



worcestershire county council

Councillor Tom Wells
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

23 January 2026

Dear Cllr Wells

NOTICE OF URGENT CABINET DECISION - AMENDMENT TO THE FORWARD PLAN.

I am writing to you in relation to an item which is due to be considered by the Cabinet on 5 February 2026, School Organisation and Education Sufficiency Update.

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (The Regulations) prescribe that 28 clear days' notice (Regulation 5) must be given by a decision-making body where it intends to hold the whole or part of a meeting in private because confidential or exempt information would otherwise be disclosed. Members of the press and public will be excluded from the meeting during consideration of these items.

The regulations also state that at least five clear days before a private meeting (Regulation 5 (4)) the decision-making body must (a) make available at the offices of the relevant local authority a further notice of its intention to hold the meeting in private; and (b) publish that notice on the relevant local authority's website, if it has one. The notice must include a statement of the reasons for the meeting to be held in private; details of any representations received by the decision-making body about why the meeting should be open to the public; and a statement of its response to any such representations.

If compliance with the above regulations is impracticable than the meeting may only be held in private where the decision-making body has obtained agreement from the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

This letter seeks your agreement under Regulation 6 to hold a private meeting for the reasons set out below. The meeting cannot be reasonably deferred.

It is possible that the meeting does not need to go into private session, this will only be necessary should Cabinet need to refer to any of the information which has been redacted in Appendix 7 (Appendix 7: Exempt.)

Reasons why the meeting (or part of it) will be held in private

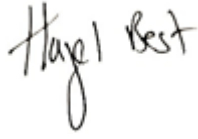
Appendix 7 to the Cabinet report has been redacted as it contains information which is exempt under paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Further it is considered that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information. While there may be a public interest in disclosing this information, namely that it would provide detailed information about the appraisal of the commercial options, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by other factors in favour of maintaining the exemption, namely the need to ensure confidentiality in respect of sensitive commercial information relating to the School Organisation Education and Sufficiency Update in order to avoid prejudicing future negotiations, transactions, planning processes and/or business operations.

Less than 28 days notice was given to the public that part of the meeting may need to be in private. No representations have been received since the Forward Plan was updated.

Should you give your consent to the meeting (or part of it) being held in private then a notice will be published on the Council's website in accordance with Regulation 7.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hazel Best". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Hazel Best

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