

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	AMALGAMATION OF HUNDERTON JUNIOR AND INFANTS SCHOOLS
Members Present:	Councillors RJ Phillips (Leader), GV Hyde, PJ Edwards, Mrs JP French, JC Mayson, DW Rule MBE, RV Stockton, DB Wilcox, RM Wilson, ACR Chappell (ex-officio), Mrs PA Andrews (ex-officio), RI Matthews (ex-officio).
Date of Decision:	23rd June 2005
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	
A notice was served in accordance with section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000	
Purpose:	To receive a report on the outcome of the consultations on the statutory notice to close the existing Junior and Infant Hunderton Schools on 31st August 2006, and open a 3 Form of Entry 3 -11 age range Primary School on 1st September 2006.
Decision:	THAT (a) The closure of the 2 existing schools, and the opening of a 3 Form of Entry Primary School covering the 3-11 age range on 1st September 2006 be approved; and (b) priority be given to the Children's Services (Education) Capital Programme to replace the existing buildings with new accommodation at the total cost of £6,004,500.
Reasons for the Decision:	An amalgamated school in new buildings will improve significantly the quality of teaching and learning at this school and benefit considerably the area it serves.
Options Considered:	The proposal to amalgamate the 2 schools could be abandoned, but a significant opportunity to make considerable improvements in this area of deprivation would be missed. Amalgamation without the provision of new buildings is in theory an alternative, but in practice the benefits sought would be jeopardised and the basis of the public notice which emphasised new accommodation would be undermined.
Declaration of Interest:	None
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	30 June 2005

RJ PHILLIPS..... Date:.....
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

To be completed by officer:	
Date consent received from Chairman of Scrutiny Committee:	
Subject to Call-in:	No
If yes was the decision modified?	
If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:	
Date original decision took effect:	30 June 2005