

REPORT of MEETING
HEREFORDSHIRE MARKET TOWNS FORUM
7 p.m. WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY 2016

In attendance were clerks and councillors from Leominster, Bromyard, Kington, Ross on Wye and Ledbury Town Councils as well as Hereford City Council.

Mr Peter Robinson (PR), Chief Executive Finance Officer Herefordshire Council (HC) gave a PowerPoint presentation dealing with a pre presented set of questions.

PR spoke at length of the financial pressures HC were under and confirmed that all central government funding will cease by 2020, but county business rates will fully transferred to HC by 2020.

Police and Fire services will receive an increase in funding as well as social care though this and the introduction of the Living Wage will significantly increase the Council Tax.

However period 2016 – 2020 will see an overall reduction...

Adults & Wellbeing	£9.9m
Childrens & Wellbeing	£5.3m
Economies & Community	£13.2m
Saving some £28.4m	

Library funding no change 2016 but reduced funding by £380k in 2017 & £280k in 2018 and future funding to be debated with possible multi/combined such as customer services use as an alternative.

Lengthmen scheme (inc P3 but excluding extended) funding in place for 2016 (existing schemes only) but funding will be fully withdrawn by 2020.

HC still offering asset transfer of loss making revenue streams such as car parks, markets and toilets. It was thought that Parish Councils could run loss making carparks at a profit with lower administration costs. No general agreement with Ross council confirming that it was handing back Wilton car park as it was impossible to make any money from it.

CAB confirmed for closure on 24th June 2016 unless it can deliver a new operating model (unlikely) which provoked intense debate as to how parish councils could provide a CAB type service, though no conclusive answers came from the lengthy discussion. To be reported back at next meeting following further investigation.

Council Tax support grant withdraw debated in depth with intense and lengthy discussion, all those present complained of lack of information and the way HC communicated the cut was delivered, there seemed to have been a general misunderstanding at the previous MHTF meeting when the 3 year reduction figures were presented and how the percentage reduction was calculated.

Next Meeting, Wednesday 23rd March with Peter Cadbury invited to speak & answer questions including.....

Outstanding/Historical Section 106 payments and enforcements.

CIL update.

Meeting ended 9.15 p.m.

This report compiled by Cllr Martin Eager

Full minutes of this meeting will be available to councillors along with the PowerPoint presentation.