

**To: All Members of Cabinet:  
R.J. Phillips (Leader)  
G.V. Hyde (Deputy Leader)  
Mrs. L.O. Barnett  
P.J. Edwards  
Mrs. J.P. French  
J.C. Mayson  
D.W. Rule MBE  
R.V. Stockton  
D.B. Wilcox  
R.M. Wilson**

**Chief Executive's Office**  
Chief Executive: N.M. Pringle  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: NMP/CD  
Please ask for: Mr. N.M. Pringle  
Direct Line/Extension: (01432) 260044  
Fax: (01432) 340189  
E-mail: npringle@herefordshire.gov.uk

15th March, 2005

Dear Councillor,

**MEETING OF CABINET  
THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2005 AT 2.15 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD**

**AGENDA (05/06)**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda.

**3. BUDGET 2005/06**

To determine the allocation of the £1,000,000 provided within the approved revenue budget for developing Older People's Services and ICT infrastructure. (Pages 1 - 4)



**4. HEREFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST - A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS - A STATEMENT OF INTENT 2005-06 TO 2007-08 AND BEYOND - "CHOOSING HEALTH" - DOH WHITE PAPER**

To consider the recent NHS national and local documents and approve a Herefordshire Council response. *(Pages 5 - 12)*

The Department of Health "Choosing Health" executive summary and the Herefordshire PCT "A Strategy for Success: A Statement of Intent" are being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's Website or on request.

**5. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE EQUALITY STANDARD**

To receive an update about Diversity and Equalities issues facing Herefordshire Council and agree the measures necessary to ensure that the Council has all the evidence to demonstrate the achievement of Level 1 of the Local Authority Equality Standard (the Standard) immediately, and has sound plans to reach Level 2 and beyond. *(Pages 13 - 16)*

The Council's draft Comprehensive Equality Policy is being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website or on request.

**6. AMALGAMATION OF HUNDERTON INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOL**

To approve the publication of a statutory notice to close Hunderton Junior and Infants Schools, and open a new three form entry Community School serving the 3-11 age range. *(Pages 17 - 20)*

**7. CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

To note the Council's involvement with the Carbon Management Trust and details of the Carbon Management Action Plan compiled as a result of this work. *(Pages 21 - 24)*

The Action Plan is being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website and on request.

**8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY STRATEGY**

To approve the Public Rights of Way Strategy. *(Pages 25 - 26)*

The Strategy is being circulate separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website and on request.

**9. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME BUDGETS 2005/06**

To agree the Local Transport Plan capital budget allocations for 2005/06 following Government funding decisions announced in December 2004. *(Pages 27 - 32)*

**10. HEREFORDSHIRE FIVE YEAR SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY**

To consider and agree the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 for Herefordshire, for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on 31st March, 2005. *(Pages 33 - 36)*

A letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister announcing the Supporting People programme and the draft Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 for Herefordshire are being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's Website and on request.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the next items will not be, or are likely not to be, open to the public and press at the time they are considered.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act as indicated below.**

**11. LEOMINSTER INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ACCESS ROAD**

To note the predicted final costs for this scheme and the detailed summary of areas of increased cost, and to make provision to meet the shortfall in funding.

*(Pages 37 - 58)*

This item discloses the amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

**12. CORPORATE VOICE AND DATA NETWORK BUSINESS CASE FOR IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

To consider and agree the proposed new corporate voice and data network project.  
*(Pages 59 - 64)*

This item discloses any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

**13. HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL: REVIEW OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

To receive a confidential report which will be circulated after the main agenda in order to allow the opportunity for further consultation before its final consideration.

This item discloses information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former officer holder or applicant to become an office-holder under the authority

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Pringle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

**N.M. PRINGLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Copies to: Chairman of the Council  
Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee  
Vice-Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee  
Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees  
Group Leaders  
Directors  
County Secretary and Solicitor  
County Treasurer

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- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
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- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
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- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50, for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

Please Note:

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If you have any questions about this Agenda, how the Council works or would like more information or wish to exercise your rights to access the information described above, you may do so either by telephoning Mrs Christine Dyer on 01432 260222 or by visiting in person during office hours (8.45 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8.45 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. Friday) at the Council Offices, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.



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# **COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.**

## **FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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## BUDGET 2005/06

### PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2004

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#### Wards Affected

County-wide.

#### Purpose

To determine the allocation of the £1,000,000, provided within the approved revenue budget, for developing Older People's Services and ICT infrastructure.

#### Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000. It was not included in the Forward Plan. A Notice in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000 was sent to the Chairman of the Strategic Monitoring Committee.

#### Recommendations

**That allocations of £500,000 each for Older People's Services and IT infrastructure be approved.**

#### Reasons

A decision is required regarding allocation of the £1,000,000 provided for developing of Older People's Services and ICT infrastructure.

#### Considerations

1. Throughout the financial planning process building up to the determination of the 2005/06 Revenue Budget, Cabinet has recognised the need for further investment in both Older People's Services within Social Care and the need for further developing the Council's business critical ICT infrastructure. In setting the Revenue Budget for 2005/06, Council has approved an additional £1,000,000 specifically for that purpose.
2. Further consideration of the position has been given to the basis for the allocation of the £1,000,000 by the Chief Executive's Management Team. Acknowledging the business case for additional investment in both areas, notably the increasing number of older people requiring support and the ongoing maintenance and support costs inherent in developing the capacity and resilience of the Council's ICT network, an allocation of £500,000 to each area is recommended.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Mr I Hyson, County Treasurer on (01432 260235)

## ICT

3. A report elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda details the investment required in the Council's ICT network. Ongoing revenue costs of £500,000 are required to support this investment.

## Social Care and Older People's Services

4. The Director of Children's Services has identified the following priorities for investment should a further £500,000 be approved.

	<b>£000</b>
Intensive Home Care	350
Right Workforce - training	20
Performance Support Officers (3)	50
Reviewing officers (3)	<u>80</u>
	<u>500</u>

5. A further significant factor in relation to the Social Care budget is the impact of increased overspend reported for 2004/05, particularly in the area of Learning Difficulties. Notwithstanding the business case previously reported for additional investment in Older People's Services, the work underway to disaggregate to 2005/06 budget between Children's and Adult Services will need to ensure that spending is contained within approved resources.
6. A factor impacting on that process will inevitably be the pattern of current spending compared to the central government support, provided through the Revenue Support Grant mechanism. The position is illustrated in the following table:

	<b>Formula Spending Share £000</b>	<b>Budget £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>Budget as a % of FSS</b>
Elderly	21,195	17,104	(4,091)	81
Children's	8,375	10,039	1,664	120
Other	<u>10,436</u>	<u>12,775</u>	<u>2,339</u>	<u>122</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>40,006</u></b>	<b><u>39,918</u></b>	<b><u>(88)</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

7. A further report is necessary detailing the proposed re-allocation of resources within the current Social Care budget and the measures necessary to ensure that spending is contained within the budget approved by Council.

## **Risk Management**

The allocation of resources as recommended will assist in the delivery of the Council's key priorities.

## **Consultees**

None.

## **Background Papers**

None.



**HEREFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST  
- A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS - A STATEMENT OF INTENT  
2005-06 TO 2007-08 AND BEYOND  
"CHOOSING HEALTH" - DoH WHITE PAPER**

**PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY:  
CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

**CABINET**

**24TH MARCH, 2005**

**Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

To consider the recent NHS national and local documents and approve a Herefordshire Council response. The Department of Health "Choosing Health" executive summary and the Herefordshire PCT "A Strategy for Success: A Statement of Intent" are being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's Website or on request.

**Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

**Recommendation**

- THAT (a) Cabinet agrees or amends the attached response to the "Strategy for Success" and "Choosing Health" (Appendix 1);**
- (b) Cabinet agrees to invest in the appointment of the Director of Public Health, a contribution at the level of 50% to indicate the Council's commitment and intent in relation to the joint agenda and service delivery programme linked to additional NHS funds for 2006-07 and 2007-08 for White Paper implementation;**
- (c) Cabinet considers and agrees any further messages to the PCT in relation to the "Choosing Health" agenda; and**
- (d) Cabinet considers how the Council will ensure the leadership and arrangements necessary for the delivery of the six priorities set out in the White Paper.**

**Reasons**

To ensure Herefordshire Council has advised the local Primary Care Trust of its position in relation to the PCT Statement of Intent and the further development of a joint approach to public health and the public health targets as they apply to Herefordshire.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
N.M. Pringle, Chief Executive on 01432 260044

## Considerations

1. The "Strategy for Success" has been developed within the PCT. The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing, as a member of the Professional Executive Committee of the PCT, has had opportunity to comment on the document. It has now incorporated the Change for Children/Every Child Matters theme and the Housing agenda.
2. The document also forms the Executive Summary of the NHS Local Delivery Plan. This is the equivalent of the Council's Corporate Plan and Annual Operating Plan.
3. "Choosing Health" and "Strategy for Success" both highlight the strong inter-relationship, interfaces and partnership between the Council's contribution to public health and the requirements to build healthy communities on the local NHS.
4. The effectiveness of the partnership between the Council and the PCT must be reflected in improved outcomes for local people.
5. The joint strategic and management arrangements are in place and require further effort to secure improvements in the next period.
6. These include:
  - The Section 31 Health Act arrangements require further work to ensure clarity on risk management.
  - The Children and Young People's Partnership Board is starting its work towards a Children's Trust arrangement.
  - "Choosing Health" invites a new joint endeavour in joint local leadership.
  - Herefordshire Council would need to focus more particularly on the "Health" aspect of the Health and Care Partnership (as an ambition group of the Herefordshire Partnership) if this is seen as the most relevant arrangement for the joint agenda.
  - It is clear from the White Paper and political comment that there is an expectation Local Authorities will take the lead with the NHS in tackling the six priorities set out in the White Paper.
  - Integration with existing initiatives being run by Herefordshire Partnership ambition groups and Council services. It is clear that the requirements set out in the White Paper have implications for and are, or could be, delivered through the various ambition groups. The challenge here is to put in place co-ordination, agree priorities and targets, reporting arrangements and accountability without creating unnecessary bureaucracy which diverts attention and resources away from the delivery of services. Two alternatives are to use the existing Health and Care Partnership or to create an overarching ambition group as part of a broader review of the ambition group structure.
  - The specific initiatives planned by Government (attached at Appendix 2) do demonstrate the breadth of work across the Council and the NHS and invite a joint leadership role in the Director of Public Health to be accountable for delivery of the programme locally.

## **Conclusion**

The connections between the Council and PCT are clearly demonstrated in these documents and require a renewed approach to delivery which is agreed ahead of any NHS system reforms over the next period.

## **Finance**

In order to demonstrate commitment to the Public Health improvements it is proposed to contribute 50% to the salary costs of the Director of Public Health.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options

## **Risk Management**

The connections between the Council and the PCT need to be further strengthened to ensure that the partnership commitments (already of considerable benefit locally) can deliver the joint agendas in the next period. This imperative has been given greater impetus by the "Choosing Health" White Paper. It is necessary to continue to demonstrate the Council's commitment to local delivery through partnership with the NHS locally via the considerations and recommendations outlined in this report.

## **Consultees**

As described in NHS documents.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.





**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Response to Herefordshire Primary Care Trust on  
"Strategy for Success" - a Statement of Intent**

Herefordshire Council appreciates the links to the Partnership with the Council in many aspects which are outlined in the Statement of Intent.

It is vital to the Herefordshire Community that there is synergy between the service delivery programmes of the NHS and the Council locally. It is a particular strength in our local community and economy that co-terminosity and key relationships have ensured joint strategic approaches and delivery thus far.

The Council would want to build on this success and strengthen and renew existing partnership arrangements including the joint leadership required for "Choosing Health" locally.

It would be a statement of joint success if we proceed confidently to establishing clear joint investment in the post of Director of Public Health and agree that joint leadership exercised in that role is necessary to deliver the priorities and the investment in local initiatives.

In addition, the Council would wish to review with the PCT the existing joint structures and agreements both as part of the Herefordshire Partnership review and otherwise to check if they are "fit for purpose" in the next period of both the "Strategy for Success" and the Council's Corporate Plan.





### **Specific initiatives planned by Central Government include:**

Health Direct (information Service) from 2007.

Establishing an independent national centre for media and health

A Food and Health Action Plan to be published in 2005.

Restriction on the advertising of certain foods and drinks.

Reductions and restrictions on tobacco advertising.

Development of extended schools

Providing access to health and social care

Every 'cluster of schools' to have access to a team led by a qualified school nurse.

Introduction of personalised childrens health guides.

Establish 'Healthy Start ' by 2005 providing disadvantaged pregnant women and mothers of young children with vouchers for fresh food, vegetables, milk and infant formula.

Sure Start to develop new programmes in 2005. By 2007, 9 out of 10 areas to provide home volunteer visiting through Home Start for Families under stress.

New guidance for carers of children to be published in 2005.

Half of all schools to be 'Healthy Schools' by 2006.

All 4-6 year olds in LEA maintained schools to be eligible for free fruit or vegetables.

All schools to have 'active travel plans' by 2010.

By 2006, all schools to be in a school sports partnership.

Introduction of legislation to strengthen local authority powers regarding underage tobacco sales.

Implementation of Teenage Pregnancy Strategy focussed on neighbourhoods with high teenage conception rates.

From 2006, more PCTs to provide support for cookery clubs to encourage fruit and vegetable consumption.

In 2005 issue revised guidance on health and neighbourhood renewal.

2006 – Public Health Observatory to publish standard local health information.

Introduction of local area agreements.

2005 – guidance on best practice in local development of free swimming.



# PROGRESS TOWARDS THE EQUALITY STANDARD

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

**CABINET**

**24TH MARCH, 2005**

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To receive an update about Diversity and Equalities issues facing Herefordshire Council and agree the measures necessary to ensure that the Council has all the evidence to demonstrate the achievement of Level 1 of the Local Authority Equality Standard (the Standard) immediately, and has sound plans to reach Level 2 and beyond. The Council's draft Comprehensive Equality Policy is being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website or on request.

### Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

### Recommendations

- THAT (a) the Comprehensive Equality Policy, which will replace the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, be approved; and**
- (b) Cabinet commits to the process of Corporate Equality Planning by means of a Corporate Equality Plan to implement the Policy, including consultation, community development and scrutiny.**

### Reasons

Although the Council adopted the Equality Standard for Local Government in 2002 and has had the Equal Opportunities Policy since 1998 (reviewed in 2002) the latter is not sufficiently comprehensive to meet all the detailed requirements of the Standard.

### Considerations

1. The Council has statutory and moral duties in respect of diversity and equalities. to reflect the needs of the county's population through both its service provision and as an employer. In particular, it must meet the following:
  - (a) The Standard requirements, including fulfilling the Council's statutory duties (the Race Relations Amendment Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Disability Discrimination Act).
  - (b) Notwithstanding the extensive work across the Council, which has been

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Yulia Tarbath, Policy Assistant on (01432) 383635

overseen by the Diversity, Race Equality, Disability Groups, and the various policies and plans adopted and implemented by the Council, the authority does not have all the documentary evidence necessary if it is to be assessed as having met Level 1 of the five-part Standard. We also need to be able to demonstrate that we will be making good progress towards Level 2 during 2005/6. The current Corporate Plan's target for Level 2 is 2006/7.

3. To achieve Level 1 of the Standard, the Council needs to do the following:
  - a. By 31st March, 2005, adopt a Comprehensive Equality Policy, which will replace the Equal Opportunities Policy. The draft Comprehensive Equality Policy is attached as Appendix 1.
  - b. For the same reason, all Directorate/Departments and Service Areas have been required to record formally by 31st March their commitment to the Comprehensive Equality Policy and to the inclusion in their directorate and service plans in due course of the necessary actions to implement the Corporate Equality Plan.
  - c. In order to implement the Comprehensive Equality Policy, Herefordshire Council must commit to a policy implementation process by means of a Corporate Equality Plan (CEP). This overarching Plan will need to state how it will pursue specific race, gender and disability equality objectives and will set out how the Standard will be implemented across the authority, including clear responsibilities of named individual managers for every action included in the CEP. This plan will need to be developed and approved by Cabinet in 2005 and must include the following (some of which the Council has already done):
    - Actions to be taken to achieve outcomes
    - Specific targets and monitoring procedures
    - Named officers responsible for achievement of outcomes
    - Carrying out a process of equality impact and needs assessment, including the needs of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexuality, income and age categories.
    - Earmarking specific resources for the development of the CEP
    - Timescales for delivery
    - Commitment to a fair employment and equal pay policy as part of the CEP
    - The development of equality self-assessment, scrutiny and audit
    - How the outcomes from the commenced programme of Equality Impact Assessments will be used to plan changes in service delivery
  - d. In order to ensure that there is corporate ownership of the Plan, it should be developed in consultation with all Council Directorates/Departments and Service areas. Furthermore, to ensure the participation of stakeholders and community groups in the development of the CEP, a continuous process of consultation should be undertaken with stakeholders and various sectors of Herefordshire's community, including (although not exclusively):
    - Disability Rights Groups

- The Rainbow Forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual Group)
- Relevant voluntary organisations from the Herefordshire Partnership's list
- Herefordshire Council's Staff Race Equality Group
- Communities Against Racism Group
- Herefordshire Equality Partnership Board
- Trades Unions
- Travellers' Group

All consultative processes will be inclusive of disabled people, making public meetings and events accessible. This will include providing, upon request, an alternative format of any written documents, interpreters and sign language interpreters, hearing enhancement systems and level access with adequate emergency exits and departure procedures. Invitations and publicity for all such events will clearly state the facilities available and provide details of appropriate booking systems to request any facilities or services required.

- e. Herefordshire Council has a Bullying and Harassment and Dignity at Work Policy for responding to harassment within the organisation, including harassment on the grounds of race, disability and gender. We need to have the equivalent externally, so as to ensure better mechanisms for responding to incidents regarding race, gender and disability. This will include participation of the authority in a multi-agency panel for dealing with, and countering, incidents of harassment; a feedback scheme; and promotional material advising staff and service users of harassment procedures.
- f. It should be noted that the Plan will be formulated in addition to the Council's statutory Race Equality Scheme and non-statutory Disability Scheme. The Race Equality Scheme and Disability Scheme will become subsets of the CEP.

## **Risk Management**

The above approach has been devised with close reference to the requirements of the Equality Standard, which is widely recognised as the leading tool to measure a public authority's progress in setting and achieving diversity objectives. Attainment of levels of the Standard is also a National Performance Indicator. To deviate from the approach advocated within this report would leave the Council with no recognised mechanism for measuring systematically its achievements on diversity.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options.

## **Consultees**

Diversity Group

## **Background Papers**

None identified.





# AMALGAMATION OF HUNDERTON INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

### Wards Affected

Belmont, St Martin's and Hinton

### Purpose

To approve the publication of a statutory notice to close Hunderton Junior and Infants Schools, and open a new three form entry Community School serving the 3-11 age range.

### Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards. It was not included in the Forward Plan. A Notice in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000 was sent to the Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

### Recommendation

- THAT (a) the statutory notice be issued; and**
- (b) the funding for the capital cost be sought from the DfES from the Targetted Capital Fund, and in the event of failure from the Children's Services Capital Programme.**

### Reasons

The merger of the two schools is proposed to improve primary school provision in one of the most deprived wards of the county.

### Considerations

1. Hunderton Junior and Infants schools were established in 1953 and 1950 respectively and at a peak accommodated 1050 pupils in the two schools on the single site. Intakes have reduced to between 60 and 70 over the last few years, and it has become realistic to consider the creation of a single school to serve the area which could admit up to 90 children per year. i.e. the school would have a maximum capacity of 630 (excluding nursery) which is similar in size to Lord Scudamore Primary School and Trinity Primary School. A three forms of entry is proposed rather than two as unlike much of the county, pupil numbers in the future are likely to be greater than present.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
George Salmon, Head of Policy and Resources on 01432 260802

2. The retirement of the headteacher from the Infants School initiated discussions with both sets of Governors and more recently with staff and parents. There is an overwhelming consensus that the creation of a single school would be in the best interests of pupils, parents and general community. This conclusion is based on the understanding that there will be new school buildings, given that the existing ones are in poor condition (outstanding maintenance work costed at £395,000 and the design of the existing buildings is not conducive to current methods of teaching and learning nor management of the school as a single entity.
3. The Education Scrutiny Committee approved the informal consultation on the proposal.
4. Feasibility work on a new school has been done, which has concluded with the idea that a new school could be best provided in a phased development of demolition and new build over a two year period, at the cost of £5.45m.
5. The cash flow is set out below:
 

2005-2006	£	50,000
2006-2007	£1,630,000	
2007-2008	£1,360,000	
2008-2009	£1,770,000	
2009-2010	£	580,000
2010-2011	£	8,000
6. The Director of Children's Services proposes that this project is given the highest priority in bids from the County to the DfES Targeted Capital Funds. Only two projects involving community schools can be submitted to a maximum value of £12m. Herefordshire Council would have to find 20% of the cost, which it is anticipated would be afforded from the Children's Services Capital Programme. In the event of the bid being unsuccessful the scheme would be financed by using the formulaic allocation given for primary school improvement that the DfES have informed the Council will exceed a total £2.7m in the three year period, 2005 to 2008, and the shortfall resolved through the Children's Services Capital Programme.
7. The current community facilities on site will be retained and the development of the Children's Centre which has already been approved will still be pursued. More detailed design work and assessment of resource availability will determine whether these facilities are retained in the better quality existing buildings or are included in the new build.

## **Alternative Options**

Option 1. The opportunity to merge the schools could be ignored. Given the level of deprivation in the area it serves and the priority to maximise the life chances of children in that area, this would represent a loss of opportunity to improve provision.

Option 2. Merger could be pursued without the new building. This would create a primary school that would be difficult to manage as an entity, and continue to require significant maintenance investment. It is likely that both Governing Bodies would reconsider their support that they have so far offered to the merger proposal.

## **Risk Management**

The issue of the statutory notice does not per se involve the Council in any significant risk other than raising expectations. A further decision will be required in June whether to proceed with the proposals in light of any comment or objections received during the formal consultation period. If there were objections and the Council still wishes to proceed the matter would be referred to the School Organisation Committee. If there are no objections, it is likely that the Council will be expected to proceed and commit expenditure over the four year period.

## **Consultees**

Education Scrutiny Committee, Governing Bodies, staff and parents of Hunderton Junior and Infants Schools and EYDCP.

## **Background Papers**

Consultation paper issued on 4th January, 2005.



# CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

## REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To advise Members as to the Council's involvement with the Carbon Management Trust and details of the Carbon Management Plan compiled as a result of this work.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

### Recommendations

- THAT (a) the Carbon Management Action Plan be adopted; and**
- (b) the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change be approved.**

### Reasons

In February 2004, Herefordshire Council made an application for funding under the Carbon Trust Local Authorities Energy Financing Scheme. Although initially unsuccessful, in July 2004, the Council was chosen to join a group of 24 Councils to take part in the Carbon development of a Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP) that defines the steps that the Council will take to secure emissions reduction of at least 1.25% per year from 2005 to 2012.

The Carbon Management Action plan forms an important stage in addressing issues of climate change introduced under the revised "key lines of enquiry" within the CPA Corporate Assessment from 2005/06. The CMAP also provides an important contribution to the emerging Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy and generates bankable financial savings contributing to the Council's obligations to generate efficiency savings.

### Considerations

1. In line with the environmental aspiration of the Herefordshire Plan Herefordshire Council has been considering methods of reducing carbon emission produced from its direct activities or areas where it has influence.
2. Following the success of the Council's application to participate in the Carbon Management Programme in July 2004, a project team was set up consisting of staff from the services that have an involvement in carbon producing activities i.e. Property, Highways, Waste and Housing.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Richard Wood, LA 21 Officer on 260132

3. A base-line level of carbon emission was established for the year 2002 and a Carbon Management Action Plan detailing the key strategic actions to achieve the reductions in emission, was compiled.
4. The Council target is to achieve a 12.5% reduction on the base-line by 2012 and a total 20% reduction by 2020.
5. These reductions will be achieved by the following methods:
  - A continuation of the Property rationalisation process resulting in energy consumption reductions
  - The development of a landfill gas power generation from Stretton Sugwas closed landfill site during 2006/07
  - The adoption of low cost energy measures in corporate buildings and schools
  - The establishment of an Energy Saving organisation operated through West Mercia Supplies (WMS) and financially ring-fenced for Herefordshire
  - The development of an invest-to-save budget by offering financial resources to Schools and other corporate buildings to achieve energy saving measures
  - In the longer term consideration will be given to other areas of potential savings including Transportation and Street Lighting.
  - An action plan and milestones for meeting these requirements is contained in the Appendix.
  - The adoption of the Carbon Management Action Plan will allow the Council to sign the Nottingham Declaration, thereby joining 74 other local authorities in England who have signed to date (details attached).

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options

## **Risk Management**

If the Carbon Management Action Plan is not adopted:

- 1) The Corporate Assessment under CPA will not be able to demonstrate action on issues of Climate Change.
- 2) The Council's cost of energy will continue to rise at the underlying rate of +2.5% per annum.
- 3) The Council will fail to secure the identified efficiency savings including additional revenue.
- 4) The Council will fail to lead by example in the community that it serves.

## **Consultees**

The Carbon Management Action Plan has been developed with the assistance of the Carbon Trust and consultants from Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) and ImpactPlus, a strategic communications consultancy.

The project was organised and executed under Prince II, with a project board including the Director for Environment, Head of Policy & Resources (Education), Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards and Head of Engineering and Transport.

The Project Team was managed by the Property Services Manager and included a team comprising LA21 Officer, Home Energy Conservation Officer - Strategic Housing (Private Sector), Energy Monitoring Technician, Street Lighting Manager and the Integrated Transport Officer.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.





# PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY STRATEGY

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY; HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

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### Wards Affected

Countywide

### Purpose

To approve the Public Rights of Way Strategy. The Strategy is being circulate separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website and on request.

### Key Decision

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. It was included on the Forward Plan.

### Recommendation

**THAT the Strategy be approved**

### Reasons

To set out the approach to establishing and managing rights of way in Herefordshire.

### Considerations

1. One of the listed actions of the 2001 Best Value Review of the Public Rights of Way service was the production of a Rights of Way Strategy to give more focus for the allocation of resources including:-

- Where resources should be focussed
- How to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act
- Business plan with targets
- An enforcement policy and strategy
- The creation of an Asset Register
- How to promote PROW

The strategy targets the Council's principal priorities which contribute to the Herefordshire Plan. The Strategy is being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members Room, on the Council's website and on request.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Rob Hemblade on 01432 261981

2. The strategy will guide the rights of way service to become proactive and more able to meet the pressures placed upon it by new and existing legislation. It will achieve this through the identification of specific actions which are set against five key objectives:
  - Keeping an accurate legal record of public rights of way
  - Maintenance and enforcement
  - Improving the network
  - Publicity and promotion
  - Environmental management
3. Extensive consultation has been carried out and a number of relatively minor changes have been made to the draft strategy produced in March 2004 e.g. a detailed list of those individuals who responded to the consultation is now attached.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options

## **Risk Management**

The adoption of a formal public rights of way strategy will guide the future delivery of the service.

## **Consultees**

Parish Councils

Rights of Way Liaison Group

Herefordshire Local Access Forum

Elected Members

Selected heads of departments

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Neighbouring Authorities

## **Background Papers**

None identified.

## LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME BUDGETS 2005/06

### PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

CABINET

24TH MARCH 2005

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#### Wards Affected

County-wide

#### Purpose

To agree the Local Transport Plan capital budget allocations for 2005/06 following government funding decisions announced in December 2004.

#### Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included in the Forward Plan.

#### Recommendations

**THAT the budget allocations shown in Appendix 1 be agreed**

#### Reasons

Government announced their response to the Council's Annual Progress Report just before Christmas 2004, including funding allocation for 2005/06. These funds need to be spent in accordance with both local and national priorities.

#### Considerations

1. In the settlement letter of December 2004, Government allocated Herefordshire a total of £10,459,000 for Local Transport for 2005/06. This is made up of allocations for Maintenance (£7.559M), Integrated Transport Projects (£2.900M). The table below presents details of the settlement and a comparison with the settlement received for 2004/5.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Richard Ball, Transportation Manager on 0965

## **Herefordshire Council Local Transport Settlement for 2005/6**

	2004/5 Allocation £000s	<b>2005/6 Allocation £000s</b>
Highway Maintenance Allocation	£6,242	<b>£7,559</b>
Integrated Transport Allocation	£4,830	<b>£2,900</b>
Total	£11,072	<b>£10,459</b>

2. The Department for Transport gives authorities a score in relation to their annual Local Transport Plan performance based on an assessment of the Annual Progress Report. Herefordshire Council has been graded “**Above Average**” and given a score of 86% (scores for other authorities range from 36% to 96%). This score contributes to the Council’s Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
3. Herefordshire was invited, along with 16 other authorities, to apply for Centre of Excellence status. This was in recognition by the Department for Transport of the Council’s proven track record in delivering local transport improvements on the ground and in meeting local transport targets and objectives as demonstrated in the two most recent Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report. The Department announced in February 2005 that the Council had been selected as a Centre of Excellence with particular reference to road safety and public transport in rural and urban areas.

### **Highway Maintenance Allocation**

4. The Council’s allocation for Highway Maintenance has seen an increase of £1.317 million increase on the 2004/5 allocation. This funding is allocated by means of a formula applied by the Department for Transport. The settlement letter has also confirmed an indicative maintenance allocation of £7.802 million for 2006/7.

### **Integrated Transport Allocation**

5. The Integrated Transport allocation for 2005/6 is in accordance with the Council’s indicative allocation for the year, previously notified by the Department. However, this represents a reduction on funding compared to 2004/5 primarily as a result of the completion of Roman Road and Low Floor Bus schemes. Unlike in previous years, no performance related reward funding was allocated nationally.

### **Rotherwas Industrial Estate Access Road**

6. Herefordshire Council had also submitted a bid for Major Scheme funding for the Rotherwas Industrial Estate Access Road. However, the Government has not accepted the scheme for funding in 2005/6.
7. The settlement letter indicates that the Department for Transport recognises that the scheme would significantly improve access to the Rotherwas Industrial Estate. However, it also states that Ministers have decided that, whilst recognising the benefits of the scheme, it does not present a sufficient priority for approval in this settlement.
8. The letter does allow for the resubmission of the scheme for funding in future years.

Officers have been in discussion with the Department to obtain more detailed feedback on last year's submission and identify what further work is required prior to resubmission in July 2005.

### **Proposed Budget Allocations for 2005/6**

9. Appendix 1 sets out the proposed budget allocations for the various types of schemes highlighted for implementation in the Local Transport Plan. For comparison purposes, the table includes details of the budget allocations for 2004/5 and the draft allocations for 2005/6 that were approved by the Cabinet Member in March 2004.
10. The proposed budget allocations for 2005/6 have been developed from the draft allocations to take account of the actual financial settlement and emerging funding requirements. Key changes from the draft allocations are:
  - Transfer of £600,000 from highway maintenance to integrated transport to contribute to costs of the Roman Road Improvement Scheme arising in 2005/6 and continued design work on the Rotherwas Access Road.
  - Increased budget allocations for Cycling and Safety schemes
  - Increased budget for pedestrian improvements to allow for Widemarsh Street pedestrianisation trial
  - Increased budgets for taking forward permanent park and ride sites for Hereford and the development of other key proposals for delivery during the second Local Transport Plan period
  - Budget allocation for Rotherwas Access Road to allow for the preparation of a further Annex E submission and detailed design work. Further funding to enable the continued development of this scheme in 2005/6 may be required from other sources.
11. These budget allocations will be used to finalise and guide the Council's joined up programme for the delivery of schemes. The Cabinet is asked to approve the budget allocations identified in Appendix 1.

### **Alternative Options**

None

### **Risk Management**

Continued government funding is dependent on making progress towards government targets. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring good progress on achieving the stated LTP targets.

### **Consultees**

None

### **Background Papers**

Settlement letter from GOWM December 2004

## Appendix 1: Proposed LTP Capital budgets 2005/06

Highways and Transportation LTP Capital Budgets				
Figures in £	2004/05 original budgets	Indicative Draft Budget 2005/6 approved March 2004.	Proposed Changes to draft budgets	Proposed Budget for 2005/6
<b>Hereford</b>				
<b>Walking and Access</b>				
Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	5,000.00	5,000.00		<b>5,000.00</b>
Pedestrian & Disabled Access Improvements	35,000.00	25,000.00	(45,000.00)	<b>70,000.00</b>
<b>Cycling</b>				
Cycle Network & Parking	70,000.00	80,000.00	(120,000.00)	<b>200,000.00</b>
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>				
Bus Priority Schemes	30,000.00	50,000.00		<b>50,000.00</b>
Rail Improvements		100,000.00	65,000.00	<b>35,000.00</b>
Wyes Moves contribution	5,000.00			
Passenger Waiting Facilities	30,000.00	30,000.00		<b>30,000.00</b>
Travel centre (previously identified as contribution to unsuccessful Sustainable Towns Demonstration Project)	20,000.00			
<b>Park and Ride</b>				
Christmas Park and Ride	20,000.00	20,000.00		<b>20,000.00</b>
Permanent sites development	22,000.00		(40,000.00)	<b>40,000.00</b>
<b>Rotherwas Minor Schemes</b>				
Rotherwas Integrated Access (minor Works)		50,000.00		<b>50,000.00</b>
<b>Rotherwas Access Road</b>				

Rotherwas Access Road	425,000.00	550,000.00	290,000.00	<b>260,000.00</b>
<b>Roman Road</b>				
Roman road	3,100,000.00	933,000.00		<b>933,000.00</b>
Hereford Strategy Development			(40,000.00)	<b>40,000.00</b>
<b>Rural &amp; Market Towns</b>				
<b>Walking and Access</b>				
Rural Pedestrian and Disabled Access Improvements	15,000.00	20,000.00		<b>20,000.00</b>
Rural Footway Improvements	45,000.00	60,000.00		<b>60,000.00</b>
<b>Cycling</b>				
Rural Cycle Routes and Parking	60,000.00	80,000.00	(120,000.00)	<b>200,000.00</b>
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>				
Public transport information systems	35,000.00	50,000.00		<b>50,000.00</b>
Rural Rail Improvements	51,000.00	100,000.00	60,000.00	<b>40,000.00</b>
Passenger Waiting Facilities	30,000.00	40,000.00		<b>40,000.00</b>
North West Herefordshire HGV projects			(46,000.00)	<b>46,000.00</b>
<b>Low Floor Bus Project</b>				
Rural Low Floor Bus Project	500,000.00			
<b>Countywide</b>				
<b>Hearts and Minds</b>				
Travel Awareness Campaign	35,000.00	25,000.00	(10,000.00)	<b>35,000.00</b>
Green Travel promotion staff (now appropriately funded from revenue budgets)	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	
School Travel Plan Support	25,000.00	25,000.00		<b>25,000.00</b>

<b>Minor Safety Schemes</b>				
Minor Safety improvements	250,000.00	200,000.00	(100,000.00)	<b>300,000.00</b>
<b>Traffic Calming</b>				
Traffic Calming	75,000.00	50,000.00	(100,000.00)	<b>150,000.00</b>
<b>Safer Routes to School (inc. 20mph zones)</b>				
Safer Routes to School & 20mph zones.	265,000.00	300,000.00	(80,000.00)	<b>380,000.00</b>
<b>Speed Control</b>				
Speed Limits	33,000.00	30,000.00	(10,000)	<b>40,000.00</b>
Vehicle Activated signs	20,000.00	20,000.00		<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>LTP Funded Capital Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>5,022,000.00</b>	<b>5,350,000.00</b>	<b>(959,000.00)</b>	<b>6,309,000.00</b>
<b>Bridgeworks</b>				
Bridgeworks (LTP)	500,000.00	500,000.00	(150,000.00)	<b>650,000.00</b>
<b>Monitoring</b>				
Countywide Monitoring	20,000.00	20,000.00	(20,000.00)	<b>40,000.00</b>
Accessibility Planning and Development work for LTP2			(20,000.00)	<b>20,000.00</b>
LTP Integrated Transport Staff Costs	301,000.00	301,000.00		<b>301,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,072,000.00</b>	<b>9,042,000.00</b>	<b>(1,417,000.00)</b>	<b>10,459,000.00</b>
Capital Maintenance Block Allocation				<b>7,559,000.00</b>
Integrated Transport Block Allocation				<b>2,900,000.00</b>
Balance				<b>0</b>



# HEREFORDSHIRE FIVE YEAR SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To consider and agree the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 for Herefordshire, for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on 31st March, 2005. A letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister announcing the Supporting People programme and the draft Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 for Herefordshire are being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's Website and on request.

### Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included in the Forward Plan.

### Recommendations

- THAT (a) the financial implications of the proposed Supporting People Distribution Formula as it affects Herefordshire's Supporting People Programme and Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 be noted;**
- (b) the approach to managing the implications of the distribution formula set out in the Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 be endorsed;**
- and**
- (c) the Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 for Herefordshire be approved.**

### Reasons

The Council is the Administering Authority for the Supporting People Programme in Herefordshire and is required to submit a Five Year Supporting People Strategy to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister no later than 31st March, 2005.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Ian Gardner, Supporting People Manager on 01432 383074

## Considerations

1. The Supporting People Programme was launched across the country on 1st April, 2003.
2. The programme aimed to establish a joined-up policy and funding framework, tailored to local needs and priorities, for the purpose of funding housing-related supported services for vulnerable people. The programme brought together a number of funding streams providing for housing-related support and placed them into a single grant.
3. Supporting People is administered by the Council and is a working partnership between the Council's Social Care and Strategic Housing Directorate, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the West Mercia Probation Service.
4. Prior to the launch of the Supporting People Programme, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister required administering authorities to produce a 'Shadow' Supporting People Strategy for 2003/4 outlining how the Supporting People Partnership intended to meet the support needs of local people. Cabinet approved Herefordshire's Shadow Strategy in December 2002 and the strategy was subsequently assessed by the ODPM as 'Good'.
5. Herefordshire was allocated Supporting People grant for 2003/2004 totalling £7.5 million, a sum reflecting the success of the Supporting People local implementation programme in securing funding for housing-related support services within Herefordshire.
6. Currently, in excess of 2,500 vulnerable or disabled people in Herefordshire are receiving housing-related support funded through the Supporting People programme.
7. The Government made clear a requirement that administering authorities would be required to produce a five year Supporting People Strategy and Annual Plan in the period following the launch of the Shadow document. The national timetable for this process was subject to change, however, the date for submission was finally set as 31st March, 2005.
8. The Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 has been developed with reference to ODPM guidance. It sets out to critically examine current service provision and focus services and investment on local need and strategic priorities. In doing so, the strategy also aims to illustrate how Herefordshire Council and its partners plan to meet the identified needs and priorities and how it proposes to fill gaps in knowledge and understanding of needs.
9. However, the Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 has been developed against a background of considerable challenge to the future funding of the programme nationally and, more specifically, within Herefordshire.
10. Nationally, the ODPM has been seeking to realise savings and a re-distribution of funding within the programme. Efficiency savings, imposed by the ODPM, have seen the grant allocation to Herefordshire reduce to £6.8 million for 2005/6. Furthermore, the ODPM has announced details of a proposed distribution formula for the allocation of Supporting People funding for 2006/7 onwards.
11. If the distribution formula is implemented as it stands, Herefordshire would be the seventh most adversely affected authority in England, facing a loss in Supporting

People Grant of approximately 25% (£1.85 million) over the five year strategy period and further losses beyond that period.

12. A period of consultation in respect of the proposed distribution formula is due to commence in May 2005 during which local authorities will have the opportunity to make representations to the ODPM.
13. The Supporting People Programme in Herefordshire has achieved considerable efficiency savings as a consequence of a robust approach to service reviews and contract monitoring since April 2003. Savings have been rolled forward in anticipation of funding the development of new schemes and services to address local priorities. However, whilst the ODPM has recently confirmed that efficiency savings can be rolled forward into the forthcoming financial year 2005/06, there will be no announcement until the autumn of 2005 as to whether efficiency savings can be rolled forward into 2006/07.
14. Developing a strategy against a background of an anticipated severe contraction in funding, and uncertainty over the long term use of efficiency savings, has presented a considerable challenge. An approach has been adopted within the strategy that seeks to address the major risks whilst acknowledging that a potential loss of 58% in funding since the launch of the programme cannot fail to have a severe impact on all partners and service users, connected with the delivery and receipt of Supporting People services.
15. The strategy has addressed this challenge by scoping the impact of the proposed contraction in funding as follows:-
  - Identification of where Supporting People can meet local ambitions contained within key national and local strategies
  - A critical analysis of the supply and future need has been undertaken by reference to the strategies and priorities of partner agencies involved in the delivery and commissioning of Supporting People services.
  - Identification of development priorities that address needs in Herefordshire in partnership with our commissioning partners.
16. Furthermore, two financial scenarios have been modelled which set out the impact of the likely funding position associated with the implementation of the proposed distribution formula. Table 1, Page 6, within the strategy, illustrates that the impact of an assumed 5% reduction per annum would result in a £1.5 million deficit over the five year strategy period were identified priorities delivered during 05/06 and commitments to existing services retained at the current level. No further development beyond 2005/06 has been assumed.
17. Table 2, Page 7, sets out a scenario in which the impact of a 5% reduction is assumed and efficiency savings are retained for rolling-forward over the life of the strategy. This position assumes that commitments to existing services are retained at the current level and development priorities for 2005/06 are delivered. This approach leads to a credit position at the end of the strategy period.
18. Common to both the approaches is that no development has been assumed beyond 2005/06 although the strategy identifies development priorities for both 2005/06 and 2006/07.

19. In view of the uncertainties surrounding the funding the Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 proposes that a process of review should be undertaken during 2005/06. The review will address the impact of subsequent announcements from the ODPM with regard to the proposed distribution formula and the approach to the roll-forward of efficiency savings.
20. The Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy will be sent to the ODPM with a covering letter highlighting the depth of concern surrounding the extent to which the proposed changes will undermine the success of Supporting People in Herefordshire.

## **Alternative Options**

Despite the extreme challenges in developing a strategy for Herefordshire within the context of current uncertainties, the ODPM expect the delivery of Supporting People Strategies no later than 31st March, 2005.

## **Risk Management**

As administering authority for the Supporting People Programme, the Council is ultimately responsible for financial liabilities associated with the funding of the Supporting People Programme within Herefordshire. The approach taken within the Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010, proposes a process of review within the first year of the strategy to enable a robust and planned response which aims to mitigate the identified risks to the programme, the local authority and its partners.

## **Consultees**

Consultation on the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 was carried out in partnership with the following :

Herefordshire Supporting People Partnership Commissioning Body: DAT (Drug Action Team); Hereford and Worcester Connexions; Herefordshire Council; Herefordshire Primary Care Trust; West Mercia Probation Services, Herefordshire Supporting People Provider Forum, Herefordshire Women's Aid; Worcester and Hereford Youth Offending Team; SHYPP (Supported Housing for Young People Project); Home Point Herefordshire; Social Services Aftercare Team, Herefordshire Council; Enabling Team, Herefordshire Council; Integrated Mental Health Service; Social Care, Herefordshire Council; Housing Options, Herefordshire Housing; Strategic Housing Services, Herefordshire Council.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.

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