

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

ITEM:	POLICE RE-STRUCTURING IN ENGLAND AND WALES
Members Present:	Councillors RJ Phillips (Leader), Mrs LO Barnett, PJ Edwards, DW Rule MBE (Deputy Leader), RV Stockton, DB Wilcox, RM Wilson.
Date of Decision:	17 November 2005
Purpose:	To consider the Council's response to the West Mercia Police Authority following the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report, "Closing the Gap" and the subsequent letter issued to Police Authorities by the Home Secretary.
Decision:	THAT Cabinet responds to the West Mercia Police Authority expressing <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) its support for the establishment of a West Mercia Strategic Police Service on the grounds set out in the report ; and</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) concerns at the amount of time allowed for the consultation, the speed of which it considers not to be in the best interests of the public.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	It is important that the Council should address the future policing of the area given the importance of effective policing to the local community.
Options Considered:	The alternative options are set out in the Appendix containing the Chief Constable's presentation.
Declaration of Interest:	None.

COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS:..... Date: 17 November 2005
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL