

A G E N D A

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday, 5th June, 2006**

Time: **10.00 a.m.**

Place: **The Council Chamber,
Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

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**County of Herefordshire
District Council**

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillor J.H.R. Goodwin (Chairman)
Councillor W.L.S. Bowen (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors P.J. Dauncey, K.G. Grumbley, J.G.S. Guthrie, T.W. Hunt,
J.W. Newman, Ms. G.A. Powell, Miss F. Short and J.B. Williams

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March, 2006	1 - 6
5. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.	
6. PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT) To receive a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Environment) informing the Committee of policy issues affecting this programme area and the main priorities.	7 - 18
7. PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION) To receive a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) informing the Committee of policy issues affecting this programme area and the main priorities.	19 - 26
8. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (GEM) PERFORMANCE 2005/06: ANNUAL REPORT To review the Council's environmental performance, particularly in relation to GEM & ISO 14001, during 2005/06 to ensure that it continues to improve overall.	27 - 52

9.	BIOFUELS BRIEFING	53 - 56
	To inform members about the rapidly developing biofuels industry and how it may relate to aspects of Planning, Environmental Health and Trading Standards, the Council's commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through the Carbon Management Action Plan and the recently adopted Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy.	
10.	ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07	57 - 62
	To inform Members of the latest position with regard to the Environment Capital Programme for 2005/06 and 2006/07.	
11.	ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET 2006/2007 AND OUTTURN FOR 2005/2006	63 - 64
	To inform members of the latest position with regard to the Environment Budget for 2006/07 following the formal approval of the Council's budget.	
12.	BEST VALUE REVIEWS - IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENT PLANS	65 - 68
	To report the remaining actions and the exceptions to the programmed progress in the improvement plans resulting from the reviews of Commercial Enforcement Development Control and Public Conveniences.	

PUBLIC INFORMATION

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Council has established Scrutiny Committees for Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing, Childrens' Services, Community Services, Environment, and Health. A Strategic Monitoring Committee scrutinises corporate matters and co-ordinates the work of these Committees.

The purpose of the Committees is to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Council's decision making process.

The principal roles of Scrutiny Committees are to

- Help in developing Council policy
- Probe, investigate, test the options and ask the difficult questions before and after decisions are taken
- Look in more detail at areas of concern which may have been raised by the Cabinet itself, by other Councillors or by members of the public
- "call in" decisions - this is a statutory power which gives Scrutiny Committees the right to place a decision on hold pending further scrutiny.
- Review performance of the Council
- Conduct Best Value reviews
- Undertake external scrutiny work engaging partners and the public

Formal meetings of the Committees are held in public and information on your rights to attend meetings and access to information are set out overleaf

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings

You can contact Councillors and Officers at any time about Scrutiny Committee matters and issues which you would like the Scrutiny Committees to investigate.

There are also two other ways in which you can directly contribute at Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committee meetings.

1. Identifying Areas for Scrutiny

At the meeting the Chairman will ask the members of the public present if they have any issues which they would like the Scrutiny Committee to investigate, however, there will be no discussion of the issue at the time when the matter is raised. Councillors will research the issue and consider whether it should form part of the Committee's work programme when compared with other competing priorities.

Please note that the Committees can only scrutinise items which fall within their specific remit (see below). If a matter is raised which falls within the remit of another Scrutiny Committee then it will be noted and passed on to the relevant Chairman for their consideration.

2. Questions from Members of the Public for Consideration at Scrutiny Committee Meetings and Participation at Meetings

You can submit a question for consideration at a Scrutiny Committee meeting so long as the question you are asking is directly related to an item listed on the agenda. If you have a question you would like to ask then please submit it **no later than two working days before the meeting** to the Committee Officer. This will help to ensure that an answer can be provided at the meeting. Contact details for the Committee Officer can be found on the front page of this agenda.

Generally, members of the public will also be able to contribute to the discussion at the meeting. This will be at the Chairman's discretion.

(Please note that the Scrutiny Committees are not able to discuss questions relating to personal or confidential issues.)

Remits of Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committees

Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing

*Statutory functions for adult social services including:
Learning Disabilities
Strategic Housing
Supporting People
Public Health*

Children's Services

Provision of services relating to the well-being of children including education, health and social care.

Community Services Scrutiny Committee

*Libraries
Cultural Services including heritage and tourism
Leisure Services
Parks and Countryside
Community Safety
Economic Development
Youth Services*

Health

*Planning, provision and operation of health services affecting the area
Health Improvement
Services provided by the NHS*

Environment

*Environmental Issues
Highways and Transportation*

Strategic Monitoring Committee

*Corporate Strategy and Finance
Resources
Corporate and Customer Services
Human Resources*

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- 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.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- 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.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 27th March, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor J.H.R. Goodwin (Chairman)
Councillor W.L.S. Bowen (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: P.J. Dauncey, G.W. Davis, K.G. Grumbley, J.G.S. Guthrie, T.W. Hunt, J.W. Newman and J.B. Williams

In attendance: Councillors J.W. Edwards P.J. Edwards (Cabinet Member - Environment), D.B. Wilcox (Cabinet Member - Highways and Transportation) and R.M. Wilson.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss F. Short.

48. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50. MINUTES

In view of continuing concern about safety issues on the A49 trunk road, the Director of Environment circulated a short briefing paper to inform Members of a Steering Group meeting on 24th March 2006, with the Highways Agency.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December, 2005, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

51. SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY

No suggestions were received from members of the public.

52. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Committee was informed of the principal measures contained in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and received an overview of the potential impact of the Act on services provided by the Environment Directorate.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that the Act was a key part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) five-year environment strategy to clean up people's immediate environment, boost sustainable development, increase energy efficiency and care for the rural communities. As a consequence it covered a number of environmental issues e.g.

vehicles, litter, waste, noise, dogs and crime and disorder. The report outlined the various powers in the Act, their commencement or likely commencement date and an overview of the likely impact on the Directorate and Council.

He reported that the Council had, where possible, started to implement the relevant powers in the Act and whilst this had not been completely finalised it was expected that the new powers would be delegated in accordance with Appendix 1 to the report. Complications had arisen in implementing those powers that had commenced, in that in many instances the Government had been late in issuing the relevant guidance.

He further reported that the Cabinet Member (Environment) had set the level for fixed penalty notices for those areas where powers had commenced at £100 for litter, fly posting and graffiti offences (reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days). On commencement a similar £100 penalty would be set for dog offences. Charges for the collection of shopping trolleys had not yet been set as further work, including consultation, was ongoing to establish a fixed charge.

During debate the following principal points were noted:

- The Council's dog byelaw system would be replaced by Dog Control Orders. However, a number of issues still needed clarification particularly in relation to Parish/Town Councils undertaking aspects of enforcement.
- The current joint arrangement with the Police for the collection of stray dogs would need to terminate with the Council taking full responsibility. This would have funding and operational implications for the Council. While it could be expected that the issuing of control orders would have an impact, currently a number of Magistrates Courts had taken a lenient view of prosecution of byelaw offences.
- The introduction of new Litter Clearance Notices was welcomed and should enable the Council to enforce areas it had been unable to in the past. The Act also confirmed that cigarette butts and discarded chewing gum were litter. In this respect the Committee particularly noted a comment that the Government were considering imposing a hefty tax on chewing gum with the proceeds being used to help Councils with the cost of cleaning chewing gum from footways. The Committee wished to record their support for such a proposal to tax chewing gum (particularly the synthetic gum) and invited the Executive to make representations on the matter.
- Nuisance from light pollution (street lighting and other major sources were exempt) was included in the Act. Environmental Health staff would therefore run the risk of becoming embroiled in neighbour disputes.
- The Director of Environment reported that no additional resources had been allocated by Government to support the implementation of the Act. While the Act did enable the setting of fixed penalty notices, the income from these was not expected to be substantial. The existing budgets would therefore have to be re-cast to accommodate the extra statutory requirements.
- The delegation of certain enforcement powers would need close monitoring. While the use of Community Support Officers was welcomed, they were under the command of the Chief Constable and therefore dependent on the degree of local delegation. Initially the Committee considered holding a special meeting to debate the issues with the various parties involved,

however, it was decided to await the outcome of guidance on the use of enforcement powers.

- It was suggested that when a further report was made to the Committee a fourth column be added to Appendix 1 to indicate when the power had been implemented.

RESOLVED:**That**

- a) the implications arising from the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 outlined in the report be noted;**
- b) the Director of Environment convey the Committee's support for the imposition of a tax on chewing gum and the Executive be invited to make representations on the matter; and**
- c) a fourth column be added to Appendix 1 in future reports to indicate when the relevant power had been implemented.**

53. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEREFORDSHIRE PLAN

The Committee reviewed the Environment Directorate's contribution to the work of the Transport and Environment Ambition Groups.

The Conservation Manager highlighted various aspects of work, identified in the report, undertaken by the Directorate in contributing to the ambitions set out in the Herefordshire Plan as progressed by the Transport Ambition Group and the Environment Ambition Group. He reported that the revised Herefordshire Plan, to be renamed the Herefordshire Community Strategy, was expected to be launched in May 2006. The Strategy would be accompanied by an Action Plan outlining outcomes and targets that would be contained within the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Strategy generally followed the four themes in the LAA (Economic Development and Enterprise; Healthier Communities and Older People; Children and Young People and Safer and Stronger Communities) and therefore left no obvious place for the matters falling under the former environment headings. Councillor and Scrutiny involvement in the Strategy was subject to discussion in light of emerging guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

The Cabinet Member (Environment) commented that environment issues ran through each of the four themes and therefore each could expect a contribution by the Directorate. While many instances had gone unreported, much of the partnership working and contribution by the Directorate through the Ambitions Groups would soon be coming to fruition.

RESOLVED: That the report on the Directorate's contribution to the Herefordshire Plan and changes to the Ambition Groups be noted and examples of the unreported partnership working be included in future reports.

54. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was advised on the progress of the 2005/06 Capital Programme for the Environment Areas within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resources' representative reported that the total of the capital programme had been reduced by £130,000 from the

£12,047,000 notified to the previous meeting to £11,917,000. A brief overview of the forecast was set out in the report together with at Appendix 1 the capital budgets for programme areas.

While scrutinising the Capital Programme monitoring report the Committee noted the following points:

- Work on the Park and Ride scheme was progressing, however, its likely location, in the North of the City, was confidential as it was still subject to negotiations.
- Vehicle Activated Signs showed a 60% spent/commitment which reflected the fact that while a number of signs had been installed (Lugwardine and Credenhill) this budget heading would be phased out as this safety measure would, if considered necessary, be included in the 'toolkit' for accident remedial work in individual schemes.
- That a number of Parish Councils had taken up their legal power to purchase their own portable traffic signs for use adjacent to the highway. The Head of Highways and Transportation reported that currently there was no policy in place (time/location/ definition of traffic problem) to govern the placing of such signs by Parish Councils. Currently this Council may be legally liable for any accident caused by such a sign and he was concerned that proper management arrangements should be in place. The Director of Environment reported that there was still a debate about how to legally make these signs effective within government guidelines.
- Questioning the slippage in the programmes for the Crematorium and Grafton Travellers Site due to land purchase negotiations and planning permission procedures, and the potential knock-on effect on other schemes in the programme, the Director of Environment reported that, in general, planning permission should be included in the project plan and should not be a problem, except where an environmental impact assessment was required as this may be seasonally dependent. Land purchases could cause delays, however, these were increasingly being backed up by Compulsory Purchase Orders.
- The position concerning the provision of Travellers Sites was a dynamic and complex one. Government intent had been made clear to local authorities as travellers had been included in the Housing Needs Strategy. However, a number of neighbouring authorities had no provision and there was also a variation in the level of provision at District, County Council and Regional level.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

55. ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was advised of the budget monitoring position for the Environment Programme area revenue budget for the period to 31st January 2006.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resources' representative reported the current revenue budgetary position and highlighted that, due to an increase in the number of winter salting treatments, the Winter Maintenance budget was expected to be overspent by £500,000. However, in overall terms the Environment budgets, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, were expected to come in on budget as there had been additional income from car parking and planning. Some reallocation of other resources may also be necessary.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

56. BEST VALUE REVIEWS - IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The Committee was updated on the remaining actions and the exceptions to the programmed progress in the improvement plans resulting from the reviews of Commercial Enforcement, Development Control and Public Conveniences.

In relation to Development Control the Committee commented that access to planning information seemed much easier now that the service was available on-line. The Director of Environment reported that the new Development Control Manager had made progress in developing the service. He also reported that the service should not now be included within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's consultation for designation as Planning Standards Authorities for 2006/7 (as reported to the Committee in December 2005) as it had been demonstrated that the service was much improved. The new Head of Service when in post would further investigate the possible operation of a single Planning Committee.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that the Commercial Enforcement section were awaiting the outcome of the Government's establishment of a new group to oversee the outcome of the 'Hampton Review' into regulatory inspection and enforcement functions. Concerns that licensing income was now known not to be sufficient to fund out of hours services were being raised with the Government by the Local Government Association. The take-up of the Regional Consumer Direct Call Centre in Coventry had been greater than expected. While this facility freed up local resources, those resources were now being used to follow up the increased number of issues raised via the call centre.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57. MONITORING OF 2005/2006 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - APRIL 2005 TO JANUARY 2006

The Committee was updated on the exceptions to the targeted progress made by the Environment Directorate for the ten months April 2005 to January 2006 towards achieving the performance indicators/targets which appear in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Responding to questions on BV82d(ii) (household waste arisings) the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that the position was 11.85% better than expected under the target. However, this followed two years of heavy growth in tonnage figures. He hoped that recent recycling publicity was having an impact. Extending kerbside collection of recycled material would be extremely expensive and therefore any grant income received was being used to target specific areas of the County.

In relation to concerns over the percentage of major roadwork schemes that had over-run the published completion date the Head of Highways and Transportation reported that this target related to the Council's schemes on roads maintainable by the Council. He commented that the percentage figure could be skewed by the fact that only a few schemes had been undertaken and therefore a delay on one scheme could show a greater impact on the target. In relation to roadworks by other agencies he confirmed that the Council had a duty to co-ordinate the works but had no powers to impose penalties for late completion.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT)

Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To receive a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Environment) informing the Committee of policy issues affecting this programme area and the main priorities.

Background

2. A report from the Cabinet Member (Environment) is attached.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Report by Cabinet Member (Environment)

In response to the invitation from the Environment Scrutiny Committee I am pleased to present the following report.

The views of others

The year included the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment – the Assessment Team had only positive comments to make about our approach to managing the environment; these included:

"Performance indicator (PI) results, together with other comparative data, suggest that more robust arrangements are needed to achieve continuous improvement and to ensure that performance management has a significant impact on service outcomes. Most impact to date has been in the environment directorate ..."

"Protecting the environment is a clear priority and the Council has a successful track record in achieving its ambitions for the environment over recent years. It is investing in further developments in these areas ..."

"The Council can demonstrate some significant achievements in the areas of regeneration, waste management, transport and sustainability. It is investing in further developments in these areas ..."

"There is a strong focus on environmental sustainability in economic strategy and the Council is working with partners to encourage business to buy in to sustainability and has positive cutting edge policies around alternative energy (including bio fuel) to tackle climate change. The majority of stakeholders surveyed think that 'the Council works effectively to promote the quality of the local economy and environment'."

"Protecting the environment is a clear priority. The Council has a successful track record in achieving its ambitions for the environment over recent years and it has met stretching targets in areas where it already does well; for example over half the county's schools have Eco-schools status. It has a strong drive in terms of sustainability and is performing very well, for example, on recycling where it has exceeded its DEFRA target and is in the top quartile overall and is also reducing the amount of waste land filled . Environmental considerations are built into future plans - such as the Edgar Street development being 'carbon-neutral'."

There has also been national recognition of our achievements –

In August the Council was awarded a Green Apple Award for its Streetscene branding - which came out of the successful Lay-by Safari anti-litter campaign. The award was presented by The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Health at the House of Commons in November.

What has been achieved?

Performance during 2005-06 has been good. Although there are some indicators where analysis of year-end outturn is still being done, most targets have been achieved or exceeded, as illustrated by the following table:

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outturn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outturn
Waste					
82a(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled	15.03	17.92	14.95	17.31%
82a(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled			14,109	16059.3
82b(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted	6.69	9.93	6.85	6.58%
82b(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted			6,465	6102.11
82a(i) & 82b(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings that has been recycled or composted			21.8	23.89%
82c(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	0	0	0	0
82c(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources			0	0
82d(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled	78.28	26.95	78.2	76.11%
82d(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled			73,801	70599.5
84a	Kg of household waste per head per annum	528.03	488.1 (U)	530	521.72
84b	Percentage change from the previous year of Kg of household waste per head per annum			2.9	-1.42%
86	Cost of waste collection per household	42.59	35.31	42.99	not yet available
87	Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste	58.51	34.6	65.3	not yet available
90b	The percentage of people satisfied with waste recycling				
91a	Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which area served by a kerbside collection of recyclables	60.28	100		62.28%
91b	Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which area served by a kerbside collection of 2				60.28%

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outurn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outurn
	recyclables				
Cleanliness					
199a	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level	27	11	25	18%
199b	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible				3
199c	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible				2
199d	The year-on-year reduction in total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping'				Grading 1
	% of days public conveniences facilities closed	2.15		1.1	2.5%
Sustainability					
	CO2 emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per head of population/year	14.5		13.7	14.3%
	Percentage of eco-schools	60		65	72%
	Percentage of Council land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity purposes	2.49		2.6	2.49%
Planning					
106	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	68.3	94	60	Survey underway, data in June
109a	Percentage of major planning applications determined in under 13 weeks	46	69.01	60	61%
109b	Percentage of minor planning applications determined in under 8 weeks	51	75.4	65	74%
109c	Percentage of other planning	64	88	80	82%

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outurn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outurn
	applications determined in under 8 weeks				
200a	Plan Making – Have a development plan	no			yes
200b	Plan Making – Milestones	yes			yes
200c	Plan making – monitoring report				yes
204	Percentage of appeals allowed against authority's decision to refuse planning application	21	25	25	28
205	Quality of service checklist	89	88.9	90	94
219a	Total number of conservation areas in local authority area				64
219b	Percentage of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal				1.6%
219c	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals				0%
Environmental Health and Trading Standards					
166a	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health	90	97	90	45
166b	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards	86.6	100	90	78.75
216a	Number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the local authority area], with respect to land contamination				5,910
216b	Number of sites for which sufficient detailed information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary, as a percentage of all 'sites of potential concern'				0.15
217	Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time				95.29%
218a	Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification				83%
218b	Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the				90%

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outurn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outurn
	vehicle				
	Consumer satisfaction with trading standards service				73%
	Business satisfaction with trading standards service				91%
	Trading standards visits to high risk premises				79%
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - high risk premises				90%
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - medium risk premises				85%
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - low risk premises				86%
	Customer Satisfaction levels – overall satisfaction with EH service	81		82	80%

But, there is more than just improved performance. That improvement has been underpinned by many of successes during the year, which have included:

- ❑ In June 2005 the Council adopted an Environment Strategy to 2011
- ❑ The certification of Council services to ISO 14001 through the GEM programme has been extended to six further Council services
- ❑ In May 2005 Herefordshire Council backed the community bid to make Herefordshire a Fairtrade county (the County's bid has just been successful – the first County in the West Midlands to achieve this status and the third in the UK). The Council's own contribution has included serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at its meetings. In addition to this the Council has helped to attract popular support for the campaign across Herefordshire
- ❑ The Council has supported Bridge-It, an environmental advice and development scheme delivered by Groundwork; to date 50 companies have received advice, 8 seminars, 3 accredited Practical Environmental Management Courses and 1 Waste Minimisation Programme have been run
- ❑ In Trading Standards over 2,600 consumer and business complaints were received and dealt with, over £120,000 saved or recovered for consumers, there were four successful prosecutions and action was taken against 3 "rogue traders"
- ❑ Conclusion of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Public Inquiry in June 2005
- ❑ Adoption of further parish plans as supplementary planning guidance to the UDP (bringing the total to 11)

- ❑ Participation of the Conservation Service in a number of high profile archaeology projects including the ongoing Croft Castle excavations and the Credenhill Wood project
- ❑ The Lifescapes project, which ended in September 2005 has played a key role in identifying environmental enhancement opportunities in the 5 main river valleys of Herefordshire. This work will be further developed through the Mapping Opportunities for Habitats and Landscape (MOHL) resource as the basis for steering programmes of community led habitat improvement and restoration in the future.

Challenges for 2006-07

Targets for improvement have been set. In 2006-07 those for the environment are:

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
Waste			
82a(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled	17.31%	15.5%
82a(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled	16059.3	14,688
82b(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted	6.58%	7.1%
82b(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted	6102.11	6,728
82a(i) & 82b(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings that has been recycled or composted	23.89%	22.6%
82c(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	0	0
82c(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	0	0
82d(i)	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled	76.11%	77.4%
82d(ii)	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled	70599.5	73,348
84a	Kg of household waste per head per annum	521.72	530
84b	Percentage change from the previous year of Kg of household waste per head per annum	-1.42%	0%
86	Cost of waste collection per household	not yet available	45.19
87	Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste	not yet available	68.57
90a	The percentage of people satisfied with		89%

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
	household waste collection		
90b	The percentage of people satisfied with waste recycling		67%
90c	The percentage of people satisfied with waste disposal		82%
91a	Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which is served by a kerbside collection of recyclables	62.28%	To be determined
91b	Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which is served by a kerbside collection of 2 recyclables	60.28%	To be determined
Cleanliness			
89	The percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area		65%
199a	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level	18%	18%
199b	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible	3	2%
199c	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible	2	2%
199d	The year-on-year reduction in total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping'	Grading 1	Grading 1
Sustainability			
	Total emission per annum of CO2-e from Council Influenced activities (new indicator)		To be determined
	Percentage of all schools in Herefordshire registered on the eco-schools programme	14.3%	72%
	Percentage of all schools in Herefordshire registered on the eco-schools programme achieving award levels	72%	50%
	Percentage of Council land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity purposes	2.49%	2.8%
Planning			
106	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	Survey underway, data in June	60%
109a	Percentage of major planning applications determined in under 13 weeks	61%	60%
109b	Percentage of minor planning applications	74%	65%

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
	determined in under 8 weeks		
109c	Percentage of other planning applications determined in under 8 weeks	82%	80%
111	The percentage of applicants and those commenting on planning applications satisfied with the service received		78%
200a	Plan Making – Have a development plan	yes	yes
200b	Plan Making – Milestones	yes	yes
200c	Plan making – monitoring report	yes	yes
204	Percentage of appeals allowed against authority's decision to refuse planning application	28	25
205	Quality of service checklist	94	94
219a	Total number of conservation areas in local authority area	64	64
219b	Percentage of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal	1.6%	14%
219c	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals	0%	5%
Environmental Health and Trading Standards			
166a	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health	45	90
166b	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards	78.75	90
216a	Number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the local authority area], with respect to land contamination	5,910	5,901
216b	Number of sites for which sufficient detailed information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary, as a percentage of all 'sites of potential concern'	0.15	1
217	Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time	95.29%	To be determined
218a	Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification	83%	95%
218b	Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle	90%	95%
	Consumer satisfaction with trading standards service	73%	80%
	Business satisfaction with trading standards service	91%	91%
	Trading standards visits to high risk premises	79%	85%
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - high risk premises	90%	To be determined
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - medium risk premises	85%	To be determined

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - low risk premises	86%	To be determined
	Customer Satisfaction levels – overall satisfaction with EH service	80%	80

Some specific challenges include:

- Planning – to maintain and improve development control performance
- Waste –to encourage more home composting and other waste minimisation initiatives to reduce the amount of waste landfilled
- Waste Management – More biodegradable waste should be diverted from landfill. Detailed targets have been drawn up as part of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with Worcestershire County Council
- Streetscene – to maintain the current rate of improvement for the cleanliness indicators to achieve the LPSA2G target
- Sustainability – to ensure every effort is made both within the Council and across Herefordshire to reduce consumption of materials, reduce carbon emissions and maintain bio-diversity
- Consequences arising from implementation of the “Hampton Review” of national regulatory services
- The impact of the Cleaner Neighbourhood and Environment Act. The new duties it imposes on the Council will impact more specifically across the Environment Directorate, particularly around Streetscene activities
- The impact of the inspection and registration requirements of the new Food Hygiene Regulations
- The proposed movement of staff to the Plough Lane offices at intervals throughout the year will create short-term challenges for service delivery for individual services.

Key projects to be delivered include:

- The recently agreed Statement of Community Involvement will be submitted for approval
- Completing the GEM programme to obtain accreditation for all Council services
- Environmental Health and Trading Standards and Planning Services will be involved in the initial implementation of the Council’s Customer Services Strategy, particularly through the development of a new ‘Info by Phone’ initiative
- Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering offences
- A review of the Public Toilet Improvement Plan to enable it to be completed within existing funding constraints.

Work will also be undertaken on:

- Reviewing arrangements for access to and location of planning surgeries
- Reviewing the Council's land management arrangements to improve bio-diversity
- The three-year follow-up to the staff travel plan survey.

**PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSPORTATION)**

Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To receive a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) informing the Committee of policy issues affecting this programme area and the main priorities.

Background

2. A report from the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) is attached.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Report by Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)

In response to the invitation from the Environment Scrutiny Committee I am pleased to present the following report on our achievements in 2005-06 and the approach to the challenges of 2006-07.

The views of others

The year included the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment – the Assessment Team had only positive comments to make about our approach to managing highways and transportation; these included:

"The strategic delivery partnership contract including road maintenance which has clear aims, objectives and required outcomes, is delivering annual savings of some £750,000 thus providing better value for money and improvements in terms of service delivered that the public can see."

"Performance indicator (PI) results, together with other comparative data, suggest that more robust arrangements are needed to achieve continuous improvement and to ensure that performance management has a significant impact on service outcomes. Most impact to date has been in the environment directorate ..."

"The Council can demonstrate some significant achievements in the areas of regeneration, waste management, transport and sustainability. It is investing in further developments in these areas ..."

"The Council has a good Local Transport Plan (LTP) which it is successfully delivering. It has grasped the nettle regarding rural transport and has invested in local bus services. The Council has attracted national attention for its rural transport initiatives and rural bus programme. It is introducing national fare concessions for older people and see this as an opportunity to further promote public transport. It works to encourage cycling and car-sharing and has increased cycling levels counter to national trends. The Council has invested £2.3 million in the low floor bus project which provide over 80 per cent of the Council's contracts for subsidised bus services."

"The Council has successfully limited traffic growth and it is hitting its target of 1 per cent maximum increase in traffic in the Hereford area, although it has not been so successful in rural areas. The Council recognises it needs to do more to integrate transport and economic development; for instance it has a longer term vision for integrated public transport hub as part of Edgar Street redevelopment. It has taken the steps it can to improve its roads within limited resources. It has improved the quality of its principal roads although there is a backlog of maintenance work required on the large network of rural roads, the PIs for which do not compare favourably with others. It is increasing joint work with the Highways Agency (HA) to tackle problems of congestion in Hereford city centre where congestion is having an impact on tourism. It is also working with the HA to reduce accidents on the A49 trunk, although it has met its road safety target."

"The Council is successfully recognising the links between the different shared priorities and is, for instance, taking action to achieve its ambitions for older

people through improved transport. The low-floor bus project has 80 per cent of the fleet as low-floor buses on rural routes. This will help the Council address a range of issues that affect older people as in Herefordshire almost half of over 65s live in the most rural parts of the county.”

There has also been national recognition of our achievements –

Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire MIND have received national recognition after a transport scheme aimed at helping people in isolated communities was short listed and honoured at an award ceremony in London in June 2005.

The ‘Out and About Transport Project’ has provided buses, cars, advice and support to people with mental illnesses across the county. Under the scheme: which has received funding from Advantage West Midlands, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust and Lloyds TSB Foundation, people with mental illness can access mini-buses, cars, travel tokens and support services. Around 180 people from Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury and Bromyard regularly benefit from more than 600 passenger journeys a month.

What has been achieved?

Performance during 2005-06 has been good. Although there are some indicators where analysis of year-end outturn is still being done, most targets have been achieved or exceeded, as illustrated by the following table.

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outturn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outturn
	Progress with local transport plan				Above average
	Intervention by the Secretary of State under Traffic Management Act powers				No intervention
223	Percentage of the local authority principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered				Awaiting data
224a	Percentage of the non-principal classified road network where structural maintenance should be considered				Awaiting data
224b	Percentage of the unclassified road network where structural maintenance should be considered				Awaiting data
99a(i)	Number of Casualties All KSI	146	92	197	141
99a(ii)	Percentage Change over previous year - All KSI	-3%	-13.4%	-6% (137)	-3%
99a(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All KSI	-41%	-32.49%	-21% (137)	-43%
99b(i)	Number of Casualties Children KSI	6	12	18	8
99b(ii)	Percentage Change over previous	-25%	-28.1%	-6%	33%

BVPI	Indicator	2004-05 outturn	2004-05 top quartile	2005-06 target	2005-06 outturn
	year Children KSI			(5.64)	
99b(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average Children KSI	-73%	-53.13%	-20% (5.64)	-64%
99c(i)	Number of Casualties All Slight Injuries	719	721	744	783
99c(ii)	Percentage Change over previous year All Slight Injuries	-15%	-8.03%	1% (726)	9%
99c(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All Slight Injuries	0%	-14.41%	3% (726)	9%
100	Local authority road works per kilometre of traffic sensitive road	3.18	0.1	1.1	0
102	Local bus services (passenger journeys per year)	3,447,528		3,928,000	Data end-May - awaiting bus operator returns
165	The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people (change of definition for 2005-06)	93.1%	100%	65%	80%
187	Percentage of the category 1, 1a and 2 footway network where structural maintenance should be considered	32.35%	16%	34%	30.68%
215a	The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority				6.43
215b	The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a Distribution Network Operator (DNO)				34.15
	Change in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes <1% growth p.a.	102.3		104	Currently being analysed
	No. of cycling trips (index)	113		118	Currently being analysed
	Percentage of subsidised bus services operated with disabled accessible vehicles	79%		80%	80%

But, there is more than just improved performance. That improvement has been underpinned by many of successes during the year, which have included:

- The Council has been named as one of just 17 centres of excellence for local transport delivery, including public transport and road safety.
- The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2006-07 to 2010-11 was approved and assessed as "Promising"; although it was disappointing to receive an LTP settlement that was less than anticipated.
- Pedestrianisation of Widemarsh Street and High Street from 10 30am to 4 30pm daily, following extensive consultation and a six month experimental period.
- Completion of major improvements to Roman Road, Hereford.
- The first phase of a major enhancement project to revitalise Hereford city centre, in Eign Gate, was completed and officially opened in November. This was followed by the completion of re-paving of High Street at the beginning of 2006.
- Free concessionary bus travel for the over-60s (with effect from 1st April 2006) going beyond the Government's minimum requirements.
- Submitting a bid for the Rotherwas Access Relief Road, which was graded a Priority 1 scheme by the region's government Agencies.
- In Ross-on-Wye parking restrictions were reviewed and Wilton Road Car Park was made free-of-charge (in line with the parking strategy).
- Working with the Highways Agency to improve safety on the A49 at Ashton.

Our intentions for 2006-07

Improvement targets have been set for 2006-07 – for highways and transportation these are:

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
	Progress with local transport plan	Above average	Well above average
	Intervention by the Secretary of State under Traffic Management Act powers	No intervention	No intervention
223	Condition of principal roads - % worse than condition threshold	Awaiting data	5
224a	Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold - classified	Awaiting data	To be determined
224b	Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – unclassified	Awaiting data	20
99a(i)	Number of Casualties All KSI	141	129
99a(ii)	Percentage Change over previous year - All KSI	-3%	-5%
99a(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All KSI	-43%	-25%
99b(i)	Number of Casualties Children KSI	8	17
99b(ii)	Percentage Change over previous year Children KSI	33%	-6%
99b(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average Children KSI	-64%	-25%
99c(i)	Number of Casualties All Slight Injuries	783	750

BVPI	Indicator	2005-06 outturn	2006-07 target
99c(ii)	Percentage Change over previous year All Slight Injuries	9%	1%
99c(iii)	Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All Slight Injuries	9%	4%
100	Local authority road works per kilometre of traffic sensitive road	0	0
102	Local bus services (passenger journeys per year)	Data end-May - awaiting bus operator returns	3,817,000
103	The percentage of users satisfied with the local provision of public transport information		63%
104	The percentage of users satisfied with local bus services		62%
165	The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people	80%	90%
187	Percentage of the category 1, 1a and 2 footway network where structural maintenance should be considered	30.68%	30%
215a	The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority	6.43	5
215b	The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a DNO	34.15	33
	Change in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes - 1% growth p.a.	Currently being analysed	105
	No. of cycling trips (index)	Currently being analysed	107
	Percentage of subsidised bus services operated with disabled accessible vehicles	80%	80%
	Number of Penalty Charge Notices issued	19,184	20,000
	Number of Penalty Charge Notice appeals cases lost at appeal as a percentage of those taken appeal	50%	<50%

Some specific challenges include:

- Overcoming the downturn in bus usage and optimising accessibility where possible
- Meeting the LPSA2G casualty reduction target
- The Traffic Management Act 2004 has imposed new duties for highway network management and will extend the powers of the Council to enforce some moving traffic offences

- ❑ The movement of staff to the Plough Lane offices and Rotherwas at intervals throughout the year may create short-term challenges for service delivery for individual services
- ❑ Implementing the Council's updated Green Travel Plan
- ❑ Addressing the flood defence needs of Ross-on-Wye.

Key projects to be delivered include:

- ❑ Completing the refurbishment of High Town (work started on 8th May 2006)
- ❑ Traffic calming schemes for Marlbrook School and the new Whitecross School
- ❑ Revision of parking restrictions in Ledbury
- ❑ Continued work with the Highways Agency on improving safety on the A49
- ❑ Adoption of new Herefordshire Highway Design Guidance, following extensive consultation.

Work will also start on:

- ❑ Rotherwas Access Road (subject to the receipt of Government approval in the summer)
- ❑ Design and planning for park and ride facilities for Hereford
- ❑ Improvements to the cycle network and cycle parking.

GEM PERFORMANCE 2005/6: ANNUAL REPORT

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To review the Council's environmental performance, particularly in relation to GEM & ISO 14001, during 2005/06 to ensure that it continues to improve overall.

Financial Implications

2. GEM Objectives and targets are designed to be met within existing budgets and resources.

Considerations

3. The appended GEM annual report summarises the Council's performance against internal objectives over the year and new developments. The half year reports (last presented to the Cabinet Member & Environment Scrutiny in December 2005), which follow the annual compliance review and the report to senior management, focus more on the development and operation of the environmental management system.
4. Appendices to the report give more detailed information on:-
 - Performance in relation to GEM targets for 2005/06
 - Proposed programme for 2006/07, based on the Corporate Plan and the in-house elements of the Environmental Strategy (agreed July 2005).

Background

- 5 Environment Scrutiny have a role in scrutinising performance of the ISO 14001 system on behalf of Herefordshire residents and are defined within it as interested parties.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The report be noted, subject to any comments Members may wish to make to the Cabinet Member, Environment.



GEM

Environmental Report

2005/06

INTRODUCTION



Protecting the environment has always been one of the authority's top priorities and is also central to the Herefordshire Community Strategy. The Council has been committed to achieving an environmental management standard for all its activities and services since May 1998.

In July 2005 the Council celebrated 3 years of certification to ISO 14001, the international environmental management standard, and upgraded to the 2004 revision. All office administration and land management across the Council has been certified since July 2002 & other Council services have steadily joined the scope. This roll-out is due for completion in July 2006. Standards and performance are checked twice a year by our external certifier, SGS Yarsley.

The Environmental Strategy, agreed in July 2005, reinforces the Council's commitment to the environment & contributes substantially to the principles of sustainable development. It supports members of the public, Council staff & partner organisations in changing their behaviour to make better choices to help protect our local environment.



In the Environmental Strategy the Council recognises "the role that the Authority must play – not only as a leader of the community, but also in moving forward itself and setting an example for others to follow." So when we set out the Council's main external environmental commitments we mirrored them with targets relating our own operations. For instance, this year the public exceeded our target for recycling, achieving a rate of 17.36% of total waste - internally we achieved a 17.45% figure for our own office recycling of paper alone.

This report brings together the results of the Council's internal objectives and targets for 2005/06. It also summarises the results of GEM (Good Environmental Management) audits, ongoing initiatives and other developments throughout the year.

CONTENTS

GEM OBJECTIVES & TARGETS 2005-06

1. **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**
2. **CARBON MANAGEMENT**
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS**
4. **PARTNERSHIP & PROCUREMENT**
5. **BIODIVERSITY**
6. **CERTIFICATION**
7. **CORPORATE**
8. **DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE YEAR**
9. **PLANS FOR 2006/07**

Appendix 1 – Performance against GEM Targets 2005/06

Appendix 2 – GEM Action Plan 2006/07

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

“To improve resource efficiency across the Council”

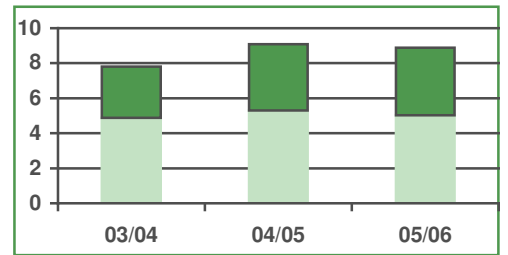
This objective links closely with the Gershon imperative to achieve efficiency savings. The Council’s Resource Efficiency Code, agreed on July 2005, states that:

The Council is committed to using resources effectively in order to release funds for front line services, increase efficiency and cut waste & environmental impact.

Paper Use¹

Total Paper Use 2005/06 = 8,879,000; Recycled = 89%
 Total Paper Use 2004/05 = 9,081,000; Recycled = 88%
 Total Paper Use 2003/04¹ = 7,810,000; Recycled = 86%

The total paper use of approaching 9 million sheets equates to around 4000 sheets per employee per year. The proportion of recycled paper used has increased by a further 1% since 2004/05. Paper use showed a reduction of 2.5% over the year compared to the previous year but is still higher than in 2003/04.



Total paper use in millions of sheets (light green = used in photocopiers; dark green = other)

Photocopiers

Total Copies 2005/06 = 5,022,359; Cost = £31,332.02
 Total Copies 2004/05 = 5,303,736; Cost = £32,939.65
 Total Copies 2003/04 = 4,889,000; Cost = £30,363.87

In line with the total paper use, photocopier use decreased over the year at a saving of £1,600 but is still higher than in 2003/04.

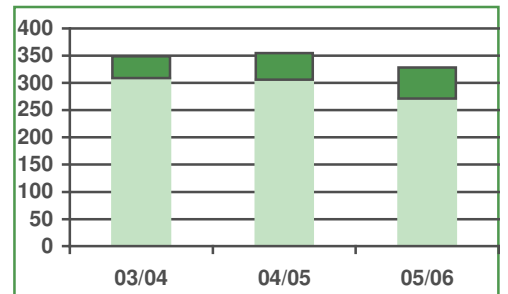
Water

Due to the difficulties in reading meters and the lack of any clear proportionality between the cost of water and its usage, we have no comparative data on water use within the Council. This is an issue that needs attention.

Trade Waste from council premises²

Trade Waste 2005/06 = 271.1 tonnes
 Trade Waste 2004/05 = 305.4 tonnes
 Trade Waste 2003/04 = 308.9 tonnes

The Council has reduced its trade waste volume by an encouraging 11%, saving over £4000 based on 2005/06 prices. However, due to the increasing costs of lifts, the actual savings are less than this. With the strong strategic emphasis on waste minimisation and the additional costs of landfill, there is considerable incentive to continue reducing trade waste.



Total Council waste in tonnes (light green = trade waste; dark green = recycled)

¹ Relates to paper supplied by West Mercia Supplies for internal use

² Calculation based on average weights for trade bins and trade sacks

Recycling from Council premises

Recycled Paper 2005/06 = 57.50 tonnes
Recycled Paper 2004/05 = 49.18 tonnes
Recycled Paper 2003/04 = 40.50 tonnes

The Office Recycling Scheme operated by Fast Lane Freight regularly collects from 35 Council Offices in the County. The amount of paper collected through the office-recycling scheme increased significantly over the previous two years, equating to a recycling rate of 17.45%. In addition, the number of bags containing cans and plastics for recycling also increased from 526 in 2004/05 to 680 in 2005/06. Cardboard is also increasingly collected through this scheme although we do not currently possess accurate records for the amounts collected.

Schools Recycling

In Spring 2006, 18 recycling banks were sited at various schools around the County. This programme will be rolled-out further in 2006/07.

The paper collections began in December and by the end of March 18 banks had been installed at 18 schools and a total of 11.73 tonnes had been collected.

Business Mileage

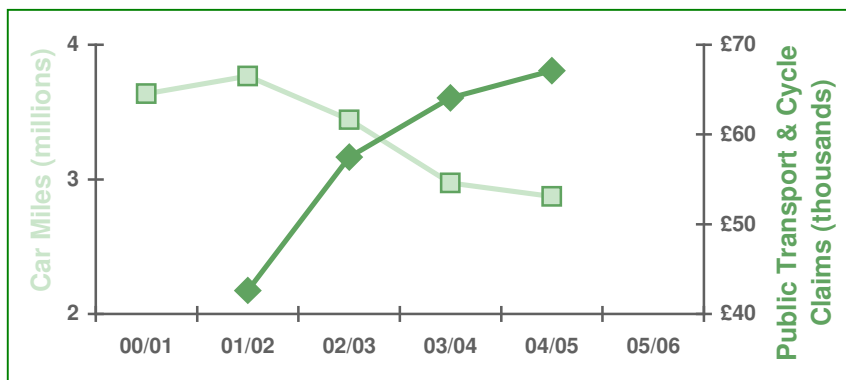
Up to date information to be supplied at the meeting – problems programming report

CAR – Miles claimed

BIKE – Miles claimed

From April 2005 employees receive 20p a miles for cycle business miles (previous rate 6.5p)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT – £³ claimed



³ It is impractical to compute the number of separate trips but the cost gives some indication of public transport use.

CARBON MANAGEMENT

“To achieve a 12.5% reduction in Council carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2012” Council Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), agreed March 2005

The CMAP focuses on reducing emissions by rationalising council accommodation & energy monitoring, plus measures to improve the efficiency of Council properties, including schools. The top three sources of emissions for the council are landfill sites, property and transport.

Gas Use

Up to date information to be supplied at the meeting

Taking a sample of 13 Council Offices for which we have reliable data we can see a 1.1% decrease in gas use in 2005 compared with 2004 and a 3.7% decrease since 2003.

In a sample of 25 Schools for which we have reliable data we can see a 0.4% decrease in gas use in 2005 compared with 2004 and a 2.2% decrease since 2003.

Electricity Use

Up to date information to be supplied at the meeting

Energy Costs

Prices are rising at a much faster rate than our energy efficiency initiatives are reducing our usage. Further rises are expected in 2006/07.

Price rises gas: 60% in Sept 2005

Price rise electricity: 25% in Dec 2005

Improvements in data quality

Since September 2005 it has been a contractual condition with N-power that gas meters are read monthly, so the accuracy of data will increase.

Over 80% of our smaller sites are now submitting meter readings to WMS on line, compared to 40% a year earlier.

Renewable Energy

The Council has continued to source 100% renewable electricity (obtained from turbines powered by burning sewage gas) for all Council owned and operated buildings and street lighting. The current contract runs to December 2006.

Climate Change

The Nottingham Declaration on tackling Climate Change was signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader in autumn 2005.

The Sustainability Unit has supported the development of the emerging Herefordshire Climate Change Strategy, helped with public consultation on the issues & given talks on climate change to groups across the County.

HECA Report

The 9th Home Energy Conservation Act report showed a 1.65% increase in householder energy efficiency between 31st March 2004 and 1st April 2005, the biggest in 6 years. This represents a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of around 10,500 tonnes. The work included the 11 solar installations through SEES (Special Energy Efficiency Scheme). This is more than any previous year and, since only 4

areas are targeted per year, it represents a very positive step towards changing the mindset of the public towards renewable energy. The overall progress of the HECA programme since 1996 shows a 14.35% improvement in energy efficiency within the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

“To reduce and control environmental risks associated with the Council’s Activities”

Contaminated Land

The design for drainage at Leominster landfill site was approved.

Salt Barns

The new Thorn salt barn at Rotherwas is now fully operational. This allows gritters to be stored and loaded inside, thus reducing spills. All salt has now been removed from the Burcott road depot and this is now non-operational although still in use by the Council for temporary storage during the High Town refurbishment.

Heatwave Plan

In recognition of a significant number of deaths throughout Europe in 2003 due to high temperatures, the Department of Health issued a Heatwave Strategy for local authorities to implement. Herefordshire Adult Social Care has issued procedures to its social care locality teams to follow in the event of official Met Office warnings of certain temperatures being predicted and the strategy has been highlighted to our independent sector providers, so that they are aware of its requirements.

Air Quality

In July 2005 the Council produced its annual Air Quality Progress Report. The ongoing monitoring work in the County indicates that although air quality in the county is generally very good the UK standards for NO₂ levels are likely to be breached at Hereford (A49) and Leominster (Bargates). The county’s second Air Quality Management Area was declared at Bargates in March 2006.

Monitoring work has revealed a rising trend in NO₂ countywide, a falling trend for particulates in Hereford and a rising trend in rural ozone.

Incident Reporting

A computerised Accident and Environmental Incident Report Form is now available for internal use by staff. No environmental incidents were recorded during the year on these forms.

Non-conformances

The GEM group track non-conformances with the ISO14001 system and corrective action needed.

16 non-conformances were logged internally during the year, 8 of which are now closed out. These include matters raised by the public, system failures and pollution risks (crematorium and Hillcrest Sewage Treatment Works). See table on page 12 for more information.

PARTNERSHIP & PROCUREMENT

“To improve the environmental performance of the Council by working with suppliers, contractors and partners”

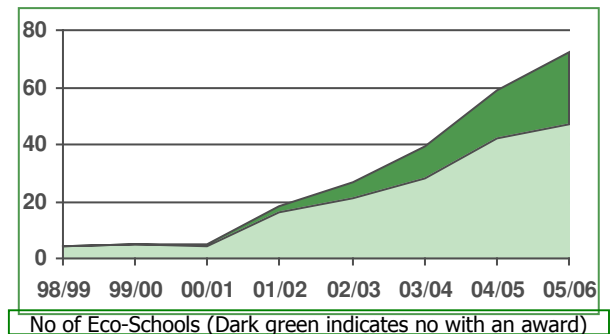
Fairtrade

The Council passed a resolution to support Fairtrade in May 2005 & now serves Fairtrade tea, and coffee at all Council meetings. In a bid to become a registered Fairtrade County it has also been working with the Community Fairtrade Steering Group to publicise and promote Fairtrade throughout Herefordshire.

For more information see the community website www.herefordshirefairtrade.org.uk

Eco-Schools

A total of 72 of Herefordshire’s 105 Schools are registered with this national scheme, 30 of these have reached one of the award levels and 8 have the top award – the prestigious Green Flag. An Eco-Schools day was held at Lugwardine Court in June and included a variety of activities based around the themes covered by the Eco-School scheme. Over 25 schools and 150 children attended and the feedback received was extremely positive.



A total of 12 grants were given to award-level Eco-Schools to support environmental initiatives. These included recycling bins, gardening tools, seeds, composters, ponds, wildlife areas and a willow structure.

The new Herefordshire Eco-Schools Directory was also produced and distributed to all schools within the County. This contains information and contact details for a wide range of organisations locally, regionally and nationally that work on environmental initiatives. A newsletter is also now being sent to all schools each term informing them about EcoSchools and other environmental initiatives going on in the County.



L to R: pond at Ashfield, paper bank, allotment at Almeley, sensory garden at Westfield, activity at Eco-Schools day.

Sustainable Procurement

- The Council’s revised Procurement Strategy states "The Council’s requirements will include social, environmental, sustainability and other strategic objectives defined at the earliest stages of the procurement cycle" and that directorate procurement should pay attention to the Resource Efficiency Code of Practice.
- The newly formed Resources Directorate now has responsibility for the corporate cohesion of all non-ICT procurement.
- Our term consultations, Owen Williams, achieved certification to ISO 14001 in April 2005.
- West Mercia Supplies has now agreed an environmental statement. During the year it has worked with the Council to increase its range of green items and now stocks Fairtrade beverages.

- The Council agreed a new School Meals policy in February 2006 that states that the amount of fresh, unprocessed and locally produced food used in school meals will be increased.

HJS Key & Environmental Performance Indicators

During the year the % of recycled paper used and certified timber bought for Council jobs has increased. Committee papers (white) have been printed on recycled paper since January 2005.

Work to investigate increased use of recycled material in roads & reductions in overall waste are ongoing.

Herefordshire Community Strategy

Environment and Sustainability are included in the vision and as guiding principles within the Local Area Agreement and the draft revised Community Strategy and also feature in the performance indicators.

Bridge-It

Economic Regeneration & the Sustainability Unit support this environmental advice & development scheme for local businesses, delivered by Groundwork through Bridge-it. Since the start of the partnership in 2004 they have advised over 50 Herefordshire based companies, run 8 free seminars, provided three accredited Practical Environmental Management Courses and 1 Waste Minimisation Programme.

Sharing Best Practice

The Sustainability Unit hosted visits from regional colleagues considering ISO 14001 from Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Government Office West Midlands and Sandwell during the year.

Guidance for Contractors

A guidance document was produced and circulated to contractors working on behalf of Strategic Housing stating the Council's desire to improve the environmental soundness of work undertaken. It included information on sustainable timber, PVC windows, non-toxic alternatives, low energy fittings and reduced water consumption.

BIODIVERSITY

“To build on existing work to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Council owned land”

Biodiversity targets

The county's Biodiversity Action Plan was extensively revised in Dec 2005. A new Biodiversity Partnership Officer is now in post and will be progressing the corporate target of increasing the % of Council owned land without a nature conservation designation managed for biodiversity. This was not achieved in 2005/06.

Biological Records Centre

The Herefordshire Biological Records Centre in Town Hall basement is a successful partnership initiative hosted by the Council. It involves nine volunteers who contribute the equivalent of five person days per week.

Over the past year the BRC has undertaken a wide range of work including:

- Assisting local wildlife recording projects e.g. dormice on the Malverns, ponds & newts project, community commons.
- Integration of species records produced as a result of development control surveys - over 3,000 new species records.
- Provision of data to support Environmental Stewardship applications
- Publication of 'Dragonflies of Herefordshire'.
- Organised two sell-out meetings for the county's 100+ natural history recorders
- Working with the botanical recorders in the county to produce and review a Rare Plants Register for publication in 5+ years time

Roadside Verge Nature Reserves

Herefordshire Nature Trust resurveyed all the Roadside Verge Nature Reserves (RVNR) during 2005/06 and produced a detailed report. A total of 31 sites were assessed and many boundaries have been revised. The report found that many RVNR s were deteriorating due to inappropriate management and suggested that short-term monitoring is continued, a complete review of RVNR is undertaken and that the Council work with Herefordshire Nature Trust to formalise a service level agreement on RVNRs.

Eco-Schools

Biodiversity became a new theme for the Eco-School programme from September 2005 (see also Partnerships section on page 8).

Access to the countryside

Successful summer and winter Walking Festivals were held, with numerous guided walks suitable for all abilities.

The CROW Act has now opened up access on foot to common land across the county and some of the Black Mountains. Access maps are available on the Countryside Agency website and also held by Public Rights of Way.

See the website for more details: <http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/wps/portal>

West Midlands Annual Monitoring Report for 2005

38% of all SSSIs in the county are in favourable/recovering condition against a regional average of 68% (Policy QE7). This is a red listed indicator for the county. The low figures is due to the presence of several large complex cross-border sites in

unfavourable condition, such as the Black Mountains and the river network affected by diffuse pollution from a range of sources, such as septic tanks, sewage treatment plants, land management and conifer plantations. Findings reported in Herefordshire's own Annual Monitoring Report fed into the regional report.

Unitary Development Plan

Although there are no specific targets set out in the UDP, the more specific objectives of biodiversity policies include:-

- Safeguard internationally, nationally and locally protected areas of nature conservation and geological importance, and species listed in the UK and local BAP from inappropriate and unnecessary development
- Ensure no net loss of either the quality nor quantity of biodiversity in the county
- Help meet the aims of the BAP for Herefordshire
- Encourage the provision of features of value to wildlife in all development schemes

CERTIFICATION

“To maintain ISO14001 certification and roll out the scope to cover all services by July 2006”

Internal Audits

A total of 32 GEM Internal Audits were carried out during 2005/06 covering properties, operational controls, whole services, contracts and partnerships.

These audits raised a total of 31 Non-Conformities (NC) & 19 Observations (OBS), see table 6 for details. Of these, 6 were overdue for close out at year-end.

Eight new GEM auditors were trained in June 2005 to undertake site audits. Training on auditing contracts was also provided to the existing team of 37 auditors in June. In February eight existing auditors were trained in advanced environmental auditor skills to enable them to complete systems and whole service audits

Audit Types	No
Systems	2
Operational Controls	6
Services	5
Properties	16
Contracts	3

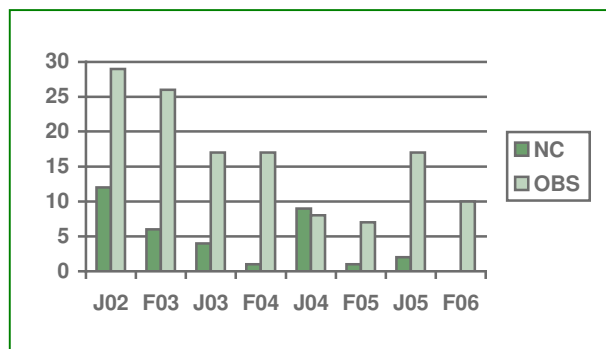
Internal Audit Summary	NC	OBS
Asbestos	5	
Waste Documentation	3	2
Monitoring & Reporting	3	
Emergency Procedures	2	2
Fire Equipment & Procedures	2	1
Officers in Charge	2	1
Electrical Installation	2	1
Portable Appliance Testing	2	1
Health & Safety	2	1
Document Control	2	
Store Cupboards	2	
Building Condition	1	1
Contractor Management	1	
Training Records	1	
Procedures	1	
Environmental Policy		4
PMF Maintenance		2
Control Of Waste		1
Cardboard Recycling		1
Fairtrade		1
TOTAL	31	19

External Audits

The Council was audited twice during 2005/06 by its external certifiers, SGS Yarsley with the following results (see also graph below):

July: 2 Non-Conformities
17 Observations

February: 0 Non-Conformities
10 Observations



Further internal Non-Conformities were also raised throughout the year in response to arising issues. These, together with the issues raised by SGS are shown in the adjacent table.

Non-conformance Summary	NC	OBS
Compliance	7	3
Interested parties	4	
Procedures	3	4
Communication	2	1
Reporting	2	1
Document Control	1	3
Objectives and Targets	1	3
Internal Audit		3
Monitoring		2
Records		2
Management Review		1
Aspects		1

Extension to ISO 14001 Scope

Two extensions to scope were also carried out during the year:

July: Strategic Housing, County Treasurers, Environmental Health & Trading Standards

February: Development Control, Building Control, Legal & Democratic Services and Adult Social Care

GEM Training

- Both GEM Co-ordinators successfully completed an IEMA approved 5-day advanced environmental auditor training course
- Eight GEM Auditors successfully completed a 2-day EMS Auditor course.
- Three members of the Environment Directorate achieved the new Chartered Environmentalist status.
- The new GEM Group, greatly altered as a result of retirements and reorganisation, undertook a full day of training on environmental management and ISO14001.
- A new corporate environmental management training session was produced and run for the first time in March.

Performance against 2005/06 targets

Some targets were delayed or only partially completed.

A total of 21 Non-Conformances relating to targets were raised during the year and referred to the GEM group.

Objective	Targets Completed	Partially Complete	Awaiting Information	Targets delayed	Due after April 06
Resource Efficiency	4		2	2	-
Carbon Management	3		2	-	-
Environmental Risks	3		-	3	2
Partnership & Procurement	5	2	-	1	-
Biodiversity	1	1	-	3	2
Certification	2	-	-	-	1
Corporate	1	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	19	3	4	10	5

CORPORATE

“To complete the environment strategy and disseminate its requirements across the authority”

Environment Strategy 2005 - 2011

This strategy, agreed in July 2005, covers the key existing internal and external targets within the Environment Directorate and GEM. It has been designed as a simple document listing the Council's broad objectives and targets, accompanied by an action plan providing the details and links to the specific targets.

The other major innovation is to mirror external and internal targets, thus demonstrating that the Council's own internal environmental objectives match its external objectives.

The 2004/05 baseline figures for the Environment Strategy were produced in September 2005. This will be updated in September 2006 and presented to the Cabinet Member and Environment Scrutiny.

The GEM Action Plan for 2006/07 (See Appendix 2) will track the internal targets from the Environment Strategy. Local targets will be integrated into the Service Plans.

Corporate Plan 2005 - 2008

The environment continues to be firmly embedded in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Extracts from the Council's Corporate Plan 2005-08

- 1.5 Everything in the Plan is intended to help deliver the Council's commitment to... a **sustainable environment** (1 of 4 bullet points)
- 5.1 The Council's **top priorities** for the period of this Plan are... to **protect the environment**, including by **recycling much more waste** and significantly **reducing carbon emissions** (1 of 8 bullet points)
- 5.2 To make these things possible, **the Council's organisational priorities** are... to **embed corporate planning, performance management ... systems** so as to continue to drive up service standards & efficiency (1 of 5 bullet points)

Making a reality of Council-wide policies, strategies and programmes

Agreement is now in place (December 2006) that all Council policies, strategies, programmes and procedures put forward for approval or scrutiny should show how they enable the Council to achieve its cross-cutting objectives including protecting the environment & sustainability. Over time this will help to achieve the Environment Strategy objectives.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE YEAR

New Legislation & Policy

- **Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act:** contains a range of measures to improve the quality of the local environment by giving Local Authorities and the Environment Agency additional powers to deal with Fly-tipped waste, Litter, Fly posting & Graffiti, Abandoned vehicles, Dogs and Noise
- **High Hedges Act:** gives local authorities the power to deal with complaints about high hedges which are having an adverse effect on a neighbour's enjoyment of his or her domestic property
- **'Securing The Future':** updated national Strategy for Sustainable Development makes specific reference to living within environmental limits and puts forward four priority areas: energy & climate change, production & consumption, resource protection and sustainable communities.
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive:** the objective of the SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to preventing environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development. Transportation undertook an SEA for the new Local Transport Plan.
- **Hazardous Waste Regulations:** these apply controls on movements of substances, such as interceptor waste, on the revised and expanded Hazardous Waste List.
- **Local Development Framework:** the incoming Forward Planning system requires all the documents within the Framework to undergo sustainability appraisal. These appraisals will then be public documents. Forward Planning started development of their appraisal process during the year.

Other regional and national developments

- The Director of Environment has become a Board member of Sustainability West Midlands and was a speaker at an SWM meeting at Bulmers.
- Advantage West Midlands passed a comprehensive and ambitious sustainable development policy.

Developments within the Council

- Update of Environmental Policy (June 2005)
- Publication of Corporate Environment Strategy (July 2005)
- Publication of Resource Efficiency Code of Practice (July 2005)
- Formation of corporate sustainability group with director level representation

PLANS & DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2006-07

A place where people, business
and an outstanding natural
environment will together bring
about sustainable prosperity and
well-being for all

Vision proposed for the revised
Herefordshire Community Strategy
& Herefordshire Council.

Local Strategic Partnership

Once the Herefordshire Community Strategy is launched mechanisms will be developed to embed its guiding principles, which include strong environmental & sustainability commitments, in the Action Plan.

Staff Travel Plan

The three-year follow-up to the Staff Travel Plan survey is due in the autumn. This should provide a detailed insight into the changes in staff travel modes and the effects of the initiatives undertaken through the Travel Plan process.

Carbon Management

A total of £50,000 has been secured to conduct energy audits of all high schools and larger primary schools over the current year. These surveys will identify areas for improvement in the energy efficiency of these buildings.

Legislation

- **WEEE Directive:** This Directive aims to reduce waste electrical and electronic equipment by allowing householder to return WEEE to collection facilities free of charge and force producers to take back and achieve demanding recycling and recovery rates. There have been several delays to implementation: the timetable for the implementation of the WEE Directive is now due in Spring 2006.
- **Environmental Liability Directive:** This directive says that operators carrying out hazardous activities will be held strictly liable (i.e. no need to show fault or negligence) for preventing or restoring damage caused by those activities to land, water and protected habitats or species. To be incorporated into UK law by April 2007.
- **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive:** This promotes energy efficiency in buildings and will require all public buildings over 1000sqm to display energy performance certificates within 3 years of the implementation date (January 2006)

See also GEM targets for 2006/07 in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Performance on GEM 2005/06 targets

<i>O</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Target text</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Done?</i>	<i>Completed</i>
1	6	Achieve a 5% increase in expenditure claimed by staff for public transport/cycling	01/04/2006	Info for full year will be available from Payroll in late May.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1	5	Achieve a 1% decrease in business mileage claimed per head	01/04/2006	Info for full year will be available from Payroll in late May.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	3	Reduce the energy usage of operational Council properties per square meter GIA	01/04/2006	Currently being computed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	1	Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from activities directly controlled by the Council /on which it has an influence (including schools) by 1.25% per annum	01/04/2006	Being computed at present. Figures look promising - a combination of falling energy consumption by buildings and consolidation of buildings. However, £ paid likely to rise overall due to steep price increases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	1	Strategic Housing, County Treasurers and remainder of EHTS to join the scope	01/07/2005	All successfully joined	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15/07/2005
7	1	Adopt Environmental Strategy and Action Plan	01/07/2005	Environment Strategy agreed and featured in GEM Newsletter. Further information to be sent out in early September to Key Managers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/06/2005
2	2	Integrate progress report on Carbon Management Action Plan into six monthly GEM reports to Cabinet Member and Environment Scrutiny	01/10/2005	Update included in report to Env Scrutiny 5/12/05 & targets integrated into GEM programme for full year report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	05/12/2005
2	5	Work with WMS to continue to purchase 100% renewable energy for Council properties via the energy supply agreement	01/11/2005	Contracts renewed in October & December 2005.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19/08/2005
1	4	Track progress on Staff Travel Plan & SOS travel-related results	01/12/2005	Survey integrated in with SOS in June. Results with Travel Team. Monthly monitoring of some elements in place. AB attended Dec GEM meeting to report on results. Half year figures showed 118% rise in cycle mileage from same period last year. Results set out in the Nov 05 report: 2005 Staff Opinion Survey for Travel Patterns and Working Styles including 2003 Staff Travel Survey results.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06/12/2005
5	1	Complete BAP Update 2005	01/01/2006	Council input completed in Summer 2005. Publication being co-ordinated by HNT- currently at final proof stage and expected to be available in mid December (29/11). Printed Feb 06. Nicola Davies, Biodiversity Partnership Officer, is now circulating to relevant people.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	09/12/2005
6	2	Planning (DC and BC), Adult Social Care and CSS to join the scope	01/02/2006	Joined scope 3/2/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	03/02/2006

45

	<i>O T Target text</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Done?</i>	<i>Completed</i>
	3 4 Thorn Salt barn operational and stores consolidated	01/03/2006	Current position at Jan 06 regarding salt stocks:- 1. Thorn Depot. New salt barn was commissioned on 4th October 2005 and has since been used for all salting activities. Loaders can now dump inside barn so double handling not required. Room to store vehicles inside barn. 2. Burcott Depot. Not used since the commissioning of the new barn at Thorn, there remains a small stock of salt in the old barn. Rather than double handle the material the intention is to use directly from the depot during the next sustained cold spell. Depending on the severity of the weather I would anticipate there being some 2 to 3 days worth of salt, there is no intention to restock. 3. Station Approach, Ross-on Wye. No longer used as a winter maintenance depot and no salt stocks held. 4. Ashburton Depot, Ross-on-Wye. No salt stock currently held, the intention is to deliver a minimal stock of Safecote material for emergency use when weather conditions dictate. This material will be covered with sheeting to protect it from the elements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	4 4 Explore feasibility of increasing purchase of locally produced food and supplies	01/03/2006	Council motion supporting Fairtrade linked to encouraging use of local suppliers. Peter Norton of Bulmer Foundation leading Local Food for Local Schools Group. Julian Reeves, James Farrell and Mary Burton on Group. Revised School Meal policy agreed with commitment to increasing % of locally sourced food. Monitoring committee being set up. HJS offer buffet with local/organic produce at an extra cost of £1.50 per head.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	1 7 Reduce the total number of vehicles deployed at 2 further High Schools by 10%	01/04/2006	Objective achieved at Queen Elizabeth and Fairfield High Schools with effect from September 2005.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/10/2005
46	1 3 Increase the amount of Council trade waste recycled through the Office Recycling scheme	01/04/2006	Figures provided by Fast Lane Freight via Recycling Officer 2/5. Recycling rate of 17.45% (paper) based on an average weight per bag. Cans, plastics and card recycled in addition but not included in this year's calculation as model weights not set.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	1 2 Decrease Council trade waste generated , thus reducing amount land filled (and included against our Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme allowance)	01/04/2006	Info on waste reduction included in Resource Efficiency Code. Officers in Charge reminded of ways to reduce waste, eg by increasing recycling of cardboard. Calculation show an 11% drop during the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	2 4 Reduce the fossil fuel consumption for operational Council property (including schools) by, for instance, improving boilers and control systems	01/04/2006	Work undertaken during year includes:- Heat exchangers at Ledbury & Ross swimming pools. New boilers at Ross swimming pool, Broadlands School. New heating at Whitbourne School. Improved pipework & hot water at several premises.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	3 8 Prepare a Heat wave Plan, covering vulnerable adults in the Council's care	01/04/2006	In recognition of a significant number of deaths throughout Europe in 2003 due to high temperatures, the Department of Health has issued a Heat wave Strategy, for local authorities to implement. Herefordshire Adult Social Care has issued procedures to its social care locality teams to follow in the event of official Met office warnings of certain temperatures being predicted and the strategy has been highlighted to our independent sector providers, so that they are aware of its requirements."	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	3 3 Declare Bargates AQMA (as required by DEFRA)	01/04/2006	The Bargates Air Quality Management Area (Leominster) was declared on 1st March 2006, following the issue of an order and its recent publicity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<i>O</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Target text</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Done?</i>	<i>Completed</i>
4	8	Provide paper recycling bins to schools	01/04/2006	18 bins provided to end of year. Further 19 schools being considered for 06/07 programme.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4	7	Increase number of Eco-schools with awards from 29% to 35% (BVPI) [Also see Corp Plan page 34]	01/04/2006	40% of registered schools have awards at Feb 06 (would be higher if took numbers registered at 31/1/05)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4	5	Work with Bridge-It to encourage local businesses to improve standards of environmental management and performance.	01/04/2006	11 companies supported this year. This is in addition to a number of awareness seminars held early in the year. Seminar with Sustainability West Midlands, 28/2/04. Formal report awaited from Bridge it. Bridge-it are also working up proposals for a local Business Env Association. 2 years extension of partnership (up to 07/08) has been agreed with Ec Regen & Sust Unit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5	6	Resurvey Roadside Verge Nature Reserves & consider extensions to scheme where appropriate	01/04/2006	Survey of the condition & ecological assessments of RVNR undertaken in May and July and received from HNT in September 05. Each site has file card with photo, map and updated species list. 6 out of 33 sites are recommended for deletion. Meeting to consider results & possible extension due Dec 05 will consider questions of marking posts and possible extension of scheme to cover further areas. Deciding best method for remarking remains difficult. Formal contract with HNT being drawn up for 06/07.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

GEM Action Plan 2006/07

The GEM Action Plan targets are designed to complement the external commitments within the Council's [Environment Strategy](#), committing the Council to taking a lead itself as well as encouraging the public and its partners to improve environmental performance.

These targets are shown in the format adopted for the Annual Operating Plan, so that they fit well into the Council's normal Performance Management Framework.

Service specific targets should now be included in Service Business Plans as part of the roll-out of responsibility for the environmental impact of their services to service managers.

Monitoring & Reporting

The corporate GEM group will monitor progress on corporate targets in line with the Performance Management framework (at 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 months). Progress on service specific targets will be monitored at 6 months and full year.

The half year and annual report to Cabinet Member (Environment) and Environment Scrutiny show the progress made with each of the objectives, the targets within the objectives and, where applicable, the progress from commitments made in previous years.



Indicator	Performance		Milestone	Action	By When	Risk/ Mitigation	Resources	Responsible Officer
	Outturn 05/06	Target 06/07						

WASTE – Reduce Council trade waste sent to landfill and increase recycling

Total Council waste per employee	154.5 kg	152.5 kg	Half Year Report	Promote reduction, reuse and recycling	Mar 07	Increased use of materials/Increased recycling	GEM Team	T Marsh
Council trade waste sent to landfill	308.9 kg	305.8 kg	Half Year Report	Promote reduction, reuse and recycling	Mar 07	Increased use of materials/Increased recycling, corporate procurement	GEM Team	T Marsh
Council waste recycled	17.45% (paper)	20%	Half Year Report	Promote recycling and use of recycling scheme. Improve measurement of cardboard collected.	Mar 07	Decreased recycling/ PR and facilities	GEM Team	T Marsh/L Preece
Employees with access to recycling	18 banks 11.7 tonne	33 Banks 40 tonnes	Half Year Report	Recycling facilities provided to Schools	Mar 07	Lack of uptake/ PR via Eco-Schools	Recycling Officer	T Marsh/L Preece

TRANSPORT – Reduce use of private cars and increase the use of public transport and bicycles

Schools with Travel Plans	51	73	Award Ceremony July	Work with schools to produce travel plans	Mar 07	Lack of interest by schools/ grants and promotions	Gov Travel Plan Grants of £5/10k per school	L Sinker
Cycle mileage claims	Awaiting Figures	20% Increase	Half Year Report	Promote cycling through Staff Travel Plan (STP)	Mar 07	Lack of interest by staff/ Increase PR	Travel Plan Unit	A Barton
Public Transport claims	Awaiting Figures	5% Increase	Half Year Report	Promote public transport through STP	Mar 07	Lack of interest by staff/ Increase PR	Travel Plan Unit	A Barton
Car mileage claims	Awaiting Figures	1% reduction	Half Year Report	Promote non-car based travel via STP	Mar 07	Lack of interest by staff/ Increase PR	Travel Plan Unit	A Barton

ENERGY – Reduce the consumption of energy and promote the use of renewables

CO₂ eq emissions from Council activities	Awaiting Figures	1.25% reduction	Half Year Report	Property rationalisation and promotion of energy efficiency School energy surveys	Mar 07	Increased energy use/Property rationalisation	See CMAP	T Marsh/R Wood
CO₂ eq emissions per head of staff	Awaiting Figures	1.25% reduction	Half Year Report	Property rationalisation and energy efficiency	Mar 07	Increased energy use/Property rationalisation	See CMAP	T Marsh/R Wood

Indicator	Performance		Milestone	Action	By When	Risk/ Mitigation	Resources	Responsible Officer
	Outturn 05/06	Target 06/07						

ENERGY (cont.)

Energy consumption of Council properties	Awaiting Figures	1.25% reduction	Half Year Report	Property rationalisation and promotion of energy efficiency	Mar 07	Increased energy use/Property rationalisation	Building Maintenance & Energy Audits	T Marsh/R Wood
Generation of renewable energy	0Kwh	Increase	Report from trial of bore holes	Explore feasibility of installing landfill gas generator at Stretton Sugwas	Early 2008	Delay beyond March 08 would mean scheme not eligible for ROCs	£19K + submit Planning App from Property	A Tector / C Birks
Use of renewable energy	100%	100%	Contract negotiation	Renew contract for renewable energy	Autumn 2006	Increased price /Council policy	Property Services	C Eldridge

WATER – Control water consumption and encourage efficiency

Water cost for Council owned buildings	Scant useable data	Establish baseline	Half Year Report	Collect & analyse schools data for baseline. Focus on high users. Review spec for appliances using water.	Mar 07	Incomplete or estimated data/Use only complete data	Property Services	C Eldridge
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NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT – Protect and enhance the natural & built environment

% Council owned land without designation managed for biodiversity	2.6%	2.8%	Half Year Report	Target management of highway verges, cems & cremes and school land	Mar 07	No assistance from other services/ training & communication	Officer in charge of project with support from other services	B Bloxsome/ N Davis
Condition of Council owned SSSIs	Establish area	100% Favourable/recovering	Half Year Report	Ensure management plans in place, resourced and implemented	Mar 07	Nationally red listed/Implement management plans to improve	Parks & Countryside Conservation	B Bloxsome

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS – minimise

Contaminated land under control of the Council	Not determined.	Review priorities	Half Year Report	Prioritise all sites via risk assessment.	Mar 2008	Lack of staff resources	EHTS	A Tector
Landfill gas emissions	No data available	Establish data	Boreholes to establish emissions	Installation of enclosed flare for Stretton Sugwas Landfill gas	By Mar 2008	Current flaring doesn't meet requirements/ new flare	£50,000 (25k invest-to-save)	A Tector

Indicator	Performance		Milestone	Action	By When	Risk/ Mitigation	Resources	Responsible Officer
	Outturn 05/06	Target 06/07						

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS – promote good environmental practice to others

Coverage of ISO14001	7 Services Joined	Full Coverage	Audit in July	Ensure services are prepared for entry	July 06	Services not ready/Preparation	GEM Team	T Marsh/ M Turner
Staff awareness of GEM	78% (2004)	Increase	SOS	Include GEM questions in SOS 2007/08	Nov 06	Low response/PR and increased comms	SOS/ GEM Team	T Marsh/ M Turner
Number of Eco-Schools	72%	72%	Conference 5 April to build awareness & motivation	Continue to utilise part time co-ordinator to support schools. Termly newsletters	Mar 07	Schools fail to reregister on-line Lack of interest by schools/good PR	Sustainability Unit Linking with Children's service	T Marsh/ M Turner
Number of Eco-Schools with an award	40%	50%	Conference 5 April to build awareness & motivation	Continue to utilise part time co-ordinator to support schools. Termly newsletters	Mar 07	Lack of interest by schools/good PR	Grants up to £250 for schools with award	T Marsh/ M Turner

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Paper use	8.879 million	8.701m (2% decrease)	Half Year Report	Promote double sided and reduced use	Mar 07	Increase use of paper/Corporate procurement	GEM Team	T Marsh/ M Turner
Proportion of recycled paper used	89%	90%	Half Year Report	Promote recycled paper use and check use via audits	Mar 07	Decreased use of recycled paper/ Corporate procurement	GEM Team	T Marsh/ M Turner

BIOFUELS BRIEFING

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To inform members about the rapidly developing biofuels industry and how it may relate to aspects of Planning, Environmental Health and Trading Standards, the Council's commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through the Carbon Management Action Plan and the recently adopted Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Considerations

3. Progress with implementation of the Council's Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy and the Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy.

Background

4. The Council adopted its Carbon Management Action Plan in March 2005. The use of biofuels is one of the ways that Council emissions can be reduced.
5. The use of biofuels is growing because they reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by replacing fossil fuels. Biofuels are produced from crops and do not increase CO₂ emissions simply because the carbon dioxide released when they are burnt is re-absorbed by the following year's crop.
6. Nationally, biofuels are not a complete answer to the reduction of CO₂ emissions, but their use can make a significant contribution in rural areas whilst presenting an important contribution to rural regeneration and economic development.
7. Biofuels can be produced from a wide variety of crops known collectively as biomass. These are best processed within 40km of the place where they are grown. This is a Defra recommended limit that helps to ensure that emissions from transporting biomass do not erode the emission savings resulting from the use of biofuels.
8. As a result, some (but not all) biofuels processing is best developed in rural counties such as Herefordshire. Biofuels are, therefore, likely to increase rural economic activity, including safeguarding existing jobs, whilst helping the creation of new jobs in emerging environmental technology industries.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Trish Marsh, Sustainability Manager on 1930

9. The materials used to produce biofuels are classified by EU directive and include well-known sources such as sugar beet and other sugar-containing materials, rapeseed, grain, miscanthus (elephant grass) as well as the biodegradable fraction of domestic and industrial waste, waste cooking oils as well as biogas (or methane) from landfill sites and solid food and farm waste.
10. Biofuels can be used as blends with road-fuels in conventional petrol and diesel engines and as 100% substitutes for fossil fuel in small-scale power generation, usually in stationary engines fitted with generators connected to the local grid.
11. In December 2005, the Government announced its intention to introduce a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO). This will place an obligation on oil companies to include a minimum of 5% biofuels in all their petrol and diesel by 2010. The RTFO will allow producers of biofuels to receive approximately 30p for every litre produced, in addition to an existing fuel-duty reduction of 20p. These monies will be recycled to producers of biofuels by oil companies unable or unwilling to meet their annual biofuel percentage obligation. In this way a significant financial incentive is created to support the development of biofuels.
12. Biodiesel is the most publicised biofuel. It is manufactured by processing used vegetable or fresh rapeseed oil. Biodiesel has been blended with fossil-fuel diesel for many years. The processing of any waste material (beyond a lower limit) requires a license from Environmental Health and Trading Standards. This is particularly important with processing of waste vegetable oils and can extend to other materials classified as biofuels under the EU regulations. The use of waste vegetable oils as fuels for stationary engines used to generate power is currently a “grey” area under Defra interpretation of the regulations, so a wise approach is to always seek early advice from Environmental Health.
13. Internationally, bioethanol has now overtaken biodiesel as the leading biofuel even though very little is produced in the UK. This is mainly provided by imported ethanol made in Brazil from sugar cane. In the run-up to the European Directive (2003/30/EC) on biofuels, Brazil along with three other ethanol producing countries were provided with a temporary right to export to Europe a quota not exceeding 1 million tonnes per year. However, there is growing evidence that Brazil is diverting its own supplies as an oil substitute because of increases in the oil price, and currently most ethanol sold in the UK comes from France and Germany.
14. As a result, British Sugar has started construction of a sugar beet bioethanol plant in Norfolk and Wessex Grain have announced that they will be building a bioethanol plant using grain as the biomass in Somerset.
15. This is a clear trend and as a result the two main biofuels for road transport are increasingly likely to be supplied from large centralised plants, mostly located at or near coastal ports. Such large plants are unlikely ever to be situated in Herefordshire.

Local developments

16. There is an existing biodiesel processing company at Rotherwas Industrial Estate which processes biodiesel from waste vegetable oil collected from Herefordshire hotels and restaurants (including Herefordshire schools). This company is also developing plans to generate power from biodiesel in one or more small-scale stationary engines at Rotherwas. The plant would be located adjacent to Herefordshire Jarvis Services and would supply a significant proportion of the electricity requirements of Rotherwas businesses, although not directly.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Trish Marsh, Sustainability Manager on 1930

17. There are outline plans for a rapeseed-biodiesel plant to be constructed in Herefordshire with a capacity of 8,000 tonnes per year of biodiesel. This would provide the entire biodiesel requirement of Herefordshire. The Company involved is in the process of seeking a Defra capital grant. They would source most of its rapeseed from local farmers.
18. As part of the Carbon Management Action Plan, the first stage of the Stretton Sugwas biogas (methane) power generation project has begun. New boreholes are being sunk to improve biogas collection in preparation for the eventual installation of a small-scale engine generator. This project could provide sufficient "green" electricity for 60% of Herefordshire's street lighting for about ten years. If installed before the end of March 2008, the output will qualify as "renewable" electricity and command a significant price premium.
19. Small-scale production and use of biofuels is considered appropriate for Herefordshire and these will include the use of new generation wood-fired boilers for heating. This is leading to a new industry for supplying wood-chip, which is a positive development for those managing Herefordshire's woodlands. Consideration of the conversion of a number of oil-fired boilers in schools is currently underway. Furthermore, a number of small-scale biomass-fired power generation systems are at various stages of planning throughout the county using a range of crops, including rapeseed oil by-products, wood chips and Miscanthus and straw. Although not generally considered as waste, every installation will be subject to review and/or licensing by Environmental Health and Trading Standards in terms of the emissions of normal products of combustion and other wastes.
20. Outline plans have been submitted to AWM by developers for an Environmental Technologies business park in the county which will include biofuels as a key driver, along with secondary sectors including wider non-food crop industries. The plans extend to a £25 million phase 1 development which is designed to include a cluster of small-scale biofuel industries, including associated industries such as "crop" pharmaceuticals. The site is intended to be carbon neutral.

Regulatory considerations

21. Local developments are likely to be initiated by the private sector without the direct involvement of Herefordshire Council. However pre-planning meetings with Council services such as Environmental Health, Planning and Economic Development should be actively encouraged as they allow prospective developers to explore projects in a positive and integrated way, which will assist in minimising future difficulties.
22. Some biofuels use materials "arising" from other process, e.g. chipboard manufacture. In such cases although these materials may qualify as renewable fuels they may also be regarded as waste for regulatory purposes and environmental protection and require Waste Management Licencing (Environment Agency).
23. A planning application is required for power generation by anyone other than statutory undertakers. Although small-scale power generation is unlikely to come within the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, the applicant still has to provide sufficient information for the Council to be satisfied that there would be no adverse environmental effects. There is also distinction in planning terms between "waste oil" (i.e. previously used) and new oil, and also between vegetable oil and mineral oil.

24. Biofuel manufacturing or combustion plants are also likely to require a permit to operate under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regs. Environmental Health's Air & Water Team or the Environment Agency would issue this licence.

Potential benefits

25. A significant number of local authorities have identified the "non-wind turbine" economic regeneration potential of renewable energy including biofuels. Herefordshire Council should take a proactive role in the evolution of these new industries which, to a significant extent, need to be sited close to the source of raw materials.
26. No formal assessment of the employment potential of the sector has been yet been undertaken locally. Such a study would provide a firm foundation from which to integrate the biofuel sector within the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy. A number of Regional Development Agencies have already made similar assessments for their own areas. Based on typical figures from these assessments, the employment potential in Herefordshire could be considerable, ranging between 750 and 1000 new and safeguarded jobs between 2006 and 2012.
27. Development of local biofuel capacity would additionally assist in achieving the objectives of the recently agreed Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy, which is supported by the Council's own Carbon Management Action Plan.

Regional dimension

28. The Regional Energy Strategy for the West Midlands (2004) sets a stretching regional target of 5% renewable generation by 2010 (national target is 10%) and 10% by 2020 and calls upon local authorities "to encourage proposals for the use of renewable energy resources, including biomass, through their Development Plans" (see also RPG11). If regional targets for renewable energy were devolved to a county level, biofuel developments would help Herefordshire to meet them.

"Because of its geography the West Midlands has (relative to other regions) few economic wind resources. Since wind energy is currently the main and most cost-effective source of renewable energy, in the short to medium term, renewables are only expected to make a relatively small contribution towards achieving significant carbon dioxide reductions in the region. Biomass has an important part to play in the renewable energy mix of the region in the medium to long term. There are significant opportunities for rural communities and businesses to develop biomass as an energy resource, from wood and forestry residues in the forestry sector and from non-food energy crops (miscanthus, short rotation coppice). Landscape character and biodiversity considerations should be taken into account for all of these prospects. (WMRES Section 3.2.3)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The report be noted, subject to any comments Members may wish to make to the Cabinet Member, Environment.

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07**Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT****Wards Affected**

County-wide

Purpose

1. To inform Members of the latest position with regard to the Environment Capital Programme for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Considerations**2005/06 Outturn**

Although work is continuing to complete the 2005/06 outturn, spending on Local Transport Plan Schemes is expected to be very close in total to the amount forecast. Spending on the non LTP schemes, such as Hereford Crematorium, Grafton Travellers Site, Public Convenience Improvements and Leominster Closed Landfill Monitoring Infrastructure. These are largely funded by Prudential borrowing and is expected to be some £740,000 less than forecast. All the available funding can however be carried forward into 2006/07 and the slippage does not cause any financial problems.

2006/07 Programme

The Capital Programme for 2006/07 is set out in the attached Appendix 1, which gives details of the individual schemes.

2. The programme has been largely based on the Local Transport Plan.
3. The total amount available for the Capital Programme shown is £12,554,434.
4. The largest element of funding comes from the S.C.E (R) or supported capital expenditure (Revenue) which totals £10,475,000. The other main funding is Prudential Borrowing of £1,806,950.
5. The Capital Programme for 2006/07 will inevitably change during the year as the sums allocated for individual schemes are reviewed and revised. The first 2006/07 full monitoring exercise is due to take place as at 31st July 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report confirming the Environment 2006/07 Capital programme budget be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.

Environment General Capital Programme 2006/07

Original
Capital Programme
2006/07

£000

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy

Walking and Access

Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	195

Cycling

Cycle Network Development	200
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Public Transport Minor Schemes

Bus Priority Measures	45
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Park and Ride

Christmas Park and Ride	20
Park and Ride Sites analysis	150

Hereford Intelligence Transport System

Hereford Intelligence Transport System	100
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Rotherwas Access Road

Rotherwas Access Road	500
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Rural Towns and Market Towns Transport Strategy

Walking and Access

Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20
Rural Footway Improvements	95

**Original
Capital Programme
2006/07**

£000

Cycling

Network of Cycle Routes and Parking 200

Public Transport Minor Schemes

Public Transport Information Access Points 60

Rural Rail Improvements 50

North West Herefordshire HGV Study 50

Travel Awareness Campaign 35

Accessibility Partnership Development 30

Public Rights of Way Access Improvements 25

Countywide Strategy

Hearts and Minds

School Travel Support 25

Minor Safety Schemes

Minor Safety Improvements 300

Traffic Calming

Traffic Calming 150

Safer Routes to Schools

Safer Routes to Schools inc 20mph zones 385

**Original
Capital Programme
2006/07**

£000

Speed Control

Village Speed Restrictions	60
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Monitoring

Monitoring	40
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Highways Maintenance

Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,728
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Capitalised Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	3,547
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Footways	1,064
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Embankments	100
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Bridge Maintenance

Capitalised Assessment & Strength of Bridges	900
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Rights of Way Improvements	25
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Transport Staff costs allocated over LTP	301
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Non LTP Schemes

Hereford Crematorium	1,047
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Leominster Closed Landfill	500
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Public Toilets improvements	200
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Grafton Travellers Sites	200
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Pembridge Travellers Sites	58
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Waste Performance and Efficiencies	74
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Total original Capital Programme	<u>12,554</u>
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FUNDING

Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue	10,475
Prudential Borrowing	1,560
Prudential Borrowing Slippage carried Over from 2004/05	245
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	74
Grafton Travellers Site	100
Capital Receipts Reserve	100
Total Funding Available	<u>12,554</u>

ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 AND OUTURN 2005/06

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To inform members of the latest position with regard to the Environment Budget for 2006/07 following the formal approval of the Council's budget.

Considerations

Outturn 2005/06

Work is still continuing to complete the final outturn but an underspending of around £800,000 is expected. The underspending is largely on Planning due to staff savings, additional building control and development fee income and Planning Development Grant income which will be carried forward into 2006/07.

Budget 2006/07

2. The Council approved a 2006/07 budget of £25,754,000 for the Environment Programme Area.
3. In addition to the effects of inflation, the following adjustments were made to the 2006/07 Environment budget approved by the Council.

	£000
(a) Budget Additions	
Concessionary Fares	514
Waste Management PFI Contract	825
Public Transport. Withdrawal of subsidised bus service (Advantage West Midlands funding)	85
Waste Collection catchup on Contractual inflation indices	200
Street Cleansing catchup Contractual inflation indices	50
	<u>1,667</u>

Further information on the subject of this report is available from David Keetch on (01432) 260227

Less Efficiency Savings

Recruitment Advertising	7
Additional Vacancy savings	102
Reduction in supervision between client and HJS	100
Reduction in HJS rates	45
SIPS in Planning, Environmental Health and Trading Standards	100
	<u>347</u>

**TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE
BUDGET APPROVED BY THE
COUNCIL ON 11 MARCH 2005** **1,320**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report confirming the Environment 2006/07 budget be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.

BEST VALUE REVIEWS – IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

- 1 To report the remaining actions and the exceptions to the programmed progress in the improvement plans resulting from the reviews of Commercial Enforcement Development Control and Public Conveniences.

Financial Implications

- 2 There has been no variation to the financial implications identified in the individual Improvement Plans.

Background

- 3 In response to comments from Members and Officers, the reporting arrangements for the March Scrutiny Committee were improved by consolidating the reports and only reporting on exceptions to the programmed actions. That is, where actions have been completed earlier than programmed or where the timetable has not been met.
- 4 Since that report many of the remaining outstanding actions relating to Development Control and Commercial Enforcement, have been overtaken by the Council's "Herefordshire Connects" and accommodation projects and the introduction of a corporate approach to recruitment; these actions have been excluded from this report.
- 5 The purpose of these action plans has been to improve performance in the identified services. Performance against agreed targets for 2005-06 has been reported elsewhere on this agenda.
- 6 Appendix 1 of this report covers the following improvement plans:

- Development Control
- Commercial Enforcement

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Members note and comment on, where appropriate, the implementation of the improvement and action plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from John Eades, Performamnce Officer on 01432 260985

PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENT PLANS

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL BEST VALUE REVIEW

Priority	Outcome	Action	Milestones	Officer(s)	By When	Progress to the end of March	Indicator for Improvement
High	Improved quality and accessibility of highways design advice Improved speed of applications processing and responsiveness of service	Review and update current Highway Design Guide	Adopt Manual for Streets when published by DfT in November 2005	Team Leader Transportation	December 2003 Date revised to July 2005	Highways Design Guide awaiting publication Performance targets exceeded	BV109 – Determine applications within 8/13 weeks

67

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW

Priority	Outcome	Action	Milestones	Start / Finish	Officer(s)	Financial / Environmental Implications	Progress to the end of March	Indicator for Improvement
	Improved capacity	Undertake a review of possible joint working arrangements with neighbouring authorities.	Undertake Analysis of areas where Joint Working may be possible	September 2006	Divisional Management Team	Cost Savings	Ongoing discussion with Worc. CC e.g. WCC take lead roll for asbestos, Hfds lead role for legionnaires Joint working between EH&TS has resulted in a petroleum enforcement	Cost of Service

APPENDIX 1

Priority	Outcome	Action	Milestones	Start / Finish	Officer(s)	Financial / Environmental Implications	Progress to the end of March	Indicator for Improvement
							SLA and a Trader Approval Register.	