

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	13 NOVEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET HELD ON 30 JULY, 10 SEPTEMBER, 24 SEPTEMBER (RECONVENED ON 1 OCTOBER) AND 29 OCTOBER 2009
MEMBERSHIP:	Councillors RJ Phillips (Leader of the Council), JP French (Deputy Leader), LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, DB Wilcox and PD Price.

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

This report submitted to Council covers the proceedings of the meetings held on 30 July, 10 September, 24 September (reconvened on 1 October) and 29 October 2009.

Recommendation

THAT: the Cabinet report be noted.

Key Considerations

1 Decisions Reserved to Council Under Part 4 of the Constitution

1.1 None

2 Notices of Motion

2.1 No motions to Council were considered by Cabinet during the reporting period covered by this report.

3 Key Decisions by Individual Executive Members which were not Included in the Forward Plan

3.1 Children's Centres Phase 3 North Hereford City

3.1.1 Following consideration of various options, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services approved Broadlands Primary School site as the base for Phase 3 North

Hereford Children's Centre and agreed that a module building be used to provide flexibility to enable the service to respond quickly and efficiently should changes to the service be required in subsequent years.

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE
(Chairman of Cabinet – Councillor RJ Phillips)

Report on Decisions Taken

- 4.1.1 There were no decisions by Cabinet relating to this portfolio during the reporting period.

5 CHILDREN'S SERVICES
(Cabinet Member: Councillor JA Hyde)

Report on Decisions Taken

5.1 Connexions: New Management and Delivery Arrangements

- 5.1.1 Cabinet was requested to consider a proposal that the Herefordshire elements of the Connexions service were brought into the Herefordshire Council in April 2010 and integrated within the reorganised Children's and Young People's Directorate. This proposal was in response to central government legislation regarding the Machinery of Government requirements. Cabinet was advised of the strategic plan to incorporate the Connexions service and to align staff to frontline working within locality teams in Children's Services. It was confirmed that young people had been consulted at various stages of the process. Cabinet approved the transfer and new delivery arrangements for the Connexions Service from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Connexions Company to Herefordshire Council.

6 CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES
(Cabinet Member - Councillor JP French)

Report on Decisions Taken

6.1 Shared Services Review

- 6.1.1 Members received and noted a progress report on the Shared Services Review, which had been undertaken by a Joint Programme Board comprising of the Council, NHS Herefordshire and Herefordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

6.2 Integrated Corporate Performance Report

- 6.2.1 Cabinet considered a report which outlined the Council's performance for the period April to June 2009/10 against the Council's key indicators and associated projects and programmes in its Annual Operating Statement 2009/10. Members were advised that the report was the first of a new type intended to drive improvement in the delivery of the Council's priorities as it provided a clear overview of the performance of key indicators and what was being done to tackle areas of actual or potential under-performance. Cabinet was advised that some 60 indicators were now being tracked and that they were grouped by reference to the themes of the Herefordshire Community Strategy and whether their prime focus was on citizens, services, partnerships or meeting the Council's statutory duties. Cabinet noted the performance to the end of June 2009 and the measures being taken to address

areas of under-performance.

6.3 Comprehensive Equality Policy and Disability Equality Scheme

6.3.1 In considering a report on the Council's Comprehensive Equality Policy, the development of a Single Equality Policy covering the Council, NHS Herefordshire and the Hospitals Trust, and the development of a joint Disability Equality Scheme across those services, Cabinet agreed the following:

- (i) acknowledging the progress and work that has been achieved through the Comprehensive Equality Policy
- (ii) the development of a single equality policy for the Council;
- (iii) acknowledging the progress to date in developing the Disability Equality Scheme and the timescale for publication.

Members noted that the NHS organisations were in the process of agreeing the same single equality policy. .

6.4 Risk Management and Assurance

6.4.1 Cabinet agreed to defer a report regarding the revised joint Risk Management and Assurance Policy and Guidance documents to the next Cabinet meeting which will take place on 26 November 2009.

7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (Cabinet Member - Councillor AJM Blackshaw)

Report on Decisions Taken

7.1 Response to Scrutiny Review of Tourism

7.1.1 Cabinet considered the proposed Executive response to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee's review of Tourism. Whilst noting the content of the report the Cabinet deferred any agreement on the recommendations outlined in Appendix 1 of the report to a future Cabinet meeting as there had been a transfer of responsibilities between the directorates relating to the tourism function since the review was carried out in April 2008.

7.2 Call-in of Cabinet Decision on the ESG Retail Quarter Development Agreement

7.2.1 The Cabinet agreed the proposed responses to the recommendations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

7.3 Proposals to be submitted to the LGA Selector under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007

7.3.1 Cabinet noted the proposals which had been submitted by local people and organisations under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and approved the recommendations of the representative panel to submit 14 to the LGA Selector. The approved submission included items relating to; transport, housing, planning, education, shops and local services, and the environment. Whilst supporting all elements recommended, the Cabinet considered the following issues of main priority; local social housing for local people; broadband; farm visits for school

children; and twin tracking the rail line between Hereford and Ledbury.

7.4 ESG Retail Quarter Development Agreement

- 7.4.1 Cabinet approved the confidential minutes of the ESG Retail Quarter Development Agreement.

8 ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING **(Cabinet Member: Councillor JG Jarvis)**

Report on Decisions Taken

8.1 Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three – Consultation

- 8.1.1 Cabinet approved the response to the consultation questions posed in the Regional Spatial Strategy – Options for Phase Three Revision document which was attached as appendices to the report.

8.2 Response to Audit Commission and Environment Scrutiny Committee Reports on the Planning Service

- 8.2.1 Cabinet considered two reports which had been produced on the Planning Service, both of which made detailed recommendations on service delivery, one by the Audit Commission, the other the report of the Planning Services Scrutiny Review Group. There was a high degree of consistency between the findings and recommendations of both review reports and Cabinet approved the responses as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report. Cabinet additionally noted that the responses would be incorporated into a single action plan for service improvement.

8.3 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire

- 8.3.1 Cabinet was requested to consider endorsing the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, a 30 year strategy which had been first published in November 2004 and which would continue until 2034. Cabinet endorsed the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and agreed the adoption of the revised strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

9 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION **(Cabinet Member - Councillor DB Wilcox)**

9.1 Response to Environment and Scrutiny Committee Report on its Review of On Street Parking

- 9.1.1 Cabinet considered a report in response to the Environment and Scrutiny Committee Review of On Street Parking and agreed in principle the responses as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report subject to recommendation 9(a) in the Appendix being amended to include an increase to the current cycle racks in High Town, Hereford. Members noted that the increase would be on the periphery of High Town. Cabinet also agreed that public consultation be undertaken on any proposed material changes to the car parking policies prior to any final decision being taken on the review of On Street Parking and that the final decision be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

**10 ICT, Education and Achievement
(Cabinet Member – Councillor PD Price)**

Report on Decisions Taken

10.1 Schools' Task Group Update

10.1.1 Cabinet considered a report which outlined the progress made by the Schools' Task Group (STG) on the development of a draft public consultation document which would seek views from schools, stakeholders and the wider public on the next steps in the planning of educational provision in the county. The initial draft consultation document had been shared with head teachers and chairs of school governing bodies over the summer with and responses received and considered for inclusion in the final draft. Cabinet emphasised the importance of Councillors engaging with their communities and parish councils on this issue and in encouraging views to be fed back to the Directorate. Cabinet approved the process and timescale for consultation on Schools' Task Group Interim Report for Public Consultation and noted the process followed and progress made by the Schools Task Group in preparing the paper for consultation.

10.1.2 Data Quality 6 Month Progress Report

10.1.3 Cabinet considered and noted the progress being made against the data quality action plan. In noting the progress, Members were pleased to note that major tasks had been completed and significant milestones had been passed.

**11 RESOURCES
(Cabinet Member - Councillor H Bramer)**

Report on Decisions Taken

11.1 Treasury Management Activities 2008/09

11.1.1 Cabinet considered and noted the Council's Treasury Management activities for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 and the outturn of Prudential Indicators for the year 2008/09. Members were advised that whilst the authority had not initially been affected by the banking crisis the impact was now being felt with the lack of investment criteria. Cabinet congratulated staff on the treasury management performance during what had been a particularly challenging economic year.

11.2 Budget Monitoring Report

11.2.1 Cabinet received a report outlining July 2009's budget monitoring information and which provided an indication of estimated outturn. Additionally the report detailed the numbers and amounts written off for individual debts exceeding £1,000 for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. Cabinet noted the report and that the forecast outturn for 2009/10 would be agreed with Directors based on service and financial performance in the report. Cabinet endorsed the continuing efforts of Directors to ensure service targets were met within approved budgets.

11.3 Livestock Market

11.3.1 Cabinet reconvened on 1 October to discuss the Livestock Market item which had been adjourned from 24 September due to the need to consider recent guidance

received from the Office of Fair Trading and the subsequent advice from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the guidance.

- 11.3.2 Following consideration of advice from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the recommendations under discussion the Cabinet approved the allocation of funding for the construction of the new livestock market and associated transport improvements; and delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration to proceed with the procurement and appointment of a contractor to develop the new livestock market.

12 SOCIAL CARE ADULTS
(Cabinet Member Councillor LO Barnett)

Report on Decisions Taken

- 12.1 There were no decisions by Cabinet relating to this portfolio during the reporting period.

COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Background Papers

Agenda papers for Cabinet meetings held on 30 July, 10 September, 24 September (reconvened on 1 October) and 29 October 2009