

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE
Members Present:	Councillors: RJ Phillips (Leader), PJ Edwards, JC Mayson, DW Rule MBE (Deputy Leader), RV Stockton, DB Wilcox, RM Wilson.
Date of Decision:	28th September 2006
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000. It is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards	
The item was not included in the Forward Plan.	
A notice was served in accordance with section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000	
Urgent Decision:	No
Purpose:	To approve two major developments in Secondary School Provision within Herefordshire, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To approve the choice of The Minster College as the school to be rebuilt under the Building Schools for the Future Pathfinder Project to be completed in the 2009 – 2010 academic year. (ii) To support the proposal that Wyebridge Sports College should become a “City Academy” with the Diocese of Hereford acting as principal sponsor.
Decision:	THAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Minster College be selected under this initiative; (b) consideration be given to the relocation of Westfield Special School to the College campus as part of the development; and (c) approval be given for the application/expression of interest for Wyebridge Sports College to become a City Academy with the principal sponsor being the Diocese of Hereford.

<p>Reasons for the Decision:</p>	<p>For recommendation 1, the DfES require the selected school to be the one with the highest need in terms of the condition of existing buildings and the suitability of the areas for teaching and learning. The Minster College has the highest need.</p> <p>For recommendation 2, the existing buildings and site at Westfield Special School are inadequate to serve the increasingly severe needs of its students, and the opportunity in terms of integration, site and funding for re-development on The Minster Campus should not be lost.</p> <p>For recommendation 3, to sustain the considerable improvement in the standard of teaching and learning at Wyebridge, a significant investment is needed. The City Academy programme will provide this and on this occasion the DfES has invited the authority to make an application to join this programme. This will include a significant remodelling of the site and buildings.</p>
<p>Options Considered:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offer of participating in both DfES schemes could be rejected. However this is felt to be inconceivable given the problems faced and the financial support potentially available. • Other high schools could have been considered for the BSF programme but the evidence from the Education Asset Management Plan identifies. The Minster as the school with the greatest building problems.
<p>Declaration of Interest:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>5th October 2006</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS.....</p> <p>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Date: 28th September 2006</p>
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<p>To be completed by officer:</p>	
<p>Date consent received from Chairman of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee:</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in:</p>	<p>Not called-in</p>
<p>If yes was the decision modified?</p>	
<p>If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:</p>	
<p>Date original decision took effect:</p>	