

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	ACTION PLAN TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POST OFFICE CLOSURE PROGRAMME UPDATE
Members Present:	Councillors: LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JP French (Deputy Leader), JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, PD Price, DB Wilcox.
Date of Decision:	10 July 2008
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
This is a key decision because 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 included in the Forward Plan.	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To update the 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 and to evaluate how Essex County Council's intervention may be applicable to a rural county.
Decision:	THAT: the Cabinet Member and officers will work actively with the Rural Shops Alliance, Business Link, Post Office Ltd and other parties in delivering the action plan proposed.
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 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. However, 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:	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	17 July 2008

COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS:Date: 10 July 2008 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
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<p>To be completed by officer:</p>	
<p>Date consent received from Chairman of Community Services Scrutiny Committee:</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in:</p>	<p>This Decision was not called in OR This Decision was called in on DATE by Councillors NAME, NAME and NAME The call in meeting of theScrutiny Committee was held on DATE</p>
<p>Was the decision modified?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
<p>If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:</p>	
<p>If no any comment(s) to be noted</p>	
<p>Date original decision took effect:</p>	<p>DAY AFTER SCRUTINY MEETING</p>