

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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| <b>FULL COUNCIL</b> | <b>1 AUGUST 2019</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEM: 25</b> |
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

### MARKET TOWN FORUM

#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider the reinstatement of the Market Town Forum and how this could potentially be introduced to avoid one person being responsible for the preparation of its agendas and minutes etc.

#### Detailed Information

At a recent Hereford Chairman's meeting with the Town Councils of Herefordshire a discussion took place around the reinstatement of the Market Town Forum.

It was generally agreed that it would be of benefit to all town councils and Herefordshire Council if the Forum was to be reinstated but there were concerns as to how this could be managed.

A proposal was put forward that the meetings could be held on a rota basis by all of the five town councils and Herefordshire City Council and that the Clerk of each Council would be responsible for the agenda and minutes of the meeting held in their offices.

It was agreed that this could potentially be a solution and it was suggested that each member council present take it back to their respective Councils for consideration.

At a meeting of Ross Town Council, the reinstatement of the Market Town Forum was considered with the following being proposed:-

1. The terms of reference should be re-visited, and a re-drafted version should give prominence to lobbying and advocacy on behalf of the market towns as a key function of the group;
2. These terms of reference should be acknowledged by Hereford Council, and Hereford Council should provide a clear line of reporting for the group to ensure that officers are responsive to issues raised;
3. It was felt that the proposed rotation of the venues would cause difficulties and discourage attendance. Hereford is preferred as the least worst venue for these meetings;

4. It was felt that clerking should not be imposed as an extra task for already busy Town Clerks and that the Market Town Forum should request clerking assistance from Hereford Council.

### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to give consideration to the reinstatement of the Market Town Forum, taking into account the comments provided by Ross Town Council.