

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>13 NOVEMBER 2009</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>Councillors: PJ Edwards (Chairman), PA Andrews, WLS Bowen, ME Cooper, AE Gray, KG Grumbley, TM James, RI Matthews, PM Morgan, AT Oliver and PJ Watts</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To note the report.

### **EVALUATION OF THE EXTRA CARE FACILITY KNOWN AS THE ROSE GARDENS, LEDBURY ROAD, HEREFORD**

1. The Rose Gardens Extra Care scheme, Ledbury Road Hereford was commissioned for development as part of the Council's strategic approach to investing in services for older people and opened in September 2008. Extra Care Housing is a type of specialised housing that provides independence and choice to adults with varying care needs and enables them to remain in their own home. Services are provided in a purpose built housing environment with care and support delivered to meet the individual resident's needs. This type of housing provides 24-hour support, meals, domestic help, leisure and recreation facilities and a safe environment to its residents.
2. The completed scheme comprises 91 units of accommodation with a range of complementary services and facilities. In addition to substantial grant funding from the Department of Health, significant private sector funding was attracted towards the scheme. This enabled a subsidy to be applied to the scheme that meant 75 of the developed flats were available either at affordable rent or through shared ownership tenure options thereby creating an accessible mixed community.
3. The scheme provides a significant important alternative to residential care models and is expected to deliver significant savings over time to Adult Social Care in terms of alternative care/residential care costs. Additional benefits are also expected in terms of reduced interventions from Primary Care Trust funded services and the general well being of the scheme occupants.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Tim Brown Committee Manager Scrutiny (01432) 260239

4. The Committee had requested a report on the scheme reviewing the scheme's value for money and whether there were any lessons to be learned for future schemes.
5. The Committee's principal concern was that there was a clear need for extra care provision within the County. However, at some £17 million in construction costs, the cost of the scheme at Rose Gardens, which was recognised as a good quality scheme, was prohibitive. It was concerned that the state of the public finances is such that similar schemes were unlikely to be affordable in future. The Committee was informed that the Scheme had been one of the earliest to be developed and reflected the best model at the time, but as the sector expanded across the Country it was possible that other models would emerge
6. The Committee has welcomed the success of the Rose Garden extra care scheme but in view of the overall cost of the scheme and the uncertainty over the availability of public funding in future it has recommended that officers investigate alternative models for future cost effective delivery of these much needed developments.
7. The Committee has also requested officers that the appropriate level of parking provision for this type of development be revisited through the Local Development Framework process.

#### **INTEGRATED CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

8. The Committee considered performance for the period April-June 2009/10 against the Council's key indicators and associated projects and programmes in its Annual Operating Statement 2009-10.
9. This was the Committee's first consideration of the new style of performance report and in addition to commenting on format it has requested that the report on performance against targets in the LAA, which are not all detailed in the new report, should be appended to the report.
10. It also made a number of observations on performance which have been formally submitted to the Leader of the Council. Following the decision that the Committee will in future receive performance reports after Cabinet, it has urged that Cabinet give the earliest possible consideration to the integrated corporate performance reports.

#### **FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN**

11. The Committee has considered the budget monitoring position to the end of July 2009 and an indication of the estimated outturn. It has noted that the overall position on the revenue budget showed a projected overspend of £1.34 million representing 1% of the Council's net revenue budget.
12. The report included details of proposed recovery plans and the Committee has endorsed continuing efforts of all Directors to ensure service targets are met within the approved budget.
13. The Committee has also recommended that officers consider the need for arrangements to provide for the transfer of budget from children's services to adult services as people with learning disabilities move from the responsibility of Children's Services to the responsibility of Adults Services; that the planned review of all expensive out of county placements as part of the adult social care recovery plan should include a review of the value for money of residential college placements out of County; and has registered concern about the costs of interim posts across the authority, the implications for continuity of service provision and their value for money.

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

14. Members of the Scrutiny Committees and the Executive have participated in a facilitated scrutiny event to develop an enhanced external focus to the scrutiny committee work programmes reflecting the concerns of residents and communities of Herefordshire. After considering the challenges facing the County and key issues identified from public consultation and surveys Members have identified the following top five priorities for scrutiny: Housing related issues, Youth, Communication, Safeguarding and Transport issues. Further work will now take place to refine the focus of scrutiny work on these topics.

## ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

15. The work of the Committees is analysed below in accordance with the following roles for scrutiny based on a University of Birmingham categorisation. Each Committee has also considered and rolled forward its work programme.

Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
Questioning members of the Executive	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – commenting on decisions about to be made
Call-ins – Scrutinising decisions before they take effect	Policy Reviews and Development
Scrutinising decisions after they are made	External Scrutiny
Management of Performance	Health Scrutiny
Ensuring Corporate Priorities are Met	
Budget Scrutiny	
Community and Area Scrutiny	

	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
<b>Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing</b>	Presentation by the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing)	The Home and Communities Agency
27 July 2009		Review of the Support to Carers in Herefordshire
2 October 2009	Affordable housing – Delivery Programme 2009/2011	
30 October 2009	Safeguarding Board, Adult Social Care Improvement Programme	
	Implementation of Frameworks and Common Assessment Framework	
	Contract for Learning Disability Services with Midland Heart	

	<p>Provider Services Review</p> <p>Presentation by the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults)</p> <p>Delivery of Major Adaptations using Disabled Facilities Grants</p> <p>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/10</p> <p>Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Performance Outturn</p>	
<p><b>Children's Services</b></p> <p>28 September 2009</p>	<p>14-19 Machinery of Government: Changes to Connexions, Learning and Skills Council Transfer</p> <p>Capital Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Revenue Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Performance Digest</p>	<p>School Task Group Report</p> <p>Special Educational Needs/Banded Funding Review</p>
<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>5 October 2009</p>	<p>Revenue Budget Monitoring Report</p> <p>Performance Monitoring</p>	<p>Fighting the Economic Downturn</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-2025</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>14 September 2009</p>	<p>Executive Response and Action Plan following the Scrutiny Review of the Planning Service</p> <p>Environment and Carbon Management Performance</p> <p>Capital Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Revenue Budget Monitoring</p> <p>Community Protection Team</p>	
<p><b>Health</b></p> <p>31 July 2009</p>	<p>Health and Social Care ICT Linkages</p> <p>Updates from Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust,</p>	

25 September 2009	West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust and NHS Herefordshire  Local Involvement Network	
<b>Strategic Monitoring Committee</b>  21 September  19 October 2009	Scrutiny Review of ICT Services – Executive Response - Progress  Integrated Corporate Performance Report  Evaluation of the Extra Care Facility – Rose Gardens, Hereford  Budget Monitoring Report	

16. Issues of particular note are highlighted below.

- **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing**

**Scrutiny Review of Support to Carers in Herefordshire**

The Committee has approved the findings of the scrutiny review of the support to carers in Herefordshire. Principal recommendations to the Executive include:

- That the Area Based Grant for Carers' Services Budget should be fully protected and as the future demographic trend is for an ageing population in the County, consideration must be given to augmenting future Carers' Services Budgets.
- Additional campaigns should be considered by Herefordshire Carers Support (HCS) in order to encourage carers to register with them, however minor their current role in order that reasonably accurate figures for carers in Herefordshire can be obtained.
- That Care Support Plans should be shared with and carefully explained to the carer.
- The effectiveness of arrangements to ensure that the voice of carers is heard in policy and planning should be reviewed.
- Clear communication is essential. Feedback should always be provided to carers and the cared for where appropriate, following any contact with external Service Providers and internal Provider Services.
- To ensure continuity a named senior lead officer in Herefordshire Public Services should be in post to ensure that the needs of young carers are met.

A copy of the full report is available on the Council's website.

## **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

- The Committee has conducted a spotlight review of Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Banded Funding. All mainstream schools receive delegated SEN Bands 1 & 2 funding into their budgets. The amount for each setting is determined through a formula. Following concerns about the use of the Free School Meal index as a basis for allocating levels 1 & 2 banded funding to schools the Committee formed a Working Group to examine the range of delegated funding options and how the SEN/Banded Funding system was meeting the needs of children and schools. A pack of documentary evidence was provided to the Group who discussed the issues with officers at a one-off meeting and referred a number of observations to the Herefordshire Schools Forum for consideration when the Forum undertakes its further review of SEN/Banded Funding.

## **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

### **Scrutiny Review of the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-25**

The Committee has approved the findings of the scrutiny review of the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-25. Principal recommendations to the Executive include:

- Individual action plans should be produced on Hereford, the Market Towns and the Rural Areas linked to the Local Development Framework and engaging community groups.
- There should be greater emphasis in the Strategy on ICT and particularly actively seeking ways of improving broadband speeds and coverage across the County to support existing and attract new businesses; and create "hubs" in market towns for business use
- There should be greater emphasis in the Strategy on attracting new businesses and jobs into the County – reflecting the economic downturn.
- The Strategy should have a section on all existing businesses and their needs with specific reference to business support available.
- There is a need to integrate specific objectives into the sustainability theme on climate change e.g. measures to promote renewable energy schemes based on independent study of potential of renewable energy production in the County
- There is a need to reflect the significance transport plays in supporting business development with a focus on sustainable transport solutions.
- Annual monitoring should be developed to relate indicators to objectives.

A copy of the full report is available on the Council's website.

## **Environment Scrutiny Committee**

- The Committee receives regular environment and carbon performance reports as part of its Good Environmental Management (GEM) monitoring. As part of this ongoing work the Committee has requested that a report be presented to it setting out the Council's intended actions to achieve the stated carbon reduction targets.

## **Health Scrutiny Committee**

- The Committee has been giving particular attention to refocusing its work programme. The main focus over the next 18 months will be on promoting population health and the delivery of effective preventive interventions by the NHS, Council and all Community Partners in the County.

**PJ EDWARDS  
CHAIRMAN  
STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE**

## **Background Papers**

Agenda Papers of the Meeting of the Strategic Monitoring Committee held on 21 September and 19 October 2009