

# Agenda

## Council

**Thursday, 13 July 2023, 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 13 July 2023, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester**

## **Agenda and Summons**

**Councillors:** Cllr Kyle Daisley (Chairman), Cllr Alastair Adams, Cllr Salman Akbar, Cllr Mel Allcott, Cllr Martin Allen, Cllr Alan Amos (Vice Chairman), Cllr Marc Bayliss, Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene, Cllr Bob Brookes, Cllr David Chambers, Cllr Brandon Clayton, Cllr Lynn Denham, Cllr Nathan Desmond, Cllr Allah Ditta, Cllr Matt Dormer, Cllr Elizabeth Eyre, Cllr Andy Fry, Cllr Simon Geraghty, 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 Steve Mackay, 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 James Stanley, Cllr Emma Stokes, Cllr Kit Taylor, Cllr Richard Udall, Cllr Malcolm Victory, 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 working day before the meeting (in this case Wednesday 12 July). 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 18 May 2023 (previously circulated electronically).

### **4 Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements to be made by the Chairman.

## **5 Reports of Cabinet 1 - 4**

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

## **6 Constitutional Matters 5 - 6**

To consider a report on the Council Meeting dates 2024/25.

## **7 Notices of Motion 7 - 10**

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

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 Tuesday, 4 July.

## **8 Reports of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility 11 - 34**

To receive the reports of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Well-being and Highways and Transport on current issues and proposed developments within their areas of responsibility and to receive answers to any questions on the reports.

## **9 Question Time 35 - 36**

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 Tuesday, 4 July 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'.*)

## **10 Reports of Committees 37 - 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; and
- b) Pensions 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.

- **Catering Arrangements**

Lunch will be available for all councillors at 1.00pm or thereabouts in the Lakeview Room.

---

Agenda produced and published by Hazel Best, 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](http://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](mailto:slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Date of Issue: Wednesday, 5 July 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL**  
**13 JULY 2023****REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

---

**Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022**

1. Professor Keith Brown, the Independent Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board, attended the Cabinet meeting and presented the Board's annual report for 2021/22. The Annual Report provides an overview of the activity of the Board during the year. This includes the safeguarding activity that took place to protect people in Worcestershire with care and support needs at risk of harm during this period.
2. Professor Brown emphasised the progress made by the Council in the development of the Complex Adult Risk Management (CARM) framework and noted that the Council was at the forefront of dealing with adults with complex needs
3. The Exploitation Strategy was currently out to consultation with the final completion expected shortly. The Board had undertaken a lot of work developing a meaningful approach to the engagement with people with a lived experience. The Board continued to review its policies, particularly to speed up the process of Safeguarding Adults Reviews. .
4. Cabinet has received the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021-2022 and any actions resulting from it.

**Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) across the County**

5. In 2022 the Council passed a Motion calling for an audit of the availability of CPR training and AEDs across Worcestershire, including in schools. The motion also recommended work to increase access to CPR training and AEDs.
6. Cabinet has noted the audit of CPR training and AED availability conducted by the Public Health team and presented within the report. Cabinet has agreed that all WCC staff and elected members are encouraged to undertake online CPR training.
7. Cabinet has agreed the proposed promotional work by Public Health aimed at increasing awareness of CPR training and community located AEDs; to include Public Health providing signposting and support to community organisations in obtaining funding for AEDs (as set out in paragraph 34 of the report).
8. Cabinet has agreed that Public Health create a grant scheme to assist local organisations to purchase AEDs where alternative sources of funding could not be accessed and where specific criteria are met.

## **Developer Funded Highways Infrastructure Scrutiny Report**

10. Cabinet has deferred consideration of the scrutiny report to a future Cabinet meeting to allow more opportunity for discussion between the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Task Group together with officers in the development of a response.

### **Consultation outcome in relation to charging for care and support**

11. On 2 February 2023, Cabinet authorised the Strategic Director for People to carry out a public consultation on the proposals in relation to charging for care and support. The consultation commenced on 23 February 2023, following the Cabinet decision to proceed, and lasted for 90 days, and ended on 24 May 2023.

12. In relation to changes to the Assessment for Replacement Care, a total of 205 letters were sent to recipients of replacement care, or their carers; in addition to key stakeholder. 33 responses were received to the consultation and the outcome demonstrated that 24 of the responses (73%) were in favour of the proposals with 5 being against it and 4 not indicating a preference.

13. In relation to charging for Double Handed Care Calls, a total of 638 letters were sent to recipients of domiciliary care including those currently in receipt of double handed care, or their carers; in addition to key stakeholder organisations. 126 responses were received, of which 48 are in favour of the proposals. This figure rose to 64 following once those requesting additional information were contacted via phone (51%) and 56 (44%) are against it. The additional 6 responses failed to indicate a preference

14. Cabinet has noted the outcome of the consultation in relation to the proposed change for charging for replacement care and double handed care.

15. Cabinet has agreed the proposed amendments to the County Council's current charging policy for Adult Social Care Services in respect of the following: i) Changes the financial assessment criteria for Replacement Care from a residential service to a non-residential service and makes the distinction clearer for service users; and ii) Implements charges for both carers when two carers are required to attend a home care visit (double handed care).

### **Resources Report – Provisional Financial Results 2022/23**

16. Cabinet has endorsed financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2023 and the unaudited Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts 2022/23. Cabinet has also approved the transfers to and from earmarked reserves and general balances and considered the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23. Final approval will be sought from the Audit and Governance Committee.

17. The Council position for 2022-23 is a net overspend of £7.316m on a £373.2m budget (1.96% of net revenue expenditure). Overspends in all the demand led areas, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Home to School Transport were partially mitigated by underspends in other service areas and in central budgets. The wider economy CPI inflation in the UK has created some of these pressures since the budget



was set in February 2022. The Council's financial controls have enabled us to mitigate this position where earlier in the year a £13 million overspend was anticipated.

18. The overall outturn position is broadly in line with the Quarter 3 forecast position for services that was presented to Cabinet in February, with the Council's overspend decreasing slightly due to an underspend in corporate budgets.

19. This position is after the use of budgeted reserves, capitalisation and grants. The majority of grants received were awarded for a specific purpose and a significant proportion these grants relate to Adult Social Care have been allocated to providers. The £7.316 million overspend for 2022/23 is recommended to be funded from adults and children's earmarked reserves. Cabinet has noted the capital outturn for 2022/23.

### **Transfer of coroners officers to Worcestershire County Council**

20. Coroners are independent judicial officers who are appointed and funded by local authorities. They inquire into deaths reported to them which appear to be violent, unnatural or of sudden and unknown causes. Coroners are judicially independent and as such determine how they discharge their functions within the statutory framework.

21. Worcestershire is designated as a Coronial area and as such is required to have a Senior Coroner appointed (not employed) by the Local Authority and agreed by the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor. This Council has significant statutory duties in respect of the coronial service.

22. Coroners are supported by Coroners Officers, who are in many respects the mainstay of the administration of the coronial system. Within Worcestershire, these roles have historically been provided and funded by West Mercia Police (WMP), but are not considered core policing roles, and the current division of accountability does not sit well with a modern Coroner's Service. These roles do not require the exercise of any police powers, hence the request to transfer to the County Council.

23. Cabinet has approved the proposal to transfer the management and future funding of Coroners Officers from West Mercia Police (WMP) to Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Cabinet has also agreed that permanent recurrent funding is sought from the County Council's budget, on a tapering basis, for 2024/25 onwards to fund the transfer of staff. Cabinet has authorised the Strategic Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities to agree the detail of the transfer of staff and function with a target date of 1 October 2023.

### **Contact Points**

Specific Contact Points for this report

Hazel Best, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

Tel: 01905 843287

Email: [hbest@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hbest@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) 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 25 May and 29 June 2023:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 25th May, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 29th June, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

**COUNCIL**  
**13 JULY 2023****CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

---

**Council meeting dates 2024-25****Recommendation**

- 1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance recommends that the Council approves its meetings for 2024 and early 2025 as follows:**

**2024**

**11 July**  
**12 September**  
**7 November**

**2025**

**9 January**  
**13 February**  
**22 May (a week later than normal for the election)**

2. County Council meeting dates are currently scheduled up to November May 2024. To enable the future meetings programme to be produced and help members plan their commitments, the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance suggests that further meetings of the Council are now scheduled for 2024 and through until the end of the next Municipal Year in 2025. In accordance with the usual practice and pattern of meetings, further meetings (Cabinet, Committees and Panels) will be arranged in the light of the Council dates and members notified in due course.

3. Members may wish to note that the Council meetings for the 2023-24 municipal year are scheduled for 13 July, 14 September and 9 November 2023 and 11 January, 15 February and 16 May 2024.

**Contact Points**Specific Contact Points for this report

Hazel Best, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

Tel: 01905 765609

Email: [hbest@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hbest@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**  
**13 JULY 2023****NOTICES OF MOTION**

---

**Notices of Motion Received**

1. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance reports that she has received the following 3 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 – Local Farmers**

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 Cllrs Mel Allcott, Richard Udall, Dan Boatright-Greene, and Luke Mallett:

“Worcestershire County Council recognises and notes the huge contribution made by our local farmers to the Worcestershire economy and its rural communities. Council calls upon the Cabinet Members Responsible to bring a report to Cabinet which will consider:

- How Worcestershire County Council can develop stronger partnerships with our arable, livestock, and dairy farmers in order to enhance our magnificent countryside. How the Council can support farmers, by being sympathetic to diversification opportunities and promotion of local produce.
- How to support our local farmers by, where possible, ensuring that all food provided at council organised events is sourced from local suppliers; to include meat, dairy, and plant-based produce.
- Ways to encourage residents, where possible, to shop locally, taking advantage of home-grown, affordable and nutritious food, both plant and meat based thus reducing food miles to our plates and boosting the local economy.

- How as a council we can continue to support the Council's County Farms estate, by seeking new ways to ensure as landlord we use our influence with tenants to ensure decent pay and conditions for their employees and to encourage training and skills in farming and rural industries on our estates."

### **Notice of Motion 2 – Worcestershire Pride**

**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 Cllrs Mel Allcott, Richard Udall, Dan Boatright-Greene and Luke Mallett:

"Council sends its support and greetings to Worcestershire Pride and the wider Worcestershire LGBTQIA+ community.

Worcestershire Pride is due to take place on Saturday 15 July, in Worcester City Centre. Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to consider requesting a report to cabinet on how the County Council can provide even more support to Pride events in Worcestershire.

Furthermore, Council agrees to appoint an Equalities and Diversity Member Champion, who can work with the CMR to ensure any specific issues are tackled and addressed."

### **Notice of Motion 3 – LTP5 member engagement**

**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 Cllrs Matt Jenkins, Beverley Nielsen, Natalie McVey, Martin Allen and Malcolm Victory:

"Agreement has already been reached with the Chair of the Environment O&S Scrutiny Panel that LTP5 will be on their workplan. However, it is important that members are actively involved in the preparation of Local Transport Plan 5, rather than merely scrutinising the final version.

Hence, GAIA Group members propose the following approach is taken:

1. Engagement with local members during the consultation process and the formulation of LTP5, providing transparency of the emerging document for members and to ensure their views can feed into this strategy during development and be actively considered during drafting.
2. Follow the examples of many other LTPs in setting clear modal shift targets so Worcestershire can actively promote walking and pedestrianisation, cycling and public transport to hit government activity mobility targets of 50% in our towns and cities by 2030, especially for shorter journeys as over 60% of 1-2 mile journeys are currently made by car."

## **Contact Points**

### Contact Points for this report

Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846621

Email: [slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto: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**  
**13 JULY 2023****REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY****(a) CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING****Introduction**

1. I would like to thank Council for this opportunity to bring my second Health and Wellbeing report, following my appointment in May 2021
2. I am responsible for Public Health, which includes health improvement among both children and adults, as well as mental health, protection against infectious disease, community safety and emergency planning.
3. I also lead on our joint working with our NHS partners and, as part of that role, Chair Worcestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. A lot has happened since my last report, starting with the appointment of Dr Lisa McNally as our new Director of Public Health back in March 2023.
5. In this period, we have enjoyed a number of high-profile achievements: Our success in increasing the uptake of cancer screening was reported on by the BBC, as was our proactive work on vaping among young people, which was covered by Breakfast TV last month. Our joint working with midwifery teams has led to a significant drop in the number of pregnant women smoking. We have seen improvements in the number of young people engaging in physical activity programmes, with four of the six most active areas in the region being right here in Worcestershire. Our work on substance misuse has delivered substantial improvements our successful engagement with those leaving prison in drug treatment programmes, stopping them falling back into addiction and crime. Our local Prevent programme, which forms part of responsibility to avoid radicalisation and terrorism, has been rated positively by the Home Office and assessed as 'strong' across all domains of work. Our extensive work aimed at combatting loneliness and social isolation was featured as a best practice example in The Municipal Journal - with recent data showing that it is having a positive impact. In fact, our area now has the second lowest rate of loneliness in the whole country. Finally, we have just heard that we have won a Public Health award for our health protection systems.
6. One common factor in all of these achievements is effective partnership. For example, I am working with Cllr Onslow, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education on a Public Health Grant scheme to enable schools to carry out innovative health and wellbeing projects. Cllr Morris, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment and I have worked together to deliver community asset based public health work in West Droitwich. Cllr Hardman, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care is a key partner in our work on falls prevention and Cllr Bayliss, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills through his work on the Crime Reduction Board, is supporting our work on community safety and the Prevent Programme. I also work closely with NHS partners and Worcestershire's crucial voluntary sector organisations. Nothing in Public Health is achieved alone and together

we become more than the sum of the parts. So, my thanks go out to all of the colleagues and partners I have mentioned.

7. In summary, Worcestershire’s national reputation for Public Health work has grown significantly in the last few months. But there is so much more we can achieve and a lot more work to do as we tackle key, system wide issues. My report will now examine some of these in greater detail, starting with a description of the wider system within which we work.

## Background

8. Work to improve health in Worcestershire is overseen by our [Health and Wellbeing Board](#). While this Board is a formal committee of the local authority, it is actually a system-wide forum that brings together a range of health and care partners. The members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are set out in Figure 1.

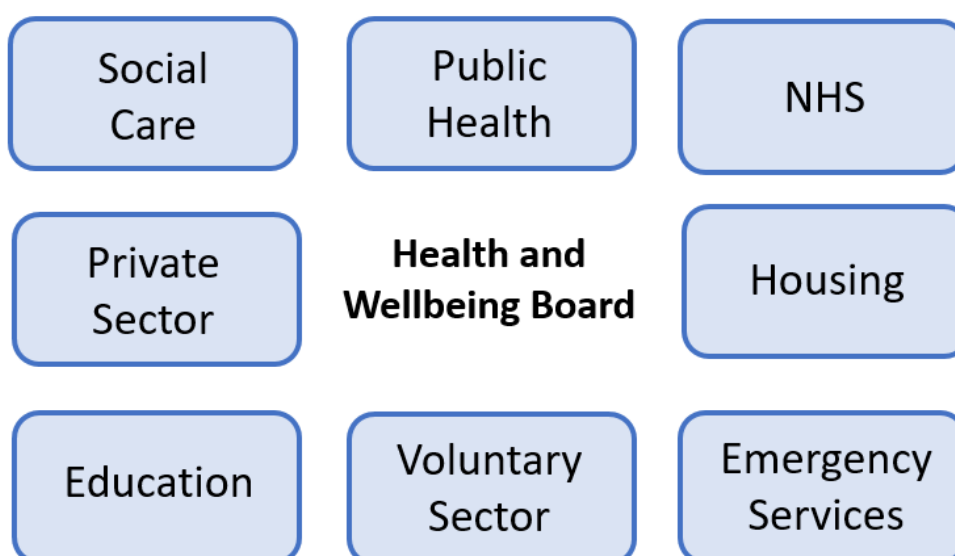


Figure 1 Worcestershire’s Health and Wellbeing Board partners

Public Health works closely with all of these partners. The team is focused on enabling people to live healthier and happier for longer. The directorate impacts all aspects of our resident’s lives, from the very youngest to the oldest. The breadth of our work is set out in Figure 2 below:



9. Following a far-reaching and valuable public consultation, we were proud to launch the [Worcestershire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032](#). This is a call to action, to accelerate our efforts to improve mental health and wellbeing across the county. The strategy complements the new Herefordshire and Worcestershire [Integrated Care Strategy 2023-2033](#), and the NHS Five Year Joint Forward Plan 2023-2028 (currently in development).

10. Informed by [Worcestershire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#), the Health and Wellbeing Board has focused its strategy on good mental health and wellbeing, supported by action on the wider determinants of health. The NHS Joint Forward Plan clearly demonstrates plans to address this priority, through partnership working at county and district collaborative level. NHS partners recognise the inextricable links between the diverse range of social, economic, and environmental factors influencing our health, and commit to work together across our system to address these in order to improve health outcomes.

## **Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing**

11. In general, the population of Worcestershire is healthy with many health-related measures consistently better than national average. However, there are some pockets of the county where the average masks disparities. There are continued pressures on our local health services, and as is the case nationally, an ageing population. There has been significant work in the past year to improve health outcomes for Worcestershire residents, where we both commission and collaborate with partners and communities – as demonstrated below. This preventative work seeks to reduce demand on health services, support education and the local economy.

12. Like the rest of the country, Worcestershire has an ageing population. and keeping active in later life has a significant impact on a person's ability to continue simple daily activities, reduce the risk of falls, and remain independent. Our Living Well for Longer programme provides social activities to connect communities focused on promoting strength, balance, and flexibility for those over 50 years of age.

13. Public Health delivers a range of falls prevention programmes, including structured courses led by qualified postural stability instructors, as well as the provision of free resistance bands via libraries and other locations. These have been positively evaluated and Worcestershire currently has a significantly lower rate of falls related hospital admissions than the national average. However, there can be no room for complacency given how devastating a fall can be for someone's health and independence. Therefore, we are currently reviewing falls prevention work across the wider system in order to keep improving outcomes and increasing the accessibility of services.

14. Also related to healthy ageing is participation in bowel screening for those aged 60 to 74 years. Following some successful campaigns and joint work with NHS partners, participation across Worcestershire has increased significantly. The top three rates of participation in the West Midlands were Malvern Hills, Wychavon, and Bromsgrove, achieving uptake rates of over 75% of those eligible. This is notable progress since 2021 when rates were below national average, with only 64% of those eligible being screened, rising to 73.3% in 2022, significantly above the national average. Continued positive Public Health messaging has contributed, and will continue, as we encourage everyone who is eligible to take part in this accessible screening programme that can ultimately save lives.

15. Another key determinant of health is loneliness, which can be experienced at all ages and can have a negative effective on mental and physical wellbeing. It is a major risk factor for premature mortality and has been found to increase health and social care service use or care home admission. With rates of loneliness rising nationally, this has and continues to be a priority for Worcestershire.

16. Recent data from the Active Lives Survey in England (2021/22) found that 4.7% of adults (aged 16+) in Herefordshire and Worcestershire report feeling lonely “often/ always” in comparison to the national average of 6.8%. However, we know from talking to our communities that the COVID-19 pandemic increased loneliness and isolation across all age groups but particularly in the elderly, rural and young people.

17. Community initiatives and groups can reduce loneliness, with far reaching benefits for health such as reduced medication use or fewer instances of falls. We have been working with District Collaboratives to support local initiatives and social activities across our communities. In addition, a new [The Stay Connected Pledge](#) encourages organisations to take steps to help people feel more connected. Signatories include the Chamber of Commerce, sports organisations, district councils, and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations such as Age UK, Onside Advocacy, and the Worcestershire Association of Carers.

18. Suicide prevention remains a national and local priority. The death of someone by suicide has a devastating effect on families, friends, workplaces, schools, and communities and every life lost to suicide is a tragedy. Across Herefordshire and Worcestershire there has been continued work to raise the profile of suicide prevention and encourage help seeking behaviours for all ages. The [Orange Button Community Scheme](#) trains community members to support individuals, through active listening and by providing timely information about help available, before a potential crisis point is reached. Over the past year we have also developed tailored prevention campaigns aimed at reaching the farming community, the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities ([Hold Out a Hand | Travellers Times](#)), and middle aged-men ([Acting Together to Prevent Suicide campaign](#)) raising awareness of support and addressing the substantial inequalities in suicide rates for these populations. This work was shortlisted for a West Midlands Public Health Award 2023 and also, reached the final public voting stage in the Charity Film Awards 2023.

**Figure 3: Orange Button Community Scheme and suicide prevention campaign**



19. In Worcestershire we have seen improvement in important outcomes related to substance misuse, including continuity of care (which relates to our success in engaging prison leavers in substance misuse treatment). In early 2022, this was at 19% in Worcestershire, but through the efforts of our Public Health team and colleagues in Cranstoun, this is now at 46%, exceeding the national average. This is a crucial harm reduction strategy as it addresses the risk of individuals with acquired naivety to opioids suffering fatal overdose on release. This is one of our key objectives; working towards a world class system that reduces drug related deaths.

20. In relation to the health of our younger residents, Public Health is working very closely with schools and other education settings. Young people face a variety of health challenges, and we believe schools are well placed to create healthier environments within which children can thrive. To this end, I have worked with Councillor Onslow to create a Public Health grant scheme for schools, which will enable them to innovate and create new ways of improving physical or mental health within their communities.

21. Schools are increasingly forced to deal with the rise in vaping among young people and accompanying anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, illicit vapes may have higher than the legal dose of nicotine or oversized tanks, causing even more harm if smoked by under-18s. Public Health is working with Worcestershire schools and other partners to explore the messages children receive about vaping and our Trading Standards team continue to work hard to remove illegal product from the local marketplace.

22. Youth services give young people safe spaces to go and develop trusted relationships with adults that can be the difference between making positive choices and being drawn into negative situations. Last year, Public Health worked to strengthen the youth offer across Worcestershire, redesigning and recommissioning the delivery of activities and opportunities for those at greatest risk of poorer outcomes. We aim to improve access to youth services, support mental and physical health, upskill for life and work, and provide more opportunities to connect with communities. The new district-based youth offer allows services to be shaped to local need and District Youth Networks provide a more coordinated approach between providers, address local issues, and support through targeted one to one work.

23. It is also pleasing that physical activity amongst children has risen to be significantly higher than the national average. Public Health has supported initiatives such as establishing a new 'junior parkrun' in the County plus campaigns such as 'Walk this May' to encourage people of all ages across the county to be active, which contributes to both physical and mental health.

24. Public Health has been working closely with maternity services to shape and support the work of two new Public Health midwives. This work includes the ongoing development and strengthening of the antenatal and postnatal smoking services. Since April 2022, the number of women who smoke when their baby is born has fallen in Herefordshire and Worcestershire from 10.8% to 8.8%, which is just below the England average of 8.9%. Work has included a unique Stop Smoking in Pregnancy Service within Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, a team of dedicated stop-smoking advisors and free nicotine replacement therapy. In addition, we are increasing information sharing with midwives and health visitors, developing a systemwide approach to healthy weight in pregnancy, and training for midwives to have positive conversations that address health challenges in pregnancy. This focus will drive a healthier start for more babies being born in Worcestershire and impact health outcomes of their families.

25. Public Health's work under the 'Prevent' duty aims to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and support local communities and institutions to challenge and reject the message of extremism. This year, Worcestershire's annual assessment by the Home Office was deemed overall to be 'strong', exceeding expectations in most areas, with positive feedback on the programme. Within this, training has been a priority, alongside ensuring effective working of the Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group and Channel Panel, which was observed during the Home Office review.

26. The NIMROD outbreak management system, which was developed in-house and used by our Public Health outbreak response team, won an award at the West Midlands Public Health Awards 2023. This software has now been refined for ongoing health protection management, for any infectious disease.

## **Summary**

27. Worcestershire health and care partners are making progress in delivering against our 10-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy. There is a real shared purpose to ensure good mental health and wellbeing for those who live and work in this county, with a focus on addressing health disparities and ensuring increased preventative action. Data demonstrates a move in the right direction; however, we recognise there is always more to do, and health is a long-term investment for the future population and prosperity of our residents and communities.

28. I would like to thank Dr Lisa McNally, our Director of Public Health, the extended Public Health team and Liz Altay for the time she acted as Interim Director of Public Health earlier this year. Also, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their contribution, and Health and Wellbeing Board partners and wider health colleagues for their engagement, attendance and commitment to the health and wellbeing of Worcestershire residents.

**Councillor Karen May**  
**Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health & Wellbeing**

## **(b) CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

### **Introduction**

29. As the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport, I am delighted to provide you with an update on the various developments and initiatives that are transforming our highways and transport landscape in Worcestershire. Our comprehensive approach has been carefully designed to meet the needs of our diverse community, whilst ensuring environmental sustainability remains at the forefront of our actions. From significant investment in roads and footpaths, upgrading our street lighting and traffic signals to energy saving LED, implementing the Bus Service Improvement Plan, to expanding our Demand Responsive Transport, we are dedicated to making Worcestershire more accessible for all.

30. Moreover, we are continually investing in community-focused services such as Home to School Transport and Community Transport schemes, whilst also improving Public Rights of Way and developing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. These efforts are all part of our vision for an integrated, efficient, and sustainable highways and transport system that serves all our residents and visitors effectively.

31. We are also looking towards the future, developing a strategy for Electric Vehicle charging and managing our budget to accommodate the realities of inflation in the construction and highways sectors. I am excited to share with you the progress we have made so far, and the ambitious plans we have for the future of highways and transport in Worcestershire.

### **Communications with Members and the General Public**

32. In 2022 the Council introduced the Member Portal for the logging and tracking of member enquiries. The Member Portal is essentially the 'one stop shop' for all Local Member enquiries across the Council. Work to integrate this with the Highways online reporting functionality was carried out in Autumn 2022. In February 2023, a project was established to review the handling of enquiries via the Member Portal. The project initially prioritised Highways; this is the subject of most of our customers' enquiries. The project has driven further development and updates of the portal and ways of working to further improve responses for local members. This work also recognises the continued, key role of the Liaison Officers in dealing with local member matters.

33. We have listened to members' feedback and are always trying to make the system as easy and intuitive to use as we can. An example of this is that members have said that they would prefer updates to be 'pushed' through to them, rather than needing to log in to another system to check for updates – that development will be considered as part of Phase 3. The portal is a brilliant tool, keeping all Divisional issues in one place until closed, and which is accessible at any time. Highways and transport issues are often quite complex and so can remain live for a while, but they will not be lost or forgotten.

34. Additionally, as part of future developments, my aspiration is to provide easier ways to log new tickets especially from mobile devices, including the potential to enable councillors to request speed limit reviews and consideration of school streets, supported by their devolved funding packages to fund the necessary preliminary assessment work.

This approach reflects the diversity of Worcestershire's needs and empowers local members to deliver schemes in their localities based on community priorities.

35. There are now two Liaison Officers working in each district area. This strengthens our previous 'Buddy' system and means that local members will always have someone to go to, who is fully briefed on their caseload and area.

36. The Highways-on-Friday update for local members provides details of what is happening in members' divisions. Whilst the focus is predominantly on highways planned works, we have started to expand this to include updates from other service areas and links to useful sites e.g. One Network. This weekly email is a great way to keep members informed about what is happening in their divisions, and all members are encouraged to look out for them.

37. As part of our Customer Experience Programme (started October 2022), we are looking at opportunities to review and enhance the way in which customers and stakeholders interact with our services. Our vision is to improve the end-to-end customer journey and overall customer experience through improvements in self-service and reductions in manual processing and turn-around times. One workstream is the design and implementation of a digital system for managing the Parish Lengthsman Scheme. This will have significant benefits for both the County and Parish Councils.

38. The new online reporting system was introduced in August 2022. Customers can now map their enquiries and track their reports and the system can provide interim updates, particularly important where enquiries may be more complex and likely to take longer to resolve. A new telephone system was implemented in September 2022 allowing call back features and superior call monitoring. We trialled our 07:00 to 19:00 operating hours in the Highways and Transport Control Centre from January 2023. We had hoped that residents would find this useful, however the call volume during the extended hours of operation was exceptionally low. We have therefore suspended the extended hours facility for now, albeit during a severe weather event we will restart this so that we are on hand to help residents.

39. I am planning to hold 'Surgeries' starting in the Autumn in each District Area. This is a refresh of the previous Highways & Transport Briefing Sessions and members will be invited to drop in and talk about local issues or problems they are experiencing.

## **Highways**

40. Our residents continue to tell us that roads are a very high priority and so we are continuing to invest in our highways network to ensure we have some of the best roads in the country.

41. As the Highway Authority for Worcestershire, we are responsible for the highway network within the county except for the A46 Trunk Road and any Motorways which are the responsibility of National Highways. The remaining network makes up over 4,000km, of which most rural sections will have verge on each side. There are three distinct cutting requirements: Rural, Dual Carriageway and Urban.

42. This year we will be delivering £8M of footway improvement schemes across the county. In addition to the DfT funding, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is investing further funding this year as part of a three-year commitment to improve the condition of footways throughout the county. This will see the delivery of around 275 footway



improvement schemes, utilising eight construction gangs resulting in the improvement of over 75Km footway.

43. This year we will be delivering circa £25M of carriageway improvement schemes across the county (including surface dressing). In addition to the DfT funding allocation, WCC is investing additional funding this year as part of a three-year commitment to improve the condition of carriageways throughout the county. This investment will see the delivery of more than 150 resurfacing schemes resulting in more than 40km of roads resurfaced.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>DfT</b>	<b>21,869</b>
<b>Members Highway allocation</b>	<b>1,905</b>
<b>Capitalised former Revenue</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Strategic Initiative - C/W upper</b>	<b>12,758</b>
<b>Strategic Initiative - F/W upper</b>	<b>4,469</b>
<b>Flood Mitigation</b>	<b>555</b>
<b>Highway Drainage works</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>Street Lighting Column</b>	<b>1,508</b>
<b>Street Lighting LED replacement</b>	<b>1,511</b>
<b>Small Infrastructure Projects</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>PROW</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Inflation allowance 2023/24</b>	<b>6,003</b>

44. Surface dressing is an important part of the annual carriageway maintenance programme. In the surface dressing process, hot bitumen is sprayed onto the road surface using a calibrated tanker. Chippings are then applied onto the bitumen from a metered spreader. The new surface is rolled and then swept to remove loose chippings after 24 hours, again after 48 hours, and again after seven days.

45. Surface dressing improves the skid resistance of the road surface. It seals the road surface against water ingress, preventing potholes forming. It is an extremely effective method of extending the life of the road.

46. The process is very weather dependent so the programme may be affected by spells of wet or very hot weather when it is not possible to conduct the work. The decision to proceed in weather conditions is devolved to the contractor, and if they decide to proceed it is at their risk in the event of failure, with no cost to the authority for corrective actions.

47. Our surface dressing programme started in April and is nearly complete, apart from a few remedial works. Circa £4M of the carriageway budget will be invested in surface dressing this year. This investment will see the delivery of around 180 sites and more than 200km of carriageways treated.

48. We no longer carry out surface dressing in cul-de-sacs due to the impact of low-speed manoeuvres in what is likely to be a restricted space. In extreme circumstances, small areas can be addressed through water texturing.

49. Last year, we repaired:

<b>Potholes – Carriageway defects</b>	6,224 (70% as Type 1)
<b>Potholes - Footway defects</b>	2,938 (70% as Type 1)
Defective manhole covers and gulley lids	811
Kerbing defects	1,241

N.B. Type 1 are permanent repairs and Type 2 temporary repairs.

50. Each defect is given a defect rating and a probability rating, which together provide a risk factor and corresponding response time. This ensures that defects with the greatest likelihood of an event occurring and with the greatest consequence are treated as a priority.

51. Response time categories for defects identified are:

- make safe or repair within one hour;
- make safe or repair within 24 hours;
- repair within 7 working days;
- repair within 4 weeks (28 working days).

52. Where defects with potentially serious consequences for network safety are made safe by means of temporary signing or repair, a special inspection regime is in place until a permanent repair can be made.

53. Gully cleansing and drainage repairs remain a top priority. The analysis of gully cleansing data gathered over several years has allowed the development of an optimised cleansing programme. This optimised process ensures gullies are prioritised using a risk-based approach and are cleansed as often as required. Furthermore, it ensures that gullies are not cleansed unnecessarily, making the service more efficient and cost effective.

54. This process is supplemented by our routine safety inspection protocols where our Highways Safety Inspectors may identify gullies that require cleansing earlier than historical data suggests. The cleansing frequency for these gullies can be reviewed and adjusted, with the same review being possible if gully defects are reported to us by members of the public via the Report-it system.

55. The Report-It system has been updated as a result of work by the Environment Scrutiny Panel to bring forward a live 'gully map' that enables residents to see when a gully was last attended, and what inspection cycle is currently in place.

56. All reported defects are triaged by our team of Highway Safety Inspectors and prioritised using a risk-based approach.

57. This year we will be spending £1.5M on highway drainage improvements to address more substantial and complex drainage issues. CCTV surveys are often required to establish the nature and extent of these issues and help to determine the cause of the problem and form part of the design process to develop a solution. Drainage improvement schemes can vary from quite minor repair work, root cutting and

pipe lining, to extensive system renewal or replacement, or the construction of new drainage infrastructure.

58. The drainage team also proactively seeks to recover costs from third parties for repairs to damaged systems as a result of the installation or maintenance of utility infrastructure (often a cause of broken gully connections).

### **Verges, Hedges and Grass Cutting**

59. Rural: The rural grass cutting is managed by WCC and delivered by our Highways Maintenance Service Contractor. There are normally two safety cuts during the growing season, the first being in May and the second later in the season (typically August or September) depending on growing conditions.

60. Dual Carriageway: again, this is managed by the WCC and delivered by our Highways Maintenance Service Contractor. There are two cuts to the dual carriageway network, generally following the same dates as the rural cuts. Each cut will take between 4 to 6 weeks and will require traffic management to close lanes. Where lane closures are required, the service co-ordinates any maintenance activities that can make use of this type of traffic management and additional activities are undertaken when required including; street lighting maintenance (including illuminated signs), gully emptying and road marking maintenance. We also invite District Council partners to utilise our closures to safely carry out litter picking, thus reducing interruption to the highway network and maximising value for money. An exception to the dual carriageway arrangements is in Redditch where the Borough Council conducts the cutting of their urban-based dual carriageways and around the Cloverleaf junction.

61. Urban: The six District Councils carry out urban grass cutting, usually a minimum of five cuts per season for amenity and landscaping purposes, for which WCC provides a budget. Many Parish Councils manage the seasonal growth of highways within a 30mph (or less) zone.

62. Hedges are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner and therefore, in most cases, hedges are not the responsibility of WCC. However, there are approximately 41km of hedges that WCC do cut.

63. Within the highway verge network there are 38 protected Roadside Verge Nature Reserves (RVNR) located around the county, which are maintained by WCC's Countryside Service. These sites have been set up to protect the biodiversity (wildflowers and animals) that live and grow within the highway verges.

64. WCC and our district partners are currently engaged in a 'fair funding' review to update budgets for work such as grass cutting and sweeping.

### **Winter Maintenance**

65. There are 35 gritters in the fleet which are strategically allocated to depots around the county. The gritters have the capability to provide GPS tracking (location details) and send information on road surface temperatures. This enables the collation of data so that, for example, the discharge rate for salt can be adjusted to ensure efficient operation in small areas that may otherwise be problematic.

66. The formal "Winter Service" Period is from mid-October to mid-April each year, with monitoring of the weather beyond this to ensure any required response is provided. This season we spread circa 5,000 tonnes of salt, covering 113,000km.

67. The headline numbers are shown in the table below:

<b>Winter period</b>	<b>183 days</b>
No of standbys (where marginal or sub-zero temperatures were forecast:)	76
No of primary treatments	34
No of secondary treatments (precautionary)	20
No of snow events	1
Tonnes of salt spread across network	5,127
Salt delivered to Parishes (tonnes)	19
Salt delivered to schools (tonnes)	17

## **Street Lighting**

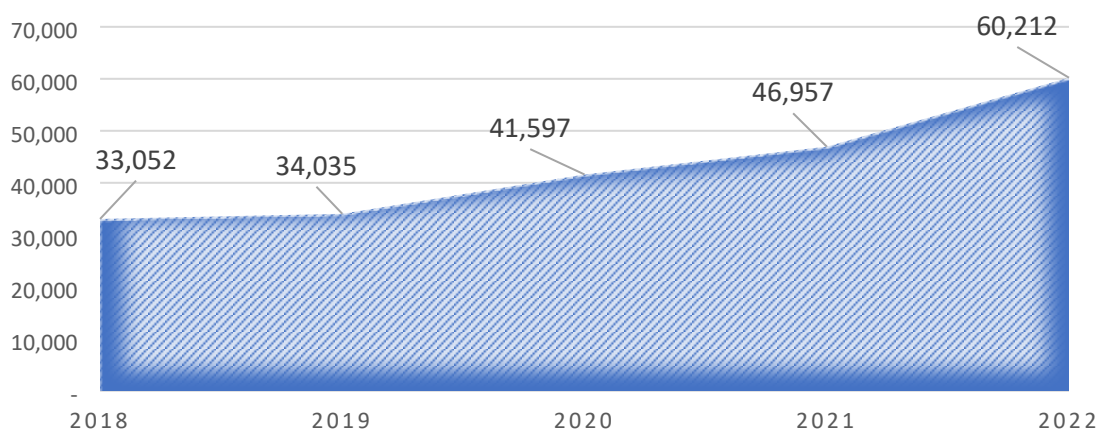
68. Following the investment agreed as part of the WCC's Highways Infrastructure Investment Fund in 2018 and subsequent further investment, 96% of the outstanding LED conversions have now been completed and the full programme is scheduled for completion in September 2023. The conversions have resulted in a 21% reduction in both carbon emissions and energy use, when compared to the previous year.

69. Where we receive queries or complaints about the LED scheme we seek to resolve them either by fitting a baffle to prevent lights shining into people's properties, or by using a bulb with a softer hue.

## **Street Works**

70. 2022/23 saw a rise in requests for permits and variations to work on the highway continuing the trend of year-on-year increase in road and street works activity. The reasons behind the increases include; aging utility infrastructure combined with impact of extreme weather events, development activity, WCC maintenance activity and the large scale roll out of superfast broadband infrastructure. The WCC Street Works team continues to grow to meet the demand and respond to the increased activity.

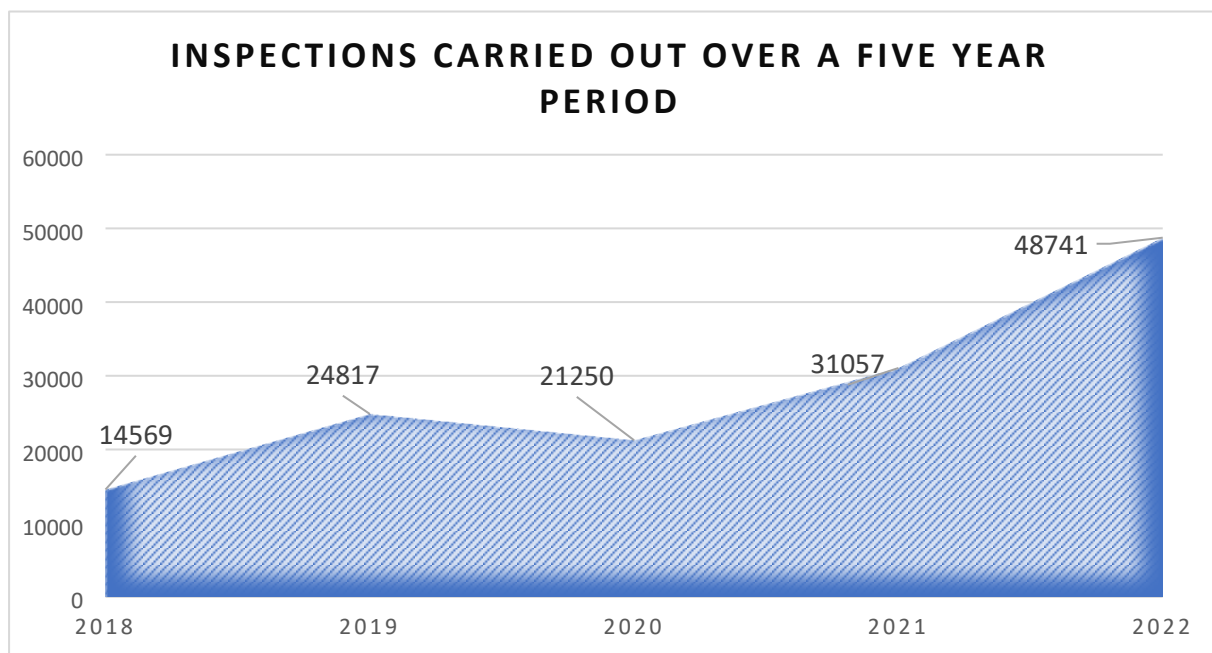
## PERMITS AND VARIATIONS CONSIDERED OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD



	Main Roads	Main Roads	Main Roads	Minor Roads
<b>Reinstatement Category of Street</b>	0,1 and 2 Heavily Trafficked	3 and 4 Lightly Trafficked	3 and 4 Lightly Trafficked	3 and 4
<b>Street designated as traffic sensitive or not</b>	All Streets	Traffic Sensitive at some times/locations	Traffic Sensitive at some times/locations	Non-Traffic Sensitive at any time or location
<b>Time and location of activity</b>	Any time location	Any part within traffic sensitive times/locations	Wholly within non traffic sensitive times/locations	Any time and location
<b>Provisional Advance Authorisation</b>	£105.00	£105.00	£73.50	£75.00
<b>Major Activities (over 10 days duration and Major activities requiring a TTRO)</b>	£240.00	£240.00	£168.00	£150.00
<b>Major Activities (4 to 10 days duration)</b>	£130.00	£130.00	£91.00	£75.00
<b>Major Activities (up to 3 days duration)</b>	£65.00	£65.00	£45.50	£45.00
<b>Minor Activities</b>	£65.00	£65.00	£45.50	£45.00
<b>Immediate Activities</b>	£60.00	£60.00	£42.00	£40.00
<b>Permit Variations</b>	£45.00	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00

71. The total income from permit fees for 2022/23 was £1.478m

72. There is a strong focus on inspections of both live works as well as the standard of reinstatement. This is an area continuing to develop in line with new legislation that came in on 1 April 2023, which includes a new performance linked inspection rate for utilities and a streamlined process for escalation of reinstatement defects. This latest change in legislation supports the DfT Street Manager system which must be used by all works promoters to apply for a permit and to provide live updates on progress. All local highway authorities must use the system to co-ordinate works, apply conditions, to generate inspection schedules and record inspections and penalty notices.



<b>2022/23</b>						
	<b>Total FPN's issued</b>	<b>Total charge</b>	<b>S74(7B)</b>	<b>S70(6)</b>	<b>Regulation 19</b>	<b>Regulation 19</b>
<b>National Grid</b>	328	£30,640.00	119	61	128	20
<b>STW</b>	1466	£132,680.00	477	206	713	70
<b>Cadent</b>	245	£21,140.00	85	39	114	7
<b>BT</b>	336	£32,100.00	56	122	137	23
<b>Network Rail</b>	14	£1,120.00	8	3	3	0
<b>Virgin</b>	49	£3,920.00	9	24	16	0
<b>City Fibre</b>	345	£30,460.00	33	106	193	13
<b>Minor</b>	552	£47,900.00	184	234	117	17
<b>Lighting</b>	927	£74,160.00	577	333	17	0
<b>278/117/Signals</b>	490	£40,880.00	460	5	16	8
<b>Maintenance</b>	1060	£89,200.00	903	20	117	20
<b>Total Utility</b>	<b>5812</b>	<b>£299,960.00</b>	<b>2911</b>	<b>1153</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>178</b>

## Road Traffic Collision Reduction

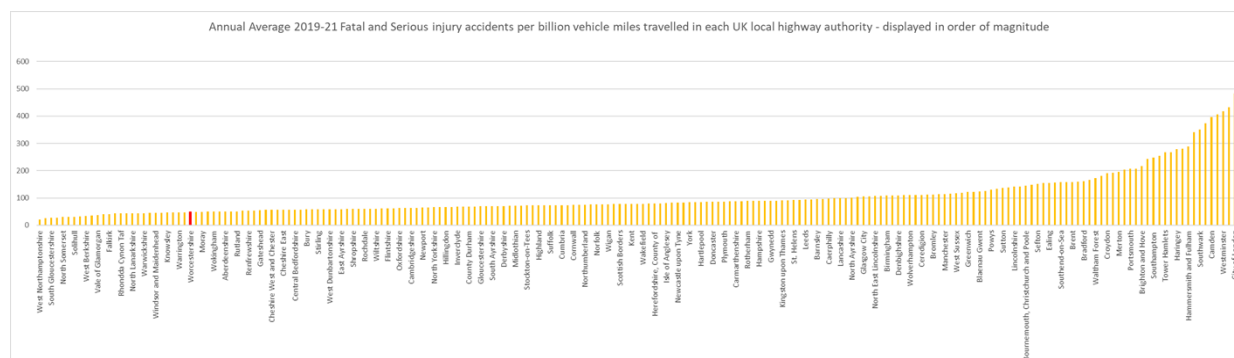
73. The road safety engineering team works in close partnership with West Mercia Police to keep the highway network safe and traffic moving by minimising the potential for road traffic collisions. Collision data analysis provides the basis for road safety engineering measures and feeds into all new and improved highway schemes and maintenance programmes. There is a dedicated programme of casualty reduction schemes to tackle the highest priority locations in the county to reduce injury collisions.

74. All highway schemes with the potential to change driver, rider and/or pedestrian behaviour are road safety audited at both design and construction stages.

75. Casualty Severity Comparison between 2017-21 average and 2022.

Casualty Severity	2017-21 Average	2022	% Difference +/-
Fatal	20	20	No change
Serious	200	204	2% increase
Slight	862	755	12% decrease
Total	1083	979	9% decrease

76. WCC is a top quartile performing local highway authority for accidents per billion and vehicle miles travelled



## Traffic Monitoring

77. The roll out of live, minute by minute, permanent traffic monitors across our strategic highway network is nearly complete including 50 additional traffic volume, speed, and classification sites and 11 strategic cycle monitoring sites. Included is a powerful analytics platform giving data trends by the minute, hour, day, week, month or year. This data feeds into Transport Planning, Development Control, Street Works permitting conditions, TRO timed restrictions and speed limits, the Asset Management Programme and the monitoring and evaluation programme for highway improvement schemes.

78. The on-highway equipment is fully solar powered which, after being trialled since 2018 across Worcester City, has proved to be very efficient and resilient in terms of data provision and maintenance.

### **Traffic Signal Control**

79. Work continues to upgrade halogen signals to LED to reduce energy consumption. 84% of our signals are now LED.

### **Worcestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) & Enhanced Partnership (EP)**

80. Worcestershire County Council has been allocated £1.43 Million for 2023-24 as part of new funding which focuses on authorities that did not benefit from previously announced allocations from the original BSIP funding. Worcestershire's BSIP highlights our commitment to improving public transport across the county that will; improve journey times, increase reliability, and provide clear and concise information to passengers.

81. Worcestershire's BSIP is highly ambitious vision for a fully integrated transport network. It is a living document which will be maintained and updated and will be delivered as further funding is identified.

82. Delivery of elements of the BSIP will be led by the Enhanced Partnership (EP) - WCC Transport Operations and Transport Operators and consultation will commence shortly.

83. The "Get Around for £2" fare scheme that capped single bus fares in England outside of London as part of Help for Households, has been extended until the end of this October. This will encourage people back on the bus by reducing the average fare by about 30%, while saving passengers money during difficult economic times especially those who need to travel longer distances by bus. This will be followed by a longer-term fare cap of £2.50 that will run from 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2024.

### **Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)**

84. One critical element of Worcestershire's BSIP is the provision of alternative services such as Demand Responsive Transport (DRT).

85. Bromsgrove on Demand (BoD) has been highly successful since the switch to a paid service during the last 6 months with, on average, 2600 ride requests per month, around 1300 trips taking place with 67% requesting the service "asap" and 33% pre-booking. There has been circa 2100 users who have downloaded the app. Following the successful pilot, there is now an opportunity to refresh and re-launch the service to increase demand which will be actioned over the next 3 months.

86. Following the early successes derived through the BoD, WCC has now launched a second Pilot in South Malvern for increased provision of sustainable and efficient DRT in a rural environment. The service will initially focus on South Malvern Hills (Upton/ Kempsey). Unlike the BoD service it is possible for residents within this area to travel to points of interest (such as Malvern Hospital or Malvern train stations) outside of the zone. Due to the rural nature and demographics within Malvern, we will have an active



call-centre option which will be handled by the Highways & Transport Control Centre. This service commenced in June with two vehicles operated by Malvern Community Action (in conjunction with Worcester Wheels) and LMS Travel.

## **Home to School Transport**

87. There has been a sustained growth in the population, with an increase in the number of pupils with SEND. This, in turn, has increased the number of pupils eligible for travel assistance and those that have more complex needs requiring specialist provision. Subsequently, this is providing a significant challenge from a transport perspective to ensure that we can source suitable provision.

88. For Mainstream Schools there has been a trend of significant growth in applications which has resulted in an increase of 20% of passengers on contracts rising from 7,847 in July 2022 to 9,822 in January 2023.

89. There is also continued growth in contractual costs due to the impact of inflation on fuel and driver wages, and further costs because of reduced operators in the market.

90. As a result, the cost of transport provision for children and young people continues to rise. This is not unique to Worcestershire and many authorities are experiencing similar exponential growth.

91. A Corporate Transport Review has commenced, and this will continue over the next quarter. This review is required to offer assurance, both now and in the future, that these costs are appropriate, proportionate and have been mitigated as far as is reasonable.

## **Community and Voluntary Sector Transport**

92. There are 14 Community Transport (CT) schemes covering the whole of Worcestershire and providing journeys in minibuses, MPVs and volunteer-driven cars for those who cannot travel by other means. Together they provide around 100,000 journeys each year to medical appointments, hospitals, day centres, clubs and activities and for shopping. Most customers tend to be those with limited physical mobility, older people, and those who have no others who can assist.

93. It has been agreed that we will include CT information on medical appointment letters and the Community Transport website – <https://www.communitytravel.org.uk/>. This is a widely used service. Here2Help is notifying volunteers of the opportunity to drive for CT schemes and there is a recruitment drive underway for 'out of hours' drivers. All schemes have undertaken relevant risk assessments.

## **Public Rights of Way (PROW)**

94. Walking brings a wealth of benefits to our health and wellbeing, and we are committed to financial investment in the Public Rights of Way service area. Some of the good work we have carried out this year includes:

- Increasing the number of our volunteer work party groups
- Launch of Volunteer Manual and refresh of our volunteer training courses

- Completion of capital projects across the county, including surfacing work on the Cotswold Way by Broadway Tower.
- Trial of PROW work associated with the Parish Lengthsman Scheme.
- Strimming of 150kms of paths last summer
- Installation of nearly 400 new signposts
- Inspection/resolution of 2,600 reported problems in the last year
- Replacement/repair of 84 footbridges.

## **Walking and Cycling - New Projects**

95. We have commenced the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for the major towns and city in the county with funding secured from Active Travel England. The plans are due for progressive completion through 2023 and 2024.

96. The following routes funded through Active Travel England have also been delivered in 2022/ 23:

- Pershore Wyre Road active travel corridor
- Redditch Arrow Valley Active Travel Network
- Worcester Diglis to Sixways canal corridor
- Stourport to Kidderminster canal corridor

97. Additional cycling infrastructure has been provided along the A4440 Southern Link Road in Worcester with the provision of new bridges for pedestrians and cyclists at Hams Way, Broomhall Way and Crookbarrow Way and an underpass at Ketch roundabout as part of the integrated improvements for walkers and cyclists.

98. We are also delivering a package of active travel routes through the county. These are identified in the table in the Appendix.

99. In addition to the major schemes outlined in 65 above, we have also delivered, or have proposed, a series of enhancements to crossing points as part of journeys to school.

100. Work has also commenced on the delivery of Kepax Bridge, Worcester, a new bridge for walkers and cyclists across the River Severn. This will link communities on the east and west banks of the river and extend the opportunities for walking and cycling for leisure or commuting in the city.

101. We have been working with Active Travel England officials to submit a plan in advance of the next assessment which is expected to take place this year. An Active Travel Stakeholder Group has been established and the first meeting took place in May 2023. This brings together a range of stakeholders to discuss active travel across the county.

## **Electric Vehicle Charging**

102. Funding has been provided from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to produce an Electric Vehicle charging strategy. It is expected that this will take approximately 12 months to produce.

## **Budget**

103. The Council will know that there has been a steep increase in inflation in general terms, but this has been heightened within the Construction and Highways sectors.

104. To help ensure the previously approved WCC additional Capital funding allocated for the carriageway and footway initiatives still achieve the anticipated results, a further £19.3m has been added to those budgets covering 2022/23 to 2024/25.

105. The DfT Maintenance allocation received an additional £3.331m in the form of an increased Pothole Action Fund.

**Mike Rouse**

**Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport**

This page is intentionally left blank

**REPORTS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY –  
 CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGHWAYS  
 AND TRANSPORT**

**APPENDIX**

Table showing active travel routes through the County with project timescales.

<b>Route</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Project timescale</b>	<b>Connectivity</b>
<b>Wyre Forest Levelling Up Fund. Kidderminster canal towpath</b>	Towpath widening and resurfacing. To include signing and permanent monitoring.	Spring 2022 – Spring 2025	To increase active travel connectivity from low socio-economic areas to places of employment, the town centre and other key trip attractors.
<b>Worcester Towns Fund. Worcester Canal towpath</b>	Towpath widening and resurfacing. To include signing and monitoring.	Winter 2022 – Summer 2023	Key corridor from Worcester Six to Worcester City Centre.
<b>Ronkswood Route 2</b>	Footpath widening, including a Toucan Crossing along Woodgreen Drive. Predominantly off highway shared use path (1.3 miles).	Winter 2022 – Spring 2025	Spetchley Road and Lyppards Grange.

<b>Worcester Towns Fund. Worcester (Diglis) to St Peters</b>	Construction of a bridleway, to include a signalised crossing over Bath Road, barrier removal, signing and permanent monitoring.	Winter 2022 – Summer 2025	Linking City Centre to Norton residential area via Power Park and City Centre to The Ketch.
<b>Bromsgrove Rail Station to town centre links</b>		Subject to major road network funding bid (A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme)	Reducing the severage of the A38, to link the town centre to the rail station vis residential area and education facilities.
<b>Station Road, Pershore</b>	Create a pedestrian and cycle priority at Racecourse Road Junction and improvements to existing segregated cycle path including signing and monitoring.	Autumn 2023 – Summer 2024	Improving the existing facilities to connect Pershore Rail Station to the Town Centre.
<b>North Worcester connectivity to the canal tow path from Cotswold Way and Blackpole Road</b>	Upgrade of traffic signals to a Toucan Crossing and connectivity to the canal towpath.	Winter 2023 – Spring 2025	To improve existing pedestrian and cycle connectivity to places of employment and retail facilities.
<b>Kepax Bridge, Worcester and links</b>	Delivery of a new active travel bridge across the River Severn.	2022-2024	Linking the residential areas to the east and west of the river with routes to the city centre, education facilities and employment.

<p><b>Hampton Bridge, Evesham and links</b></p>	<p>Delivery of a new active travel bridge across the River Avon. Planning application submitted.</p>	<p>2024-2026</p>	<p>Connect the new communities of Hampton to the existing town of Evesham and its retail, education and employment opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Ryall Pedestrian Refuge</b></p>	<p>Installation of a pedestrian refuge, localised carriageway widening, footway widening</p>	<p>Spring 2023 – Summer 2023</p>	<p>Links the A38 roundabout and flood alleviation scheme at Upton Marina creating a continuous 2m – 3m footway.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



**COUNCIL**  
**13 JULY 2023****QUESTION TIME**

---

**Question 1 – 20mph speed limit through Pershore main road**

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

"The main road through Pershore has for some time now had a speed limit set to 20mph. Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility and officers consider this to be a successful change or a failure?"

**Question 2 – Unaccompanied child refugees**

2. Cllr Natalie McVey will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility tell me how many unaccompanied child refugees are currently being accommodated in Worcestershire?"

**Question 3 – Libraires Unlocked at St John's Library**

3. Cllr Richard Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility confirm the plans and processes for the introduction of Libraires Unlocked at St John's Library? Can he confirm the timescales involved and the process for consultation which will take place with employees, volunteers, user groups and the general public?"

**Question 4 – Global warming**

4. Cllr Matt Jenkins will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment:

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment agree with me that limiting global warming to 1.5C will require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society?"

## **Question 5 – Demand Response Transport**

5. Cllr Beverley Nielsen will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"We welcome and fully support the rollout of Demand Response Transport (DRT) to Malvern Hills. How will the Council continue to improve this initiative and take any learning into further schemes? For example, do we feel our tendering and implementation approach enabled the optimum collaborative approach with the local community transport charities involved?"?"

## **Question 6 – Night-time public transport provision in Worcester**

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

"Worcester City recently won a purple flag award for its night time economy, rewarding entertainment venues in the city centre and encouraging greater public participation in a safe, flourishing and inclusive sector of the local economy. Is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility aware that little or no public transport provision exists in Worcester which can support the growing night-time economy in the city? No busses from most parts of my Division exist after 6:30pm. Making it difficult for people to gain employment in the sector, to visit the city centre and to get home safely.

The lack of public transport is holding back the success of the night-time economy and is causing harm to the entertainment and leisure industry. Can he consider a full review of support to night time public transport provision within the city, with the aim of attempting to improve provision?"

## **Question 7 – Low traffic neighbourhoods**

7. Cllr Matt Jenkins will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport confirm what the Council's policy is for introducing low traffic neighbourhoods?"

## **Contact Points**

Contact Points for this report  
Simon Lewis, Committee Officer  
Tel: 01905 846621  
Email: [slewis@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:slewis@worcestershires.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**  
**13 JULY 2023****REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****(a) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

---

**External Audit - Council and Pension Fund Audit Plans and Informing the Audit Risk Assessment**

1. Mark Stocks, Key Audit Partner from Grant Thornton presented the External Audit - Council and Pension Fund Audit Plans and Informing the Audit Risk Assessment. The Committee has noted the content of the external audit plans and the Informing the Audit Risk Assessment reports.

**Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

2. 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 2022/23. The AGS will form part of the Annual Statement of Accounts and the final version will be signed by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive.

3. The AGS assesses the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements by reference to the principles of good governance in accordance with the CIPFA / SoLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework and identified areas where it is recognised that governance arrangements could be strengthened. As part of the review of the Council's effectiveness significant internal control issues affecting the Council are identified.

4. The draft AGS includes a number of governance issues as areas for improvement. These items which were included in the 2021/22 AGS and remain governance issues following review in 2022/23 and include: Serious harm or death of a child or young person; activity exceeds budget allocation; and serious harm or death of an adult with care and support needs.

5. A new Monitoring Officer joined the Council on 1 March 2023 and a new S151 Chief Finance Officer started on 19 June 2023. Together they will review last year's action plan and present a high-level action plan to the July Committee meeting. A detailed action plan would then be considered by the Committee in September. The detailed action plan will ensure that work is undertaken to deliver the areas where it is recognised that governance arrangements could be strengthened will be developed. Progress against the plan will be reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis. The Committee has noted the draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

## **Draft Annual Statutory Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023**

6. The County Council is required to prepare annual Statement of Accounts and to arrange for them to be audited and reported in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and the 2022/23 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Statement of Accounts presents the overall financial position of the Council, reflecting the Council's outturn position and year-end net asset position.

7. Following a later deadline (through the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021) in recent years due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for 2022/23 accounts the statutory deadline for Local Authorities to publish their draft accounts has reverted to 31 May, with the public inspection to commence on or before the first working day of June 2023. The draft Pension Fund Accounts had not been completed in time to be available for consideration at the Committee meeting but were published along with all other elements of the statutory accounts before the statutory deadline.

8. It is anticipated that all parts of the accounts process will be completed within statutory deadlines with the audited accounts scheduled to be presented to the Committee meeting on 22 September 2023. The Committee were however informed that the statutory deadline for the publication of the audited Accounts could yet slip back from the 30 September 2023 due to availability of external audit staff. This may mean that the audited accounts will need to be reported to a later Committee.

9. The financial position reported in the Council's Statutory Accounts for 2022/23 was a net overspend of £7.3 million against the net budget of £373.2 million, with an accounting deficit of £43.1 million taking into account pension actuarial costs, capital costs and other financial adjustments. The Council's General Fund reserve balance has remained at £14.3 million, and there has been a decrease of £13.6 million on available earmarked reserves taking their balance at 31 March 2023 to £144.4 million, which includes Schools and PFI Reserves alongside other earmarked and unusable reserves.

10. The cumulative Dedicated Schools Grant deficit brought forward from last financial year was £11.3 million which will now be increased by £9.0 million deficit from 2022/23 and the deficit to carry forward into 2023/24 is now £20.3 million.

11. The Committee has noted the draft Final Accounts Pack, including the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

**Cllr Nathan Desmond**  
**Chairman**

### **Contact Points**

Specific Contact Points for this report  
Simon Lewis, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846621  
Email: [slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager), 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 26 May 2023

[Agenda for Audit and Governance Committee on Friday, 26th May, 2023, 2.00 pm - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/2023/05/26/agenda-for-audit-and-governance-committee-on-friday-26th-may-2023-2-00-pm-worcestershire-county-council/)

This page is intentionally left blank

## **COUNCIL**

### **13 JULY 2023**

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **(b) SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE**

---

#### **Pension Board and Pension Investment Sub-Committee (PISC) Minutes**

1. As set out in the Terms of Reference of the 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 13 and 14 June 2023 and the Board meeting on 6 June 2023.

#### **Pension Fund Unaudited Annual Accounts 2022/23**

2. The draft accounts were published on 31 May 2023 alongside the County Council accounts in line with the statutory deadline. The key points to note on the accounts are as follows (previous year comparatives in brackets):

- The Fund had a revenue surplus of £4.9m before the net return on investments (deficit of £7.4m)
- Employers' contributions into the fund were £97.9m (£90.7m)
- Benefit payments increased by £7.0m (6.1%) to £122.6m (£115.6m)
- Management expenses (which include fees pay to external investment managers) have decreased from £21.5m to £16.1m
- Payments to and on account of leavers increased by £2.7m year on year to £12.7m (£10.0m)
- Investment income of £37.9m (37.2m) increased
- The value of net assets as at 31 March 2023 is £3.609bn from £3.585bn as at 31 March 2022. This represents an increase of £0.024bn

3. As in the previous year's accounts, the Fund has included an estimate to reflect the possible impact of the McCloud judgement (Note 2) on the cost of paying LGPS benefits. The actuary has allowed for the impact of the judgement based upon the proposed remedy. The Committee has approved the unaudited Pension Fund Annual Accounts 2022/23.

4. Grant Thornton, the Fund's external auditor, provided their Pension Fund Audit Plan for the year ending the 31 March 2023 and one of the key risks is the valuation of Level 3 investments. The key reason being that Level 3 assets are financial assets and liabilities considered to be the most illiquid and hardest to value. The Fund's Level 3

investments mainly relate to the property and Infrastructure investments and the Corporate private debt investment with Bridgepoint.

5. The Committee has noted the process on how Level 3 investments are shown at fair value in the final accounts. The Committee has agreed that the Level 3 investments reflected a fair assessment of value at the time the draft accounts were provided to the auditors. The Committee has noted the differences in valuation of Level 3 investments acknowledging that these are below the materiality levels of the Fund.

### **UK Stewardship Code 2021 Updated 2023 Submission**

2. 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. It is a set of 12 Principles for asset owners and asset managers, and a separate set of six Principles for service providers – investment consultants, proxy advisors, data providers and others.

3. The Fund had been successful in becoming an original signatory to the Code. The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) provided feedback on last year's annual resubmission on a number of areas under each of the twelve principles where the FRC required improvement for future submissions to remain a code signatory. The Fund's submission for Stewardship Code for the period 1 January – 31 December 2022 took on board the improvement areas identified by the FRC in the last submission (reported to Committee on 13 October 2022). Applicants that effectively evidence how they apply the principles and meet the reporting expectations will be listed as signatories to the Code in the Summer of 2023. This reflects considerable work on behalf of the officers but is not an area that is mandatory rather a sign of good governance that the Committee considered added real value.

4. The Committee has noted the Fund's application submitted on 21 May 2023.

### **Pension Investment Update.**

5. 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.

6. As at the end of March 2023, the estimated funding level for the Fund was estimated at approx. 96%. The Committee has noted the funding position.

7. The Fund took the opportunity to exit its equity protection strategy given the continued downward trend in market valuations at the time. This was fully exited from Schroders in early November 2022 and £231m was then reinvested back into the passive equity market cap funds on the 10 November 2022. Although the Fund has exited equity protection, it is looking to have this facility as part of the investment tools in its investment strategy. The Fund will need to reprocur equity protection going forward. The Committee has noted the update on the equity protection current strategy.

8. The Committee has noted the update on Responsible Investment activities, Local Authorities Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), strategic asset allocation and Stewardship.



The Committee has noted the update on the LGPSC report on the voting undertaken on the Fund's behalf. The Committee has noted the update on the TCFD Consultation.

### **LGPS Central (LGPSC) Update**

9. The Pension Investment Sub Committee agreed an indicative £30m per annum for the next 2 years investment into LGPSC infrastructure funds subject to due diligence. The 3-year review being conducted by LGPSC of its Emerging Market Fund is still in progress. Due to the poor performance of this fund since inception (-0.6% which is 2.40% below its target as at the end of March 2023), LGSPC are in the process of replacing Columbia Threadneedle Investments with another manager.

10. At their EGM meeting on 10 May, LGPSC announced to partner funds that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mike Weston had left the company with immediate effect. Due to legal constraints, a specific reason was not given but this was not due to financial impropriety. At the same meeting, the non-executive directors urged partner funds to consider a 2-year extension for the existing chairperson.

11. Notwithstanding the unexpected recruitment of a new CEO and the potential search for a new chairperson, LGPSC are seeking to add an additional headcount to the Client Services Team. The Fund has noted the LGPSC update.

### **Business Plan**

12. The average target turnaround for April 2023 and the LGPS year 2022 / 2023 for all twelve pensions administration KPIs has been met. A scoping exercise of internal systems controls and existing workflows is being undertaken alongside the Council's Internal Audit team. A plan will be formulated and brought to future meetings with an update on progress including an updated Project schedule.

13. In respect of the systems procurement exercise, work is underway with the procurement team. The relevant documents have been completed and submitted to the Council's Commercial Board.

14. The process of completing documentation to sign up for the LGPS National Framework has begun to enable the procurement of actuarial services, in conjunction with the Council's procurement team.

15. The Fund has successfully recruited to the post of Governance Lead, Systems and Projects Lead, Project Officer (that was an internal appointment) and to one of the vacant Pension Business Support positions as an apprenticeship through the Council. The remaining four vacancies are being held intentionally to support ongoing training needs within the team. The Committee has noted the Worcestershire Pension Fund Business Plan as at May 2023.

### **Training Update**

16. Progress in mitigating risks has included officers participating in various scheme / industry groups / fora to keep up to date on pensions issues. These have included

attending a Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) webinar on Pensions Dashboards on 20 April. Officers have also been continuing to review specialist publications. The Committee has noted the Worcestershire Pension Fund Training Update. The Committee were informed that Amanda Lewis would be retiring from her position of Membership Manager in October 2023 after over 30 years' service. The Committee thanked Amanda for her many years of service to the Fund.

## **Risk Register**

17. The Risk Register is kept under regular review . The May 2023 review added no new risks and resulted in no increases or increases to risk scores. The Committee has noted the May 2023 Worcestershire Pension Fund Risk Register.

## **Governance Update**

18. Progress in mitigating risks has included: a) Updating the progress made in preparation for Scheme Advisory Board's (SAB's) Good Governance proposals being taken forward by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC); and benchmarking the Fund's Governance Compliance Statement. The Committee has noted the Worcestershire Pension Fund Governance Update.

## **Forward Plan**

19. The Committee has approved 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](mailto:slewis@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda papers for the meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 28 June 2023:

[Agenda for Pensions Committee on Wednesday, 28th June, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)