

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY DECISION  
CABINET**

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>FUTURE OF POST OFFICE SERVICES IN RURAL HEREFORDSHIRE</b>
Members Present:	Councillors: RJ Phillips (Leader), LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JP French (Deputy Leader), JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, DB Wilcox.
Date of Decision:	11th October 2007
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
Urgent Decision:	No
Purpose:	To update Cabinet on the Government's post office closure programme and the progress being made on an initiative to develop sustainable options for the delivery of post office services to rural communities in Herefordshire.
<b>Decision:</b>	<b>THAT the actions proposed, be approved.</b>
Reasons for the Decision:	Following on from the announcement in December 2006 by the Government on the closure of up to 2,500 post offices nationally, the DTI issued a consultation document on its future proposals for the post office network. Herefordshire Council has co-ordinated a response to this consultation and has used the opportunity to examine alternative and sustainable options for delivering post office services in the County. The State of Herefordshire Report indicates that 85% of residents found it easy to access post office services in 2006. The Council has a commitment to at least maintain this level of access.
Options Considered:	There is the alternative of doing nothing proactive to support the continuation of postal services in Herefordshire. There is good evidence that disadvantaged groups are further disadvantaged when rural services, such as post offices and village shops, are closed. By being proactive, the Council can demonstrate that it is fulfilling its community leadership role.
Declaration of Interest:	Councillor PJ Edwards and Councillor JA Hyde declared a personal interest

**COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS:**..... Date: 11th October 2007  
**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**