

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	WITHDRAWAL OF HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PARKS SERVICE
Members Present:	Councillors: RJ Phillips (Leader), Mrs LO Barnett, PJ Edwards, Mrs JP French, JC Mayson, DW Rule MBE (Deputy Leader), DB Wilcox, RM Wilson.
Date of Decision:	22nd March 2007
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards</p>	
<p>The item was not included in the Forward Plan however inclusion in the agenda gives the required notice in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000.</p>	
Urgent Decision:	No
Purpose:	To inform Cabinet of Hereford City Council's decision to withdraw funding support for grounds maintenance in Hereford City for 2006/7 and to advise of the impact to services of this decision.
Decision:	<p>THAT Cabinet</p> <p>(a) Notes the unilateral decision of the City Council to vary the terms on which the City Council would contribute to grounds maintenance within the City;</p> <p>(b) Accepts that the situation is not capable of resolution between the parties prior to the forthcoming elections;</p> <p>(c) Accepts that the residents of Hereford City should not be disadvantaged as a consequence of the unilateral breach of understanding and adjusts the base budget by £130,000 to allow that activity to be funded pending a permanent resolution;</p> <p>(d) Requests that reports be prepared for the successor administration:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) In relation to the potential contractual recovery of the sums unpaid in 2006/2007;</p>

	<p>(ii) In relation to the options available for the balance of 2007/2008 with a view to minimising the effect of the reduction of funding on the environment of the City;</p> <p>(iii) Following enquiry of the City Treasurer to illustrate how the sums included in the City Council's precept for this purpose in 2006/2007 were actually expended.</p>
<p>Reasons for the Decision:</p>	<p>The contribution from Hereford City Council which was forthcoming from 2002/3 via an SLA ceased in 2004/5 and carried over for 12 months at a reduced rate for 2005/6. This accounted for approx 40% of actual cost of grounds maintenance expenditure in its last year.</p> <p>The loss of this contribution will make a basic programme of maintenance undeliverable across the City and impact upon the ability of HJS to provide sufficient core capacity to undertake a Countywide service.</p>
<p>Options Considered:</p>	<p>There are no alternative options.</p>
<p>Declaration of Interest:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>29th March 2007</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS.....Date: 22nd March 2007 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>

To be completed by officer:	
Date consent received from Chairman of Community Services Scrutiny Committee:	No response.
Subject to Call-in:	Not called in.
If yes was the decision modified?	
If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:	
Date original decision took effect:	29 th March 2007.