

### **County's Children's Centres**

Have your say on their future use and management. Herefordshire Council has launched a consultation about the use of the county's children's centres, and is asking users for their views.

The council is looking to reuse the buildings to address an increased need for nursery places and school use, although each centre has a different option relating to its locality. The consultation runs until Monday 17 July 2017. To review and comment on the proposals visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ccbuildings](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ccbuildings)

### **Council budget setting**

Each year, Herefordshire Council asks residents to help shape the way its budgets are set. We will need to be even more efficient and effective to protect priority services and continue to support our county's vulnerable residents, whilst ensuring that Herefordshire remains a great place to live, work and learn.

Herefordshire Council has saved over £59 million over the past six years. We must deliver further savings in order to balance our budget between now and 2019/20. We are working to develop a one Herefordshire approach with the NHS, Police, Fire and other public sector organisations in the county to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

We want to hear what council services you would want to protect and any ways in which you might be able to help us in enabling community services to continue. We also want to hear ideas on how we can improve – perhaps by using new technology, changing the way we do things, or by working with other organisations, community groups, or charities

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/past-consultations/budget-consultation-2017>

Medium Term Financial Strategy

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/4506617/medium-term-financial-strategy-2016-20.pdf>

### **Household waste update**

The recent official opening of the Waste to Energy Plant at Hartlebury by the Duke of Gloucester attracted media attention and I was able to get a slot on BBC News which said just how important the plant is to Herefordshire. It uses 43500 tonnes of domestic non-recyclable waste and turns it in to energy generating 16 megawatts per hour – enough to power all of the home in Hereford City.

### **Leisure**

The open of the new Swimming Pool at Ledbury took place this week and this brings to an end the reliance of Halo on Herefordshire Council for any funding to run the leisure service on behalf of the Council. This has been brought about by hard bargaining and concludes with new repairing and insuring leases being issued to Halo in return for a rental income on the Leisure Centres.

### **The London Fire – Grenfell Tower**

Much has been said in the news since the tragedy at Grenfell Tower a week or so ago – and people are rightly concerned

A survey of all properties in Herefordshire – council owned or otherwise to seek to reassure residents of their safety in both high or low rise properties. This has resulted in assurance that **no** high rise properties exist in Herefordshire that are owned by the council or by social landlords that have the Aluminium Cladding Material that is now under the spotlight.

One building that is privately owned and which is not classed as ‘high rise’ does exist that may have that cladding and further tests are sought in respect of that building,

Whilst on this subject, the controversial cladding on Blue School house which was in the news recently is safe, according to the Fire Service,

### **Asking public questions**

The Council encourages the public to attend meetings of the council and its committees and anyone can record or film what takes place at them, provided it doesn’t disrupt the meeting. Details of meetings are published on the council’s website and in public offices of the council. Any members of the public can ask up to six questions per ‘municipal’ year at council meetings. You do not need to be present at the meeting to ask a question or obtain an answer. To be eligible to ask a question you must live or work in Herefordshire and you can do so at the following public meetings of the council:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200148/your\\_council/61/get\\_involved](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200148/your_council/61/get_involved)



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