaken by the HWB to develop the overarching theme for the new JHWS as "Better mental health and emotional wellbeing", supported by healthy living at all stages in life, safe and healthy homes, and good jobs. There will be a strong focus on prevention and in particular, the inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.

9. It is recognised that the pandemic has affected the residents of Worcestershire in many varied and complex ways, with a range of short, medium, and longer-term impacts. Whilst some of these are known, others may be hidden or not yet understood. To better understand this, Public Health is commissioning a range of qualitative COVID-19 impact focus groups run by community providers, in-depth ethnographic research, and a detailed impact survey. This data collection will be completed by the end of March 2022 to inform the new JHWS and supporting the development of its action plans.

10. The HWB is due to approve the annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), a statutory requirement which local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups have equal and joint duties to prepare through the HWB. This comprehensive report sets out health, care, and wider needs of our local population, reports far reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlights areas which may be of emerging concern. Worcestershire generally has good health with some pockets of poor health particularly linked to health inequalities. There are some issues which remain an issue for Worcestershire people including: school readiness, excess weight

in adults, alcohol related admissions, breastfeeding initiation, smoking status in pregnancy and hip fractures. Each of these issues is subject to more detailed investigation, surveillance, and action where needed.

11. Moving forward, the intention is for the JSNA to focus on wider determinants and take an asset-based approach, with an increased level of district input and analysis, with the intention for it to be recognised as the overarching assessment for Worcestershire, with partners strategies and plans flowing from this. There will be a clear alignment between the new JHWS and the Integrated Care Strategy, all informed by the JSNA.

12. The HWB received the DPH's Annual Report in September 2021; 'The Role of Primary Care in Prevention, Population Health and Narrowing Health Inequalities'. This highlighted the opportunity to learn lessons from the pandemic response, placing Primary Care services at the heart, and working with the community. It recommended a stronger focus on prevention across all services to improve the health and wellbeing of Worcestershire residents and narrow health inequalities. Specifically, maximising the role of Primary Care in preventing illness, creating healthy places and stronger communities able to help themselves, and focusing on physical and mental wellbeing.

13. The HWB was recently pleased to receive an update on the development of the Integrated Wellbeing Offer (IWO). Initial scoping for an IWO began in late 2018 and work developed throughout 2019. In 2020 WCC established the Here2Help programme to help those needing support during the pandemic, including those with poor mental health and well-being. In early 2021, development of the IWO recommenced. The IWO aims to empower people to live well, by addressing the factors that influence their health and well-being and building their capability to be independent, resilient and maintain good well-being. It will move beyond focusing on single issues and take a holistic and person-centred approach, addressing the psychosocial determinants of health behaviour. It will augment the collective response to early intervention and prevention to meet people's needs across the life course, improve health and well-being and address inequalities. It is anticipated that the IWO will be a major delivery arm of the new JHWS.

14. The Board has recognised this opportune time, amidst ongoing system change with the ICS and under new chairmanship, to review its governance arrangements. Members contributed to a peer review, carried out by the Local Government Association, which involved interviews with more than 40 key stakeholders. It has taken this valuable insight and is preparing a development programme to assist members in clarifying the role and purpose of the HWB, defining its vision over and above its statutory duties, and its ambitions around early prevention and aligning priorities across the local system, whilst strengthening partnership working. Following this, the HWB will likely revise its sub-group structure and potentially refine its membership to support delivery of its priorities and JHWS. There may further be consideration given to additional meetings with Herefordshire's HWB, yet to be explored as part of the developing ICS.

15. Significant progress has been made over the year, building on strong working relationships across the system, whilst bringing challenge to colleagues to improve outcomes for Worcestershire. The HWB strives to be well-positioned to continue this work based on good engagement with its districts and partners, with aligned leadership and priorities.

Community Safety

16. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 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, leadership sits with the DPH, provided with additional duties under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

17. In addition to delivery of the above responsibilities, officers support strategic partnership activity through the Safer Communities Board, and in addition have been active in implementing new Council duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Compliance with the duty has included setting up new governance arrangements through a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, carrying out a needs assessment on supported safe housing and progressing a new Domestic Abuse strategy for the county. Extensive new commissioning arrangements (working with internal directorates, Worcestershire Children First, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the District Councils), are underway to create new safe accommodation and support with other services to support victims and their families.

18. Officers have oversight of the Domestic Homicide Review process on behalf of the North and South Community Safety Partnerships, where cases are assessed to learn lessons and reported back to the Home Office prior to publication. There are six review cases in the system at present, which span three years.

19. There is ongoing work to meet the Governments Counter Terrorism legislation through a range of duties under Prevent, and to equip Council and Worcestershire Children First staff with an understanding and knowledge as to how to identify and respond to possible radicalisation, particularly of children and vulnerable individuals. This includes leading the Channel Panel which considers formal referrals where there are concerns about radicalised individuals and where a package of support may be provided. The Council is also leading work with partner local authorities, through a newly established Protect Group, to consider the security and protection of public spaces and infrastructure against potential attacks in the lead up to further new responsibilities under the forthcoming Protect duty (likely 2022). These groups report to the countywide Safer Communities Board, providing both oversight and assurance.

Emergency Planning

20. The Emergency Planning work is robust and contributes to strategic and tactical initiatives co-ordinated through the West Mercia Local Resilience Forum. The WCC Gold and Silver Commander rotas ensure that it participates in multi-agency emergency response. The Emergency Planning team supports the COVID-19 response and recovery processes, whilst also ensuring that WCC remains responsive to concurrent incidents such as industrial fires, severe weather and flooding.

21. The DPH has initiated a strategic review of the Emergency Planning function in response to capacity pressures, the impact of COVID-19, and an external national review of Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR). This is being facilitated by the Emergency Planning College, which is sponsored by the

Government Cabinet Officer, and will include consulting with partners in Worcestershire and the West Mercia Local Resilience Forum.

Trading Standards

22. Trading Standards work to ensure consumers are protected from unfair trading, that required standards are met, and supporting criminal investigations, for example, under the Fraud and Forgery and Counterfeiting Acts.

23. This year, Trading Standards in Worcestershire reported over 200,000 illegal cigarettes and over 50 kilogrammes of illegal hand rolling tobacco being removed from the market. Sales of such products result in thousands of pounds being lost to the Treasury and undermines the Public Health efforts to reduce tobacco consumption in our most deprived communities.

24. The team has commenced work investigating 'underage sales' of alcohol, visiting approximately 50 businesses to provide advice, with two test purchasing exercises resulting in one sale from ten attempts. Preventing young people's access to alcohol had positive impacts on long-term health and the intention is to broaden activity to include tobacco.

25. The Government recently tightened the law around food item labelling for certain products, following the death of a teenager from a reaction to an un-declared allergen. Locally, Trading Standards is supporting food businesses with the additional controls.

26. With regard to product safety and seasonal demand, the team are visiting firework retailers ahead of bonfire night, reviewing storage and safety, and will focus on the sale of low-cost electrical goods, such as LED string-lights, in the run up to Christmas. The team has also supported a large local business with the recall of a children's hair product that posed a serious microbiological hazard.

27. With Winter approaching, Trading Standards will be issuing advice to help farmers and poultry keepers protect their flocks from avian influenza. Last year bought national concern to the issue, and whilst no commercial premises were impacted in Worcestershire, there were significant deaths in the swan population on both the River Severn and River Avon.

Public Health Services

28. Over the past year, Public Health has worked closely with providers of its services, offering advice and support as the pandemic progressed. The Team has monitored its core services, such as public health nursing, sexual health and substance misuse to ensure service continuity and recovery.

29. I am pleased to report that following a robust needs assessment and procurement process, a new model for universal prevention and early intervention service for children, young people and families, the Starting Well Service, commenced last year. The service has brought together Health visiting, nursery nurses, parenting support, school nursing, Health Care Support Workers and Community Health Connectors into teams who deliver the evidence based Healthy Child Programme. The service undertakes key assessments to identify need as early

as possible and responds with appropriate support ranging from universal information and advice, through to complex packages of care.

30. Public Health has also continued to review and improve the substance misuse services, reaching some of the most vulnerable in Worcestershire, implementing a redesigned and expanded service model to further drive improvement. We have seen a steady improvement in outcomes since 2016.

31. Worcestershire's sexual health services continued to deliver through a range of new and innovative ways during the pandemic. Conception rates for young people under 18 years in Worcestershire have continued to reduce. Recently published data indicated that in 2019 this rate in Worcestershire had again decreased and was significantly lower than both the West Midlands and England average. In addition, the rate of new sexually transmitted infections in Worcestershire has decreased and was significantly lower than both the West Midlands and England averages in 2020. The prescribing rate for long-acting reversal contraception continues to increase which should lead to reduced rates of unintended pregnancies.

32. Public Health commission NHS Health Checks for people aged 40 to 74, which can identify early signs of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, helping to lower risk and improve health. In 2019/20, 9.9% of the Worcestershire population received a health check which was higher than the regional and national percentage. Nationally, however the Health Checks programme, delivered through GPs, was paused during 2020/21 due to COVID-19. As part of the recovery strategy Public Health has worked with its GP colleagues and redesigned a fresh approach to restarting Health Checks which prioritises those at greatest risk and those who have not attended General Practice for some time.

33. Prior to COVID-19 Public Health designed and commissioned two new innovative services; a Lifestyle Service based in Primary Care Networks to support people to adopt healthier lifestyle behaviours (diet, physical activity, alcohol, smoking, mental wellbeing), and a new service to reduce loneliness. Both were required to flex their delivery mode during the pandemic and offer digital or telephone solutions. Face to face support has now returned, retaining some of the flexibilities and learning from the last year. As part of the recovery, Public Health Ring Fenced Grant is being used to support new ways of working. For example, with mental health and wellbeing, funding a new online counselling service for adults, and emotional health and wellbeing service in some schools. To support younger children to be school ready, there is a pilot for additional assessments and support at age 3.5 years. To help build resilient communities, Public Health is investing in community builders to help communities build additional assets, activities, and capacity.

Current Spend

34. A detailed breakdown of current Public Health budget and spend is attached at **Appendix A**.

Summary

35. I would like to thank my predecessor, Councillor John Smith for his hard work and dedication in his role. My special thanks go to Dr. Kathryn Cobain and her team for their commitment and diligence in the face of significant pressures to support

Worcestershire residents. I would like to wholeheartedly thank the teams across WCC and partners that have all worked together to aid our response to COVID-19. Finally, I would also like to thank my fellow cabinet members for their support.

Karen May
Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Well-being

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A

	Mandatory/Non Mandatory	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Forecast
		£'000	£'000
Adult Services:			
Lifestyle Services	NM	350	390
Smoking in Pregnancy	NM	164	164
Health Checks	M	209	670
Walking for Health	NM	25	25
Worcestershire Works Well	NM	35	55
Obesity, Diet & Exercise	NM	20	20
Fluoridation	M	200	268
Loneliness Service	NM	150	150
Healthwatch	NM	50	-77
Digital Inclusion	NM	10	0
Health Chats	NM	2	0
Time for change	NM	25	25
Substance Misuse Contract	M	3833	3833
Domestic Abuse Contract	NM	417	0
Social Prescribing	NM	100	100
Oral Health	NM	50	50
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Training	NM		19
Community Lifestyle	NM	28	
Sexual Health Contract	M	4137	4040
GUM OoA	M	300	325
Carers Hub Contract	NM	617	617
Stroke Contract	NM	90	89
Strenght and Balance	NM	84	79
Info & Advice Contract	NM	250	250
Adults Housing Support	NM	100	100
LD Reablement	NM	60	60
Support at Home	NM	49	49
PH ICU/Finance Staff	NM	335	214
Warmer Worcestershire	NM	19	19
Promoting Independent Living Service	NM	273	342
Connect Services	NM	312	312
		12,294	12,188

	Mandatory/Non Mandatory	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Forecast
Children's Services:			
Positive Activities	NM	530	530
Young Adult Carers	NM	35	35
0-19 Health Services	M	9724	9334
LAC 16+ Nurse	M	27	27
Social Mobility Project	NM	90	64
Children's Targeted Family Support	NM	850	850
CDOP	NM	15	15
Dawn Project	NM	75	75
Family Safeguarding Model - BRR	NM	125	207
		11471	11137
Other WCC Services:			
Libraries Service	NM	998	998
Countryside Service	NM	295	295
Trading Standards	NM	706	706
Planning Service	NM	70	70
3 Conversation Model	NM	291	291
Adult Learning	NM	211	211
Coroners & Registrars	NM	130	130
Occupational Health (Employee Wellbeing)	NM	160	160
Quality Assurance and Compliance	NM	132	132
Here 2 Help Scheme	NM	287	0
QI Care Home Project	NM	140	140
SENDIASS	NM	74	74
Public Analyst	NM	67	67
Road Safety	NM	109	109
		3670	3383
Strategic Functions:			
Public Health Team	M	2274	1188
Medicines Management	NM	32	32
PH Recharges	NM	328	328
Emergency Planning	NM	145	96
ABCD Team		150	150
Other BBR projects		0	243
5% Contingency and inflationary pressure provision	NM		1619
		2,929	3,656
Total Public Health Spend		30,364	30,364

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – CO2 Monitors in schools

1. Cllr Mel Allcott will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education:

"Given that schools are now fully open without compulsory mask wearing or the operation of "bubbles", even though the Covid virus is still prevalent in the community and at 27 September 2021, 40 schools had reported positive cases in staff or pupils. Could the Cabinet Member please tell me how many Schools in Worcestershire, both LA and Academies have now received the CO2 monitors promised by the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP?"

Question 2 – Disabled Parking Spaces

2. Cllr Lynn Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"What is the current waiting time between approval of eligibility for a disabled parking space and delivery on the ground outside a person's home?"

Question 3 – A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme

3. Cllr Josh Robinson will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Following recent petitions and protests against the A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme (BREP), does the Cabinet Member still have confidence that the plans are wanted by residents in Bromsgrove?"

Question 4 – Review of Speed Limits on the A4104

4. Cllr Martin Allen will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"At the last Council meeting I asked the Cabinet Member if he would instruct officers to carry out a review of speed limits from the M50 to the Ketch Round about on the A38 within 3 months of the A38/A4104 new roundabout being completed. He was very gracious and said that he would. Following on from that, may I ask the good councillor if he would therefore also agree to a similar review on the A4104 from Boughton Hill in the East up to and including Tunnel Hill in the west?"

Question 5 – Installation of EV charge points and renewable heating systems

5. Cllr Matt Jenkins will ask the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Environment and Highways and Transport:

"Worcestershire is behind many other parts of Great Britain with the pace of its EV charging point rollout. At a rate of 25 per 100,000 people, this is well below the UK average, of 39.

Worcestershire is moving at a slower pace than the national average when it comes to the installation of renewable heating systems. In Worcestershire over the past year installations have increased by 13%, whereas the national average is a 15% increase.

Can I ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility what he is doing to increase the installations of both EV charge points and renewable heating systems in the county?"

Question 6 – Special Education Needs provision and support

6. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education:

"On Monday 1 November, a number of parents protested outside County Hall about the Special Education Needs provision and support in Worcestershire. They reported children with autism and anxiety being out of education for two or more years, they complained of a poor service and of shocking experiences, they suggested that statutory services were not being met. Does he believe they were right to protest and has he a message to the families concerned?"

Question 7 – Clean waterways

7. Cllr Natalie McVey will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"I was disgusted by the recent decision of all Worcestershire Conservative MPs to protect water companies, rather than Worcestershire's rivers, streams and brooks. It comes after data released by the Environment Agency shows that water companies dumped raw sewage into England's waterways more than 400,000 times last year.

Campaigners have also raised concerns that only 14 per cent of rivers in England are rated in 'good' ecological health and none meet chemical standards.

When I was growing up, I distinctly remember the UK being known as the 'The Dirty Man of Europe' because of the appalling state of our rivers and beaches. Who would have thought that we would be back in that unenviable position?

My question for the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment is, what specifically he is doing to put pressure on the government and/or water companies to clean up their act?"

Question 8 – Closure of Malvern Hills College

8. Cllr Beverley Nielsen will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Skills:

"Malvern Hills College has been the subject of negotiations over the past year since Warwickshire College Group (WCG) decided to close and sell it. The Bransford Trust has made an offer, but to-date this has, very regrettably, not been accepted by WCG. Could the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economy and Skills let us know if Worcestershire County Council is prepared to step in to assist in securing the future of the College for Malvern Hills residents in the event that this deal is not secured and in particular if the County Council would be prepared to assist in achieving this, for example, by providing a public works loan to the community company seeking to run this 100-year old educational facility into the future?"

Question 9 – The new roundabout located on the A38/A4104 near Upton Upon Severn

9. Cllr Martin Allen will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Following my communications to the Cabinet Member requesting that he considers if a Statue or Work of Art can be installed upon the new roundabout located on the A38/A4104 near Upton Upon Severn.

Could I please have an answer that I can relay back to Ripple Parish Council and Upton Town Council, both of whom are very keen to receive an answer?"

Question 10 – Cycled on the highway through St John's, The Bull Ring, Tybridge Street and New Road

10. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm the last time, if ever, he has ever cycled on the highway through St John's, The Bull Ring, Tybridge Street and New Road?"

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(a) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Internal Audit Progress Report

1. During the Covid-19 pandemic, school audits were undertaken remotely by a self-assessment work programme which was completed by the school staff and then reviewed by Internal Audit with follow up questions and online meetings as required. The schools work programme has been revised now restrictions are being lifted with the aim of resuming on-site visits (where feasible and in line with current restrictions).
2. Audit actions are tracked by Internal Audit, and regular contact is made with operational manager to follow up progress. For actions relating to limited assurance audits where a follow up audit is planned, actions are transferred to the new audit. This applies to the following four audits: Capital and Business Case Development; Debt Management; Long term agency and consultancy placements; and Governor support and training - thematic review.
3. There have been 8 cases of fraud reported to the team in the last 6 months. 2 cases resulted in special investigations with subsequent advisory reports, however no fraud was identified. A further 3 cases have received advice on strengthening their fraud controls. 3 cases remain open; these are to support HR and a referral to Action Fraud. The increasing engagement has encouraged wider team members to contact the team to seek fraud advice which will help to prevent cases in the future. The Committee has noted the Internal Audit Progress Report.

Statutory Accounts and Pension Fund 2020/21 - External Audit Findings Report

4. Peter Barber, Key Audit Partner and Helen Lillington, Senior Audit Manager from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, presented the External Audit – Findings Report for the Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2020/21 and Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21. In response to COVID-19, the requirement to prepare draft accounts by 31 May has been extended to 31 July and the requirement for the public inspection period has been amended to commence on or before the first working day of August 2021.
5. The key issues are given in the draft of the Grant Thornton report and are summarised below:

- Grant Thornton anticipates issuing an unqualified audit opinion, subject to any minor outstanding queries being resolved
- The audit identified a number of misclassification and disclosure changes. All material changes have been adjusted
- The audit did not identify any events or conditions which may cast significant doubt on the going concern assumption
- 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

6. The Committee has noted Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report for the Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2020/21 and Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21.

Annual Statutory Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

7. In response COVID-19 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 have been amended to allow the publication of the statement of accounts and public inspection of the accounts to be delayed. Notwithstanding this, the Council has completed the 2020/21 draft accounts according to its planned timetable and has continued to enhance its supporting evidence and working papers, particularly in areas where professional judgement has been applied. The Council has worked with Grant Thornton throughout with the majority of audit fieldwork completed remotely by the External Audit Team with minimal on-site presence.

8. The financial position reported in the Council's Statutory Accounts for 2020/21 was an underspend of £0.8 million against the net budget of £346.3 million, with an accounting surplus taking into account pension actuarial costs, capital costs and other financial adjustments, of £28.9 million. The County Council's General Fund reserve balance has increased by £0.8 million to £13.0 million and there has been an increase of £25.3 million on available earmarked reserves taking their balance at 31 March 2021 to £96.9 million. Additionally, School reserves of £4.0 million and £13.8 million of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) reserves are retained. The cumulative Dedicated School Grant deficit brought forward from last financial year was £6.2 million which will now be increased by £0.3 million deficit from 2020/21 and the deficit to carry forward into 2021/22 is now £6.5 million.

9. Consideration of the financial impact of COVID-19 on the Council and Pension Fund's assets has been made to ensure the accounts reflect any possible over or understatement of assets. This is a matter of professional judgement and guidance from RICS, in respect of property valuations, and the Pension Fund Actuary has been considered. There has not been a material impact on any asset category nor evidence since the valuation date that needs to be taken into account.

10. The value of the Pension Fund's net assets increased by £719.4 million from £2,645.4 million at 31 March 2020 to £3,364.8 million at 31 March 2021. During the year a surplus resulted on the Pension Fund accounts totalling £116.6 million, an increase of £107.4 million from a surplus of £9.2 million in the previous year.

11. The Committee has agreed that assuming there are no material issues or disputed amendments remaining as advised by Grant Thornton as a result of the additional audit work necessary to finalise the Accounts then the Committee recognises the technical reasons for not being able to sign off the accounts at this meeting and the Chairman in consultation with the Vice-Chairman of the Committee has been authorised to approve the Final Accounts Pack, including the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. If there are any material adjustments or disputed changes that differ from the Audit Findings Report discussed at today's meeting then the above cannot be followed through and instead a special meeting of the Committee will be convened to sign off the Statement of Accounts prior to the deadline for the submission of the Accounts. Following approval by the Chairman in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and with prior notification of the Committee, the Chief Financial Officer has been authorised to sign the Letters of Representation on behalf of the County Council.

12. Unfortunately it has not been possible to sign off the Accounts by the 30 September deadline. The issue related to technical explanations concerning the calculation of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This was a national not a local issue. Grant Thornton have reviewed this Council's MRP and agreed that it is prudent and correct bar a non-material tweak (c£0.5m), for which the related risk has been resolved. This has no impact on the revenue or balance sheet accounts.

13. There remains, however a technical query regarding the calculation of the CFR – this is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying need to borrow money to finance capital expenditure. A high level analysis undertaken by the External Auditor which compared the CFR with the Council's balance sheet identified that there is a material difference between the two for which further audit work was required. To date, this issue has not been resolved and the Accounts are yet to be signed off.

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

14. 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 2020/21. The AGS will form part of the Annual Statement of Accounts. The draft AGS was reported to the last Committee meeting on 29 July 2021 to be considered alongside the draft Statement of Accounts also presented at the time. Since then there have been no changes to the AGS.

15. The AGS is primarily retrospective. It reports on the assurance framework and measures in place for the financial year 2020/21 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.

16. 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.

17. The Committee has agreed that subject to the approval of the Worcestershire County Council Statutory Accounts 2020/21 and Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21 by the Chairman in consultation with the Vice-Chairman, the Chief Financial Officer be authorised to arrange for the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 to be formally signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. If the above cannot be followed then consideration of the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 will be deferred to a special meeting of the Committee.

Risk Management Update

18. The revised risk approach has categorised risk across 10 key themes with associated objectives. To enable more strategic reporting, a risk profile has been created for each objective which is evidenced by directorate risks.

19. At the end of August 2021, the Corporate Risk Register contained 253 individual risks of which only 3 were identified as high risk for the Council. The new approach breaks down previous risks into smaller areas which will increase the overall number of risks but provide greater clarity as to why a risk is so high. In addition, each of the 4 directorates plus Worcestershire Children First were asked to rate against 2 risks for each objective to enable a review of specific areas.

20. The majority of risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic have now returned to a business-as-usual approach, however those still needing a coordinated approach with district councils and other partners are still presented to Silver Command. The risks associated with lateral flow kits and vaccines for carers are being closely monitored. At the same point there were 6 risks on the Covid Risk Register of which 1 was high. The Committee has noted the Risk Management update.

Income and Debt Management

21. In the six months since March 2021, the Debt Team have elicited the recovery of £7.3 million of debt, of which £6.4 million (88%) was repaid, £432k (6%) was cancelled and £457k (6%) was written-off. While this is an extremely positive start, much work remains with over £13.2m debts remaining.

22. The latest level of short-term debt stands at £3.9 million, of which the majority was raised this financial year. This has fallen significantly in the last month mainly as a result of debt chasing and management of old debts, including write off provisions. Collection continues to be prioritised for larger amounts, but work is progressing to address older debts. The total debt recorded greater than 30 days old, for which there is not an instalment or pending cancellation is £13.2 million (64%). This is slightly higher than for the past two months due mainly to the high value of debts raised in July, however the underlying trend is for a downward trajectory and is £3.6m lower than for August 2020.

23. There are seven debts for individuals out of the top 20 outstanding debtors. These are more sensitive as they relate to social care service clients / cases. Six of these cases are currently being pursued by the organisation's legal team and one is awaiting probate. In addition to the general debt noted above, the Council has a Longer-Term Debt that it recognises of c.£1 million relating to social care accrued accommodation costs. This debt is secured against property assets pending sufficient house value. This is regularly reviewed, and charges secured against properties. The Committee has noted the Income and Debt Management report.

Training Programme

24. A training programme has been devised which has been based on the following premises: Short sessions held in advance of each Committee meeting throughout the year; the initial training sessions to focus on the key functions of the Committee; and wherever possible, the training sessions will be linked to the training programme so that members received the appropriate information in advance of the relevant item on the agenda.

25. The Committee has approved the Training Programme as set out below:

Committee Date	Training Subject Matter
3 December 2021	Fraud & Corruption
March 2022	Accounting Policies & Standards

26. The Committee has agreed that members of the Committee complete a knowledge survey to inform longer term training plans for the Committee.

27. The Committee has agreed that members of the Committee complete a knowledge survey to inform longer term training plans for the Committee.

Work Programme

28. The Committee has noted its work programme with the addition of the Financial Improvement Programme report being brought to the Committee meeting on 3 December 2021.

Cllr Nathan Desmond
Chairman

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) 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 24 September 2021.

[Agenda for Audit and Governance Committee on Friday, 24th September, 2021, 2.00 pm - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

COUNCIL

11 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(b) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Pension Board and Pension Investment Sub-Committee Minutes

1. As set out in the Terms of Reference of the Pension Investment Sub-Committee (PISC), all decisions taken, and recommendations will be reported back to the next available ordinary meeting of the Pensions Committee in the form of the minutes of the PISC. In addition, the Pension Board has requested that their deliberations be reported to the Committee. The Committee noted the minutes of the PISC meetings on 20 September and 21 September and the Board meeting on 17 September.

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Central Update

2. The Committee received a presentation from Joanne Segars, Chair and Mike Weston, Chief Executive of LGPS Central which set out an overview, details of recent activity and a look forward. There are no further transitions of the Fund's existing assets planned at this stage, but the Fund is presently looking at LGPS Central Global Sustainable Active Equity Fund and All World Climate Factor Passive Fund as potential future investments. The Fund is still looking at potential infrastructure investments with LGPS Central.

3. An update on Pooling progress for the LGPS Central has been jointly produced with the Partner Funds the 24 September. Whilst cost savings are a key focus area for the Partner Funds and LGPS Central Ltd, there remains a strong emphasis amongst all pool members on overall investment performance; ultimately it is the delivery of investment returns that will aid in stabilising employer contributions and ensuring that pensions can be paid to members as and when they fall due. There has been a like for like increase of assets under LGPS Central Ltd management/stewardship to £22.2bn at 31 March 2021 from £17.3bn at 31 March 2020 (July 2021: £24.1bn, July 2020: 19.5bn) (this includes assets invested directly in LPGA Central Ltd products, as well as those under discretionary and advisory agreements). The LGPS Central Pool will continue to adapt to the changing requirements of Funds but the focus remains on delivery of agreed levels of investment performance and developing the right products at the right time to meet the long-term strategic requirements of Partner Funds. The Committee has the LGPS Central Update and presentation.

Pension Investment Update

4. The Committee has noted the independent investment adviser's fund performance summary and market background. The Committee has noted the update on the

investment managers placed 'on watch' by the Pension Investment Sub Committee.

5. The last actuarial valuation was undertaken as at the 31 March 2019 and showed funding levels were 90% with a deficit of £295m. At the last Committee it was highlighted that there had been some significant volatility in the markets due mainly to the effects of Coronavirus which has since been found to be unprecedented. This had a significant impact on the March 2020 estimated funding levels, with a recovery by September 2020. The recovery has continued up to June 2021 with an estimated funding level of 101%. However, it is most likely that the market volatility will continue which may impact on the overall funding levels. The next actuarial valuation is in 2023/24 but uses the Funds market valuation as at the 31 March 2022 and some initial discussions are taking place with the actuary. The Committee noted the funding position compared to the investment performance.

6. Equity Protection only covers the Fund's passive portfolio of approximately £1.1bn (including the Equity Protection valuation). A revised strategy was adopted that is more fluid and is aimed at capturing as much market upside as possible as well as protecting from significant downside market movements. Increased active management is required for these strategies and fortnightly monitoring meetings have taken place with River and Mercantile since September 2020. The Fund's structured equity has outperformed both the UK and Europe equity markets and underperformed against the US equity market which will largely be due to the sterling market performance over this period. However overall, the aggregated performance has been broadly neutral since inception. This proves that, to date, the revised strategy has worked for the Fund particularly as this is a risk mitigation strategy and is aimed chiefly at protecting the Fund's assets from a significant downfall in valuation. The Committee noted the update on the Equity Protection current static strategy and the historical performance.

7. The Committee noted the update on Responsible Investment activities, Local Authorities Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and Stewardship investment pooling. The Committee noted the update on the LGPS Central report on the voting undertaken on the Fund's behalf.

Business Plan

8. The Business Plan is reviewed and updated quarterly to deliver an extra management / governance tool to: help officers to manage the Fund's activities; and assist the Pensions Committee to ensure the ongoing management and development of the Fund is in line with longer term policy, objectives and strategy. The Committee has noted the WPF Business Plan as at 8 September 2021.

Risk Register

9. The review of the Risk Register by officers in August 2021 has resulted in the removal of risk WPF 32 (GMP rectification not completed in line with the Pensions Regulator's / our members' expectations) as the project has been completed successfully. No new risks were added to the Register. Mitigating actions have been updated in relation to new measures and previous measures that have been completed / developed further / have changed timelines. The Committee has noted the 8 September 2021 WPF Risk Register.

Pension Fund Audited Accounts 2020/21

10. The Committee was made aware that it had not been possible to sign off the Statement of Accounts for the County Council and the Pension Fund at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 24 September 2021. The Committee has noted the update on the audited Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21.

Worcestershire County Council Pension Fund Administration Budget Forecast Outturn 2021/22 and updated Indicative Budget 2022/23 and 2023/24

11. The forecast outturn is estimated to be £18.401m compared to a budget of £12.331m, a difference of £6.070m and is mainly due to a forecast overspend against the Investment Management fees budget of £6.055m. This is the largest proportion of the budget and largely depends on the value of assets being managed and investment return performance.

12. The Fund's "controllable" budget (i.e. excluding investment management fees) is £2.628 m and is showing a forecast overspend of £0.015m. This is due to some forecast increased actuary costs and pensions administration due to workload, offset by some anticipated underspend in our custodian fees and investment advisory fees. The Committee has noted the variation to the Pension Fund Administration Budget, including manager fees, for 2021/22 shown in the Appendix totalling £18,401,026 and the indicative budgets for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

13. The Committee has agreed that the Investment Managers Fees budget be revised to the forecast outturn of £15,757,500. This would result in an overall proposed budget of £18,385,900.

Training and 'Deep Dive' Programme Update

14. An informal meeting of the Chairs of Committee / Board / Investment Sub Committee was held on 6 September. The Committee has approved its recommendations as follows:

- a) Not to introduce Hymans Robertson's (or another supplier's) online training platform;
- b) Continuing the existing approach that was agreed at the training session on 18 January 2021 of separate (to meetings), recorded, online, one-hour, preceded by pre-dive information in the case of deep dives, regular training sessions / deep dives that are arranged one at a time following a discussion at the preceding event to identify the preferred topic for the next event;
- c) Conducting a fresh training needs assessment of members of Committee / Board / Investment Sub Committee;
- d) Undertaking a knowledge assessment of Fund officers; and
- e) Reviewing the Fund's training policy in the light of the results from carrying out recommendations (c) and (d) above to include the production of a master list of topics that officers would aim to cover over a training cycle.

UK Stewardship Code 2020

24. The UK Stewardship Code 2020 ('the Code') sets high expectations for how investors, and those that support them, invest, and manage money on behalf of UK savers and pensioners, and how this leads to sustainable benefits for the economy, the

environment and society. Compliance with the Code was on a voluntary basis. The Fund submitted its application and received notification from the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) that the Fund (along with several LGPS funds) have been successful in becoming a signatory to the 2020 Stewardship Code, something which 64 organisations out of 189 organisations (including 147 asset managers, 28 asset owners including pension funds and insurers, and 14 service providers including data and information providers and investment consultants) who applied to the Financial Reporting Council did not achieve.

25. FRC have provided feedback on the Fund's submission quoting that "Your report is clear and engaging, and effectively demonstrates application of most of the principles and reporting expectations of the Code in the reporting period". There are a number of areas under each principle where the FRC require improvement for future submissions to remain a code signatory and the next submission is due on the 30 April 2022.

26. The Committee has noted the Fund's outcome for the revised UK Stewardship Code 2020 submission and the areas requiring improvement.

Good Governance Update

27. The Scheme Advisory Board's (SAB) Good Governance project was established in June 2018 to examine the effectiveness of current LGPS governance models and to consider alternatives or enhancements to existing models which can strengthen LGPS governance. On 8 February 2021 (SAB) agreed that the Good Governance – Final (Phase 3) Report should be published and that the Chair should submit the Action Plan to the Local Government Minister for consideration. The Final (Phase 3) Report adds detail (including example organisational structures, governance KPIs and a governance compliance statement) about how to comply with the 17 detailed proposals agreed in 2019 by incorporating further input from a range of scheme stakeholders.

28. The Action Plan consists of formal requests from SAB to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and other bodies to implement the recommendations from the project together with actions for the SAB which are either dependent on or regardless of the outcome of those requests.

29. Whilst the response from MHCLG is awaited, the Committee received an update on the preparations to not only take account of what has been doing in response to the Phase II report but also The Pension Regulator's publication of an interim response to its recent consultation on its new single code of practice adding responsibilities / timelines for the actions identified in our May 2021 position statement and the extra actions that the Fund has identified will likely be needed to demonstrate good governance after analysing the extra detail contained in the Phase 3 Report.

30. The Committee has noted the update on the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board's (SAB's) Good Governance project and the Worcestershire Pension Fund Position Statement: Good Governance 31 08 2021.

Forward Plan

31. The Committee has noted the Forward Plan.

Cllr Elizabeth Eyre
Chairman

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), 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 8 October 2021.
[Agenda for Pensions Committee on Friday, 8th October, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2021**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(c) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PLANNING
AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

Applications

1. The Committee approved the following applications subject to detailed conditions:
 - Proposed development of an Energy and Resource Park at land to the rear (south and east) of Liberty Aluminium Foundry, Stourport Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire
 - Proposed new cycle/footbridge to span the River Severn and associated access paths to the local highway on land including and between Gheluvelt Park, Waterworks Road on the east side of the River Severn and the restored landfill site, Hallow Road, on the west side of the River Severn, Worcester
 - Planning application made under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to vary condition 1 (Approved Plans), remove condition 6 (requiring all doors to the building to remain closed), remove condition 22 (requirement for installation of roller shutter door) and to vary condition 23 (requirement to install acoustic fencing) of planning permission ref: 19/000016/CM, so as to remove the requirement to install a roller shutter door and reduce the extent of the acoustic fencing to be installed at Digaway and Clearaway Ltd, Grove House Yard, Tewkesbury Road, Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcestershire
 - Proposed Groundwork and Civil Engineering Depot and Recycling Facility, associated landscaping and surface water attenuation on land at former Valecrest site, Evesham Road, Fladbury, Worcestershire.

2. The Committee has refused an application for the winning and working of sand and restoration to agriculture (pasture for horses) (part retrospective) at former motocross site, adjacent to Wilden Lane, Wilden, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

3. The Committee noted the Annual Review of activities carried out by the Council to manage and implement the Safety of Sports Grounds legislation.

4. Details of the above application can be found in the agenda papers for the Committee meetings held on 28 September and 26 October 2021.

Cllr Ian Hardiman
Chairman

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) 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 28 September and 26 October 2021.

[Agenda for Planning and Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 28th September, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Planning and Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 26th October, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

COUNCIL

11 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(d) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Code of Conduct Complaints Update and Monitoring Officer Report

1. The Council receives a relatively small number of formal complaints concerning the conduct of county councillors. None of these have recently progressed to formal investigation but have been resolved one way or the other through the facilitation of the Monitoring Officer or no further action where appropriate. There were 7 in 2019 and 5 in 2020. There have been 5 so far in 2021. Of the 5 complaints, 2 have been resolved informally by the Monitoring Officer. In addition to these complaints 3 others were received which did not concern Councillor conduct. Two referrals were made to the Monitoring Officer during the pre-election period, both involving use of social media to publicise specific initiatives. The Committee has noted the formal complaints that have been made about the conduct of County Councillors and their outcome.
2. Following the elections all Councillors new to the County Council were invited to County Hall for a specially arranged socially distanced welcome event. Training was provided on the Code of Conduct and Equalities, GDPR, as well as for specific meetings such as Planning and Audit and Governance, and a series on the roles and skills for Overview and Scrutiny. As well as seminars and training held on-line via Zoom or Teams, training on cyber-security has been made available as an on-line package for councillors to access at their convenience. The Committee has noted the induction process for new Councillors following the County Council elections and plans for continuing opportunities for training and support.

Local Government Association Member Code of Conduct

3. The Local Government Association (LGA) model Code of Conduct had been developed as part of its work in supporting the sector to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. This was offered as a template for councils to adopt as a whole and/or with local amendments. At its meeting in January, the Committee agreed a number of recommendations in relation to the pan Worcestershire Code of Conduct. Since that meeting the new Committee has met informally to consider the main points of the LGA Code. The Monitoring Officers from the district councils and Fire Authority have also met to consider views from each Council, and is preparing a draft Code based on the LGA Code for consideration.

4. The LGA gave a commitment to reviewing the Code on an annual basis. However, some of the views it has received indicate that it is too early to review the code this year. As a result, the LGA is proposing to recommend to the LGA board to delay the review to early next year. The Committee has noted the update about the LGA member Code of Conduct.

Cllr Bob Brookes
Chairman

Contact Points

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 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) 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 20 October 2021.

[Agenda for Standards and Ethics Committee on Wednesday, 20th October, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)