Open

Council

Agenda

6pm Wednesday, 28th September 2016 Council Chamber Wyre Forest House Finepoint Way Kidderminster

Council

Public Information

- 1. If you have any questions regarding the agenda, the attached papers or the meeting being webcast, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named below.
- 2. The Council meeting is open to the public except for any exempt/confidential items. These items are normally discussed at the end of the meeting
- 3. The public are welcome to speak at meetings of Council provided they have requested to speak in advance of the Agenda being published. Details of the guidance for public speaking can be found on our website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
- 4. If you have any special requirements regarding access to the venue and its facilities including audio and visual needs please let us know in advance so that we can make arrangements for you.
- 5. This Agenda can be made available in larger print on request; if you require a copy please contact:

Louisa Bright
Principal Committee and Member Services Officer
Wyre Forest District Council
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
DY11 7WF
01562 732763
louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

COUNCIL MEETING

20th September 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMAN

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 28th September 2016**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

IRMiller

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

<u>Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other</u> matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

- 1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
- 2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
- 3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
- 4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council's business.
- 5 Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

- 1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
- 2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
- 3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
- 4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
- 5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
- 6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
- 7. Local Development Framework adoption.
- 8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
- 9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting is being filmed* for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website site (www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk).

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. The footage recorded will be available to view on the Council's website for 6 months and shall be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 28th September 2016

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers	
	To be read by Reverend Phil Hoare, Wesley Methodist Church, Stourport on Severn.	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members	
	In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPl's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODl's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered.	
	Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes	
	To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 th July 2016.	9
5.	Public Participation	
	In accordance with the Council's scheme for public speaking at meetings of Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 19 th September 2016.	
	If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.	

6.	Questions	
	Seven questions have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order A5 by Members of the Council.	18
	In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.	
7.	Chairman's Communications	
	To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.	20
8.	Leader of the Council Announcements	
	To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.	
9.	Motions Submitted under Standing Orders	
	One motion has been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).	
	Motion from Councillor J Shaw, Labour Group	
	While Council welcomes the postponement of a final decision, it notes with alarm the government's planned £170m reduction in funding for community pharmacies. Council notes that key payments for pharmacies would be phased out, leading to the closure of as many as 3,000 retail outlets, with a consequent increased focus on warehouse dispensing and online services.	
	We believe that the Government's plans threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in Wyre Forest. Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure, or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, and advice on medicines and family planning. Such developments would put more pressure on GPs and hospitals, have an impact on social care services, and be at odds with strong professional sentiment to increase the use of pharmacists.	
	Therefore, we call on the government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully-funded community pharmacy service, and request the Leader of the Council to write to Mark Garnier MP, Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group, the Secretary of State for Health and NHS England, expressing this view.	
10.	Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Orders	
	To consider motions in the order they have been received which, by reason of special circumstances, should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1 (vii)).	

11.	Local Pay Arrangements, 2018-2022	
	To authorise the Head of Paid Service to commence negotiations with the unions about local pay arrangements for the period 2018 to 2022, including potential changes to terms and conditions such as sickness pay.	21
12.	2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies	
	To agree the Council's response to the Boundary Commission for England's proposals.	27
13.	Policy and Budget Framework	
	Matters which require a Decision by Council.	
	Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 8 th September 2016	33
	Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2015/16	
	Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.	
14.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
15.	Exclusion of the Press and Public	
	To consider passing the following resolution:	
	"That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act".	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

16.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
-----	---	--

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER 27TH JULY 2016 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: R Bishop (Chairman), J D Smith (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, J-P Campion, S J Chambers, S J M Clee, J R Desmond, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, S E Fearn, N Gale, I Hardiman, J A Hart, M J Hart, K Henderson, V Higgs, A T Hingley, N Knowles, D Little, N Martin, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, J A Shaw, R J Vale, S J Williams. R Wilson and G C Yarranton.

C.21 Prayers

Prayers were said by Dudley Anderson, Senior Leader of Cornerstone Family Church, Stourport on Severn.

C.22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Aston and S J Walker.

C.23 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor F M Oborski declared an Other Disclosable Interest (ODI) in agenda item number 9 – motion 2, as she is a member of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority.

Councillor N Gale declared an ODI in agenda item number 9 – motion 2 and would leave the chamber as she did not wish to take part in the debate. Councillor A T Hingley declared an ODI in agenda item number 9 – motion 2, as she is a member of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority. Councillor T L Onslow declared an ODI in agenda item number 9 – motion 2 as she had recently been appointed as Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and was referred to in the consultation. Councillor J-P Campion declared an ODI in agenda item number 9 – motion 2 as he is the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and was referred to in the consultation.

Councillor G C Yarranton declared an ODI in agenda item number 9 – motion 2, as he is a member of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority.

C.24 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.25 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C.26 Questions

Four questions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order A5 by Members of the Council.

Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council

Which Polling Station(s) will be used for the By-election to Kidderminster Town Council (Habberley South and Blakebrook) on 1st September, and would the Leader consider having one such polling station at the Church Hall on Habberley Estate, as well as either the Church in Greatfield Road or at the Gainsborough Hotel?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

The two polling stations that will be used for the by-election on 1st September 2016 will be the Gainsborough House Hotel and Evangelical Church on Greatfield Road which are the same two polling stations agreed as part of the polling places review back in 2014 and the same two polling stations when Councillor Knowles asked me the same question at Group Leaders on 12th May. There are no plans to change the polling places for the by-election, I don't have the power, that would be a decision of Council as a result of a polling place review.

Supplementary question from Councillor N Knowles

I accept what the Leader says about the necessity for a legal move if it were to revert back to St Johns Hall but I do think we need to revisit that and I think it was a political decision to close it in the first place and the whole issue of the election would be better if that polling station was open.

Supplementary answer from the Leader of the Council

For the sake of clarification, but with respect, we simply don't agree with you.

Question from Councillor F Oborski to the Leader of the Council

Some two years ago Council agreed, as part of its activity to engage young people, to establish the role of "Youth Mayor".

Can the Leader tell me what progress has been made?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

This was discussed on 18th June 2014 and having spoken with officers and Councillor Hingley, the Children's Trust that you chaired at the time were

Agenda Item No. 4

going to take this forward and I was advised it was left in your capable hands and therefore in your supplementary, it would be helpful if you could inform Council what has happened in the two years period but yes we did give that commitment and if it hasn't happened there is no difficulty and I can give my assurance that we will progress this forward.

Supplementary question from Councillor F Oborski

I would appreciate some guidance from the Leader or Council as to whether you would wish this to be proceeded with by referring it to Kidderminster Town Council and having a youth mayor for Kidderminster or whether you wish it to be proceeded with a youth mayor for the whole of the district. I was with Craig Bateman the other evening and he pressed me onto what was happening. There is a Children's Trust meeting in September and if I can have some guidance please as to whether it's Wyre Forest or Kidderminster Town Council.

Supplementary answer from the Leader of the Council

The motion agreed by this Council was to develop a district youth council and young peoples mayor but if Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn or Bewdley wanted their own youth mayors, that's entirely a matter for their sovereign bodies.

Question from Councillor J Shaw to the Leader of the Council

Is this council currently engaged in any form of devolution negotiations?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

No.

Supplementary question by Councillor J Shaw

In view of the confusion that exists throughout the country about the issue of devolution, the messy arrangements that have and haven't been made in various parts of the country, may I ask on behalf of this Council that you contact the Local Government Association (LGA) to see what they are doing about their declared policy on devolution which was to have a constitutional conference about the matter and may I remind the Leader that this Council passed a motion on the matter which actually was a model motion sent to us by the LGA some time in the last two years, so will he contact the LGA about this matter.

Supplementary answer from the Leader of the Council

I'm happy to do that. Every year the Leader goes to the LGA conference and I did that with the Chief Executive a couple of weeks ago together with most of the other leaders across this county and in fact in one of the sessions I was at, there was a very robust and in depth discussion with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the LGA regarding the position of devolution across the country. He will recall three to four weeks ago, the

Agenda Item No. 4

Labour Party and Conservative party were in the midst of leadership elections and I'm pleased that on this side of the chamber we have at least resolved ours which of course has left us in a period of things being in abeyance and it will remain to be seen what drive there will be nationally on devolution with the changes to the various Secretaries' of State. We will be restarting discussions with Worcestershire colleagues after the Summer to see exactly where we are in Worcestershire and I will happily raise the matter with LGA colleagues to see what the latest position is.

Question from Councillor J Shaw to the Leader of the Council

Have arrangements been made to enable Ray Brookes, Chief Executive of The Community Housing Group, and one of his senior officers, to brief councillors about the difficulties of providing truly affordable housing in future in this district?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

Very short answer is no but neither Ray Brookes nor any of his senior officers have made contact with me requesting that they do so.

Supplementary question by Councillor J Shaw

May I ask that the Leader either contacts the secretarial staff of the Council or indeed the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee because I believe there is an initiative taking place there and I am anxious that it is fully inclusive for all members of the council as possible so maybe afterwards that could be done.

Supplementary answer from the Leader of the Council

Far be it from me to interfere with the excellent work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee chaired by Councillor Helen Dyke. She has heard all of that and if she and her panel are undertaking some form of overview & scrutiny in respect of this matter, then if they feel they need expert evidence from witnesses from Ray Brookes or CHG, no doubt matters will be put in hand to get the evidence to be put forward to the relevant panel.

C.27 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

C.28 Leader's Announcements and Report

The Leader referred Members to his tabled report.

C.29 Motions Submitted Under Standing Order No. D1 (1)

Two motions had been received in accordance with Standing Orders (Section 7, 4.1).

1. Motion from the Conservative Group

This Council **supports** the following statement:-

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

Wyre Forest District Council will work with other local bodies including the police and Community Safety Partnership to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

All residents living in the Wyre Forest are valued members of our community."

We condemn any such attacks and fully support the Police and law enforcement agencies tackling this racist, xenophobic and criminal behaviour."

The Leader of the Council presented the motion and stated he hoped it would have unanimous support.

A discussion was held and all members were in support of the motion and agreed that everyone should be treated fairly and racism and xenophobia should not be tolerated in the community.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor N Gale left the meeting at this point, (18.39pm).

2. Motion from Councillor N Knowles, Labour Group Leader

This Council is very concerned that the Review of the Fire Service will authorise a new system of Fire Cover in Wyre Forest which will result in response time to incidents being 2 ½ minutes more than is now the case. We accept that changes will be made and that a new HUB will be built for emergency services. We also accept that Bewdley Fire Station will be closed because the building will be demolished as part of the deal which has provided the town with a very large Health and GP Centre.

We call on the Fire Authority to:

- 1) Keep Kidderminster and Stourport Fire Station open at least until the HUB is opened,
- 2) Provide 2 full time appliances and staff at Kidderminster in anticipation of the HUB,
- 3) Provide retained staff and appliances at Bewdley and Stourport until the HUB is open,
- 4) When the HUB is open, provide 2 whole time teams and engines, and 2 retained appliances, transferring the 2 appliances now operating at Bewdley and Stourport.

The Fire Authority is obliged to maintain and improve safety standards for the public and staff, not reorganise our service with a built in factor that increases risk by causing a worsening of response time by 2 ½ minutes and putting lives at greater risk.

Councillor Knowles presented his motion and stated that the public expenditure cuts and the cuts to services needed to be challenged. This together with the 2 ½ minutes longer response time to get to incidents needed to be addressed.

An amendment to the motion from the Conservative Group was tabled and stated that the motion could not be supported. There would not be any reduction in fire cover across the district and the retained appliances in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn would all move to a new hub. The Leader felt the Labour party motion was misleading and factually incorrect.

A robust debate was held on the amended motion.

Some Members pointed out that the existing stations would not close until the new hub was open. Over the last 10 years, there had been a 31% reduction in all incidents across the two counties, with a 42% reduction in the number of fires across the Wyre Forest. The move to a hub in Kidderminster would be a safer and effective option for the people of Wyre Forest.

Some Members felt that lives would be put at risk by the delayed time in getting to incidents.

Councillor Hingley stated that she was a Member of the fire authority and they had been well informed on the proposals and how services were to be delivered in a more modern way.

Upon a vote, the amendment was agreed. The following members voted against the amendment and asked that their names should be recorded: Councillors Knowles, Higgs, Shaw and Martin. Councillor Rayner abstained from voting.

Decision: The following amended motion received from the Conservative Group be agreed:

This Council is mindful of changes to the system of future cover in Wyre Forest, including the impact on response times. It notes that the Fire and Rescue Authority is consulting on potential locations for the new emergency services hub, following its decision in principle to approve the hub subject to finding a satisfactory location.

The Council supports the Fire and Rescue Authority in ensuring that there is adequate and appropriate cover in for Wyre Forest. The Council welcomes the multi-million investment in Wyre Forest. It supports the Fire and Rescue Authority's intention not to close any of

the existing stations until the hub is open and notes that there is no intention to reduce any on-call fire fighting crewing levels as a result of the move.

C.30 Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Order No. D1 (7)

There were no urgent motions.

C.31 Political and Constitutional Structures 2016/2017

Consider considered the revised political balance following a change in membership of political groups and to make consequential changes to the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of committees.

Councillor J-P Campion left the meeting at 19.27pm and came back at 19.29pm.

Councillor N Gale came back to the meeting at this point, (19.28pm).

Decision:

- 1. The revised chart of political balance as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Council be approved.
- 2. Agree the changes to appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report to Council be agreed with immediate effect.

C.32 Community Governance Review – Stourport-on-Severn

Council received the draft Terms of Reference and timetable relating to the community governance review of Stourport-on-Severn, which is to commence on 1st November 2016.

Decision: The terms of reference and timetable for the review in Appendix 1 of the report to Council be approved.

C.33 Review of the May 2016 Elections and the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union

Council received a report on the Police and Crime Commissioner Election for the West Mercia Area, elections to Wyre Forest District Council and Kidderminster Town Council held on 5 May 2016 and the Wyre Forest District results for the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union on 23 June 2016.

The Cabinet Member for Resources took Members through the report. It was worth noting that the turnout for Wyre Forest for the EU Referendum was 74% which was higher than the national average across the country and also every ward in the Wyre Forest District had voted to leave the EU. He also informed Council that there was a recommendation for the Chief Executive to receive delegated authority to review any minor changes to polling districts. He pointed out that this was not a fundamental review but

looking at small incremental changes.

Councillor Oborski stated that there were anomalies of ward boundaries in Offmore & Comberton, namely Byron Close and Queen Elizabeth Road and asked for these to be addressed. She also stated that the Community Housing Group were thinking that they may demolish the Offmore Community Centre, which was used as a polling station and asked that Offmore Evangelical Church and the scout hut in Byron Close be looked into as alternative venues.

Councillor Knowles asked that the review took into account that St Johns Hall on Canterbury Road be reopened as a polling station.

Some members agreed that the country needed a system of compulsory voting.

Decision:

- 1. The report on the Police and Crime Commissioner, Wyre Forest District Council and Kidderminster Town Council elections held on 5 May 2016 and the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union on 23 June 2016 be noted.
- 2. Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to publish consultation proposals for any minor adjustments to polling district boundaries as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report to Council and to commence a Polling Places review by December 2016 if any of the buildings used for Polling Places cease to be available for future use as a result of redevelopment plans.

C.34 Electoral cycle of Parish and Town Councils in Wyre Forest

Council received proposed changes to the electoral cycle of ordinary elections for parish and town councils in the Wyre Forest District in light of the results received from the recent consultation exercise.

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report to Council. Members were informed that if the town and parish councils did not align to the district council, they could face a huge financial cost.

A Member stated that with regard to Kidderminster Town Council, electors had been confused in the May 2016 elections having received two ballot papers, albeit on different colour paper, asking for them to vote for up to 3 candidates. They found it difficult to know what the ballot papers referred to. Therefore, Kidderminster Town Council were going with the electors wishes and wished to stay with their current cycle of elections.

Decision:

1. Under section 53 of the Local Government and Public

Agenda Item No. 4

Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council recommended to resolve to make an order to:

- a) the electoral cycle of ordinary elections for parish and town councils in the Wyre Forest District be changed, except Kidderminster Town Council, so they are aligned with the date of Wyre Forest District Council's elections from May 2019;
- b) the term of office of parish councillors elected in 2014 be extended so that it comes to an end in 2019 (i.e. the present councillors in six town and parish councils would have an additional year in office);
- c) the term of office of parish councillors in Rock elected in 2016 be reduced so that it comes to an end in 2019.
- 2. No change be made to the electoral cycle for Kidderminster Town Council.

C.35 Policy and Budget Framework

Recommendations from Cabinet 12th July 2016

• Bewdley Medical Centre - Demolition and Redevelopment

In response to a Member's question, it was confirmed that an original figure of £250k had been planned for but then it was amended to £126K.

Decision: The Capital programme be amended to accommodate the gross additional costs of £167,250 associated with the overall project, for which funding is already available or will be secured as set out in section 5 of the report to Cabinet.

The meeting ended at 7.59 p.m.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016 QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council

Given that the average wage of people living in Wyre Forest is around £19,000 each year, it is not, perhaps, likely that tenants living in the Housing Association sector might incur the Government's proposed £1,000 "Pay to Stay" rent rise from next April for household incomes of more than £31,000 (or £40,000 in London) aimed at getting tenants to pay market rate rents, but Councils like Wyre Forest would have to write to tenants to discover their household incomes for a decision on their obligation to pay the extra £1,000 on their rents, an extra cost for Council and perhaps no help in building more social housing. Will the administration comment on this Government policy?

2. Question from Councillor N Knowles to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader have a view or comment on the Boundary Commission proposal to include Hartlebury as part of the new Wyre Forest parliamentary constituency?

3. Question from Councillor J Shaw to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Whilst it is acknowledged that figures for the recycling of household waste may not always be a full comparison of like-with-like, why can't Wyre Forest achieve a similar level of performance as Welsh authorities: average 60%; best, Ceredigion, 68%; worst, Blaenau Gwent, 49%?

4. Question from Councillor J Shaw to the Leader of the Council

Lord Porter, (Conservative), Chairman of the Local Government Association, has expressed the LGA's concern that the Homelessness Reduction Bill currently before Parliament increases the duties of councils by creating new categories of person who must be assisted, without providing a concomitant increase in funding. He explains how councils struggle to meet their existing obligations and observes that, under the existing criteria, numbers seeking help are rising. He expresses the LGA's view that the government should address the increasing gap between household incomes and rising rents, especially in the privately rented sector, and calls for the construction of greatly increased numbers of socially rented properties.

Will the Leader of the Council bring Lord Porter's statement to the attention of Mark Garnier, MP, and inform us of his response?

(Full copy of the LGA statement provided to Leader)

5. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Health, Well-being and Housing

Could the Cabinet Member tell me: How many events have been run by WFDC at Kidderminster Town Hall so far in this Financial Year? For each event what was the cost of the artistes, what were the additional costs (lighting, sound, advertising etc), what was the selling price of the tickets, how many tickets were sold for each event?

6. Question from Councillor S Miah to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

If, as seems likely, Kidderminster Town Council refuses to take on the maintenance and operation of the St Georges Park paddling pool, will the cabinet member agree to continue to fund the operation of the pool which is a much loved and well used facility serving a deprived area of Kidderminster.

7. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Traders and shoppers in Kidderminster have faced huge disruption during the ongoing Town Centre Regeneration Works which were originally intended to be completed by December 2015, then by April 2016 and now, apparently during October 2016.

Shoppers and Traders in Bewdley were similarly inconvenienced by the work on the new Medical Centre and the disruption to traffic and trade caused this summer by the work on St Anne's Church in Load St. On page 70 of the Kidderminster Shuttle of Sept 10th this Council announced Increases to Car Park Charges due to come into effect on October 16th.

In the light of the effects on traders and shoppers caused by all these works does he not feel that the Council should show that it understands the financial impacts of these works by postponing these Car Park Charge increases?

Chairman's List of Functions - 2016/17

JULY 2016

28th Opening of The Ludlow Museum, The Buttercross

AUGUST 2016

3 rd	Playday at Memorial Park, Stourport-on-Severn

7th Wychavon's Picnic on the Farm

13th Music in Habberley Valley

18th Dementia Awareness Campaign

20th Country and Western Festival 20th Kidderminster Male Voice Choir

21st Mayor of Bridgnorth's Mad Hatter Tea Party

28th De Beers Dog Show

SEPTEMBER 2016

2nd Merchant Navy Day

3rd Stourport on Severn Carnival

10th Autumn Synod of Methodist Church

10th Mayor of Stourport's Boat Trip

11th Redditch Civic Celebration

11th Bromsgrove Civic Service

15th Meet the Army

18th Bewdley Mayor's Sunday

22nd Official Opening of Bewdley Medical Centre

23rd Tea and Tour of St Richard's Hospice

23rd Mayor of Bridgnorth's Quiz Night

24th Mayor of Ludlow Motown Evening

25th Mayor of Kidderminster Sponsored Charity Walk

^{*} Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Local Pay Arrangements, 2018-2022

OPEN		
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Nathan Desmond Cabinet Member for Resources	
DIRECTOR:	Chief Executive	
CONTACT OFFICER:	lan Miller x 2700 lan.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk	
APPENDICES:	Nil	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To authorise the Head of Paid Service to commence negotiations with the unions about local pay arrangements for the period 2018 to 2022, including potential changes to terms and conditions such as sickness pay.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is asked to authorise the Head of Paid Service:

- 2. 1 to commence negotiations with the recognised unions about local pay arrangements for the period 2018 to 2022, including potential changes to terms and conditions such as sickness pay, in accordance with the broad remit set out in paragraph 4.7 below;
- 2. 2 to report back to Council to obtain approval of the finalised proposals so that they can be implemented with effect from 1 April 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3. 1 For 2014 to 2018, the Council has local pay arrangements in place. It was not possible to agree these with the unions because they take the Council outside the national pay agreement. Most staff voluntarily accepted the arrangements; they had to be imposed on only about 25 employees.
- 3. 2 The table contrasts the pay increases in the Council compared to those available to most (but not all) staff covered by the national pay agreement. The consumer prices index has not exceeded 1.0% since October 2014 and for large parts of 2015 hovered around zero. The August 2016 CPI figure is 0.6%.

Table 1: Comparison of local pay arrangements with national pay agreement, 2014-2018

	Wyre Forest District Council	National Pay Agreement
2014	1.25% wef 1/4/14	2.2% wef 1/1/15 (plus
		one off cash sum of
		about £150 for most
		staff)
2015	0.75%	0
2016	0.5%	1%
2017	0.5%	1%
Cumulative total impact on base pay	+3.03%	+4.25%

- 3. 3 The local pay arrangements have avoided pay increase costs worth about £120k a year for the Council by 2017, although this was not known at the time that they were decided in 2014. They have also provided certainty to the Council in its financial strategy and to staff who knew that they would receive a pay increase every year. There has been no discernible impact on recruitment and retention. There has been no evidence of people citing the pay increase arrangements as a reason to leave the Council's employment, or that we have failed to fill certain jobs because of the pay arrangements. There are a few cases where the absolute levels of pay have been an issue in recruitment or retention but that would have been relevant even if the Council had stayed in the national pay agreement.
- 3. 4 In the 2012 and 2013 financial strategies, changes to terms and conditions were contemplated. Ultimately, new arrangements were put in place to adopt a consistent approach to remuneration for additional hours worked ("overtime"), so that additional hours are generally paid at plain time, except when worked on a bank holiday. No significant changes were made to other aspects of terms and conditions, whether nationally agreed (such as the sickness pay arrangements) or locally determined.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council still has a significant financial gap to close between its projected expenditure and income by 2019-20. It is estimated that the gap in total approaches £2m. A number of steps have already been taken by the Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet or are in hand to address the position. The Cabinet's Financial Strategy Advisory Group has commenced its work and its advice will also inform the Cabinet's proposals for the financial strategy which are due to be reported to its meeting in December.
- 4.2 It is apparent that steps to secure certainty about future pay costs and to explore options for reducing costs by changes to terms and conditions should be considered within this context. The proposal is to seek to negotiate a further set of local pay arrangements covering a period of four years from 2018 to cover the period to 2022. The advantage of a further long-term local set of

arrangements is the certainty that it gives to the Council in financial planning and to staff in knowing what increases they will see over a period. It will also allow the Council to respond to future increases in the national living wage in a way that best meets the Council's needs. It is not possible to know whether such arrangements would "save" the Council money in respect of any annual pay increases, as the national settlements for the period are not known.

- 4.3 The Council depends heavily on the goodwill of staff, some of whom work additional hours for no extra pay. Therefore account should be taken of the impact that proposals for changes to terms and conditions might have on the commitment and morale of existing staff as much as on the recruitment of new staff. Nevertheless there are opportunities to consider changes to terms and conditions that would save money compared to current arrangements.
- 4.4 Most councils in the West Midlands, if they make payments in respect of long service at all, do so on the basis of one off payments. That is also the position in Wyre Forest but, under arrangements agreed in 2003, approximately 50 staff who achieved the long service award by that date or in certain circumstances by 2013 receive an ongoing supplement to their salary. The review of terms and conditions has identified this as an area for consideration as the current arrangements discriminate between staff on the basis of when they commenced employment with the Council, and there is the opportunity to examine a consistent approach for all employees.
- In common with most but not all councils, and similar to many other parts of the public sector, the Council operates arrangements for sick pay that far outstrip anything available in the private sector. For the first 6 months of sickness absence, 100% salary is paid. This falls to 50% for the next 6 months and then zero after a total of 12 months' absence. The Council spent £128k paying staff who were on sick leave in 2015-16. Of that total, only £11k was spent on staff who were on sick leave for more than six months. In some cases, other staff have to be paid to work additional hours or agency staff are used which adds further to costs of the current system. The data shows clear evidence that most sickness absences are relatively short (up to one month); that staff who are absent for more than two or three months tend to be absent for six months; and that very few staff indeed are absent beyond six months. Table 2 confirms that most sickness absences are less than one month and that for this first month the average absence is just under 4 days - the range will vary from 0.5 day up to 20 days. There were only two absences lasting over 6 months in the last two years. About the same number of days are lost in months 2 to 6 as in month 1, approximately 900-1000 days.

Year	į	No of episodes	Total 0-20 days	No of episodes	Total 21 -60 days (1-3 months)	No of episodes	Total 61-120 days (4-6 months)	No of episodes	Total 121+ days (6+ mos)
20	014/15	286	1001	18	640	4	306	0	0
20	015/16	278	970	20	693	4	278	2	243

Table 2: data on sickness absences for last two financial years

It is clear that the current system gives no incentive to staff who are ill for whatever reason to return to work sooner than 6 months; and that there is no financial disincentive for staff having short periods of sickness absence, perhaps on more than one occasion in a year. Since absences of less than seven days are self-certified, there is no independent check or balance in place to verify staff's reasons for absence. Within its attendance policy, the Council operates the "Bradford factor" which can trigger formal intervention and action in the event of a member of staff having several short periods of absence in a 12 month period. There is no hard evidence to suggest that the Council's staff are taking periods of absence that are declared as "sickness" when the individual is not in fact ill (or is insufficiently ill that work could not be done). It is the case that the "Bradford factor", in itself, involves no financial disincentive for an individual declaring, say, one or two short periods of sickness absence in a 12 month period. Sickness pay has therefore been identified as a further area for consideration of change within terms and conditions, alongside proposals for locally set pay increases.

Negotiating remit and next steps

- 4.7 The negotiating remit needs to be left sufficiently broad to allow meaningful discussion and negotiation with the recognised unions. Council's approval to negotiate local pay arrangements and changes to terms and conditions in respect of the period 2018 to 2022 is therefore sought on the following basis:
 - that the cost of pay increases and any compensatory payments in respect of changes to terms and conditions across the four years should be kept within a ceiling of four per cent of the 2017-18 pay bill:
 - that changes to terms and conditions should be proposed as part of an overall package, with an expectation that changes would be focussed on sickness pay and ongoing long service awards;
 - that changes to sickness pay could include reducing the rate of pay during sickness absence and/or not paying sickness pay for the first few days of absence, subject to any appropriate exception on the first occasion to recognise staff who have not been absent for a significant period;

- to secure ongoing revenue savings, directly and indirectly. The precise amount to be achieved will depend on the package of changes that is implemented;
- that no changes are proposed that would reduce "ordinary" basic pay e.g. requiring staff to take unpaid leave or an across the board pay reduction;
- that Council's endorsement of the finalised proposals will be sought prior to implementation with effect from 1 April 2018.
- The unions have already been informed of the intention to commence discussions in the latter part of 2016 about a further set of local pay arrangements. Following Council's approval of the negotiating remit set out above, negotiations will be put in hand. Given that any new arrangements would be implemented in April 2018, there is ample time to seek to conclude negotiations although, based on previous experience, it is likely that there will be union resistance to the principle of locally set pay increases (unless they were very generous) or other changes to terms and conditions that would move away from the national agreement, such as in respect of sickness pay. The Head of Paid Service will move forward with discussions in accordance with employment legislation with a view to reaching agreement with the unions. This will include reserving the Council's right, if it is necessary to do so after all reasonable attempts at negotiation have been exhausted, to seek Council's approval to approach staff individually to seek their agreement and following appropriate consultation and notice to impose change on any staff who do not give their agreement.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals in this report include potential changes to terms and conditions that aim to reduce costs on an ongoing basis the precise contribution can be determined only once the package of changes is finalised. This might address only a relatively small proportion of the estimated financial gap in 2019/20. Nevertheless it could make a welcome but modest contribution towards achieving a fully balanced budget.
- 5.2 The proposals in respect of local pay arrangements are not expected to generate a financial saving compared to current base budget assumptions, which are for a 1% increase each year of the financial strategy. However they would provide a further welcome period of certainty in respect of pay costs for the Council.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The issues dealt with in this report could result in changes to HR policies. All such changes, as well as the negotiations in respect of local pay arrangements, will be dealt with in accordance with relevant employment legislation and notification requirements of the national agreements.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 An initial equality assessment impact has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernible impacts on the six equality strands at this point, although the requirements of the Equality Act will need to be considered further so far as it relates to disabled people. A full equality impact assessment will be prepared if appropriate prior to finalisation of arrangements and their implementation.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The principal risk is considered to be failure to reach agreement with the unions. This would leave approaching individual staff to seek their agreement as the fallback position, with the ability (following appropriate consultation and due notice) to impose changes on any staff who do not accept the proposals. These risks bring with them the potential for industrial action by union members and impact on morale or commitment for all staff. The risks will be mitigated by a readiness to negotiate with the unions within the broad parameters set by Council; providing adequate time for negotiations and consultation (there are 18 months until the proposed implementation date); and keeping staff regularly informed of progress.
- 8.2 Moving away from the national arrangements on sick pay might adversely affect recruitment so long as other councils continue to offer the current arrangements. However other councils in Worcestershire and elsewhere have changed the availability and rate of sick pay and have not reported significant recruitment difficulties as a result. If any changed arrangements led to an identifiable adverse effect on the Council's ability to recruit, the Council has the ability to make further changes in due course if necessary. Any changes to limit availability of sick pay, for example, for the first few days of absence would not necessarily result in any financial impact for staff as they would have the ability to take annual leave or use TOIL or flexitime instead.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The proposals seek to balance certainty for the Council and its staff with the need to reduce costs and maintenance of an attractive package of terms and conditions overall. The Council is invited to authorise the Head of Paid Service to commence negotiations with the unions as set out above and to provide a further report in due course to authorise implementation of the finalised proposals.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Cabinet.
- 10.2 Corporate Leadership Team.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

OPEN		
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Marcus Hart	
	Leader of the Council	
DIRECTOR:	Chief Executive	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Ian Miller x 2700	
	lan.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk	
APPENDICES:	Nil	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To agree the Council's response to the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals on the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is asked to SUPPORT:

- 2.1 the retention of a constituency named "Wyre Forest" which will include the whole of the district of Wyre Forest and be wholly located within Worcestershire:
- 2.2 the inclusion of Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest Parliamentary constituency;
- 2.3 if the current proposals of the Boundary Commission are implemented, a request for a review of local government boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission to consider the case for including Hartlebury in the district of Wyre Forest, on the basis that any such review would not involve or require a review of warding arrangements in the present Wyre Forest district area.

3. BACKGROUND

3. 1 Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, the Boundary Commission for England and equivalent Commissions for the other nations are reviewing the number and boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies, to reduce the size of the House of Commons from 650 members to 600. Their final reports have to be submitted by 1 October 2018 with the intention that the resulting changes will be implemented at the next general election in May 2020. The Commissions are required to use the electoral registers for December 2015 as the basis for the review. The legislation provides that the registers used

are those in force two years and ten months before the review date of 1 October 2018 i.e. 1 December 2015. This provides a common starting point for the review. With limited exceptions for some Scottish island groups and the Isle of Wight, all proposed constituencies must be within a range of +/- 5% from the UK electoral quota of 74,769. This means that proposed constituencies must have electorates in the range of 71,031 to 78,507. Initial proposals for England were published on 13 September and the deadline for responses is 5 December. This report therefore gives the Council the opportunity to consider and agree its response to the initial proposals.

- 3. 2 The reduction in the number of constituencies was originally meant to have happened in 2015 as part of a review to be completed by October 2013. However the then Coalition government did not implement the revised proposals that were published in 2012 as a result of failure to reach agreement about reform of the House of Lords. Before turning to the current proposals, it is worth considering briefly the proposals from the 2013 review and the history of the Wyre Forest constituency.
- 3. 3 The 2013 review, both in the initial proposals in 2011 and in the revised proposals in 2012, suggested that there should be no change to the Wyre Forest constituency. At the time of that review, there were 77,800 electors in Wyre Forest which meant that the constituency would have been 1.51% above the midpoint of the prescribed range of 72,810 to 80,473. It will be apparent that the number of electors was different for the 2013 review, being based on December 2010 registers which were compiled prior to the introduction of individual electoral registration. The other major difference of approach between the 2013 and 2018 reviews is that, in 2013, the Commission used different sub-regional groupings to devise its proposals. The table contrasts the approaches which explains why the 2018 review involves radically different proposals in some areas (for example, the proposed Evesham and South Warwickshire constituency):

West Midlands; sub-regional groupings used by the Commission for its proposals

2013 review	2018 review (the present review)
Herefordshire, Shropshire,	Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and
Telford and Wrekin, and	Wrekin, Warwickshire, West Midlands,
Worcestershire	and Worcestershire
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
Warwickshire and West Midlands	

3. 4 There has been a long history of a constituency based wholly or mainly on the present boundaries. The Wyre Forest constituency was first formed in 1983. For five of the eight general elections in the period to date, the constituency was coterminous with the district of Wyre Forest. For the elections in 1997, 2001 and 2005, Rock and Ribbesford were part of the Leominster constituency. From 1950 to 1983, the former Kidderminster constituency included the whole of the present district plus Martley and Tenbury. Thus there have been times when

the local constituency has included areas outside the present Wyre Forest district but it will be noted that these were areas in Worcestershire.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The proposals so far as they relate to Wyre Forest would add Hartlebury to the Wyre Forest constituency. This is not strictly necessary in mathematical terms as the electorate for Wyre Forest in May 2015 was 75,226, which is slightly above (+0.61%) the UK electoral quota of 74,769. The Commission is required to produce proposals for seats that lie within a range of +/- 5% of this figure i.e. 71,031 to 78,507. Adding 2,152 voters from Hartlebury produces a seat that, on May 2015 figures, would have 77,378 electors much closer to the upper limit but still within the prescribed range, as it would be 3.49% above the electoral quota.
- 4.2 The only comment on why the Commission has proposed this is to be found here:
 - "43 We noted that the existing Wyre Forest constituency has an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. In order to create constituencies with electorates within 5% of the electoral quota across the sub-region, we propose to include the Wychavon district ward of Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency."

In other words, the addition of Hartlebury is to suit the proposals for arrangement of constituencies elsewhere rather than to meet the needs of Wyre Forest.

4.3 There are arguments for and against including Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency, which are summarised in the table.

Arguments for and against including Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency

For	Against
The Hartlebury ward of Wychavon is	Potential confusion for electors in
roughly an inverted V-shape and is	Hartlebury who will reside in one
surrounded on two sides by Wyre	district but vote in Parliamentary
Forest district.	elections for a constituency that
	bears the name of a neighbouring
Hartlebury Common is entwined in the	district.
developed areas of	
Stourport-on-Severn and is heavily	
used by the town's residents: indeed	
the Sandy Lane industrial estate (Wyre	
Forest) can be reached by car only by	
travelling through part of Hartlebury ward.	
waiu.	
Hartlebury enjoys good road links with	Complexity for the Member of
Wyre Forest e.g. A449 and A4025, and	Parliament in dealing with two

For	Against
enjoys mainline rail services from Hartlebury to Kidderminster.	district councils e.g. differences of policy, development plans and service delivery; Wyre Forest is in two local enterprise partnerships, while Wychavon is in only one etc.
Hartlebury and other hamlets within the ward are much closer to Stourport and Kidderminster c.2-3 miles than to towns within Wychavon such as Droitwich. It is likely that residents of the ward use retail, leisure and other facilities in Wyre Forest in preference to similar facilities in Wychavon. This is also likely to be reflected in flows of employees between Wyre Forest and Hartlebury e.g. Hartlebury industrial estates; Stourport and Worcester Road employment zones in Kidderminster.	Administrative complexity for the acting returning officer in administering elections for a Parliamentary constituency that includes part of another district. This is not insuperable as such cross-border constituencies exist now and will become more common in 2020. However the change adds some risk to smooth administration and delay to count arrangements.
Brings the Roxel factory and other developments at Summerfield within one constituency	Splits the Hartlebury industrial estates between two constituencies as significant parts fall in the Lovett and Claines ward of Wychavon.
The area proposed for addition to the Wyre Forest constituency is in Worcestershire.	

4.4 The serving Member of Parliament supports the proposal to include Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency and has been reported as follows:

"The boundary changes are good for Wyre Forest.... the inclusion of Hartlebury is interesting. The community there already looks to Stourport and Kidderminster as the main shopping towns, whilst many people living in Wyre Forest work on the Hartlebury Trading Estate. The change makes sense and it is good that in order to meet the new constituency size, the commission has considered how communities face each other."

4.5 If the Council is to object successfully, it has to outline an alternative approach — in other words, it has to make a counter-proposal for where the ward of Hartlebury should be allocated. The proposed constituency of Bromsgrove and Droitwich has 78,121 electors and the proposed constituency of Malvern and Ledbury has 78,172 electors. Therefore adding Hartlebury to either of those constituencies would take it outside the prescribed range. The Council would have to identify changes to at least two other constituencies (and possibly more) in order for it to demonstrate that there is a workable alternative. There is a risk that objecting to the proposal, without identifying a workable alternative, might cause the Commission to develop revised proposals that lead to the dissection of Wyre Forest or addition of areas from outside Worcestershire. The option of

- objecting to the proposal thus creates further potential difficulties and risks that can be avoided by supporting the Commission's initial proposal.
- 4.6 The addition of Hartlebury is not necessary in order to produce a constituency that falls within the prescribed range. However the arguments outlined above that favour the inclusion of Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest district outweigh the arguments against. It is preferable to support the Commission's proposal and the report recommends accordingly, stressing that the Council supports retention of a constituency with the name of Wyre Forest, which includes the whole of the district of Wyre Forest and is contained wholly within Worcestershire.
- 4.7 The proposals relate only to Parliamentary constituencies and do not in themselves affect local government boundaries or electoral arrangements for councils. However if the proposal is implemented, it is suggested that some of the arguments against the change which are outlined in the table above might be satisfactorily addressed by a boundary review between the districts of Wyre Forest and Wychavon. This is not something that falls to the Boundary Commission for England to decide. It would be a separate process overseen by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and would involve extensive consultation with interested parties and local residents. The report therefore recommends that, as part of its response, the Council should request a review of local government boundaries to consider the case for including Hartlebury in the district of Wyre Forest, if the inclusion of Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency is confirmed, on the basis that any such review would not involve or require a review of warding arrangements in the present Wyre Forest district area.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising directly from this report. If a review of local government boundaries was to take place in due course, there would be implications for the Council (principally officer time) in taking part in such a review and these would be absorbed within existing budgets.

6. <u>LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS</u>

6.1 None. The review is being undertaken by the Boundary Commission under the legislation mentioned in paragraph 3.1.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 An equality assessment impact is not required as this relates to constitutional arrangements decided by the Boundary Commission and Parliament.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 There are no significant risks to the Council arising from this report. Risks relating to administration of Parliamentary elections would be mitigated through effective planning by the acting returning officer.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 Council is invited to consider its response to the Boundary Commission's initial proposals and to support the inclusion of Hartlebury in the Wyre Forest constituency.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 The Leader of the Council.
- 10.2 Corporate Leadership Team.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2013 review, revised proposals for West Midlands

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140404084345/http://assets.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2900322_WestMidlands_ACCESSIBLE-2.pdf?9d7bd4

2018 review, initial proposals for West Midlands

http://bce-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/consultation-documents/147342052 8_West%20Midlands%20Initial%20proposals%20report.pdf?AWSAccessKeyld=AKIAJG2X7BQ35X2H7LAA&Expires=1474015627&Signature=q%2FsD8AZxxagZaOj%2Fr0xxqC0FKJA%3D

2018 review, consultation website www.bce2018.org.uk

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Overview & Scrutiny agenda. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2015/16	Councillor H E Dyke
Recommend to Council to:	
Approve the actual 2015/16 prudential and treasury indicators.	
2. Note the annual treasury management report for 2015/16.	