

A G E N D A

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday, 12th March, 2007**

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, R. Preece, 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	1 - 6
To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2006.	
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. BIODIVERSITY ISSUES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY	7 - 10
To consider the Council's role in relation to biodiversity conservation and develop a Strategy for this to cover the period 2007 – 2010.	
Biodiversity Strategy Appendix	
The attached Biodiversity Strategy document was issued as a separate document with the agenda, however, it has been included in this web agenda.	
7. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING	11 - 18
To advises Members on the progress of the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Environment Areas within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.	
8. ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING	19 - 26

To advise Members of the financial position for the Environment Directorate budgets for the period to 31st January 2007. The report lists the variations against budget at this stage in the year.

9. MONITORING OF 2006/07 SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - APRIL TO DECEMBER 2006 27 - 48

To update Members on the exceptions to the targeted progress made by the Environment Directorate for the nine months April to December 2006 towards achieving:

- the targets that appear in the Council's Corporate and Annual Operating Plans and which are reported monthly to respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet
- the targets that appear in the Directorate Plan which are reported monthly to the respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet.

10. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLANNING 49 - 50

To update the Committee on the arrangements for service planning in the Environment Directorate.

11. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE 51 - 54

To report on the delivery of the Waste Management Service.

12. REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF POLYTUNNELS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report by the Polytunnel Review Working Group (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

Report for Item 12

The attached report with appendix relating to polytunnels was issued at the meeting.

13. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE 55 - 86

To consider the findings of the scrutiny review into Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.

14. SUMMARY OF ACTION IN RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

To note progress against recommendations made by the Committee. (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

Report for Item 14

The attached report in relation to Scrutiny Committee recommendations was issued at the meeting.

15. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 87 - 90

To consider the Committee work programme.

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

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings

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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.

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(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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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, 4th December, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors: Mrs. W.U. Attfield, P.J. Dauncey, D.J. Fleet, K.G. Grumbley, J.G.S. Guthrie, T.W. Hunt, Mrs. M.D. Lloyd-Hayes, Ms. G.A. Powell and J.B. Williams

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

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor JW Newman and Miss F Short.

27. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor DJ Fleet substituted for Councillor JW Newman and Councillor Mrs MD Lloyd-Hayes substituted for Miss F Short.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ms GA Powell declared a personal interest in Item 9 Environment Capital Budget Monitoring in relation to 'Accessible Bus Network' funding.

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

A member of the public suggested the Committee should investigate the reduced staffing levels in the trade waste team. The Chairman undertook to discuss this with the Director of Environment and if appropriate place an item on a future agenda.

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held 25th September, 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

31. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (GEM) REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the Council's environmental management/ISO 14001 system to ensure that it continued to be suitable, adequate and effective, and delivered improvement in environmental performance and full compliance with all relevant legal and other requirements.

The Director of Environment drew the Committee's attention to the highlights detailed in the appendix to the report and reported that the Corporate Management

Board had considered the report on 21st November and their response was also set out in the appendix. The Committee's attention was drawn to points 10 'recycled fibre content of paper for external printing' and 11 'all wood used by the Council to be from certified sources'. The Director also highlighted that a number of bids for works that were now becoming pressing had been made for inclusion in the capital programme.

The Sustainability Manager reported further in relation to the Council's commitment to the Carbon Management Action Plan and the need to lead by example; the waste targets which had not been achieved in 2005/6 and the Procurement Strategy.

On scrutinising the report the Committee debated issues relating to the collection and cost associated with the disposal of household batteries; the current problems experienced with the provision of an interceptor at Broad Street car park, Leominster and breaches in compliance at Hillcreast Housing sewage treatment works.

Arising from discussion concerning waste the Director reported that negotiations under the waste contract were difficult and commercially sensitive. He anticipated that any variation to the waste contract would be reported to Cabinet following which Members would be updated on the position.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

32. POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE RIVERS WYE AND LUGG

The Committee considered the draft policy statement for the use of the rivers Wye and Lugg as the basis for public consultation.

The Conservation Manager reported that Herefordshire's rivers, in particular the Wye and Lugg, were important culturally, environmentally and economically to the County's future yet by their nature the rivers had constraints that must be acknowledged if the qualities that made them so attractive were to be maintained. While Herefordshire Council was able to influence some aspects of the rivers' use the Environment Agency (EA) had prime responsibility for their management and he reported in relation to the Water Framework Directive whereby the EA must produce River Basin Management Plans, and the Wye Waterway Plan, which incorporated the Wye Navigation Plan. It was therefore considered timely for the Council to develop a policy for the use of the two rivers and present this in a formal statement. The draft statement, appended to the report, set out the strategic background to the issue, general policies setting out the Council's approach to the use of the two rivers and the operational policies covering those aspects over which the Council had some powers and responsibilities. The method of initial consultation and an indication of further consultation was indicated in the report.

During debate on the draft policy statement the Committee noted that the document attempted to address broad issues rather than individual user or access rights. Possible use of the river for energy generation would be dealt with under the planning mechanism. In relation to Policy Statement 8: 'Public Rights of Way' (PROW), the Committee thought proposals should be considered with a degree of urgency rather than 'earliest opportunity' in view of the impending 'freezing' of the PROW map.

RESOLVED: That the draft Policy Statement for the use of the Rivers Wye and Lugg be recommended to the Cabinet Member as the basis for consultation with the relevant organisations and public.

33. ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was advised of the financial position for the Environment Programme area budgets for the period to 30th September, 2006.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resources' representative reported that the total Environment Budget for 2006/07 had increased to £26,714,460 mainly due to the allocation of additional budget to mitigate costs arising from Job Evaluation. In overall terms the budgets were expected to come in within budget. Detailed reports on budget monitoring were set out in the report and appendix 1.

During the course of scrutinising the monitoring report the Committee noted the following points in response to questions raised:

- In response to a comment that the concessionary travel budget would be overspent the Committee was informed that the budget had been increased at the beginning of the year to take account of changes to the concession. The scheme had been successful and therefore a slight overspend was now forecast.
- Underspends identified in the Conservation Grants budget related to specific ring-fenced budgets for particular projects and therefore a request for any unused grant to be carried forward would need to be made in order to complete specific projects.
- On debating Waste Management the Director reported that the work practices of the Waste Management Services had evolved over the years. In response to questions and concerns regarding trade waste a report, which would include any implications arising from the Government's recent review of the Waste Strategy, would be brought to Committee in March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Revenue Budget monitoring report be noted and a report on trade waste be included in the Committee work programme for March 2007.

34. ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was informed of the latest position with regard to the Environment Capital Programme for 2006/07.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resources' representative reported that the total of the Capital programme had been increased to £13,387,000 a net increase of £171,000. A brief overview of the forecast was set out in the report together with, at Appendix 1, the capital budgets for the programme areas.

While scrutinising the Capital Programme monitoring report the Committee noted the following points in response to questions raised:

- Anticipated expenditure under 'Rural Rail Improvements' budget to provide disabled access for platforms at Ledbury station may be delayed due to impending re-letting of the rail franchise for services on this line, which is making it difficult to ensure the support of the rail industry for investment at the present time.
- The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) reported that negotiations were ongoing to secure a suitable car park site for the Park and Ride scheme in Hereford.
- Funding under the 'Accessible Bus Network' budget would be used to

improve accessibility at bus stops e.g. raised kerbs. The Director of Environment reported that while discussions were ongoing with vehicle operators concerning the introduction of disabled accessible busses or the use of alternative fuels, unfortunately since bus deregulation the Council had little power to influence commercial operators.

- 60% of schools have a school travel plan and further schools would be included during the year. Questioning whether 'in-distance' children could be expected to walk down narrow country lanes or be expected to afford the cost of bus travel the Committee were informed that there was no funding for 'in-distance' travel and Children's Services, who arranged school travel, did assess the safe routes to school.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Budget monitoring report be noted.

35. MONITORING OF 2006/07 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2006

The Committee received an update on the exceptions to the targeted progress made by the Environment Directorate for the six months April to September 2006 towards achieving:

- the targets that appear in the Council's Corporate and Annual Operating Plans and which were reported monthly to respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet
- the targets that appear in the Directorate Plan which were reported monthly to the respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet.

The Director of Environment was pleased to report that for the six month period to September 2006 none of the indicators for which the Environment Directorate and the Cabinet Members for Environment and Highways and Transportation had responsibility had been identified in the Integrated Performance Report to be of concern e.g. receiving a 'red traffic light'. For Members information the list of indicators contained in the Integrated Performance Report was set out at appendix 1 to the report. He informed the Committee that performance against all other indicators was within 10% of target. In addition performance, where ascertainable, against those indicators where data was not available either monthly or quarterly also appeared to be on target.

On scrutinising the report the Committee noted: that the indicator relating to 'deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level' (target 18) the performance of 23 only related to the first three-month analysis. The Service expected to be at or below a score of 18 by the full year. The perceived underperformance in customer satisfaction with trading standards (target 80 performance 65) may correlate to the change in the way customer enquiries were handled namely via the Consumer Direct service. The kerbside collection of waste would be further extended as viable areas/villages were identified.

RESOLVED: That the performance indicators – April to September 2006 monitoring report be noted.

36. DRAFT TRAVELLERS POLICY

The Committee considered the recommendation of the Environment Scrutiny Committee Review Group established to review the Draft Travellers' Policy.

At its meeting in September 2006 the Committee established a Scrutiny Review Group to give preliminary consideration to a revised Travellers Policy. The

Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor WLS Bowen, reported that the Group had considered the policy and had made some minor alterations to the draft policy but in the main were content with the policies proposed. The Group proposed that wider consultation be undertaken, for example with the Herefordshire Travellers' Support Group, in advance of the draft being submitted to Committee for consideration and forwarded to the Cabinet Member for final decision.

RESOLVED That

- a) **the report be noted and the draft policy be circulated for comment to interested organisations including the Herefordshire Travellers' Support Group; and**
- b) **the Review Group consider any comments made and the resultant draft Policy be considered by this Committee prior to being forwarded to the Cabinet Member for a final decision.**

37. UPDATE ON THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

The Chairman of the Household Waste Recycling Review Group, Councillor KG Grumbley, updated the Committee on progress with the review. He reported that various interviews had been held and that a site visit to South Shropshire District Council, being a high performing authority, was planned. A final report on the findings of the review would be made in due course.

38. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme.

The Chairman and the Democratic Services Officer reported upon the Committee work programme, a copy of which was set out at appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED That the Committee work programme as set out at Appendix 1 be approved and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.

The meeting adjourned between 10.40 am and 10.47 am and ended at 11.57 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

BIODIVERSITY ISSUES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the Council's role in relation to biodiversity conservation and develop a Strategy for this to cover the period 2007 - 2010.

Financial Implications

2. The funding of consultation arrangements for this matter will be met from the existing conservation section budget.

Background

3. Scrutiny Committee 6th June 2005 received a report on a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Council. A subsequent meeting on 24th October 2005 confirmed support for 8 strategic objectives in relation to the Council's work for biodiversity conservation. These were:
 - To ensure that biodiversity conservation is integrated into the Community Strategy;
 - To promote co-ordinated action to benefit nature conservation by taking a lead role in developing, maintaining and implementing a Local Biodiversity action Plan for Herefordshire;
 - To work in partnership with other organisations to add value to all our biodiversity conservation activities;
 - To set an example to others through managing as much of our land as possible for the benefit of biodiversity;
 - To provide a high quality advisory service enabling planning and other regulatory systems to be operated responsibly and effectively;
 - To maintain effective recording, monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including contributing to regional commentaries;
 - To provide access to information about priority biodiversity habitats and species occurring within the County;
 - To promote the benefit of biodiversity conservation and associated actions to local communities throughout the County.

4. Over the past 18 months a significant number of changes have taken place that should be taken into account in developing any Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The most notable include:
 - The introduction of the new planning framework: introducing spatial planning, providing for statutory plans at the regional level, a greater emphasis on having a sound evidence base for all policies and proposals in the Local Development Framework, and the emphasis given to monitoring the effectiveness of planning policies and proposals.
 - The review of Herefordshire Community Strategy and the links this should have with the Local area Agreement, together with the need to integrate all strategies within this framework.
 - Increasing recognition of the impact of climate change.
 - The reorganisation of the Rural Development Service, English Nature and the Countryside Agency with the creation of Natural England as a body concentrating on implementing rather than developing biodiversity policies.
 - The placing of a new duty upon public bodies and organisations, including local authorities, in relation to biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

5. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states:

“Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”

6. DEFRA and partners are currently preparing guidance for public bodies on implementing this new biodiversity duty. Local authorities have a key role to play through the delivery of services and functions such as land management, economic development and planning. Many bodies will be looking to local authorities to implement this duty and as a consequence, in addition to generic guidance for all public bodies, DEFRA intends to issue Local Authority-specific guidance. This is intended to provide a structured approach encompassing all relevant legislation, the range of services and functions that the biodiversity duty may be relevant to, and signposting to existing guidance upon how biodiversity conservation and enhancement can be achieved. It was intended that the guidance would be published in February 2007, although at the time of drafting this report it was not available.

7. The original intention when proposing a Strategic Framework for Biodiversity Conservation was that this would develop the objectives further (a reduced number is now proposed) and form the basis for developing a programme of actions for the ecology services provided by the Council. A draft strategy, copies of which have been issued as a separate document to this agenda, that should form the basis for discussion with members, relevant internal Divisions and then wider consultation. The DEFRA guidance for local authorities will require this to be reviewed, in particular to ensure the new duty is achieved through the Council's services. However, it is suggested that a programme of discussions and consultation be carried out using the present draft document addressing further issues that may be raised within DEFRA guidance when received.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

- a) **Cabinet Member for the Environment is recommended to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council in discussion with members (including the Environment Scrutiny Committee) and other Directorates, Services and teams prior to a wider stakeholder and public consultation and in the light of guidance to be published by DEFRA.**
- b) **A further report on the progress of the Biodiversity Strategy be included in the Committee Work Programme for the September 2007 meeting.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Environment Scrutiny Committee reports of 6th June and 24th October 2007
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2007-2010

Biodiversity and the Council:

Biodiversity is a cross cutting issue for local government with strong links between Council departments and also with the local community, including other land managers and owners, developers, ecological consultants, community groups and a range of organisations, either directly or in partnership.

Since 1998 the focus of the Council has been to provide information and raise awareness and clarity over biodiversity issues and legislation within the Council and the County. We have made great strides with a raised profile and a huge demand for ecological advice both within and outside the Council, the establishment of a Biological Records Centre and a Biodiversity Partnership. Project development and applications for external grant aid are also a growth area.

The growing workload and responsibility of Councils is evident with a whole new raft of biodiversity legislation, which add to the existing legal statutes and duties. Relevant legislation started as early as 1949. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their functions. It aims to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and stimulate a cultural change so that biodiversity becomes a natural part of the decision making process for local authorities and is considered early. Other recent new statutory responsibilities came with the Strategic Environment Assessment Regulations 2004. There are also new duties under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 relating to the management of nature conservation sites.

Biodiversity is a crucial component of the 'quality of life' enjoyed by the communities that live and work in the County. The Government wishes to ensure that biodiversity is an integral part of all policies and programmes in a positive way and integral to the work of sectors of economic and social activity. Sustainable development is at the heart of





the planning system as outlined in Planning Policy Statement 1 (2005). The recent Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011 outlines development of the County. By the end of this period land will need to be released for 11,700 homes. A balance will have to be struck between economic and social needs for development and ensuring the County's natural environment remains as large and diverse as possible. The Council's own Environment Strategy (2005-2011) seeks to place environmental issues on an equal footing with the economic and social agenda and demonstrate the integration. For example Herefordshire's tourism industry is built upon the conservation of our natural environment. Many of the County's industries and jobs are based on the environmental economy. The opportunity for people to be close to nature also has a positive impact on physical and mental health. As well as these mutual benefits there are others as highlighted in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (2005) e.g. soil conservation, air and water quality, flood alleviation and recreation.

Our challenge and goal to achieve a healthy natural environment that is rich in biodiversity is to make biodiversity central rather than marginal to the Council's activities in line with the NERC Act. The success of this Strategy will depend on the degree to which this Strategy is integrated into the different departments of the Council and by building on our relationships with our partners who are also working towards similar objectives; by doing this we will make best use of scarce resources. Successful nature conservation depends upon influencing people's engagement with biodiversity. We must try to harness the knowledge people have and their attitude and involvement through education programmes and opportunities for communities to access their local green spaces, which support wildlife.

The Strategy 2007 - 2010:

The Strategy is the vision for the Council over the next three years. It is intended to

- establish and prioritise our commitments to action
- build on relationships and integration with other key County strategies and local, regional and national policies and programmes
- make a significant contribution to conserving and enhancing the County's biodiversity

Our Vision for the Council:

The Council will

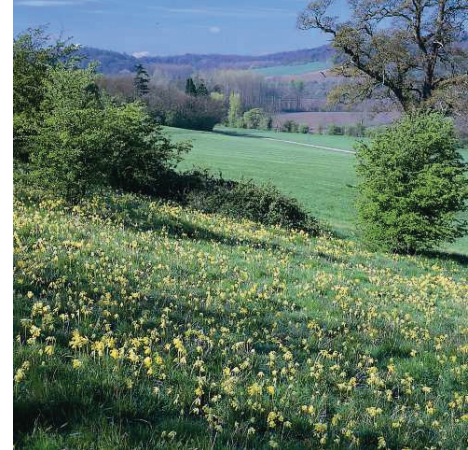
1. Provide a service that improves the understanding of the County's biodiversity resource with particular emphasis on access to information on the resource.
2. Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the County on land where we have an influence.
3. Work with our partners to achieve the successful implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets.

We have developed particularly strong and effective partnerships with Natural England (formerly English Nature) and the Herefordshire Nature Trust to establish key conservation priorities and projects for the County and our role in delivering them. We see this arrangement continuing into the future. We also work closely with the Environment Agency, FWAG, the Forestry Commission, AONBs and others and would like to further develop these links.

Challenges and constraints to improve services include limited resources both financial and officer time and competition for resources across the Council and County as a whole. Examining the bigger picture we all also have to cope with the impact of climate change and improve our understanding of its potential impacts on biodiversity. By ensuring we have a resilient and healthy natural environment we will be in a position to best accommodate a changing climate.

Our objectives, future actions and projects:

The following six objectives detail our commitment to priority actions and projects over the next three years. To some extent these overlap and integrate with one another. We will also make good practice and advice more widely available internally and externally. This will partly be achieved by adding to the information currently available on the Council's web site.



Herefordshire Biodiversity - a habitat overview:

The County of Herefordshire has an area of 217,300 ha and a population of c. 177, 800 (based on 2004 figures). It is the most sparsely populated unitary authority in England. Situated in the southwest corner of the West Midlands Region it is renowned for its traditional farmed countryside, forestry and rural character. Herefordshire grasslands and pastoral landscapes have rapidly declined since the 1950s with a move towards increasingly intensive arable farming. Remaining grassland that can be considered semi-natural supporting a near natural assemblage of wild grasses and flowers is now very scarce and often fragmented. Despite this adverse trend the County still retains a significant proportion of the West Midland Region's biodiversity interest. Our rivers are features of high importance, some of which are recognised internationally such as the Rivers Wye and Clun. We support three Biodiversity Enhancement Areas identified in the Regional Planning Guidance and Spatial Strategy (1994) associated with our uplands and hills:

- the Black Mountains,
- the Malvern Hills and
- the Woolhope Dome.

The County is relatively well-wooded c.8.4% with about 70% of this considered ancient or on an ancient site (source Herefordshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland 1986). Although the county occupies 17% of the region it has 31% of the region's ancient semi-natural woodland. The ash/lime woods of the Wye Valley are of international importance. The County has a strong hedgerow pattern associated with ancient landscapes and we have many historically important veteran trees. Combined with our resource of ponds, traditional orchards and parkland there is much to be proud of; much of this remains dependent on continued sensitive agricultural management. This distinctive natural environment and the species it supports, some of them unique to the County, provide us with a sense of place and identity. In our urban areas like Hereford City and the market towns there are also areas of importance for biodiversity.

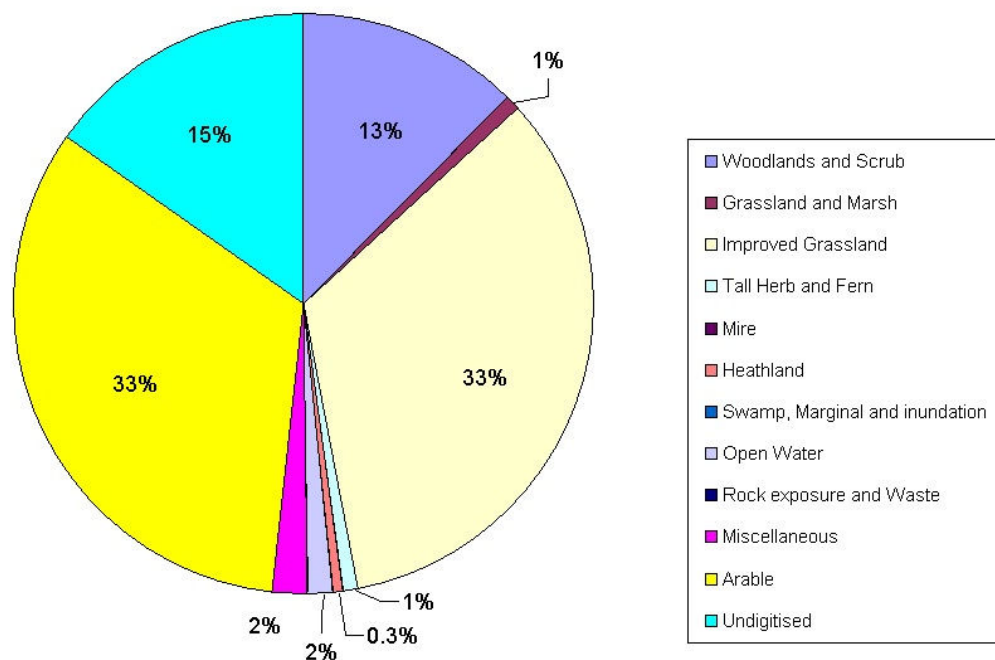


Figure 1 Herefordshire habitats (source HBRC, January 2007)

An overview of the major habitat types that may be found in the County is illustrated in a pie chart on the previous page. This is based on a phase one-methodology survey in 1999-2004 known as the Millennium Map Project. The data generated by this project is currently being digitised on a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer (about 15% of the County is currently awaiting digitisation).

UK and County priority habitats and species for conservation are defined in the local BAP. There are 21 UK and County priority habitats and 156 priority species in Herefordshire. There is still much to be learnt about the current status of most of the County's species. There is some evidence that suggests an overall decline in priority species populations such as bats, adder and high brown fritillary butterfly. Many priority species have stable populations and some are increasing such as the otter and polecat, which are expanding their range. The majority of our priority species are dependant on focused conservation effort on remaining sites with suitable habitat. Further details on the state of the County's biodiversity may be found in the BAP documents.

Many of our most important sites and habitats are designated for their interest. The location of individual statutory and non-statutory site designations is shown within the Unitary Development Plan. In Herefordshire the statutory sites comprise internationally designated Special Areas of Conservation (4 sites); nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (76 sites) and National Nature Reserves (3 sites). There are also two types of local site designation; statutory Local Nature Reserves (7 sites) and non-statutory Special Wildlife Sites (683 sites) in the rural areas of the County and Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (56 sites) in Hereford City. SSSIs and SWSs cover respectively 2% and 7% of the County.

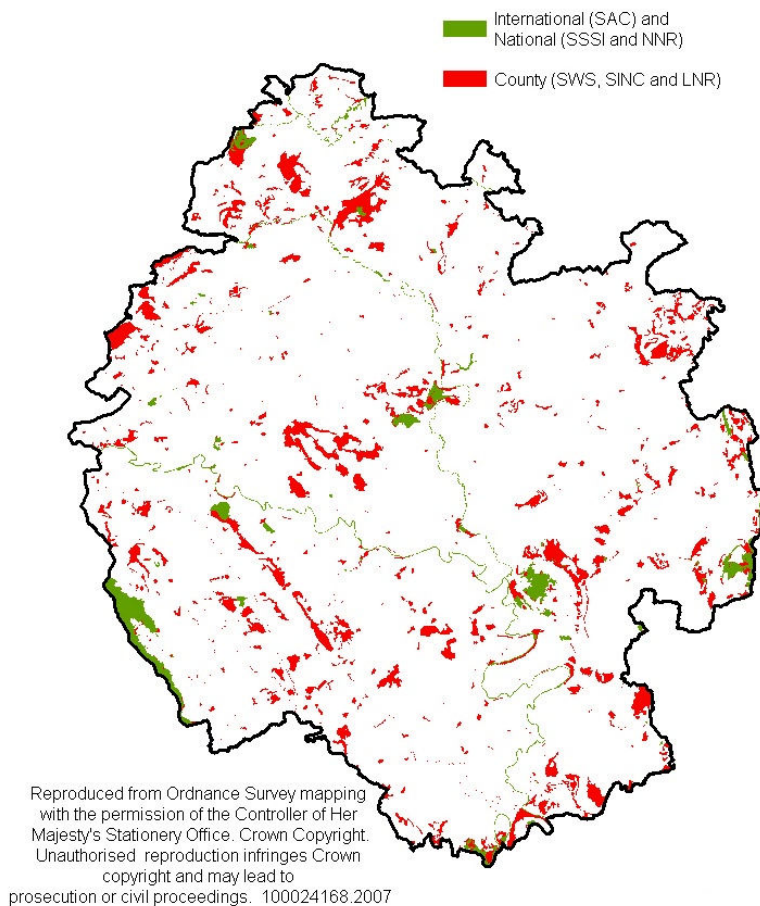


Figure 2 Designated Sites in Herefordshire

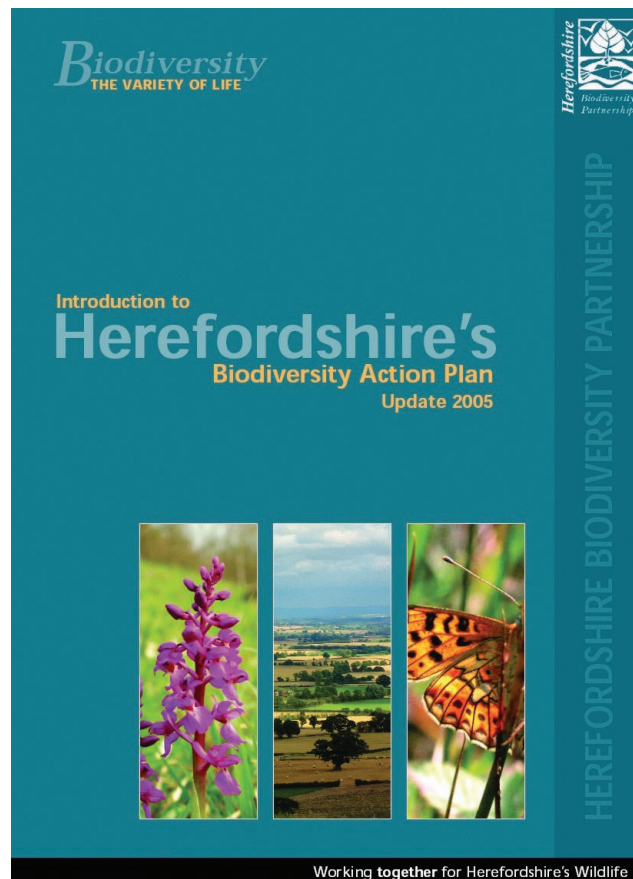
Objective 1

To support co-ordination of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

The LBAP sets challenging targets and actions to ensure we conserve and enhance our priority habitats through maintenance, achieving condition, restoration and expansion and maintaining and expanding the range and population of species. The plans are prepared by the local Biodiversity Partnership who are also key to delivering conservation action. A Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator is employed to co-ordinate the partnership and to encourage and organise the delivery of actions and targets. Government guidance makes clear that LBAPs are among the elements that local authorities should build upon when preparing community strategies. Biodiversity planning is enshrined in the Council's Community Strategy (2006) under one of the five guiding principles to 'Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment'. This strategy sets out our aspirations for the County by 2020. Recognising that biodiversity issues connect and integrate within all of the four priorities and themes for the County: Economic Development and Enterprise, Healthier Communities and Older People, Children and Young People and Safe and Stronger Communities.

Actions and projects

1.1 We will continue to play a leading role within the Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership in the positive promotion of the LBAP. We will continue to offer to act as the host organisation on behalf of the partnership for the Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator and seek to ensure adequate resources to support the post. As a key funder we will participate in the steering group for the project known as the Project Management Group and offer chair and secretariat facilities as required.



1.2 We will encourage the engagement and participation of a range of interests in the Biodiversity Partnership including local communities, statutory bodies, voluntary organisations, academic and business interests through our support for the Partnership. We will seek partnership opportunities to progress positive action contained in the LBAP.

1.3 We will continue to play an active role in the implementation of plans for priority habitats and species in Herefordshire's BAP 2000 and the BAP Update 2005. We are a Lead Partner for 103 actions and a Key Partner for 224 actions in these plans.

1.4 We will assist with monitoring the successful delivery of BAP targets through supporting the use of the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) by all partners.

Objective 2

To promote an understanding and support for biodiversity by local communities

It is important that we create opportunities for Herefordshire's population to understand the value of biodiversity to their lives and well-being. If people are more knowledgeable about biodiversity they can both appreciate it and also act to safeguard it. There is clear support given to membership of local and national wildlife conservation organisations, which is an encouraging base on which to build. However there is also evidence to suggest that some sectors of society have little knowledge or direct interaction with biodiversity issues. We must try to disseminate information, create dialogue with different sectors of the community and provide educational experiences in a range of settings.

Actions and projects

2.1 We will encourage participation of all sectors of the local community in the BAP process by our involvement in producing and delivering a BAP Communications Plan by 2007.

2.2 We will seek to provide opportunities for local people to become involved in learning and studying the natural environment through officer support for community events. For example guided walks and training days run by the Conservation Section, Herefordshire Biological Records Centre and the Parks, Countryside and Leisure Development Service. Also displays and educational materials produced by Heritage Services for museums.



Event at Haugh Wood and Joan's Hill Farm

2.3 We will support commitments outlined in the Community Strategy to work with older people, disadvantaged groups and isolated communities by developing new and innovative biodiversity projects e.g. getting people involved in recording projects to build a sense of community and physical and mental well-being.

2.4 We will encourage initiatives in the voluntary sector that enable local people to volunteer for practical conservation tasks on Council owned and/or managed sites e.g. Herefordshire Nature Trust's Community Commons Project.

2.5 We will seek to provide local communities access to greenspace and wildlife sites by investigation of and proactive work towards Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. The Council Parks, Countryside and Leisure Development Service manage seven LNRs totalling 243 ha with public access. The target for the declaration of Local Nature Reserves of 1 hectare per 1000 head of population in the local authority's

area as suggested by the Audit Commission/LPSA in their Library of Local Indicators (2002) has already been met.

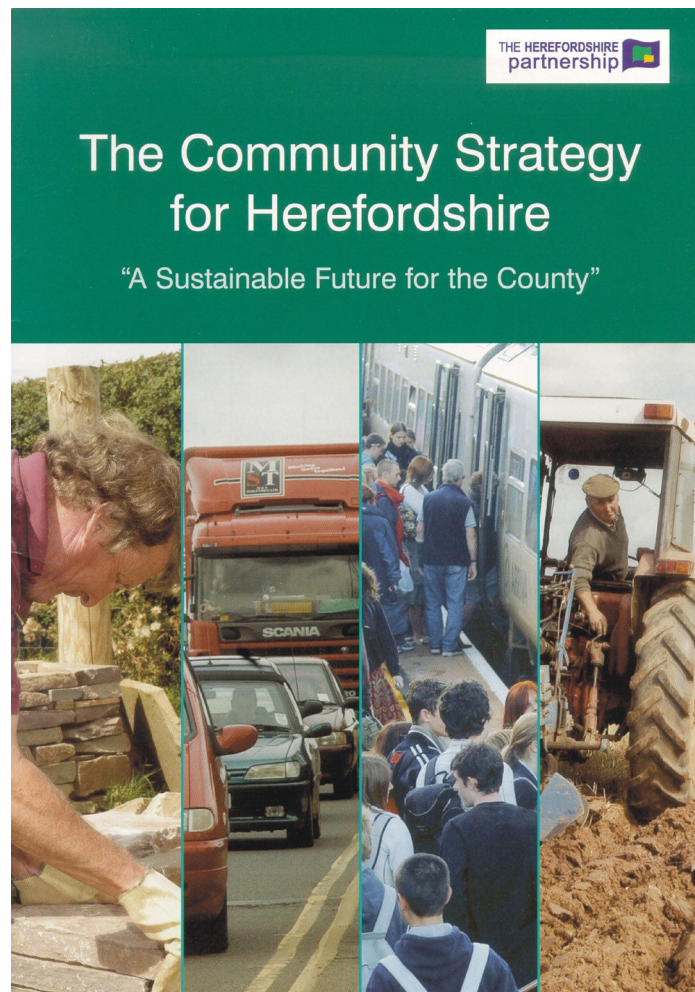
2.6 We will bring to the attention of the public the protection afforded to birds and other animals and plants under Part 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 as amended).

2.7 We will encourage the inclusion of biodiversity as an issue within Parish Plans to safeguard habitats and focus on future enhancement or creation projects. Biodiversity audits of villages can provide a useful starting point.

2.8 We will look at means of incorporating biodiversity into school education. For example improving the understanding of the linkages with climate change to underline its importance.

2.9 We will encourage schools to become more involved with biodiversity by promoting the use of school grounds for nature conservation and the creation of school nature areas.

2.10 We will encourage the Council's Cultural Services to support sustainable tourism and marketing based on an attractive, wildlife-rich countryside.



Objective 3

To guide sustainable development through planning policy and development control

Herefordshire Council's planning decisions and any future plans and programmes are informed by the application of national and regional planning guidance on sustainable development and biodiversity e.g. Planning Policy Statement 1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2006) and Biodiversity Policy QE7 in the Regional Spatial Strategy (2004). The Unitary Development Plan contains biodiversity policies the aim of which is to ensure development does not cause a net loss in the biodiversity resource of the County as this would conflict with proposals for sustainable development. Our senior ecologist has prepared Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to assist those submitting and determining applications by supplementing the policies in the UDP with more specific information and advice. This SPG also seeks to further the actions of the LBAP.

Actions and projects

3.1 We will maintain a suite of biodiversity policies in the Unitary Development Plan and accompanying Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance that promote the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity so as to seek to prevent net loss of biodiversity in the County as a result of development; on appropriate sites, creation of new wildlife habitats and a net gain for biodiversity will be sought.



3.2 We will ensure a full awareness of the implications for biodiversity conservation through the Local Development Framework and any future changes in the planning system through the combined work of the Conservation Section, Forward Planning and Development Control Sections of the Planning Department.

3.3 We will provide consistent and expert advice via our Planning ecologist to Development Control Officers to enable the determination of planning applications with full regard for relevant protected species and habitat legislation, whilst faced with an ever-increasing development control workload within the County. We will also advise our strategic planners in Forward Planning on the preparation of local planning policies for the Local Development Framework

and the inclusion of biodiversity in any future green infrastructure strategies to minimise impacts and establish gains for biodiversity in our urban areas.

3.4 We will ensure all planning decisions are informed with adequate ecological information, encouraging developers to submit quality ecological surveys and assessments with applications such as those that might be generated by professional ecological consultants. The Biodiversity SPG and UDP policies will be used as a tool to secure high quality applications.



Creation of wildflower meadow at New Mills housing estate, Ledbury

3.5 We will obtain information on the biodiversity interest of sites prior to the allocation of any land for development, either from existing data or a new survey undertaken at the correct time of year.

3.6 We will incorporate biodiversity at an early stage into all site development briefs produced by the Council or other bodies to focus a developer's attention on the ecological features of a site thereby ensuring the biodiversity interest is incorporated and enhanced.

3.7 We will encourage take up of biodiversity training opportunities prepared locally, regionally and nationally for our elected members and planning officers. We will also continue to provide in house training sessions that can meet Continuing Professional Development needs. Since 1998 our ecologists have run numerous workshops in conjunction with other organisations and naturalists on subjects such as protected sites and species.

3.8 We will continue to monitor the Council's performance on this theme through our Annual Monitoring Report for the Unitary Development Plan/Local Development Framework on Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance – see performance indicators.

3.9 The Council will assess the possibility of adopting PAS 2010 a Publicly Available Specification as a code of practice. This is defined by a series of planning responsibilities and associated detailed tasks relating to biodiversity.

3.10 We will continue to implement the Hedgerow Regulations (1997) with the application of legislation seeking to protect important hedgerows from removal.

Objective 4

To apply a best practice approach when managing Council land

Herefordshire Council owns or manages just under 30,000 ha of land that could be considered greenspace without a nature conservation designation. This land includes parks and open spaces, tenanted farms, commons, cemeteries, road verges and school grounds. The Council can maximise the potential for biodiversity on land that it controls where this is appropriate. For example in some locations there may be opportunities to reduce the frequency of mowing old grassland to favour wildflowers. With any change the local community must be kept informed and any biodiversity enhancements promoted to facilitate understanding and enjoyment.

Actions and projects

4. 1 We will provide ecological advice to develop and implement good practice. This will include improving the knowledge and understanding of the relevant legal protection afforded to sites and habitats and providing advice on the contribution the land can make to achieving BAP targets.

4. 2 We will take lawful and competent action with regard to our responsibilities for land management of our own statutory nature conservation sites including SACs, SSSIs, and LNRs. This includes raising awareness within the council of the implications of the European Habitats Regulations (1994), CROW Act (2000), our status as a Section 28g authority and our responsibilities under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981).

4. 3 We will manage Council owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) to recover and maintain their favourable condition. This is consistent with the Government's Public Service Agreement targets set for 2010. There are 5 relevant SSSIs, which include parts of the Rivers Wye and Lugg, Dinmore Hill Woods, Queestmoor Meadow and Wilton Bluff.

4. 4 We will also seek to influence and contribute to a number of Council initiatives relating to ownership of our non-statutory SWSs and SINC. This includes the protection of such sites from damage and management to conserve and enhance their biodiversity interest.



BAP Co-ordinator and Ranger discuss work at Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve

4. 5 We will maintain and increase the awareness of all Council departments involved in undertaking work on land of the location of designated wildlife sites through maintenance of alert data on the Council's GIS.

4. 6 We will undertake surveys and audits of the biodiversity value of our land and premises and promote them to others accordingly. Our land and buildings provide existing and potential opportunities for wildlife and their management will help to meet our BAP targets.

4. 7 We will work with Property Services and its land agents to increase the uptake of our suitable farm smallholdings into national agri-environment schemes such as Entry Level Scheme and Higher Level Scheme. This in turn will help towards the Government's Public Service Agreement Target to reverse the decline in farmland birds by 2020.

4. 8 We will initiate a project to identify new road verges of biodiversity importance and change the cutting regime for these sites to benefit wildlife where this would not compromise safety. These sites will be outside of the existing Roadside Verge Nature Reserve Scheme run with Herefordshire Nature Trust covering 24 sites.

4. 9 We will survey and produce brief management plans for key public spaces with areas of biodiversity value including parks and playing fields, selected school grounds and green spaces such as cemeteries with Parks, Countryside and Leisure Development Service, Property Services and Bereavement Services. Examples of sites we are currently involved with include Dinedor Camp and Castle Green.

4.10 We will harness and promote uptake of existing funding schemes to best manage Council land for biodiversity e.g. agri-environment schemes, aggregates levy and lottery grants.

4. 11 We will map all council land without a nature conservation designation already identified and managed for the benefit of biodiversity on a GIS layer.

4. 12 We will encourage any new planting and landscaping schemes on Council land to include native species of trees and shrubs that are appropriate to the local area and benefit wildlife.

4.13 We will continue providing biodiversity training to our grounds maintenance staff, our contractors and consultant.

4.14 We will maintain implementation of environmental management system ISO 14001 into the Council's activity ensuring that biodiversity is systematically accounted for in all decision making and practical council operations e.g. construction, improvement and maintenance of highways, bridges and structures.

Objective 5

To collect and maintain data and ensure its effective use

Local authorities and many other organisations such as Defra, the Forestry Commission, utility companies and developers are required to take account of biodiversity in their work. Regulatory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency require information on the distribution of habitats and populations of species. There is a growing demand for biodiversity information from the public and for educational work. The Council maintains a commitment to the collection and use of biodiversity data to inform its work. This involves attaching a high value to up to date and easily accessible baseline data on local biodiversity and an understanding of how it can be used both in the Council's work and the County as a whole for the good of biodiversity.

Actions and projects

5.1 We will continue to play a leading role in the development of the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC). We see this as the most effective, efficient and economical means of managing local biodiversity data. Our current involvement includes hosting the Centre, providing financial support with our partners and management of staff, administration support and participation in the HBRC Steering Group. The location of this centre alongside the long established Sites and Monuments Records will allow potential for future integration of biodiversity information and historical environment records.



Damson hedge in blossom

5.2 We will maintain site alert maps on the Council's GIS system for use by planning and other departments. Such data will be fundamental to many areas of the Council's work where we now have a statutory duty to consider biodiversity issues. This data is also used by the Land Searches department to identify to a prospective land purchaser whether land use is modified by its ecological value. We will aim to develop further layers of data on legally protected and BAP species.

5.3 We will strive to improve our knowledge of the likely location and extent of BAP priority habitats and species in the local area. The county already has a phase one habitat survey which is being put on GIS and a Biodiversity Audit and priorities document for the County produced in 1999. The existing audit will be used as a basis to compile a future new audit and monitor broad changes.



Native black poplar tree, Moreton

5.4 We will seek to undertake and promote relevant surveys of priority habitats and species in Herefordshire. For example in 2002 we organised a survey of the County's black poplar trees and in 2005-06 we ran a damson hedgerow survey involving local parish councils.

Objective 6

To secure the protection, management and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest through assisting other land managers and owners

The hallmark of a high performing local authority is one that is capable of and respected for assisting other land managers and owners on biodiversity issues. Much depends on the goodwill of farmers, foresters, recreation managers, businesses etc as the majority of the County lies outside statutory sites. Our countryside has been shaped and maintained principally by farming. We want to see the management of semi-natural habitats within farming systems and agri-environment grant schemes that reward farming that achieves biodiversity action plan targets. We will work with and support partners such as the farm wildlife organisations and conservation groups who deliver site specific projects and area based initiatives. We will also try to complement the work of others by providing and disseminating advice on legislation, management and Council grants.

Actions and projects

6.1 We will provide information and advice to other land managers and owners on wildlife legislation covering sites and species e.g. the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 as amended), CROW Act (2000) etc through our documents such as the UDP and Biodiversity SPG, advice notes and in our day to day liaison.

6.2 We will continue to disseminate relevant advice to land managers and owners produced by other organisations e.g. Natural England's advice leaflets on protected species, habitats and management methods.

Meadow Talk
Issue 12 Spring 2006

Introduction
WTT is also undertaking a review of Special Wildlife Sites in Worcestershire. So far 100 grasslands have been surveyed and their owners advised on management. Of these, 84 sites have met the criteria for re-listing and 16 have been removed from the register. WWT's Longdon Marsh project is proceeding apace with creation of wildflower rich grassland from locally harvested seed and wet grasslands for waders.

Finally, the Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership Vision Mapping Project has partners out meeting communities in 9 target parishes in the heart of the historic Forest of Feckenham, a prime area for old grasslands in Worcestershire. The goal of the project is to engage with and encourage entire communities to create a vision that will help to ensure biodiversity survival and enhancement. It is hoped that this project will provide a model for community involvement that will be repeated throughout the county.

Worcestershire Nature Trust (HNT) have a new Woolhope Dome Project Officer in Post; anyone who wishes to engage with the project please contact Chris Stubbs at HNT. This Project is implementing an English Nature co-funded Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, which through appropriate sheep grazing aims to restore species rich grasslands to good management. A machinery ring has also been set up in the project area. HNT's Community Commons Project is well underway; this project aims to restore acid grassland on 12 Herefordshire commons over the next 4 years, through engaging with commoners and communities and by setting up Commons Associations. It is hoped that the commons will go into Higher Level Stewardship.

The Malvern Hills Conservators/English Nature (EN) project to restore grazing to the Malvern Hills continues to go well, as does the EN project to restore grasslands and control bracken on the Black Mountains. FWAG, RDS and WWT continue to work hard to get more of Worcestershire's grasslands signed up for Environmental Stewardship.

Waxcap Grasslands
Rosemary Wainall

As the summer flowers fade in our meadows and autumn approaches, there may be a new eruption of colour and diversity amongst the grass. When weather conditions are right (usually lots of rain after a dry spell), fungi may appear in their thousands, especially where the turf is short and there is plenty of moss.

... continued on next page

Waxcap
(*Hygrocybe calyptriformis*)

6.3 We recognise that Herefordshire's wildlife sites (currently known as Special Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation) found on both private and public land should reflect the best selection of sites that provide the full range of the important habitats and species at a level to maintain the nature conservation interest of the County. The current system is seriously under-resourced and many sites are being damaged from a range of activities outside planning control or suffering neglect. Other recently discovered important sites remain undesignated. We will commence the adoption of the government's latest guidance on local wildlife sites – Local Sites: Guidance on their identification, selection and management (2006). This will involve setting up with our partners a project for administration of the system, development of selection criteria and the employment of a dedicated Wildlife Sites Liaison Officer who will provide contact and advice to local sites owners through visits and newsletters.

6.4 We will continue to take an active role in participation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Grasslands Forum. This is an association that aims to protect wildlife-rich grasslands in the two counties. It includes representatives of statutory and voluntary bodies working in nature conservation. The forum offers advice to grassland owners through a regular newsletter called Meadow Talk and seminar.

6.5 We will continue to promote the council grant aid (Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement Grant and Environmental Improvement Grant) for local conservation projects such as orchard restoration and fruit tree kits.

6.6 We will continue to review existing management agreements made by the Hereford and Worcester County Council under Section 39 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which are coming up for renewal.

6.7 We will continue to participate in area based and landscape scale projects such as the innovative Herefordshire Lifescapes project and regional Landscapes for Living project to identify opportunities for BAP habitat creation or re-creation working with landowners and local people.

Monitoring the Strategy – our Performance Indicators:

A monitoring system must be built into the Strategy to measure our effectiveness and as an indicator of corporate performance. There is an indicator to measure each objective plus commitments to monitor the number of new Council plans, which include biodiversity and reviewing our staffing resource.

Objective 1 Target

The Council to adopt the Biodiversity Action Plan Reporting System to monitor its BAP activities and 85 % of the BAP targets for which the Council has a responsibility for met or in progress by 2010.

Objective 2 Target

The development of one innovative biodiversity project with a group identified in the Community Strategy e.g. older people, disadvantaged groups or isolated communities by 2010.

Objective 3 Target

The Annual Monitoring Report for the Unitary Development Plan/Local Development Framework on Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance includes the following two indicators:

- (i) Change in priority habitats and species (by type).
- (ii) Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.

Our target is to have:

- (i) No net loss in priority habitats or species only habitat or species gain
- (ii) No net loss to designated sites



Objective 4 Target

The percentage of Council owned or managed land without a nature conservation designation, managed for biodiversity as suggested by the Audit Commission/LPSA in their Library of Local Indicators (2002). The current figure is 2.5% and out target is a rise to 4.4% by 2011.



Objective 5 Target

The creation of GIS layers on Council's system of the location of records of legally protected and BAP priority species by 2008.

Objective 6 Target

The commencement of a Wildlife Sites Project in 2007 to encourage the conservation and appropriate management of wildlife sites and seek Council and partner funding to ensure continuation until at least 2012.

In addition to these indicators we will make a commitment to monitor the number of departmental service plans, other strategies or guidance including biodiversity actions and BAP targets. In this way the biodiversity element of Strategic Environmental Assessment will be covered.



Conclusion

This Strategy outlines our Council's vision and projects for the next three years. We have made huge strides over the last eight years since the formation of the Council in 1998. However our future task is considerable and success depends on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. We will review the performance indicators on an annual basis. We are committed to the Strategy and hope it will act as a catalyst for reviewing responsibilities and integrating biodiversity into the mainstream. By doing this we can hope to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of Herefordshire.



CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

1. To advise Members on the progress of the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Environment Areas within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.

Financial Implications

2. Capital Budgets for the Environment Programme Areas for 2006/07 are shown in Appendix 1, on an individual basis, with funding arrangements indicated in overall terms.
3. The total of the Capital Programme has been reduced to £12,222,000 from £13,387,000 notified to the previous meeting (see Appendix 1). This is a net decrease of £1,165,000 and relates to:
 - Reduction of £245,000 in relation to Leominster Closed Landfill Monitoring Infrastructure due to delays in regulation compliance, work is now expected to start in March 2007,
 - A decrease of £341,000 in relation to Public toilet Improvements. This mainly relates to work at Ross which is not expected to be completed until 2007/08.
 - An increase in funding of £110,000 from Statutory Undertakers in relation to Roman Road.
 - A reduction in Grafton Travellers Site work of £39,000 reflects slippage of retention into 2007/08.
 - Slippage in the Hereford Crematorium of £650,000 due to land purchase issues. Negotiations are still in progress but work is unlikely to start in the current year.

Considerations

4. The report has been largely based on the latest round of capital monitoring, which involved an examination of all schemes at the end of January 2007. Care is being taken to ensure the forecast spend accurately reflects the expected spend in 2006/07. The Environment General Capital Working Group is keeping the overall spending position under careful review.
5. The actual spend against each scheme is shown as at 31st January 2007.
6. The total spent or committed to 31st January is £10.6 million or 86% of the Revised Forecast. The actual amount spent is £7.846 million.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

ENVIRONMENT GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07

	Original Budget 2006/07	Revised Forecast as at 31 st January	Change in Forecast	Spend/ Known Commitments	% Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN</u>					
<u>Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy</u>					
Walking and Access					
Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75	85	10	85	100.0
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	200	200		107	53.5
Cycling					
Cycle Network Development	200	285	85	238	83.5
Public Transport Minor Schemes					
Accessible Bus Network	45	15	(30)	1	7.0
Park and Ride					
Christmas Park and Ride	20	15	(5)	13	86.7
Park and Ride Permanent Site Development	150	70	(80)	52	74.3
Rotherwas Access Road					
Rotherwas Access Road	500	700	200	601	85.9
Roman Road					
Roman Road					
Hereford Intelligence Transport System					
Hereford Intelligence Transport System	95	75	(20)	64	85.3

	Original Budget 2006/07	Revised Forecast as at 31 st January	Change in Forecast	Spend/ Known Commitments	% Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Rural towns and Market Towns</u>					
<u>Transport Strategy</u>					
Walking and Access					
Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20	25	5	25	100.0
Rural Footway Improvements	95	105	10	84	80.0
Cycling					
Network of Cycle Routes and Parking	200	115	(85)	115	100.0
Public Transport Minor Schemes					
Public Transport Minor Improvements	60	60		60	100.0
Rural Rail Improvements	50	26	(24)	13	50.0
HGV Projects	50	50		17	34.0
Travel Awareness Campaign	35	35		30	85.7
Accessibility Partnership Development	30	30		30	100.0
Public Rights of Way Improvements	25	25		25	100.0
<u>Countywide Strategy</u>					
Hearts and Minds					
School Travel Plan Support	25	25		25	100.0

Appendix 1

	Original Budget 2006/07	Revised Forecast as at 31st January	Change in Forecast	Spend/ Known Commitments	% Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Minor Safety Schemes					
Minor Safety Improvements	300	340	40	319	93.8
Traffic Calming					
Traffic Calming	150	154	4	149	96.8
Safer Routes to Schools					
Safer Routes to schools inc 20mph zones	385	273	(112)	248	90.8
Speed Control					
Speed Limits	60	75	15	75	100.0
Monitoring					
Monitoring	40	40		23	57.5
Highways Maintenance					
Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,728	1,728		1,710	98.9
Capitalised Maintenance of Non Principal Roads	3,547	3,547		3,224	90.9
Footways	1,064	1,064		757	71.1
Embankments	100	157	57	48	30.1
Bridge maintenance					
Capitalised Assessment & Strength of Bridges	900	940	40	877	93.3
Rights of Way Improvements	25	25		25	100.0
Transport Staff costs allocated over LTP	301	301		301	100.0

	Original Budget 2006/07	Revised Forecast as at 31 st January	Change in Forecast	Spend/ Known Commitments	Appendix 1 % Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Non LTP SCHEMES</u>					
Victoria Footbridge		303	303	303	100.0
Hereford Crematorium	1,047	250	(797)	77	30.8
Leominster Closed Landfill Monitoring Infrastructure	500	45	(455)	45	100.0
Public Convenience Improvements	200	120	(80)	120	100.0
Grafton Travellers Site	200	300	100	277	92.3
Pembridge Travellers Site	58	60	2	93	155.0
Waste Performance & Efficiencies	74	249	175	120	48.2
LPSA 2 Street Scene		94	94	8	8.6
LPSA 2 Road Safety		216	216	216	100.0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,554	12,222	(332)	10,600	86.7

	Original Budget 2006/07	Revised Forecast as at 31 st January
	£000	£000
<u>FUNDING</u>		
Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue	10,475	10,395
Prudential Borrowing	1,560	799
Prudential Borrowing Slippage 2005/06	247	-
LPSA 2 Funding		310
S106 Funding		83
Completing the Jigsaw		
Grafton Travellers Site	100	239
Waste Performance & Efficiencies Grant	74	249
Income from Statutory Undertakers – Roman Road		110
Capital Receipts Reserve	98	37
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	12,554	12,222

Notes:

SUPPORTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (REVENUE) SCE(R)

An approval to borrow in order to finance capital expenditure and permits an authority to pay for capital expenditure out of credit rather than cash. SCE(R) is issued before the start of the financial year to which it relates, and can only be used in respect of capital expenditure defrayed in that year. SCE(R) can be used in relation to any kind of capital expenditure

PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

Borrowing used to finance capital expenditure which does not have SCE(R) support. The financing costs of such borrowing have to be met from revenue budget savings or directly from Council Tax.

ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

1. To advise members of the financial position for the Environment Directorate budgets for the period to 31st January 2007. The report lists the variations against budget at this stage in the year.

Financial Implications

2. It is expected that all Environment directorate budget variances will be contained within the overall 2006/07 Revenue Budget for Environment.

Considerations

3. The detailed report on Budget Monitoring is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
4. The total Environment Budget for 2006/07 is the amount reported to the last meeting of the Committee which was £26,714,460.
5. The summary position is set out in the table below.

2006/07	Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance
<u>Service Area</u>	£000	£000	£000
Environmental Health & Trading Standards	13,361	12,786	(575)
Highways & Transportation	10,345	10,354	9
Planning	3,008	2,808	(200)
Environment Total	26,714	25,948	(766)

6. In overall terms the year end position for the Environment Budgets is a projected under spend of £766,000. This is mainly due to projected under spending on the Waste Disposal PFI and also grant income received in advance in Planning. The under spend on the Waste Disposal PFI will be transferred to reserves and an application to carry forward unspent grant income into 2007/08 will be made at the end of the financial year.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards

7. Although there are minor pressures within this service, the projected outturn reflects a net under spend of £575,000. This mainly relates to the under spend of £600,000

on the Waste Disposal PFI contract and is as a result of expected contract variations; the under spend will be transferred to reserves at year end.

8. The budget pressures on Landfill and Contaminated Land of £11,000 relates to additional costs incurred on fencing and security of the Agricote site. Increased energy costs also puts pressure of £14,000 on the Crematoria budget for the year. Underspending in other areas within Environment will mitigate these pressures.

Highways and Transportation

9. The Highways & Transportation budgets continue to be under considerable pressure and every effort will be made to contain spending within the service budget through the re-allocation of resources. Current projected outturn reflects a net over spend of £9,000 which will be mitigated by under spends from other areas within the Directorate.
10. Pressure will be put on the Winter Maintenance budget due to the recent adverse weather conditions. It is estimated that the outturn will be £35,000 above budget.
11. Uptake of the Concessionary Fare scheme has been strong and out-turn is currently predicted to be in the region of £1,004,000, being £172,000 over spend against budget.
12. The budget for Car Parking is also under pressure due to a small fall in income in comparison to previous years and additional rental charges in relation to 2005/06 payable within the current year. The projected net outturn is estimated to be £150,000 overspend. Income on Decriminalised Parking is also expected to fall below target by £65,000. This is due to the reduction in Wardens during the year, absent from work due to ill health.
13. Street Lighting budgets continue to be underspent due to recruitment problems and Owen Williams have now been brought in to carry out commissioning of schemes. The estimated under spend of £350,000 will be re-allocated to meet other budget pressures within the service.
14. There is additional projected under spend for the year in relation to Public Convenience costs (£25,000) and additional income received on Section 38 Agreements (£38,000). These will be use to mitigate pressures within the service.

Planning

15. Planning Fee income has fallen slightly below income target for the Period to 31st January 2007. However current forecasts based on income patterns in previous years and the uncertainty of the impact of the introduction of Design & Access Statements indicate that it is likely that Fee income will meet target. The shortfall in Development Control income (£130,000) being met through the excess Building Control Fee income.
16. It is likely that there will be an under spend position in Conservation of £100,000. This is due to the receipt of various grant income in advance of incurring the relative project costs. It is difficult to estimate the outturn as this depends on the timing and conditions of the individual grants received. An application will be made at year end to carry forward budget into 2007/08 in order to complete projects where income has been received in 2006/07.

17. There is also likely to be a net under spend in relation to Planning Delivery Grant of £200,000. This grant is required to meet future costs in relation to Local Development Framework and improve IT systems. In 2006/07 this under spend will be used to mitigate other pressures within the service in relation to IT Contract fees £100,000. An application will be made at year end to carry forward Planning Delivery Grant budget into 2007/08.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for 2006/07 be noted subject to any comments which members may wish to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Environment Directorate

	2006/07 Budget £000	Forecast 2006/07 £000	Gross Expenditure to Period 10 £000	Income to Period 10 £000	Net Exp/(Inc) to Period 10 £000	Budget to Period 10 £000	Over/(Under)s pend to Period 10 £000
Environmental Health & Trading Stds	13,361	12,786	11,398	(3,393)	8,005	8,513	(508)
Highways & Transportation	10,345	10,354	11,401	(3,376)	8,078	7,987	91
Planning	3,008	2,808	3,463	(1,928)	1,535	1,788	(253)
	<u>26,714</u>	<u>25,948</u>	<u>26,262</u>	<u>(8,697)</u>	<u>17,618</u>	<u>18,288</u>	<u>(670)</u>

Environmental Health & Trading Standards

Areas of Activity	2006/07 Budget £000	Forecast 2006/07 £000	Gross Expenditure to Period 10 £000	Income to Period 10 £000	Net Exp/(Inc) to Period 10 £000	Budget to Period 10 £000	Over/(Under)spend to Period 10 £000
Operational Budgets							
Air Pollution	(33)	(33)	9	(59)	(50)	(34)	(16)
Landfill and Contaminated Land	115	126	49	(1)	48	95	(47)
Water Pollution	1	1	25	(32)	(7)	0	(7)
Pest Control	(70)	(70)	19	(112)	(93)	(64)	(29)
Dog Control	37	37	17	(4)	13	18	(5)
Animal Health and Welfare	7	7	6	(1)	5	3	2
DEFRA Grant	0	0	6	(92)	(86)	0	(86)
Licensing	(278)	(278)	37	(335)	(298)	(234)	(64)
Trading Standards	52	52	56	(30)	26	38	(12)
Commercial team	21	21	33	(17)	16	13	3
Pollution Control	38	38	45	(23)	22	27	(5)
Travellers Sites	(29)	(29)	58	(72)	(14)	(26)	12
Cemeteries	(14)	(14)	124	(133)	(9)	(13)	4
Crematorium	(313)	(299)	135	(412)	(277)	(262)	(15)
Waste Collection (Domestic)	3,133	3,133	2,479	(110)	2,369	2,324	45
Waste Collection (Trade)	(501)	(501)	213	(735)	(522)	(592)	70
Waste Disposal	6,973	6,373	5,081	(1,010)	4,071	4,354	(283)
Recycling	445	445	402	(200)	202	346	(144)
Operational budgets	9,584	9,009	8,794	(3,378)	5,416	5,993	(577)
Staffing Budgets	2,477	2,477	2,084		2,084	2,062	22
Staff Related Running Costs	153	153	187	0	187	128	59
Management & Overheads	395	395	333	(15)	318	330	(12)
Support Services - ICT SLA	171	171					
Central Support - Accomodation Charge	86	86					
- Human Resources	53	53					
- Corporate training	6	6					
- Finance	175	175					
- Legal & Democratic	148	148					
- Property	113	113					
Total Environmental Health & Trading Standards	13,361	12,786	11,398	(3,393)	8,005	8,513	(508)

Highways and Transportation

Areas of Activity	2006/07 Budget £000	Forecast 2006/07 £000	Gross Expenditure to Period 10 £000	Income to Period 10 £000	Net Exp/(Inc) to Period 10 £000	Budget to Period 10 £000	Over/(Under)s pend to Period 10 £000
<u>Operational Budgets</u>							
Roads Maintenance	2,411	2,411	1,775	(5)	1,770	1,833	(63)
NRSWA	(120)	(120)	17	(113)	(96)	(100)	4
Winter Maintenance	741	776	602	(4)	598	534	64
Drainage/Flood Alleviation	142	142	96	0	96	107	(11)
Street Lighting	869	519	405	(8)	397	676	(279)
Bridgeworks	68	68	49	0	49	51	(2)
Shop mobility	17	17	8	0	8	13	(5)
Street Cleansing	961	961	774	0	774	779	(5)
Public Conveniences	358	333	305	0	305	280	25
Public Transport (incl. Rural)	1,185	1,185	1,715	(791)	924	892	32
Traffic management	96	96	96	(59)	37	69	(32)
Transport Planning	58	58	40	(22)	18	47	(29)
Road Safety	4	4	15	(20)	(5)	3	(8)
Bus Stations	(14)	(14)	16	(18)	(2)	(13)	11
Concessionary Travel	832	1,004	771	(22)	749	624	125
Car Parking	(1,580)	(1,430)	719	(1,817)	(1,098)	(1,290)	192
DeCrim. of Parking enforcement	(310)	(245)	202	(393)	(191)	(236)	45
Searches	(2)	(2)	1	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)
S.38 Fees	(44)	(82)	0	(82)	(82)	(36)	(46)
Operational Budgets	5,672	5,681	7,606	(3,357)	4,249	4,232	17
Staffing Budgets	2,309	2,309	2,683	0	2,683	2,654	29
Staff Related Running Costs	181	181	132	0	132	137	(5)
Management & Overheads	1,195	1,195	976	(19)	1,010	957	53
Support Services - Legal & Admin	9	9	4	0	4	7	(3)
- ICT SLA	228	228					
- Accomodation Charge	91	91					
- Human Resources	85	85					
- Corporate training	18	18					
- Finance	182	182					
- Legal & Democratic	200	200					
- Property	175	175					
Total Highways & Transportation	10,345	10,354	11,401	(3,376)	8,078	7,987	91

Planning

Areas of Activity	2006/07 Budget £000	Forecast 2006/07 £000	Gross Expenditure to Period 10 £000	Income to Period 10 £000	Net Exp/(Inc) to Period 10 £000	Budget to Period 10 £000	Over/(Under)s pend to Period 10 £000
<u>Operational Budgets</u>							
Building Control:							
Building Control Fees	(641)	(771)		(610)	(610)	(534)	(76)
Building Control	32	32	8		8	27	(19)
Development Control:							
Development Control Fees	(1,304)	(1,174)		(996)	(996)	(1,087)	91
Development Control	45	45	116	(40)	76	37	39
Forward Planning	29	29	30	(9)	21	25	(4)
Conservation							
Conservation Grants	74	14	61	(207)	(146)	62	(208)
Conservation Management	61	21	18	(39)	(21)	51	(72)
Operational Budgets	(1,704)	(1,804)	233	(1,901)	(1,668)	(1,419)	(249)
Staffing Budgets	2,785	2,785	2,411		2,411	2,321	90
Staff Related Running Costs	187	187	140		140	155	(15)
Management & Overheads	882	782	679	(27)	652	731	(79)
Support Services - ICT SLA							
- Accomodation Charge	250	250					
- Human Resources	183	183					
- Corporate training	65	65					
- Finance	28	28					
- Legal & Democratic	59	59					
- Property	272	272					
	1	1					
Total Planning	3,008	2,808	3,463	(1,928)	1,535	1,788	(253)

MONITORING OF 2006/07 DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2006

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update Members on the exceptions to the targeted progress made by the Environment Directorate for the nine months April to December 2006 towards achieving:
 - the targets that appear in the Council's Corporate and Annual Operating Plans and which are reported monthly to respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet
 - the targets that appear in the Directorate Plan which are reported monthly to the respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet.

Financial Implications

2. All expenditure in respect of these performance indicators and targets is from approved budgets.

Content

3. Cabinet considers an Integrated Performance Report bi-monthly which includes a report on performance against corporate performance indicators, each of which is "traffic lighted" red, amber or green. By exception all red "traffic lighted" indicators are reported in full to Cabinet.
4. For the six-month period to December 2006 none of the indicators for which the Environment Directorate and the Cabinet Members for the Environment and Highways and Transportation have responsibility received a red "traffic light". Two suggested Community Strategy indicators, where work is still being undertaken to define the indicator and establish a baseline, were given an amber "traffic light".
5. Performance against all other Directorate indicators is within 10% of target. In addition performance, where ascertainable, against those indicators where data is not available either monthly or quarterly also appears to be on target. Full details of performance is included in the attached annex.
6. There are no exceptions to report.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to any comments which Members may wish to raise, the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Integrated Performance Report to Cabinet.

Cabinet Member Environment

Performance to 31 December 2006

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled (BVPI)	17.31 amended following audit to 17.46	17.5	20.54	There is a time lapse in receiving data from Worcestershire County Council	These figures covers the period April – November only	In order to ensure we achieve this target the Waste Challenge team (Partnership between Herefordshire and Worcestershire) have further developed their plan for 2006/7, which is currently on target Kerbside collection was extended in September. Expansion of service to both North and South rounds completed 6 October 2006. Paper banks have been ordered for the schools and will shortly be installed.
Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled (BVPI)	16059.28	16,271	13382.98			
Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted (BVPI)	6.58 amended following audit to 6.61	6.6	8.49			
Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted (BVPI)	6102.11	6,136	5533.3			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings that has been recycled or composted (CPA)	23.89	24.1	29.03			
Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources (BVPI)	0	0	1.18			
Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources (BVPI)	0	0	770.30			
Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled	76.11	75.9	69.79			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled (BVPI, LAA, CP)	70599.53	70,570	45478.98			
Kg of household waste per head per annum (BVPI, CPA, LAA, CP)	521.72	520	364.46			
Percentage change from the previous year of Kg of household waste per head per annum (BVPI)	-1.42	-0.56	-0.39			
Cost of waste collection per household (BVPI)	£44.69	£48.26		These indicators are calculated after the end of the financial year as part of final accounts preparation		
Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste (BVPI)	£78.99	£78.41				
The percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area (BVPI, CPA)		65		This survey has been completed. Initial results were anticipated in December (awaiting		Publicity/activity prior to and during survey

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
				data from Audit Commission)		
The percentage of people satisfied with household waste collection (BVPI, CPA)		89		This survey has been completed. Initial results were anticipated in December (awaiting data from Audit Commission)		Publicity/activity prior to and during survey
The percentage of people satisfied with waste recycling (BVPI, CPA)		67				
The percentage of people satisfied with waste disposal (BVPI, CPA)		82				
Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which area served by a kerbside collection of recyclables (BVPI)	62.28	67	68			See activity for other waste targets

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which area served by a kerbside collection of 2 recyclables (BVPI, CPA)	60.28	67	68			
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 (BVPI, CPA, LAA, CP)	18	18	17	A complete transect is undertaken every three months and analysed. Scores will be reported in August, November, February and May. This score follows the second quarter transect (July – September)	This is the reading for the end of November Next reading end of February	
The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are	3	2	3		Next reading end of February	

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
visible (BVPI)						
The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible (BVPI)	2	2	0		Next reading end of February	
The year-on-year reduction in total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping' (BVPI)	1	1	1	1 is the highest grade		
Total emission per annum of CO2-e from Council Influenced activities				Baseline data being established		
Percentage of all schools in Herefordshire registered on the eco-schools programme	72	72	72	This data is collected annually and reported in May		

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage of all schools in Herefordshire registered on the eco-schools programme achieving award levels	50	50	50	This data is collected annually and reported in May		
Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (BVPI, CPA)	71.3	60		This data is collected annually and reported in June		
Percentage of major planning applications determined in under 13 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	61 amended following audit to 56	60	72	This data is collected and reported monthly	The ongoing improvement in performance continues. The success in improving performance on major applications is significant in scale and significance. Ongoing work still to be carried out includes a detailed performance management regime for every application, upradina the planning	
Percentage of minor planning applications determined in under 8 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	73 Amended following audit to 67	65	82			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage of other planning applications determined in under 8 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	85 amended following audit to 78	80	92		upgrading the planning registration and consultation systems and making the fullest possible use of electronic submission and consultation of applications.	
The percentage of applicants and those commenting on planning applications satisfied with the service received (BVPI, CPA)		78		This survey has been completed. Initial results were anticipated in December (awaiting data from Audit Commission)		
Plan Making – Have a development plan (BVPI, CPA)	yes	yes		This is reported annually in May		
Plan Making – Milestones (BVPI)	yes	yes		This is reported annually in May		
Plan making – monitoring report (BVPI)	yes	yes		This is reported annually in May		
Percentage of appeals allowed against authority's	28	25	16	This data is collected and reported monthly		

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
decision to refuse planning application (BVPI, CPA)						
Quality of service checklist (BVPI, CPA)	94	94	94	This is assessed annually and reported in May		
Total number of conservation areas in local authority area (BVPI)	64	64	64	The number of conservation areas is not expected to change		
Percentage of conservation areas with an up-to-date character appraisal (BVPI)	1.6	14	1.6	Report to Planning Committee in accordance with action plan		
Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals (BVPI)	0	5	0			
Percentage of Council land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity	2.49	2.8	2.49			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
purposes						
Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health (BVPI, CPA)	45	90	45		Action plan developed	
Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards (BVPI, CPA)	78.75	90	78.75		Action plan developed	
Number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the local authority area], with respect to land contamination (BVPI)	5910	5901		This indicator is currently measured annually and reported in May		
Number of sites for which sufficient detailed information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary, as a percentage of all	0.15	1		This indicator is currently measured annually and reported in May		

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
'sites of potential concern' (BVPI)						
Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time (BVPI)	95.29	95.3		This indicator is currently measured annually and reported in May		
Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification (BVPI)	83	95	98	This data is collected and reported monthly		
Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle (BVPI)	90	95	98	This data is collected and reported monthly		
Consumer satisfaction with trading standards service (CPA)	73	80	65	These indicators are measured by survey conducted annually. Results are		

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Business satisfaction with trading standards service (CPA)	91	91	87	anticipated in May		
Trading standards visits to high risk premises (CPA)	79 78.3 (updated to reflect NPF return)	85	35.3			
Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - high risk premises (CPA)	90 86.5 (updated to reflect NPF return)	90	90			
Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - medium risk premises (CPA)	85 79.3 (updated to reflect NPF return)	90	87			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - low risk premises (CPA)	86 87.5 (updated to reflect NPF return)	90	92			
Customer Satisfaction levels – overall satisfaction with EH service	80	80		This indicator is measured by survey conducted annually. Results are anticipated in May		

Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Performance to 31 December 2006

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Progress with local transport plan (CPA)	Above average	Well above average	Good	Progress is reported in December Scoring categories have changed	LTP2 has been graded by Government as "Good", (second category out of Excellent, Good, Fair and Weak). Good grading has attracted 3% performance reward funding for the remaining years of the LTP period.	Delivery Report submitted in July
Intervention by the Secretary of State under Traffic Management Act powers (CPA)	No intervention	No intervention	Annual	This is assessed annually as part of the CPA Service Assessment process		
Condition of principal roads - % worse than condition threshold (BVPI)	21	5	Available Mar 07	These indicators are measured annually by survey	TRL have confirmed that the DCL SCANNER	

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – classified (BVPI)	49.5	20	Available Mar 07	Current year's data should be available March 2007	survey results have been inconsistent and the Audit Commission have agreed that published BVPI results using the system will be flagged and not used for national comparison	
Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – unclassified (BVPI, CPA)	22.25	21	Available Mar 07			
Number of Casualties All KSI (BVPI, CPA, LPSA, LAA, CP)	134	129 (LPSA - annual average for period Jan 06 – Dec 08)	109	These BVPIs require the return of data for past years i.e. the current year's "target" is actually the outturn for 2005. To make both the data and activity more meaningful in year reporting will be of	Figures reported are for the 11 - month period January – November (Subject to any 'lates' received from WMP)	Work continues on implementing a programme of engineering measures combined with road safety education, training and publicity in accordance with a targeted action plan developed with partner
Percentage Change over previous year - All KSI (BVPI)						
Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All KSI (BVPI)						
Number of Casualties Children KSI (BVPI, CP)		15	9			

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
Percentage Change over previous year Children KSI (BVPI)				reporting will be of provisional accident figures provided by West Mercia Police for the three key indicators – KSI, Under 16 KSI and slight injuries. There is a time delay in receiving the provisional data.		partner organisations.
Percentage Change over 1994-8 average Children KSI (BVPI)						
Number of Casualties All Slight Injuries (BVPI, CPA)		788	596			
Percentage Change over previous year All Slight Injuries (BVPI)						
Percentage Change over 1994-8 average All Slight Injuries (BVPI)						
Local authority road works per kilometre of traffic sensitive road (BVPI)	0	0	0	This indicator is measured and reported monthly		
Local bus services (passenger journeys per year) (BVPI, CP, CPA))	3,109,000 amended following audit to 3,248,935	3817000	Due May 2007	This data is currently collected annual and is reported in May	Discussions to be held with bus operators on the provision of returns more frequently	
The percentage of users satisfied with the local provision of public transport information (BVPI, CPA)		62	Due in December (still awaited from Audit Commission)	This survey is underway	Publicity/activity is underway Herefordshire Voice is being used to establish what	Work is underway on this year's programme of work to promote and support bus use.

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
The percentage of users satisfied with local bus services (BVPI, CPA)		62	Due in December (still awaited from Audit Commission)		influences people's perceptions.	<p>Progress to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Free Concessionary Fares Scheme on 1st April • Roll-out of improved road side information to bus stops throughout the County to provide clear and concise "Buses from this stop" information to replace less clear timetables • Services re-tendered to continue from September • New services secured for Victoria Park, Hereford (from July) and to serve new ASDA, Hereford (from store opening) • New format improved Public Transport Timetables published August / September • Press releases and Herefordshire Matters articles published

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people (BVPI, CPA)	75.6	90	79	This indicator is measured and reported monthly	2005-06 outturn (and performance to June) amended following audit	Detailed action plan developed to achieve target and programme of works commissioned.
Condition of footways (BVPI, CPA)	30.68	30	Due May 2007	This indicator is currently measured annually and reported in May		
The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority (BVPI)	6.43	5	5.05	This indicator is measured and reported monthly	Changes to data collection following audit. 2005-06 outturn reduced, but targets unaffected	
The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a DNO (BVPI)	34.15	33	19			
Change in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes - 1% growth p.a. (CP)	100.4	105	Due May 2007	These indicators are currently measured and		

Indicator	2005-06	2006-07		Note	Comment	Activity to date
		Target	Performance			
No. of cycling trips (index) based on 12 hour week-day cycle movements (CP)	118	107	Due May 2007	reported annually. Additional analysis is being put in place and it is anticipated that monthly updates will be available by September		
Percentage of subsidised bus services operated with disabled accessible vehicles	80	80	Due May 2007	This indicator is measured annually and reported in May		
Number of Penalty Charge Notices issued	19184	20000	12290	This indicator is measured and reported monthly		

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLANNING

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the arrangements for service planning in the Environment Directorate.

Financial Implications

2. All expenditure in respect of service plans is from approved budgets.

Content

3. The Committee considers progress reports on the delivery of Directorate service plans at each of its meetings (separate reports on capital and revenue budgets and performance indicators).
4. The Environment Directorate's service plan for the three-year period 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2010 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31st March 2007.
5. In June each year the Committee considers reports from the Cabinet Members for Environment and Highways and Transportation on performance and achievements in the preceding year and their aspirations for the forthcoming year (reflected in the Directorate Plan). In June this year the Cabinet Members' proposals will cover the three years 2007-08 – 2009-10 (also to be reflected in the Directorate Plan).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to any comments which Members may wish to raise, the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Environment Directorate Plan 2006-07

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Report By: Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To report on the delivery of the Waste Management Service.

Financial Implications

2. None identified at this stage.

Background

3. At the Environment Scrutiny Committee in December 2006 a member of the public raised questions over the levels of staffing in the Waste Management Team. The member of the public queried whether there were adequate resources in the Waste Management Team to deliver the service effectively.
4. It is undoubtedly the case that the Waste Management Team has undergone a high degree of change over the last two or three years. The service has had a number of challenges to face. These include increasing pressures on the service to deliver higher levels of recycling and minimisation as well as the need to maintain the financial performance of the service. In addition it is necessary to reshape the services to meet new and increasing demands.
5. It is also undoubtedly true that the service has seen a reduction in the number of permanent staff within the Team over the last two years. The service has been preparing for the "front office" services to be moved to "Info by Phone" and has been aware that a restructure of the service will be a consequence of this piece of work. In light of this situation it has been deemed sensible not to refill vacant posts until the longer-term future of the service is determined. This has meant a number of vacant posts have been filled by temporary staff pending the introduction of "Info by Phone" and the restructure.
6. The implication from the member of the public is that the filling of posts by temporary staff has affected the performance of the service. In actual fact it is interesting to note that since 2001/02 the performance of the service has actually improved year on year.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Tector.

Head of Environmental health and Trading Standards

Tel 01432 26(1989)

Year	Recycling Rate	Composting Rate	Total
2001/02	8.1%	4.4%	12.5%
2002/03	10.3%	5.1%	15.4%
2003/04	13.4%	5.9%	19.3%
2004/05	15%	6.7%	21.7%
2005/06	17.5%	6.6%	24.1%
2006/07 (to 31/12)	20.5%	7.9%	28.4%

7. The service has managed to achieve a year on year growth in recycling since 2001/02 varying between 1.6% and 3.3% growth each year. The recycling rate is a direct reflection of the performance of the waste management team because the growth is a reflection of their work with the Waste Collection Contractor, Focsa, rather than the work of the Waste Disposal Contractor, Severn Waste Services, and the monitoring and other work of Worcestershire County Council as the authority responsible for managing the Integrated Waste Management Contract.
8. Direct reference was also made to staff shortages in Trade Waste. The principal measure of the performance of the service is the income from Trade Waste over the period 2001/02 to date the service has consistently performed well against budget as can be seen from the table below:

Year	Trade Waste Income	Percentage Increase
2000/01	£431,856	
2001/02	£413,024	-4.36%
2002/03	£561,024	35.83%
2003/04	£585,393	4.34%
2004/05	£628,366	7.34%
2005/06	£698,202	11.11%
2006/07	£748,505 to date	7.2%

9. Until the Waste Services Manager's post was filled in the summer of 2006 an Interim Manager had covered much of this postholders work. It was clear from discussions between the Interim Manager and the Head of Service that there were some benefits to be gained from a restructure to improve Contract Monitoring (partly because

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Tector.

Head of Environmental health and Trading Standards

Tel 01432 26(1989)

monitoring staff spent most of their time answering phone queries), and other work practices.

10. The balance between qualified and unqualified staff also needed to be addressed and the restructure recommends that posts be created which carry Waste Management qualifications to degree level (or equivalent).
11. The proposals for a restructure were given to staff at the end of last year and are following the Council's policy and procedures for change management. In line with policy requirements the staff in the waste management team have been consulted and expressions of support have been received.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Tector.

Head of Environmental health and Trading Standards

Tel 01432 26(1989)

REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE USE OF POLYTUNNELS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Polytunnel Review Working Group

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To report the findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group.

Background

2. In accordance with the decision of Cabinet on 14th October 2004, that the Code be reviewed every two years, the Review Group met in March and May 2006. It soon became apparent that the planning case at Waverley Borough Council had a strong bearing on the review of the Code and therefore the work of the Group was suspended pending the outcome of the Waverley case.
3. The Review Group met on 1st March 2007 and received advice from the Legal Practice Manager and the Development Control Manager. The attached summary sets out the basis of that advice.
4. The Review Group considered that advice and make the following recommendations to the Cabinet Member (Environment):

RECOMMENDATION

THAT;

- (a) **all *new* polytunnel developments within the county (be they for soil grown crops or table top growing or otherwise howsoever) be treated as development requiring planning consent. The usual application form will need to be completed in those circumstances;**
- (b) **that enforcement proceedings be continued and/or initiated in accordance with the priorities below:**
 1. **Enforcement proceedings to be continued in respect of those sites where notices have already been served and/or are in preparation**
 2. **Enforcement proceedings to be initiated during the growing season of 2007 in all cases where polytunnels are already**

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Kevin O'Keefe, Legal Practice Manager on 01432 260005.

known, or are suspected, to be outside the Code of Practice, there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests, and are approaching four years in situ

3. Enforcement proceedings to be initiated after the end of growing season 2007 in all other cases where planning applications have not, by then, been submitted and there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests; and

- (c) that the Executives response be reported to the Committee in due course.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

SUMMARY OF LEGAL ADVICE IN RESPECT OF THE HIGH COURT DECISION RELATING TO TUESLEY FARM, NR GODALMING, SURREY

Introduction

1. I am asked to advise in connection with the law relating to Poly tunnels as it now stands in light of the judgement of Mr Justice Sullivan in the case of Hall Hunter Partnership v the Secretary of State (1), Waverley Borough Council (2) and Tuesley Farm Campaign Residents Group (3).
2. Judgement was handed down on 15 December 2006 and related to Tuesley Farm, near Godalming, Surrey.

Background

3. The law relating to Spanish poly tunnels has been hitherto somewhat indistinct. There has previously been no binding legal authority.
4. The Cardiff Rating case (1948) was a case which considered whether a mobile furnace could amount to a rateable hereditament. Mr Justice Denning (as he then was) indicated that such issues as the method of attachment to the ground, size and so forth were material in determining whether or not the furnace in question was a building and therefore liable to rates. This was not a planning case. In the case of Skerrits of Nottingham, the Planning Inspector held that a marquee erected alongside a hotel (at an identical location for around two-thirds of each year) was a development and required planning permission. In the case of Brinkman, table top growing of crops under a poly tunnel was held to be development requiring planning permission.
5. Until the Tuesley Farm decision, the law was open to interpretation. Herefordshire Council under its successive voluntary codes of practice had determined that where soil-grown crops were to be propagated under poly tunnels, then provided the tunnels were moved after two years (and other conditions also applying) then planning consent need not be sought for the poly tunnels in question. That was an entirely sensible and proper course to adopt within the meaning of the law, as it then stood.

The Tuesley Judgement

6. The Tuesley judgement was an appeal to High Court under Section 289 of the Town and Country Planning Act by the Hall Hunter Partnership in respect of a planning inspector dismissing two appeals lodged by the grower with regard to enforcement notices which had been served by Waverley District Council. The first enforcement notice related to the stationing of caravans without planning permission, to accommodate around 650 crop pickers. The second enforcement notice was against the construction of 40 hectares (99 acres) of poly tunnels.

7. Tim Straker QC appeared on behalf of the grower and contended that either polytunnels were not “development” within the meaning of Section 55 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act or in his fall back position if they were development, then they were permitted development within Class A in Part 4 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 [hereinafter referred to as GPDO]. With regard to the first ground that the polytunnels were not “development”, the learned judge considered the historic cases of Cardiff Rating Authority and Skerrits. The judge noted that the polytunnels would take around 45 man hours to erect around one acre using heavy machinery that bent the upright frames into a hoop design and buried their ends into the ground to a depth of about a metre. The judge concluded “*as a matter of fact and degree the polytunnels have a substantial degree of physical attachment to the ground which enables them to remain in place for whatever term is necessary to serve the purpose for which they are designed*”. The judge commented that to move the polytunnels, they would need to be taken to pieces, rather than moved in one piece. They would take around 32 man hours per acre to dismantle. The judge concluded that this would amount to a demolition and by definition a building operation.
8. The judge concluded that as in the Skerrits case, the structure was not “*transient, ephemeral or fleeting*”. The judge further concluded that polytunnels in this case were also not transient, ephemeral or fleeting. The learned judge stated that the polytunnels were in consequence development. The fall back advocated by the grower was that the erection of polytunnels was permitted by the GPDO. Clearly, certain operational development for agricultural purposes is permitted by GPDO. Part 4 of Schedule 2 to the GPDO grants deemed permission for certain “temporary buildings and uses” Class A permits the provision on land of “*buildings, movable structures, works, plants or machinery required temporarily in connection with and for the duration of operations being carried on, in, under or over the land ...*”. However the judge was astute to point out that development is permitted development under Class A if planning permission is not required for these operations. The judge concluded that the Inspector had properly directed himself there as a matter of fact and degree the existence of blocks of polytunnels up to nine months of the year within a single planning unit of the farm could not reasonably be regarded as “*required temporarily*” for the purpose of Class A in Part 4 of the Regulations and dismissed the appeal.

Conclusions and Recommendation

9. The law relating to polytunnels has now crystallised. There is nothing within the judgement that makes the ruling within the case site-specific to Tuesley Farm. The judge has given a clear indication that polytunnels of the magnitude within that case are development requiring planning permission. I have been informed that the grower is not seeking to further pursue the litigation to the Court of Appeal. The judgement therefore stands.
10. I therefore recommend that full cognizance is taken of the judgement within the context of the Polytunnel Review Working Group’s forthcoming work programme. It would seem clear that all *new* polytunnel developments within the county (be they for soil grown crops or table top growing or otherwise howsoever) be treated as development requiring planning consent. The usual application form will need to be completed in those circumstances.
11. The Polytunnel Review Working Group have been advised of several classes of polytunnel development within the County, which includes:-

- polytunnels which have, hitherto, fallen within the terms of the Code of Practice, and therefore have not been the subject of planning applications, and
 - polytunnels which are known to require express planning permission irrespective of the Code of Practice and for which applications have already been invited, and
 - polytunnels which are currently the subject of enforcement proceedings
12. As a result of the current review of the Code of Practice it is anticipated that, where polytunnels satisfy the “Tuesley” test of development which requires planning permission, growers will be invited to submit planning applications in the future. There can be a lot of work required to support such planning applications, going a long way beyond the mere identifying of the land of which the polytunnels are expected to be erected and/or remain. In many cases there may need to a wildlife survey, which typically needs to be done in the summer months, and there may be other needs such as flood risk assessments, economic impact assessments, landscape assessments and, in a limited number of cases, a full Environmental Impact Assessment. It is not, therefore, reasonable to expect all growers to submit planning applications within a week or two of being advised of the need for a planning application.
13. Where polytunnels are erected without the necessary express grant of planning permission then the local authority has the option of pursuing planning enforcement proceedings. This could, for example, take the form of an Enforcement Notice which required the removal of the polytunnels from the land and its reinstatement as open agricultural fields. Before serving such a notice the local authority needs to consider the expediency of such action. This entails a number of judgements:
- has the grower been afforded a reasonable amount of time to make a planning application?
 - Is the development immune from enforcement action anyway?
 - Is long-term damage being done to acknowledged planning interests?
 - Would planning permission be likely to be granted anyway?
14. The “Four year rule” is germane to the second point above. Where built development has been in place for over four years it becomes immune from enforcement action. Thus, in cases where growers are known to be actively preparing a planning application (e.g., an agent has confirmed that he has been instructed and a timetable for submission agreed) and the polytunnels are still within the four year period, then it might not be expedient to pursue enforcement action straight away. In cases where planning permission would be likely to be granted the role of a planning application may be merely to impose certain conditions on the development and, therefore, in those cases an Enforcement Notice may not be required in the short term. However, where it appears that the four year period is close to being completed and there are clear planning interests at stake it is important to get an enforcement notice served before the four year period expires.
15. In the light of the above it is suggested that enforcement proceedings be continued and/or initiated in accordance with the priorities below:

- (a) Enforcement proceedings to be continued in respect of those sites where notices have already been served and/or are in preparation
- (b) Enforcement proceedings to be initiated during the growing season of 2007 in all cases where polytunnels are already known, or are suspected, to be outside the Code of Practice, there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests, and are approaching four years in situ
- (c) Enforcement proceedings to be initiated after the end of growing season 2007 in all other cases where planning applications have not, by then, been submitted and there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests.

REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: The Household Waste Recycling Review Group

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

- 1 To consider the findings of the scrutiny review into Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.

Financial Implications

- 2 The recommendations to the Cabinet Member (Environment) have some potential financial implications.

Background

- 3 At its meeting on 25th September 2006 the Committee agreed that a scrutiny review be undertaken into Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire. At that meeting the Committee also agreed a scoping statement for the review and appointed members to serve on the Review Group.
- 4 The report of the review including the recommendations is appended.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT (a) the Committee considers whether it wishes to agree the findings of the review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire for submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment).

- (b) subject to the Review being approved, the Executive's response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response;**

and

- (c) a further report on progress in response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- These are identified in the Review report.

Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire

Report by the Household Waste Recycling Review Group February 2007

**For presentation to the Environment
Scrutiny Committee -12th March 2007**

- ...Putting** people first
- ...Promoting** our county
- ...Providing** for our communities
- ...Protecting** our future

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Chairman's Foreword

The Household Waste Recycling Review Group would like to thank all those who have helped to contribute to this report. The Group are strongly committed to the recycling of waste in Herefordshire and hope that our review can be used to further the work of the Council's Waste Management section and its partners.

The Group found a high level of satisfaction with the current system of recyclable collection and the Council's household waste collection sites. We recognise never the less the disappointment of many residents outside the catchment area for kerbside collection.

We were particularly impressed by the positive outlook and success of our neighbouring authorities in South Shropshire and Worcester City in their recent switch to wheelie bin systems.

We have carefully examined the evidence and hope that our recommendations are accepted in the spirit they are intended.

I would like to take the opportunity to put on record the group's thanks for the work undertaken by Richard Wood and Laura Preece, without whom we would be unable to present the report.

Councillor K G Grumbley
Chairman of the Household Waste Recycling Review Group

Household Waste Recycling Review – Summary

Introduction

In September 2006 the Environment Scrutiny Committee established a group to review the current methods and performance of household waste recycling in the County, to investigate any possible improvements to the system and subsequently advise the Cabinet Member on future policy in this area. The Review Group worked against a background of impending tougher Government targets and the re-letting of the Council's current household waste collection contract in 2008.

Method of Gathering Information

The Review Group split the task into 2 parts; first to review current system performance, then to review the future policy expressed in the adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire. To assess the current system, evidence was taken from a rural Parish Councillor, Market Town Councillors (Bromyard and Ross-on-Wye), a Hereford City Councillor and EnviroAbility/Contractor representatives from the Ross recycling box collection programme. To gain a wider perspective on the subject to enable a balanced assessment of future policy, evidence was then taken from Waste Management Officers from Worcester City and South Shropshire Councils and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government agency responsible for National policy and programmes. Finally a visit to Ludlow in South Shropshire enabled first-hand observation of waste collection in a high-performing authority, which has recently adopted "wheelie" bins.

The Current System and the Need to Change

There is a high level of satisfaction in the County with the current black bag and kerbside system where it is in operation. Combined recycling and composting accounts for 28% of the waste stream against the 21% target. Public acceptance of the need for recycling is good as are participation rates. However, the public lacks understanding of the current cost of waste collection and disposal, let alone the future cost implications. There is disappointment that the kerbside system does not reach wider but acceptance of the high cost of further extending it. Household waste sites were generally praised although opening hours at some of the market town sites were limited. Bring sites (localised collection point for recyclable materials) were well patronised and there is probably scope to extend this network through consultations with Parish Councils and supermarkets. The recycling symbology, particularly on plastics, is confusing. The EnviroAbility box recyclable collection in and around Ross-on-Wye is an outstanding success. Any changes there will need to be carefully managed. Green garden waste is currently largely the householder's responsibility. Green sacks purchased from the Council are disposed of with the normal rubbish. Household waste sites have green collection facilities for material, which is subsequently composted.

The Future Collection System

Any future system is predicated on a Government target which will almost certainly rise to at least 40% for combined recycling and composting. It would therefore be prudent to adopt a system which will enable the County to reach a 40% target with flexibility for further increases. The Review Group was keen to establish whether there was any realistic alternative system to wheelie bins which are widely used by the best performing authorities. No witness could advise of such a system. The main conclusion of the Group is that a switch to wheelie bin collection system is the

only practicable way forward if targets are to be met and financial penalties for non-achievement avoided. The major disadvantage of the system is that to contain costs it will be necessary to run an alternate week collection cycle. (i.e. First week rubbish, second week recyclables). As waste collection is the most visible service the Council provides, any change must be smoothly managed and executed. There is plenty of scope for a public relations disaster if this is not managed actively and sensitively.

We are fortunate that nearby authorities (Worcester City and South Shropshire) have recently adopted wheelie bins and there is a wealth of experience of this major change. The changeover will be a major programme for the Authority and it will be essential that every Member and Officer embraces the change, as all will be tackled by residents at some stage during the introduction. The introduction will need to be phased geographically across the County and there will be manpower resource implications in forming a project team.

Observations – the following observations, outside the scope of the review, were made:

Commercial Waste. - It is counterproductive to emphasise the household recycling imperatives without addressing the commercial waste operation. For example, it is discouraging for residents to observe commercial glass collections being mixed with general waste for landfill.

Packaging. - There is a continuing increase in household rubbish due to the growing popularity of mail order/internet shopping and associated packaging. Furthermore, the free plastic carrier bags dispensed by shops cause litter and further household waste. Government reduction initiatives would be helpful.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Review Group has made a number of recommendations in response to its findings:

- 1.1. that Cabinet reaffirm its commitment to the household waste recycling elements of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire including the requirement to change over to wheelie bins and alternate weekly collections; (para 4.14)**
- 1.2. that wheelie bins be purchased with pre-installed identification chips (para 4.9)**
- 1.3. that Cabinet secure total Member and Officer support for the change; (para 4.15)**
- 1.4. to ensure a smooth transition from current collection to wheelie bin collection Cabinet give early consideration to: the need for focused project management systems to be implemented; and adequate and timely manpower resources – a ‘change team’ – to be in place; (para 4.16)**
- 1.5. the Cabinet Member again contact Enviroability and Worcester Community Recycling (WCR) to reinforce the need for diversification of their service which could include reuse of collected materials; (para 6.5)**

1.6. that the Cabinet Member:

1.6.1. reviews the current bring site network with a view to expanding where appropriate, through consultation with relevant Parish Councils on the most suitable local sites (para 7.3); and

1.6.2. indicate his support to WRAP in its work at a national level to encourage supermarkets to participate in the provision of bring sites and waste reduction; (para 7.3)

1.7. that the Cabinet Member reviews the Household Waste site opening hours with a view to extending the availability of the facility; (para 8.3)

1.8. that the Cabinet Member gives greater publicity to the facility to recycle household batteries at the Council's Household Waste sites; (para 8.5)

1.9. that the current system for green garden waste collection and disposal is continued but reviewed when a two bin system is introduced; (para 9.8)

1.10. that a comprehensive detail of recycling symbology, as appropriate to Herefordshire, is promulgated in Herefordshire Matters; (para 10.2)

1.11. that the Cabinet Member inform the public of the current and projected cost of waste collection to emphasise the need to reduce waste volumes and control Council Tax increases. (para 11.2)

1.12. The Executive's response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive approved its response; (para 18.1)

1.13. A further report on progress in response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made. (para 18.1)

Household Waste Recycling Review – Main Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of the Review was to examine the current methods and performance of household waste recycling in the County, to investigate any possible improvements to the system and subsequently advise the Cabinet Member on future policy in this area.
- 1.2. Members of Strategic Monitoring Committee at their meeting on 20th July 2006 identified a number of issues as possible areas for scrutiny. The meeting concluded that a review be undertaken into household waste recycling in the County and indicated a number of issues the review should cover. At its meeting on 25th September 2006 Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed a Scoping Statement for the review (see **Appendix 1**) and appointed Cllr P.J. Dauncey; Cllr K.G. Grumbley (as Chairman of the Review Group) Cllr J.G.S. Guthrie; and Cllr J.W. Newman to serve on the review.
- 1.3. The Review was undertaken between October and December 2006. This report sets out the key findings and contains recommendations to the Cabinet Member (Environment) and likely referral to Cabinet.
- 1.4. The Review Group worked against a background of impending tougher Government targets and the re-letting of the Council's current household waste collection contract in 2008. The Review Group were tasked to undertake a short sharp review.
- 1.5. The Review Group would like to express its thanks to all those who assisted the Review Group and submitted evidence during the review. These are listed in **Appendix 4**.

2. Method of Gathering Information

- 2.1. Prior to the first meeting of the Review Group, written information was submitted for perusal. Further documents were considered during the review and a list of the key documents is included at **Appendix 5**.
- 2.2. The Review Group commenced the review in October 2006 with the first meeting that discussed the appropriate methods of gathering information. The Review Group discussed the written information previously supplied.
- 2.3. The Review Group split the task into 2 parts; first to review current system performance, then the future policy expressed in the adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire. To assess the current system, evidence was taken from a rural Parish Councillor, Market Town Councillors (Bromyard and Ross-on-Wye), a Hereford City Councillor and EnviroAbility/Contractor representatives from the Ross recycling box collection programme. To gain a wider perspective on the subject to enable a balanced assessment of future policy, evidence was then taken from Waste Management Officers from Worcester City and South Shropshire Councils and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government agency responsible for National policy and programmes. Finally a visit to Ludlow in South Shropshire enabled first-hand observation of waste collection in a high-performing rural authority which has recently adopted "wheelie" bins (black, green and recyclables box).

- 2.4. The Review Group are aware that the results of the Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey which includes questions on recycling are expected to be released around March 2007 and therefore have not had the benefit of the findings.

3. Current Collection System and the need to change

- 3.1. The current system uses a bag method of collection: a black bag for residual waste collected weekly; and two coloured bags for recyclables collected alternate weekly. This system operates throughout much of the county and collects paper, textiles, cans/tins and plastic bottles for recycling. In Ross-on-Wye the same black bag system operates for residual waste but the recyclables are collected using boxes by Re-Box; a partnership between Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR) and Enviroability. This system collects paper, textiles, cans/tins and glass. The bag system of collecting recycling cannot accept glass, as it is not practicable for health and safety reasons. Whereas the box method cannot take plastic bottles due to lack of space in the boxes and collection vehicle.
- 3.2. There is a high level of satisfaction with the current black bag and kerbside system where it is in operation. There is disappointment that the kerbside system does not extend more widely throughout the county but there is general acceptance that there would be a high cost to extend these schemes further. Public acceptance for the need of recycling is good as are participation rates. However, the public lacks understanding of the current cost of waste collection and disposal, let alone the future cost implications.
- 3.3. Combined recycling and composting in Herefordshire accounts for 28% of the waste stream against the Government target of 21%. In order to reach future national targets it will be necessary to change collection methods. The current methods do not allow a full comprehensive range of materials to be collected for recycling. The system also does not provide a limit on the amount of black bags presented for collection. This is likely to produce a huge cost implication in the future as the Council would face European fines of £150 per tonne of waste sent to landfill over the authority's allowance. The landfill allowance given to authorities is decreasing annually, whereas charges are set to increase.

4. Future Collection System

- 4.1. Any future system is predicated on a Government target which will almost certainly rise to at least 40% for combined recycling and composting from 2010. It would therefore be prudent to adopt a system which will enable the County to reach a 40% target with flexibility for further increases.
- 4.2. The selected collection system needs to be compatible with the waste processing systems it will feed. Currently it is assumed that these will be autoclaved e.g. that used by Estech, and by co-mingled MRF (Materials Reclamation Facility)
- 4.3. Further clarification on waste collection is awaited following the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy, now expected to be published late March 2007.
- 4.4. The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is driven by Government and European legislation, and forms a framework for the management of municipal waste in the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire until 2034. It has been prepared jointly by all of the Local Authorities who have responsibility for managing waste across the two counties, with support and input from the Environment Agency. It sets out the authorities' commitment to work together to

fulfil a set of principles, policies and targets which strive to ensure that waste production decreases and recycling and recovery of value from waste is increased. The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy drives a move towards alternate weekly collecting system using wheelie bins.

- 4.5. Having expressed a degree of initial concern the Review Group was keen to establish whether there was any realistic alternative system to wheelie bins, which are widely used by the best performing authorities. No witness could advise of such a system. The major disadvantage of the system is that to contain costs it will be necessary to run an alternate week collection cycle. (i.e. first week rubbish, second week recyclables). However, 2004/05 recycling figures show that the top ten performing authorities all operate alternate week collections. Conversely, none of the bottom ten performers do. Alternate week collections are also operated by 16 out of the 21 Beacon Authorities for waste and recycling in 2007. Such a system also allows a limit to be put on the amount of residual waste put out for collection. The main conclusion of the group is that a switch to an alternate weekly wheelie bin collection system is the only practicable way forward if targets are to be met and financial penalties for non-achievement avoided.
- 4.6. As waste collection is one of the most visible services the Council provides the change must be smoothly managed and executed. There is plenty of scope for a public relations disaster if this is not managed actively and sensitively. We are fortunate that nearby authorities (Worcester City and South Shropshire) have recently adopted wheelie bin collection systems and there is a wealth of experience of this major change.
- 4.7. Worcester City did not have significant reported problems with flies and maggots, despite the hot summer in 2006. Depending upon temperature, maggots will hatch within days or even hours of eggs being laid, and can turn into adult flies within one week. Therefore maintaining a weekly refuse collection system does not solve the problem of flies and maggots. Preventing flies from finding food is the only way of solving this problem. Many authorities have reported that containing waste in bins reduces flies and maggots.
- 4.8. The Worcester City method of collection follows the Joint Waste Management Strategy, utilising a two bin system with alternate weekly collection. A 240 litre green bin is used for recycle and 190 litre black bin for residual waste. Householders were able to opt for smaller bin sizes if required. The recycle from the green bin comprises glass bottles and jars, tins, cans, newspapers, plastic bottles and thin paper and card. The recycle is collected and transferred to bulk haulage vehicles where it is taken to a Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) and mechanically sorted into its component materials. The contents of the black bin is currently sent to landfill although it is planned to introduce autoclaving facilities within Worcestershire and Herefordshire to process residual waste.
- 4.9. Worcester City purchased wheelie bins with identification 'chips' already installed. The Review Group believe that 'chips' will lead to more efficient waste management in the future. The cost of purchasing wheelie bins with pre-installed chips is far less than retrospectively fitting chips. The Review Group therefore **recommends** that wheelie bins be purchased with pre-installed identification chips.
- 4.10. The South Shropshire method of collection utilises a bin system but is different to Worcester City and hence the Joint Waste Management Strategy. South Shropshire use a green bin, a black bin and a green box. The green bin is used for storing paper gift wrap, cardboard, food and garden waste. The black bin is

used for non-recyclable rubbish and the green box is used for newspapers, magazines, tins, cans, and glass bottles and jars. Collection of the green and black bins is alternate weekly.

- 4.11. In line with Worcester City the Joint Waste Management Strategy outlines the two bin system operating in Herefordshire and the remaining Districts of Worcestershire. Redditch is expanding its two bin system and Wychavon are due to start theirs in 2008.
- 4.12. The success of any proposal for recycling and refuse collection will be dependant on the availability of processing facilities such as a co-mingled MRF for mixed recycle and autoclaving for residual waste. Planning permission for autoclaving facilities have been secured in Herefordshire and Worcestershire with an application pending for a MRF in Worcestershire.
- 4.13. The changeover will be a major programme for the Authority and it will be essential that every Member and Officer embrace the change as all will be tackled by residents at some stage during the introduction. The introduction will need to be phased geographically across the County and there will be manpower resource implications in forming a project team.
- 4.14. The Review Group **recommends** that Cabinet reaffirm its commitment to the household waste recycling elements of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire including the requirement to change over to wheelie bins and alternate weekly collections.
- 4.15. In view of the high potential for adverse public relations the Review Group consider it imperative, and therefore **recommends**, that Cabinet secure total Member and Officer support for the change.
- 4.16. The Review Group also **recommends** that to ensure a smooth transition from current collection to wheelie bin collection Cabinet give early consideration to: the need for focused project management systems to be implemented; and adequate and timely manpower resources – a ‘change team’ – to be in place.

5. Managing the introduction of Wheelie-bins

- 5.1. Having heard Worcester City and South Shropshire Councils experience of introducing wheelie-bins to their areas the Review Group strongly believe that the Cabinet Member should give early consideration to the systems of management needed to implement such a project – as recommended above. The Review Group heard that good pre-introduction planning e.g. undertaking advice roadshows, consultation and mapping the area in terms of bin requirement, was essential to ensure a smooth transition. South Shropshire had employed a project manager, a publicity officer and three telephone helpline assistants specifically to facilitate the project.

Issues Raised During the Course of the Review

6. Ross-on-Wye Re-Box Scheme.

- 6.1. The EnviroAbility box recyclable collection in and around Ross-on-Wye is an outstanding success as evidenced by their 80+% participation rate. Any changes there will need to be carefully managed.

- 6.2. The Re-Box partnership consists of the Council (both Environment and Social Services), Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR) a commercial recycling company and the Ross-on-Wye based charity EnviroAbility. WCR and Enviroability are currently funded by the Council to carry out kerbside recycling collections using a box system.
- 6.3. The Review Group have heard how the local scheme was formed, the range of recyclables collected; the method of collection; the local people they employ and the acknowledgements they have received for their good works.
- 6.4. The Review Group are aware that WCR and EnviroAbility have been informed of the likely change to a two bin, alternate week collection across the County and that discussions have taken place regarding the need to diversify their work into areas such as reuse, although it is not clear at this stage what they propose.
- 6.5. The Review Group are concerned that the new collection contract in 2008 will severely impact on the operation of this organisation and in view of the work force it employs **recommends** that the Cabinet Member again contact Enviroability and WCR to reinforce the need for diversification of their service which could include reuse of collected materials.
7. **Bring Sites** –(localised collection point for recyclable materials e.g. at supermarkets, village halls or pub car parks).
- 7.1. Bring sites were well patronised, although some supermarkets do not participate, and there is probably scope to extend this network through consultations with Parish Councils and supermarkets.
- 7.2. The local bring sites provide an opportunity for the public to dispose of their recyclables, usually while already out and about in their car and indications are that the public are satisfied with this aspect of the service. While there are a number of sites spread around the County (see map at **Appendix 2**) the Review Group consider there may be scope for a small number of further sites to be strategically located in areas not served by current bring sites or covered by the kerbside collection service. Consultation should then be undertaken with relevant Parish Councils to ascertain the most appropriate local site(s). The Review Group were also aware that at the time of the review not all supermarkets had signed up to the ‘Courtauld Commitment’ (agreement to reduce packaging waste) and some do not provide bring site facilities in Herefordshire. Morrison’s do not provide any facilities for recycling plastic carrier bags. In view of the easy accessibility of supermarket sites the Review Group considered that the Cabinet Member should use his influence, both locally and nationally via WRAP, to encourage supermarkets to participate in recycling and waste reduction schemes.
- 7.3. The Review Group **recommends** that the Cabinet Member review the current bring site network with a view to expanding where appropriate, through consultation with relevant Parish Councils on the most suitable local sites and indicate his support to WRAP in its work at a national level to encourage supermarkets to participate in the provision of bring sites and waste reduction.

8. Household Waste Sites

- 8.1. The Review Group heard that Household waste sites were generally praised although opening hours at some of the market town sites were limited.
- 8.2. All the household waste sites e.g. Rotherwas and the main market towns, are relatively new and purpose designed facilitating the collection of a range of

recyclables. Comments received by the Review Group were overall very complimentary. The sites have good collection rates. However, the Review Group are aware that many members of the public may not visit the local market town, and hence the facility, on the day it is open.

- 8.3. The Review Group **recommends** that the Cabinet Member consider reviewing the Household Waste site opening hours with a view to extending the availability of the facility.
- 8.4. The Review Group acknowledge that household sites receive a range of recyclables including car batteries. However, many members of the public may not appreciate that they can also take ordinary household batteries. While acknowledging that the disposal of this type of battery can be expensive due to the cocktail of elements that go into their make up the Review Group consider that greater public awareness of this facility should be made.
- 8.5. The Review Group **recommends** that the Cabinet Member gives greater publicity to the facility to recycle household batteries at the Council's Household Waste sites.
- 8.6. The Review Group have noted the introduction of Commercial Vehicle & Trailer (CVT) permits, detailed in the Worcestershire County Council letter dated 18th January 2007, and hope that this will not lead to any increase in fly-tipping.

9. Green Garden Waste

- 9.1. The Review Group are aware that within the current legal framework garden waste is household waste for which a charge may be made. This charge is reflected in the cost of purchasing a Council green garden waste sack from a number of outlets across the County.
- 9.2. Green sacks purchased from the Council are filled by the householder and disposed of with the normal black-bagged refuse to landfill. Alternatively, householders can take their garden waste to Household Waste Sites, all of which have collection facilities for garden material, which is subsequently composted.
- 9.3. On the introduction of wheelie-bins current thinking in line with Worcester City and other Waste Authorities is that garden waste will not be allowed to be deposited into the black refuse wheelie bin. If it is found in the bin then it will not be emptied and a sticker will be placed on the bin explaining why. However, initially this will be difficult to enforce due to the detailed monitoring required. The bin size will also be a significant deterrent to continuing the practice. Herefordshire's approach should be to follow Worcester City and other waste authorities' lead in stating that garden waste isn't allowed through the collection system using wheelie bins but to highlight that the Household Waste Sites would still accept it.
- 9.4. More emphasis will be made on home composting and Household Waste Sites will continue to take garden waste for composting. As the proposal for the new collection system only provides for wheelie-bin collection and no side waste the Group appreciated that the 'green bag' would probably be phased out.
- 9.5. Home composting promoted by the Council and WRAP is seen as being very successful. The Council encourages home composting and sells subsidised home composters to householders. This is seen as the most sustainable practice as garden (and some kitchen) waste can be composted and reused in the garden without reliance on collection and processing systems.

- 9.6. The Group suggested that the Cabinet Member would need to make sure that the public are clear about why the 'green bag' was being phased out and clear about what they need to do with their garden waste.
- 9.7. On the evidence received the Review Group consider that the level of promotion for the Herefordshire home composting scheme had been adequate as training was also given to the public on delivery. This may benefit the Council if 'composted waste' was included by government in future targets. The Group also wished to see the continued promotion of home composting.
- 9.8. The Review Group **recommends** that the current system for green garden waste collection and disposal is continued but reviewed when a two bin system is introduced.

10. Plastics, Packaging and Labelling

- 10.1. During the review the Review Group were made aware of a number of important issues which have national as well as local impact and took the opportunity to raise these issues when they interviewed the ROTATE Manager (Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team). In brief the issue and response were:
- 10.1.1. Why some plastics can be included for recycling and some cannot. The range of plastics collected was dependent on whether the Local Authority was able to dispose of the wide range of plastics in use.
- 10.1.2. There is a continuing increase in household waste due to the growing popularity of mail order/internet shopping and associated packaging e.g. for the delivery of washing machines. The Review Group were informed that WRAP will be investigating the general increase in packaging, some of which was generated by the increase in Internet sales and delivery companies. However, it was acknowledged that there were two sides to the story in that goods needed to be delivered in a fit state.
- 10.1.3. The recycling symbology, particularly on plastics, is confusing. WRAP were working with manufacturers and the retail sector to revise the packaging and symbols used.
- 10.1.4. The continual increase in use of free plastic supermarket carrier bags was considered to contribute to litter issues and increased volume in household waste. The Review Group noted that WRAP were working with the Government on reduction initiatives. While the government is working on a voluntary agreement with supermarkets to reduce, not only the number of carrier bags, but packaging generally, some large supermarkets were already promoting 'bag for life' and 'green points' schemes.
- 10.2. The Review Group **recommends** that a comprehensive detail of recycling symbology, as appropriate to Herefordshire, is promulgated in Herefordshire Matters.

11. Publicity and the availability of information to public

- 11.1. The Review Group conclude that, having seen or heard regional and local publicity campaigns to encourage recycling, the majority of the public were aware of the need to recycle. However, there was evidence that many were unsure about the opening times and facilities on offer at their local sites. With the likelihood of greatly increased costs for landfill, every effort must be made to encourage further recycling and the overall reduction of waste. The Review Group consider that the public need to be informed not only about the

environmental cost but the personal financial cost e.g. the actual increased cost to the household through the Council Tax, of not reducing household waste.

- 11.2. The Review Group **recommends** that the Cabinet Member inform the public of the current and projected cost of waste collection to emphasise the need to reduce waste volumes and control Council Tax increases.

12. Bulk Collection

- 12.1. The Review Group noted that the Council provides a collection service for bulky items and that there is a charge for this service at £15 for up to three items and a further £5 for additional items. This service is provided by Full House, who provide a good service in collecting and where possible recycling items.
- 12.2. The Review Group also noted that while the Council provide a 'parish freighter' collection service, the fee to the parish did not cover the actual cost to the Council. However, the Review Group considered that the service, namely the provision of a waste collection vehicle on an occasional basis, was complementary to the overall waste collection service.
- 12.3. It was further noted that there are a number of social enterprise organisations in the county who also collect items for re-use.

13. Fly Tipping

- 13.1. With the likely introduction of wheelie-bins the Review Group questioned representatives from Worcester City Council and South Shropshire Council on the level of fly-tipping in their areas. Both indicated that while a minimal level of fly-tipping unfortunately continued, no increase had been attributed to the introduction of alternate week wheelie-bin collections.

14. Commercial Waste

- 14.1. While not within the scope of the review the subject of commercial waste arose during interviews. The Review Group were informed that trade waste arisings are not permitted by government to be counted as part of the recycling target and that in the main commercial waste wasn't sorted for recyclables. The Review Group consider it is counterproductive to emphasise the household recycling imperatives without addressing the commercial waste operation. For example, it is discouraging for residents to observe commercial glass collections e.g. from a public house, being mixed with general waste for landfill.
- 14.2. The Review Group noted there are a significant number of commercial waste recyclers and these, mainly local contacts, are listed at **Appendix 3**.

15. Means of measuring the success of the Service

- 15.1. On a monthly basis recycling and composting performance is reported and is checked against Government targets. The current combined recycling and composting performance is at 28% against a Government target of 21%.
- 15.2. Over the last 3 years recycling and composting performance has exceeded government targets.
- 15.3. Along with the other Waste Authorities, Herefordshire Council is awaiting the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy. This is due for publication in March 2007 following some delay to include review of the current energy

policy and global warming. New National Targets for combined recycling and composting are expected to be announced at 40% by 2010.

15.4. The Group are aware that a suite of national/local targets on waste and recycling are reported to the Cabinet Member on a monthly basis. These targets are also monitored, and reported by exception, to Environment Scrutiny Committee. A number of key targets are also monitored, and reported by exception, to Cabinet via the Integrated Performance Report. The Group consider that given due consideration by Cabinet Member/Cabinet and rigorous scrutiny by the Environment Scrutiny Committee adequate scrutiny, the current monitoring procedures should be adequate.

16. Links to the Community Strategy

16.1. The Review Group believe that the recommendations contained in this report will contribute to the themes in the Community Strategy for Herefordshire and in particular: 'making the County a safe and pleasant environment to live and work in for both the citizens of the County and its many visitors'.

17. Conclusions

17.1. From the evidence obtained during the review the conclusions of the Review Group, based on the key questions in the scoping statement are:

- 17.1.1. Overall the public were basically satisfied with the Waste Service.
- 17.1.2. Positive feedback had been received following the further roll out of the kerbside collection service although some members of the public remained disappointed that they remain outside the catchment areas.
- 17.1.3. In view of the current collection contract; Joint Waste Strategy and government review of the National Waste Strategy there was little scope to influence the outcome
- 17.1.4. Current kerbside collection should be expanded where cost effective to do so.
- 17.1.5. There may be scope for a small number of additional bring sites in targeted areas.
- 17.1.6. Overall comments regarding the household waste sites have been complimentary, however, opening times could be reviewed.
- 17.1.7. Green bag collection should continue as present but the need for the service will need to be reviewed when there is a change in the method of collection.
- 17.1.8. Overall the public appreciate the need for recycling however what can be recycled may not be entirely clear.
- 17.1.9. The Review Group have not considered the cost of changes to the service as this is dependent on a wide range of variables.
- 17.1.10. The Review Group consider that the current range of measurements and reporting used to judge the success of the service to be sufficient.

18. Next Steps

18.1. The Review Group expects that subject to approval by the Environment Scrutiny Committee the report will be presented to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for consideration and likely referral to Cabinet. The Review Group then expects that the Executive's response including an action plan will be reported to the Environment Scrutiny Committee at the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response. It would then

expect a further report on progress in response to the Review to be made after 6 months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.

REVIEW:	Household Waste Recycling	
Committee:	Environment Scrutiny Committee	Chair: Councillor K.G. Grumbley
Lead support officer:	Mr Richard.N. Wood	

SCOPING

Terms of Reference

- To review the current methods of household waste recycling in Herefordshire and performance against Government targets.
- To investigate how improvements can be made to the recycling service in the future, in light of the previously adopted Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire (The Strategy), changes in legislation, the review of the National Waste Strategy and new contractual arrangements.
- Following the review to advise the Cabinet Member (Environment) of the best policy to put in place to a) reduce waste and b) increase waste recycling in the Herefordshire.

Desired outcomes

- For the current household waste recycling service and future proposals to have been fully examined in public and in an open and transparent way (subject to confidentiality imposed by contracts or ongoing contract negotiations.).
- For Members of the Review to have considered the various recycling methods currently available and proposals for the future to meet Government targets in line with the adopted Strategy.
- For any future service to be capable of implementation in Herefordshire in collaboration with partner organisations.

Key questions

- How is the current household waste recycling service performing in the context of Government targets and legal requirements?
- What issues have been raised by the public – how has the Council responded – what has been the reaction of the public?
- What are the internal/external factors that affect recycling in Herefordshire and what level of influence does the Council have to change these factors?

- Within the legal framework, what options are there to improve the current policy particularly in line with the adopted Strategy?
- What areas of household waste recycling can/should be improved?
- Can or should kerbside collection be expanded to other areas of the County?
- Are the current bring-site facilities sufficient?
- Are the Household Waste Site facilities sufficient eg capacity, opening times, range of collection, ease of use?
- Is the Council's current policy towards 'green bag' recycling appropriate and what is the public perception concerning this policy?
- Is recycling understood by the public - Is it clear what can and cant be recycled – what are the barriers to getting the public to reduce waste – how can these barriers be overcome?
- What would be the implications of changing the recycling service (e.g. financial cost, increased need for resources, environmental cost/benefit etc).
- What means of measurement are or can be used to judge the success or otherwise of any policy. Are national targets being met – are local targets set at appropriate levels?

Links to the Community Strategy

The Review Group will identify how the outcome of this review contributes to the objectives contained in the Herefordshire Community Strategy including the Council's Corporate Plan and other key plans or strategies.

Timetable

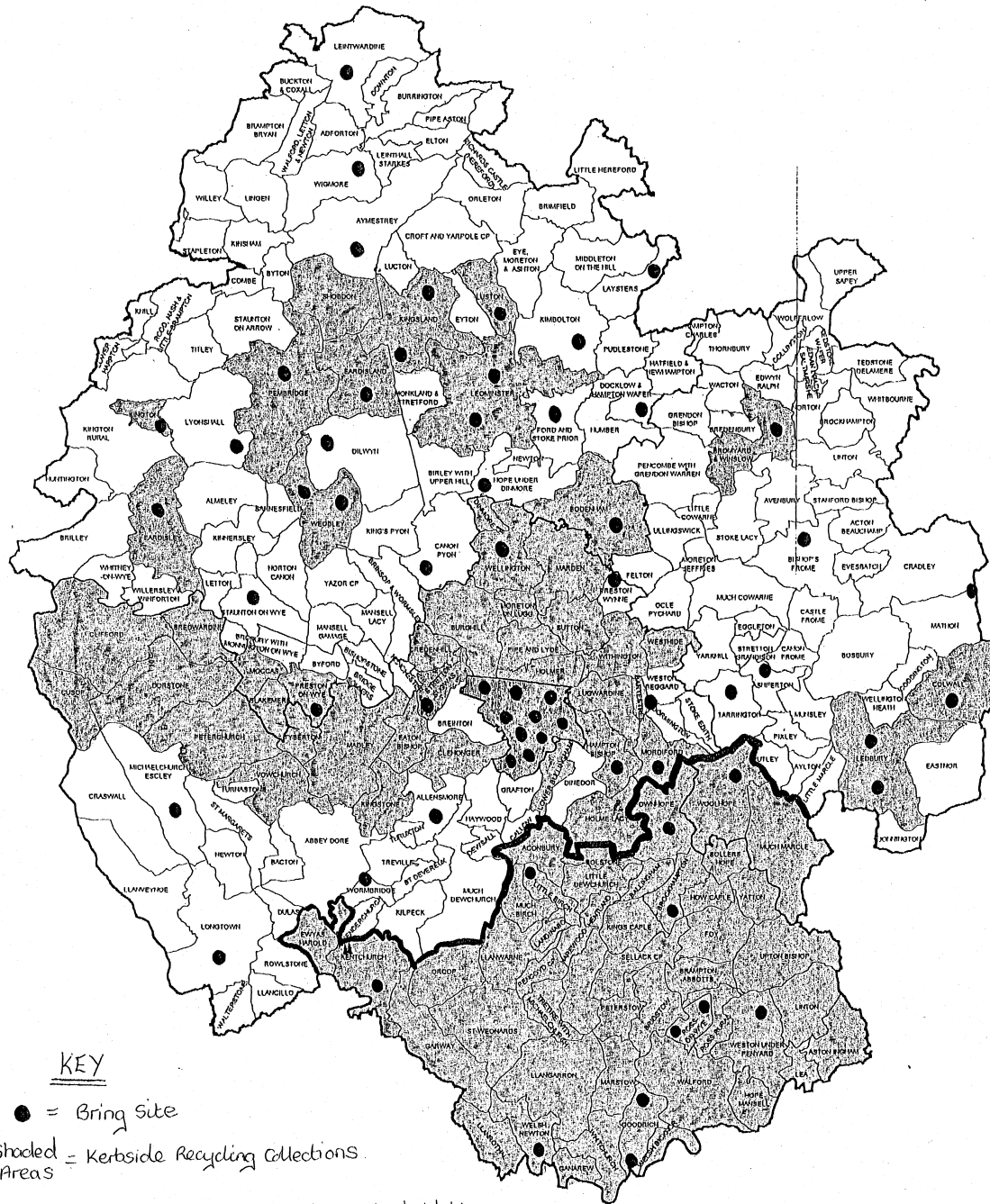
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Agree approach, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/dates	First meeting of Review Group to be held in September or early Oct 2006
Collect current available data	
Collect outstanding data	
Analysis of data	
Final confirmation of interviews of witnesses	
Carry out programme of interviews	
Agree programme of site visits	
Undertake site visits as appropriate	
Update to Environment Scrutiny Committee	-
Final analysis of data and witness evidence	

Prepare options/recommendations	
Present Final report to Environment Scrutiny Committee	4 th December 2006 or a special meeting?
Present options/recommendations to Cabinet	Jan/Feb 2007
Cabinet response	
Implementation of agreed recommendations	
<i>Members</i>	<i>Support Officers</i>
Cllr PJ Dauncey Cllr K.G. Grumbley (Chair) Cllr J.G.S. Guthrie Cllr J.W. Newman	Richard Wood (Waste Services Officer) Laura Preece (Recycling Officer) Paul James (Democratic Services Officer)



Herefordshire

Showing Parishes and Previous District Councils



KEY

● = Bring Site

Shaded = Kerbside Recycling Collections Areas

REBox collect in areas below the bold line.
 Focsa collect in areas above the bold line.

Scale : 1:215,000

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Herefordshire Council
 Waste Management
 Kemble House
 Broad Street
 Hereford
 HR4 9AR
 Tel.: (01432) 260000

LIST OF COMMERCIAL WASTE RECYCLERS

PAPER	Enviroability Enviroshred
PAPER/CARDBOARD	Hereford Waste Paper Dave Baker
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT - PC's	Enson Group Ltd Enviroability Keymood UK Limited UK IT Recycling Ltd MANN
NAPPIES	Green Nappies Project
GLASS	Under discussion with Veolia and Enviroability
WOOD	SITA Onyx in conjunction with Smiths Gloucester
METAL	RE Evans Metal Merchant Hereford Metal Recycling
ALUMINIUM CANS	Alupro
PLASTIC	Farm Plastics Recycled Keymood UK Limited
PLASTIC CUPS	Save-a-cup
FLUORESCENT TUBES	Enson Group Limited
FRIDGES & FURNITURE	Full House Furniture & Recycling Services Limited Hereford Lifestyles
FOOD WASTES - COMPOSTERS	Bioganix Wiggly Wigglers
WASTE COOKING OIL	Longama
BATTERIES	G & P Batteries

COMPANY NAME	COLLECT	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Bioganix	Food industry wastes, perform in-vessel composting of food waste to create high grade organic fertiliser	Wharton Court Leominster HR6 0NX	01568 610033	nick.helme@bionix.co.uk
Bio-Logic Design	Waste water treatment/small scale sewage for your site.	Archenhills Stanford Bishop Worcestershire WR6 5TZ	01886 884721	
Enson Group Ltd	Nationwide business collections for all electronic equipment, packaging and fluorescent tubes.	Unit 422 Kemble Glos GL7 6BA	0845 3702120	enquiries@ensongroup.co.uk
Enviroability	Offer a full range of recycling facilities ink jet cartridges, PCs, Telephones, Newspaper, junk mail, glass, aluminium cans (check) & used tools	Ryefield Centre Grammar School Close Ross-on-Wye HR9 7QB	01989 768273	enquiries@enviroability.org.uk
Enviroshred	Confidential paper for recycling, completely recycled into compost	Lower Brook Kingsland Leominster HR6 9QB	01568 708900	
Farm Plastics Recycled	Waste agricultural plastic for recycling:- Silage wrap, Sheeting, Crop film and Feed bags	North Farm Bosbury Ledbury HR8 1JY	01531 640381	info@farmplasticsrecycled.co.uk
Full House Furniture & Recycling Services Limited	Donated furniture, fridges and cookers always wanted; offered to people on low incomes	Unit 1 Holme Lacy Industrial Estate Hereford HR2 6DR	01432 342042	
G & P Batteries	All batteries	Crescent Works Industrial Park Willenhall Road WS10 8JR	0121 5683200	enquiries@g-pbatt.co.uk

COMPANY NAME	COLLECT	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Green Nappies Project	Nappy laundry service covering most of South Herefordshire	Ryefield Centre Grammar School Close Ross-on-Wye	01989 760919	
Hereford Lifestyles	Computers, Cookers, Furniture, Mobile phones, Tools and restoration of domestic appliance ie washing machine	20 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ	01432 359799	herefordlifestyles@demon.co.uk
Hereford Metal Rec	Scrap metal will collect via skip & asbestos through skip, can take small quantities to St Weonards	Holmer Trading Estate Hereford HR1 1JS	01432 361670	
Hereford Waste Paper	Paper & cardboard in the three counties area	County Park Pixley Nr Ledbury HR8 2RW	01432 266702	
Longama	Used cooking oil - free collection	Unit 5b Thorn Business Pk Rotherwas Hereford HR2 6JT	01432 263484	admin@longama.co.cuk
Mann	PC monitors and TVs	Ashburton Industrial Estate Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BW	01989 760000	equiries@mann-org.com
One World Recycling	Demolition, construction wastes	One World Recycling 2A Cornwall Place High street Buckingham MK18 1SB	01280 822181	

COMPANY NAME	COLLECT	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
Plinlimon Trust	Paper and card that is shredded for animal bedding, profits go to Dial-a-ride	77-83 Whitecross Road Hereford, HR4 0BJ	01432 264696	
RE Evans Metal Merchant	All scrap metal - cars, machinery, brass, copper, lead etc	18 Cobhall Cottage Allensmore Hereford HR2 9BW	01432 277313	
Veolia	Commercial recycling. Range of recyclables - on demand. May offer glass collections	Gatehouse Road Rotherwas Industrial Estate Hereford HR2 6RQ	01432 277303	
Revolve by Cutouts Limited	PCB recycling - only manufactures of computers only	Unit 12C Heath House Mill Heath House Lane Bolser Moor Huddersfield HD7 4JW	01484 645281	info@revolve-uk.com
UK IT Recycling Ltd	Recycling PCs & used electricals, free collection UK wide	Unit 2 Duncote Mill Walcot Telford TF6 5ER	01952 740200	
Pont Eco Ltd	Plastics recycling, Electronic materials and DVDs, CDs, VHS & video	Alton Road Ross-on-Wye HR9 5NB	01989 566288	info@recyclingpeople.co.uk
Save-a-cup	Plastic cups marked with 06 on bottom and PS around the side - Hereford monthly collections. Need to have at least 3 bags available (3,000) cups	Bridge Street High Wycombe HP11 2EL	01494 510167	info@save-a-cup.co.uk

Acknowledgements

The Review Group thank the following for attending interview, hosting the information visit or providing evidence during the review:

Councillor Mrs G Churchill - Bromyard and Winslow Town Council;

Councillor D. Bedford – Ross-on-Wye Town Council;

Councillor Mr A. Taylor – Hereford City Council,

Mr D. Humble – EnviroAbility, Ross-on-Wye

Mr N Spencer – Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR)

Ms R. Froggatt - Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR)

Councillor D. Lowe – Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council;

Mr Mike Harrison - Head of Environmental Services, Worcester City Council

Ms L. Crichton – ROTATE Manager (Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team) which is part of WRAP

Mr B. Jones – Director, Environment and Development, Shropshire District Council, Ludlow.

Mr M Foxhall – Waste Services Manager, Shropshire District Council, Ludlow.

Mr I. Hancock, Depot Manager, Biffa Waste Services Ltd, Ludlow. (Collection contractors for South Shropshire).

The Review Group were assisted and heard evidence from Mr R Wood, Waste Services Manager, and Ms L. Preece, Recycling Officer, Herefordshire Council. Mr P. James, Democratic Services Officer advised and provided administrative support to the Review Group.

Documents considered during the review.

1. Initial briefing note by the Waste Services Manager.
2. Various leaflets issued by the Council:
 - 2.1. Kerbside recycling in Herefordshire - what can I recycle?
 - 2.2. frequently asked questions relating to the kerbside collection of recyclable materials,
 - 2.3. Guide to recycling at Household Waste Sites in Herefordshire;
 - 2.4. Freecycle,
 - 2.5. free compost clinics,
 - 2.6. A guide to reuse organisations in Herefordshire,
 - 2.7. Nappacino mornings,
 - 2.8. fit a food waste disposer).
3. Report produced by WRAP on the Alternate Week Collection (AWC) process.
4. "Managing waste for a brighter future" being the Municipal Waste Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2004-2034. (available in paper or CD versions).
5. Notes of a presentation given by Mr Harrison, Worcester City Council to district council(s) entitled 'Introduction of Alternate Week Wheeled bin Collection'
6. Letter dated 18th January 2007 from Worcester County Council entitled "Input Control Measures – Household Waste Sites".

Please contact Herefordshire Council's Waste Management section on (01432) 260051 for information on the availability of the above documents.

Glossary of terms

Autoclaving Facilities - Facility to steam treat waste to produce refuse derived fuel or building product materials.

Bring Sites – localised collection point for recyclable materials e.g. supermarket, village hall or pub car parks.

Commercial Waste – Is defined in schedule 4 of the Controlled waste regulations 1992. It includes waste from an office, showroom, hotel, club, society, market and government buildings.

Commingled MRF (Materials Reclamation Facility) - A recycling facility that sorts and processes collected mixed recyclables to individual streams for market.

Community Strategy for Herefordshire – Prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership the strategy brings together the shared priorities of local communities, organisations, groups and networks to improve local services and quality of life.

‘Courtauld Commitment’ - a groundbreaking agreement reached in 2005 involving all of the leading supermarkets and convenience store chains– responsible for 92% of groceries sold in the UK – under which they agreed to work with WRAP to: *design out packaging waste growth by March 2008; deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by March 2010; and identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.*). Source: www.wrap.org.uk

EnviroAbility – Established in Ross-on-Wye as a charity and not-for-profit company in 1999. The primary aims and objectives are to provide and promote projects, which benefit disadvantaged groups of people in the community and the environment.

Full House - A Herefordshire charity that accepts donations of furniture and household items which are refurbished (if required) and sold on at low cost to people on proven low income. Placement organisation for training (admin and transport) opportunities. Contractual work with local authority for the collection of bulky household items.

Re-Box – Scheme launched in 2004 by EnviroAbility in partnership with WCR Ltd and Herefordshire Council to enable EnviroAbility to collect a wider range of recyclables (inc. paper, cans, glass and textiles) in the Ross-on-Wye and surrounding area.

Recyclate – Material that can be recycled.

Residual Waste - Material remaining after designated recycling material has been removed.

ROTATE - (Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team) launched in June 2004 as an addition to WRAP's existing programmes for local authorities. It is a free advisory service that provides hands on advice to local authorities (in England and Northern Ireland) on their collection programmes and on their local communications and awareness programmes for kerbside and bring schemes and household waste recycling centres.

Side Waste – Any surplus waste left outside the bin.

WRAP –(Waste & Resources Action Programme) is a not for profit company created in 2000 as part of the Government's waste strategies across the United Kingdom.

14 SUMMARY OF ACTION IN RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose

1. To note progress against recommendations made by the Committee.

Background

2. One of the key challenges set for the scrutiny process is to produce outcomes which make a difference and add value to the Council's work. Scrutiny is also an ongoing process and it is important that progress in response to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committees is monitored.
3. The major recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committees have on the whole been generated by Scrutiny Reviews. The Council's scrutiny process has always recognised the need for progress against these recommendations to be monitored.
4. The process was recently strengthened by formalising it with the following recommendations made as part of each review.
 - the Executive's response to the Review including an action plan reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response.
 - a further report on progress in response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.
5. However, monitoring of progress against other recommendations has not been formalised in the same way. In preparing for the current round of meetings some Chairmen requested a round up of all the recommendations made in addition to those made as part of scrutiny reviews. It seemed logical to apply this request to all of the Scrutiny Committees.
6. A list is attached which attempts to give effect to this request. The list does not include all the issues considered by the Committee. Nor does it include requests made by the Committee for reports which are covered as part of the compilation of the work programme. Rather the report seeks to summarise instances where the Committee has requested that specific action be taken and the response to that request.
7. This is the first time such a report has been produced. Subject to the views of the Committee on this approach it would be proposed that in future a report will appear on each quarterly meeting as an appendix to the Work Programme.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted subject to any comments Members wish to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified

Date	Issue and decision	Resultant action or outcome
21/10/2003	<p>Call in of Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation Decision Car Parking Charges</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)'s decision on car parking charges be referred back to him for further consideration with the following recommendations:</p> <p>a) That as Councillors the Committee are well aware of their financial responsibilities but are still unhappy with the proposed charging structure and the Cabinet Member is therefore asked to revisit the individual charges being mindful of the overall goal, and accordingly charges be retained at the levels existing as at 8th October, 2003 pending further consultation and collaboration with Members of the Council and other appropriate representative bodies; and</p> <p>b) That a full review of the car parking strategy be undertaken and arrangements for this be put in hand as soon as practicable</p>	<p>As a result Cabinet at it's meeting on 23rd October 2003 re-considered the issue. They decided that the original decision be confirmed and the revised charges be introduced. However, Cabinet did invite the Committee to undertake a full review of the Car Parking Strategy. The Committee initiated the Review of the County-wide Parking Strategy, which reported in December 2004.</p>
21/11/03	<p>A Strategy of the Public Rights of Way Services in Herefordshire – Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the Director of Environment arrange a seminar in early 2004 for all Members concerning the work of the PROW section and issues it faced in the future. 	<p>A seminar was held on 25th February 2004. Regular monitoring of the improvement plan arising from the Best Value Review of the service has been undertaken in subsequent reports to Committee. PROW now forms part of Parks and Countryside Services and therefore is monitored by Community Services Scrutiny Committee.</p>

23/6/04	<p>Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire</p> <p>RESOLVED: That subject to the Cabinet Member (Environment) giving further consideration to the growing period the conclusions contained in the Polyunnel Review Working Group report be endorsed and the report submitted to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for consideration</p>	<p>The issue was referred to Cabinet in October 2004 which, subject to two amendments, accepted the findings of the review.</p>
17/9/04	<p>Herefordshire's second Local Transport Plan</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted and it be recommended that the matter of Rural Issues highlighted by Herefordshire being high on the government's index of multiple deprivation, be included in the formal response to the government consultation on the draft guidance</p>	<p>The Council's response to the draft guidance was submitted and highlighted the particular concerns in relation to the needs of Herefordshire</p>
17/9/04	<p>Public Rights of Way – Performance and Strategy Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Director of Environment and the County Secretary & Solicitor inform the Local Members of the position concerning the signs erected at Bromyard Downs. 	<p>This issue was dealt with by Property Services.</p>
8/12/04	<p>A49 Trunk Road – Road Safety Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That following consultation with all Members the Head of Highways and Transportation collate the various issues raised and request the Highways Agency to attend a future meeting. 	<p>The Head of Highways and Transportation collated the issues raised by Members. This information was used to formulate a series of questions which were put to the Highways Agency when they attended the Committee meeting in February 2005.</p>

8/12/04	<p>Monitoring of 2004/2005 Performance Indicators – April 2004 to September 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the report be noted and the ‘headline statistics’ on the cost of household waste be provided to Members for use in highlighting the issue in constituency newsletters 	The required information was provided to all Members.
24/1/05	<p>Review of the County-Wide Parking Strategy</p> <p>RESOLVED: That subject to including that the Cabinet Member consider the possible implementation of time restrictions on Rowberry Street car park at Bromyard, the conclusions contained in the Parking Strategy Review report be endorsed and the report be submitted to the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) for consideration</p>	The findings of the review were considered by Cabinet. The work of the Review Group contributed to the formulation of the final submission of the Local Transport Plan (LTP”) in March 2006.
6/6/05	<p>Best Value Review of Commercial Enforcement – Stage 3 Report</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Stage 3 report be noted and the recommended preferred option contained at Section 8 in the report namely: that the Environmental Health (Commercial Enforcement), Trading Standards and Licensing be re-engineered to deliver more efficient services, be supported and recommended to Strategic Monitoring Committee</p>	The issue was submitted to Strategic Monitoring Committee and then forwarded to the Cabinet Member. The resultant improvement plan was monitored by Committee via the regular report on Best Value Reviews Monitoring.
6/6/05	<p>Trunk Roads in Herefordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Trunk Roads in Herefordshire report be noted and Members refer outstanding issues to the Head of Highways and Transportation for further discussion at officer meetings with the Highways Agency; and b) a further meeting between the Committee and the Highways Agency be held in abeyance. 	<p>Resulting from the Committee meeting with the Highways Agency regular high level officer meetings were held with the Agency. When appropriate the Head of Highways and Transportation produces briefing papers for Members.</p> <p>In view of the officer meetings and briefing papers the Director of Environment briefs the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at agenda planning meetings and will report to committee on any significant matters arising.</p>

8/8/05	<p>Presentation by Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members be informed of the outcome of the Director of Environment’s meeting with the Environment Agency, concerning trunk roads with particular reference to the A49; and • Committee Members be provided with a value for money style report on the Walking Festival 	<p>Trunk Roads – please see note above.</p> <p>Walking Festival – This issue is now within the terms of reference for Community Services Scrutiny Committee. To date Community Services have not received a specific report on this issue.</p>
24/10/05	<p>Second Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Cabinet Member (Environment) be recommended to consider incorporating the pre-consultation requirements of the Code of Practice into the draft Statement of Community Involvement currently in preparation; • the Cabinet Member (Environment) be recommended to continue to operate the Code of Practice subject to a full review in October 2006; and • the Cabinet Member (Environment) be recommended to consider amending the Code at Section 3 bullet point 2 to read: “The grower will submit local and landscape impact statements accompanied by mitigation measures. The local impact statement should specify, as a minimum, the proposed vehicular routing, volume and type of traffic. Mitigation measures may include one-way routes, hardening of passing places or surface improvements. Routing should be included on the location plan (Checklist item 9). 	<p>This was passed to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for consideration. The Code of Practice continues to operate and the suggested amendments are held in abeyance until the current review on the Code is completed.</p>

	Landscape impact mitigation may include the use of less reflective or coloured polythene.”	
5/12/05	GEM Performance 2005/2006: Half Year Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> further information on the various measures indicated at Low Cost Measures and Medium Cost Measures in Annex 2 to the report be detailed in a future report. 	Reports on GEM are received by Committee on a regular basis and the issues requested were covered in a subsequent report
27/3/06	Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	This was referred to the Executive and a response was made as part of a wider consultation in relation to the Act.
25/9/06	Hydropower Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the report be noted and the Cabinet Member (Environment) be supported in facilitating further research and meetings between interested parties to further the possible development of hydropower schemes in the County. 	The Cabinet Member (Environment) has subsequently hosted a seminar on this issue which was well attended by various organisations and interested bodies/persons and was reported in the local press.
4/12/06	Policy Statement for the Use of the Rivers Wye and Lugg <p>RESOLVED: That the draft Policy Statement for the use of the Rivers Wye and Lugg be recommended to the Cabinet Member as the basis for consultation with the relevant organisations and public.</p>	Following consideration by this Committee the policy statement was considered by Cabinet on 12 Dec 06 when it was approved as the basis for consultation.

4/12/06	<p>Draft Travellers Policy</p> <p>RESOLVED That</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a) the report be noted and the draft policy be circulated for comment to interested organisations including the Herefordshire Travellers' Support Group; andb) the Review Group consider any comments made and the resultant draft Policy be considered by this Committee prior to being forwarded to the Cabinet Member for a final decision.	<p>Initial consultation has been undertaken however further aspects for review have been identified and therefore the review will report to a future meeting.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

- 1 To consider the Committee work programme.

Financial Implications

- 2 None

Background

- 3 In accordance with the Scrutiny Improvement Plan a report on the Committee's current Work Programme will be made to each of the scheduled quarterly meetings of this Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the suggested Work Programme is attached at appendix 1.
- 4 The programme may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Director of Environment in response to changing circumstances. Members are reminded that guidance for developing an effective work programme is contained in the Scrutiny Handbook previously issued to Members.
- 5 A number of other issues for consideration have been discussed with the Director and, depending on the Committee's future instruction, may be added to the programme as it is further developed. The issues are listed at the foot of the programme.
- 6 Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
- 7 Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact either the Director of Environment or the Democratic Services Officer to log the issue so that it may be taken in to consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to any comment or issues raised by the Committee the Committee work programme be approved and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Paul James,
Democratic services Officer on 01432 260460

APPENDIX 1

June 2007	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)• Presentation by Cabinet Member (Environment)• Capital Budget Monitoring• Revenue Budget Monitoring• Report on Performance Indicators• Committee Work Programme
Scrutiny Reviews	

Items for consideration as the programme is further developed:

- Scrutinising progress with the Local Transport Plan (LTP2) and any associated issues.
- The effect on Herefordshire of changes to the Single Farm Payments system (e.g. hedge cutting, drainage ditch clearance)
- Implications arising from the 'Better Regulation Agenda' (concerning regulatory inspections and enforcement – within the context of this Committee).
- Any specific issues arising from Council Strategies or Plans.
- Contribute to policy development of LTP3.
- Consideration of revised/reviewed Flood Defence Policy.
- Safety on the A49 and A465 trunk roads – the Director will update the Committee as appropriate.

