

This report is intended to illustrate some achievements by Herefordshire Council in the years 2016/17 – it does not reflect the entirety of the accomplishments for the people of Herefordshire and indeed does not reflect the many achievements within my ward. Herefordshire wide items and where appropriate ward matters, have been explored in my previous monthly ward reports and indeed Council accomplishments are available for scrutiny on Herefordshire Council website.

Council West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) devolution

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has approved the decision to become a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is a group of twelve local authorities and three Local Enterprise Partnerships working together to devolve powers for economic development from Whitehall to the West Midlands.

One Herefordshire programme

The One Herefordshire programme is continuing with the process of being agreed and adopted. This programme will enable a system wide strategic direction and delivery mechanism to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan. In turn, this will drive improved wellbeing, co-ordinating activities across the council and its health and VCS partners. It will enable the council to engage with wider public sector partners in a co-ordinated manner to increase efficiency and value for money. By exploring joint commissioning arrangements with the CCG this represents an opportunity to improve the efficiency and impact of the council's commissioning function alongside that of the NHS, to provide better value for money.

The Sustainability and Transformation programme (STP) process is intended to provide the central vehicle through which local government and the NHS can work together in order to achieve the 'triple aim' of improving the health and wellbeing of the local population, improving the quality and safety of care delivery and securing ongoing financial sustainability.

Council smallholding sales

Herefordshire Council has today announced it has procured an agent to produce the programme of disposal of its smallholdings. The tender was won through a formal procurement process and the winning bidder was Fisher German, who are nationally recognised experts specialising in rural estate sales.

Adoption of Herefordshire Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is a key document in the Local Plan, which provides the strategic planning framework for the County's future development needs up to 2031. A range of policies sets out how these needs can be met whilst at the same time achieving social and environmental objectives. The Core Strategy policies has replaced most of the Unitary Development Plan policies, against which current planning applications were determined.

Herefordshire Council budget

It may be seen in previous medium term financial strategy produced by the council that for at least the last three years our budget has been balanced and thus the finances within Herefordshire are safe and without overspend.

Broadband

The Fastershire project, working to make faster broadband more widely available, has already reached more than 35,000 Herefordshire homes and businesses, many of them in some of the more remote parts of one of the UK's most rural counties.

Phase two of the plan which will physically start this summer will see Gigaclear being the preferred supplier who will be providing fibre to the premises technology and increasing the service of fast broadband to further rural and urban parts of Herefordshire.

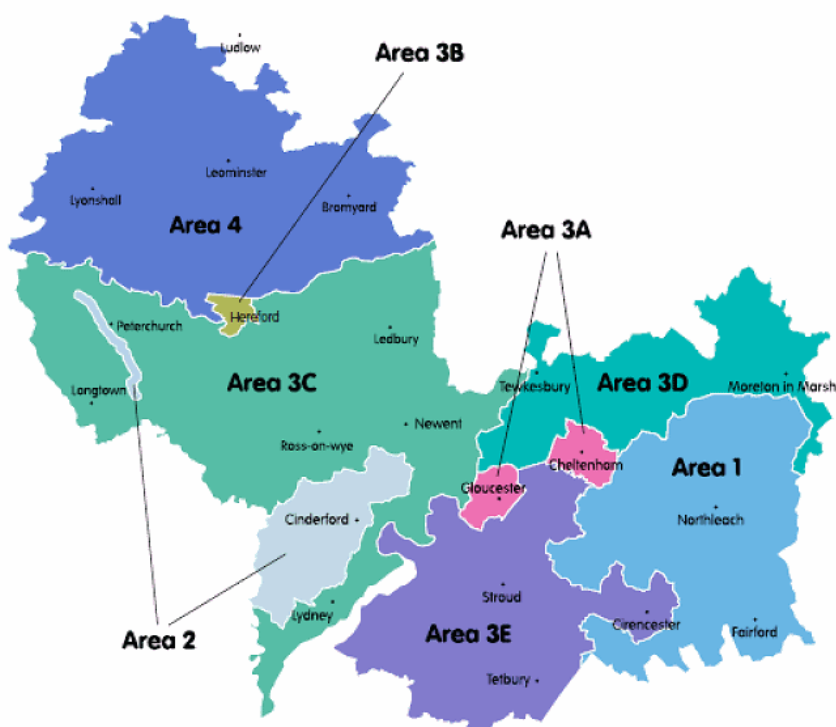
The deal for Lots 3c, 3d, 3e and 4 (see below) will involve public funding of up of **£5.14m** from Gloucestershire County Council and **£7.56m** from Herefordshire Council, while Gigaclear is expected to contribute up to **£29.2m** of private investment.



Phase 2 Roll-out

The next phase of rollout comprises premises that were not covered by Phase 1 or commercial rollout and is based around the following areas:

- Area 1: The Cotswolds
- Area 2: The Forest of Dean
- Area 3A: Cheltenham and Gloucester
- Area 3B: Hereford
- Area 3C: South Herefordshire and Gloucestershire (west of the Severn)
- Area 3D: North Gloucestershire
- Area 3E: South Gloucestershire
- Area 4: North Herefordshire



To see you can already receive fibre broadband or to register your interest visit www.fastershire.com.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

As you may be aware significant progress in Neighbourhood Planning has been made within Herefordshire. Many of my parishes are starting on the road to attaining a neighbourhood development plan established; indeed Kings Caple has just received approval for their plan to go to referendum following submission to the planning inspector.

Brampton Abbots & Foy Group - NA designated – initial work undertaken

Brockhampton with Much Fawley - NA designated – limited progress made to date

How Caple, Sollers Hope & Yatton Group - NA designated – good progress being made to date

Kings Caple - NA designated – proceeding to referendum

Much Marcle - NA designated – initial work undertaken

Upton Bishop - NA designated – limited progress to date

Woolhope - NA designated – work being undertaken

Hereford Racecourse opened in October 2016

Arena Racing Company (ARC) re-opened Hereford Racecourse in October 2016. The Welsh Borders track will resume hosting jump racing on Thursday 6 October 2016, having held point-to-points and Arabian horseracing in recent years. The racecourse will host a minimum of four fixtures in 2016. For 2017, Hereford Racecourse will be part of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) fixture process. It is proposed that Hereford Racecourse will hold racing within the core jumps season between October and April and host around a dozen fixtures a year, but this is still to be determined. Further information about the first fixture and purchasing tickets will be available at www.hereford-racecourse.co.uk.

City Link Road continues on target

Alun Griffiths (Construction) Ltd continues to progress the construction of the City Link Road and the road remains on schedule to open later this year.

<http://newsroom.herefordshire.gov.uk/2017/february/station-approach-works-to-go-ahead-in-february.aspx>

The Southern link road

The southern link road joining the A49 with Clehonger Road area as a precursor for the western bypass should be started next year. It is fully funded and has planning permission.

Hereford Bypass

The Herefordshire bypass remains the plan in Herefordshire's Core Strategy and the Economic Master Plan. There is a broad review of route in the Core Strategy but to date the indicated route is not the final proposal, but as I say indicative and subject to investigation and receiving of relevant reports. More information is available on the council website and core strategy, and I shall keep you informed as I know facts.

Herefordshire's walking and cycling boost

Herefordshire Council has been awarded a £1.5 million share of the £60 million Sustainable Travel Access Fund awarded by central government. The funding has been awarded to support the council's 'Destination Hereford' project, which aims to make the city a beacon for walking and cycling in the UK. It will support a programme of local projects over three years from 2017 to 2020, with the aim to make walking and cycling a part of everyday life.

'Destination Hereford' will build on established links with local partners to deliver the 'Choose how you move' campaign. The aim of the initiative is to increase levels of walking and cycling across Herefordshire, contributing towards improved health and air quality for the county, reduced CO2 emissions and congestion and better access to jobs, education, training and local services.

Herefordshire Council smallholdings estate put on market

Herefordshire Council has put its smallholdings estate on the market. The sale of the estate will generate capital and give the council the opportunity to reduce its historic borrowings. The smallholdings estate is subject to open market competition. All tenants who have expressed an interest will have the opportunity to bid for their own farm, and will continue to have the opportunity for the duration of the sale.

Further information about the marketed lots is available on the Fisher German website at www.fgherefordfarmsales.com

Herefordshire Council Economic Master Plan

The strategy will be published soon and will outline how the economic growth for Herefordshire will be addressed. Currently, it is in draft form but very close to completion and issue.

New NMITie University

The new university has received funding from the Government to progress their green book business application. The council are working in partnership with the university team to enable the university to become a reality.

Finally, I think it is important to mention all the good work that officers and councillors collectively do despite ever shrinking resources for the people of Herefordshire with ever reducing resources.

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