

CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

Director: Mrs. J.E. Jones

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AMcL/CD

Please ask for: Mrs. C. Dyer

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19th April, 2007

Dear Councillor,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the meeting of the County of Herefordshire District Council to be held on **FRIDAY, 27TH APRIL, 2007** at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford. at **10.30 a.m.** at which the business set out in the attached agenda is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,



A. McLAUGHLIN
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES



A G E N D A

COUNCIL

Date: **Friday, 27th April, 2007**

Time: **10.30 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:

*Christine Dyer, Democratic Services
Manager*

**Tel: 01432 260222, e-mail:
cdyer@herefordshire.gov.uk**

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the COUNCIL

To: All Members of the Council

	Pages
1. PRAYERS	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on this Agenda.	
4. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, 2007.	1 - 10
5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive the Chairman's announcements and petitions from members of the public.	
6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC To receive questions from members of the public.	11 - 14
7. QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN UNDER STANDING ORDERS To receive any written questions.	
8. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS To consider any Notices of Motion.	
9. CABINET To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meetings held on 22nd March and 12th April, 2007.	15 - 22
10. STANDARDS COMMITTEE To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meetings held on 12th February, 9th March and 13th April, 2007.	23 - 26
11. STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meeting held on 30th March, 2007.	27 - 36
12. PLANNING COMMITTEE To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meetings held on (a) 2nd March and (b) 20th April, 2007. (<i>Report to follow</i>)	37 - 40
13. REGULATORY COMMITTEE To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meetings held on 20th March and 10th April, 2007.	41 - 44
14. AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE To receive the report and to consider any recommendations to Council arising from the meeting held on 13th April, 2007.	45 - 46

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

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MINUTES of the meeting of COUNCIL held at The Assembly Hall, Shirehall, Hereford on Friday, 9th March, 2007 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Councillor J.W. Edwards (Chairman)
Councillor J. Stone (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. P.A. Andrews, B.F. Ashton, Mrs. W.U. Attfield, Mrs. L.O. Barnett, W.L.S. Bowen, H. Bramer, R.B.A. Burke, A.C.R. Chappell, M.R. Cunningham, Mrs. S.P.A. Daniels, P.J. Dauncey, N.J.J. Davies, Mrs. C.J. Davis, G.W. Davis, P.J. Edwards, D.J. Fleet, Mrs. J.P. French, J.H.R. Goodwin, Mrs. A.E. Gray, K.G. Grumbley, P.E. Harling, J.W. Hope MBE, B. Hunt, T.W. Hunt, Mrs. J.A. Hyde, T.M. James, J.G. Jarvis, Brig. P. Jones CBE, Mrs. M.D. Lloyd-Hayes, G. Lucas, R.M. Manning, R.I. Matthews, J.C. Mayson, R. Mills, J.W. Newman, Mrs. J.E. Pemberton, R.J. Phillips, Mrs. S.J. Robertson, D.W. Rule MBE, Miss F. Short, R.V. Stockton, D.C. Taylor, Mrs E.A. Taylor, J.P. Thomas, W.J.S. Thomas, Ms. A.M. Toon, D.B. Wilcox, J.B. Williams and R.M. Wilson

75. PRAYERS

In the absence of the Dean of Hereford, the Very Reverend Peter Haynes led the Council in prayer.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. E.M. Bew, J.G.S. Guthrie, Ms G.A. Powell, R. Preece, P.G. Turpin, W.J. Walling and A.L. Williams.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Mrs. M.D. Lloyd-Hayes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - Report of Cabinet in relation to paragraph 27 on page 38 of the agenda.

Councillor R.J. Phillips declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 - Report of Cabinet, paragraph 7.1(iii) Local Government Pension Scheme - Response to Consultation.

78. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

79. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Council that the Civic Service was to be held at Bridstow Church on Sunday, 11th March, at 3.30 pm and that refreshments would be served after the service.

He advised that it had not been possible to fly the flag on the Shirehall, as was the usual custom for Council meetings, because of a problem with the halyard. It was

expected that the fault would be rectified shortly.

The Chairman advised that Councillor H. Bramer had presented him with a petition protesting about the withdrawal of Stagecoach Service 33 between Ross-on-Wye and Gloucester. He passed the petition to Councillor D.B. Wilcox, Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) for attention.

80. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Under the Constitution a member of the public can ask a Cabinet Member or Chairman of a Committee any question relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties, or which affects the County, as long as a copy of the question is deposited with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services more than six clear working days before the meeting. One question had been received from Mr C. Grover of Bromyard and was included in the agenda. The question, which was amended to remove reference to an individual Councillor, together with a summary of the response, is set out below:

"Hereford Council owns Bromyard Downs and their management is formally delegated to the Commons Management Committee through Brockhampton Group Parish Council. The Committee consists of 12 members, eight of whom are appointed by the Parish Council from their own members and four are commoners elected annually by other commoners at the Annual Meeting of Commoners held in April. In the two previous years requests have been made to the Clerk in good time to publish the electoral procedure for this annual election and provide a copy of the List of Commoners. No list of commoners is available for candidates, no proxy votes are allowed for the election and only commoners present at the meeting can vote. As this is an election to a public body responsible for the management of Hereford Council property, will the Council confirm at the next meeting in April 2007 -

- 1. that normal electoral procedures should prevail since there is no published or approved Management Committee or Parish Council constitution rules to suggest otherwise.*
- 2. in the interests of local democracy proxy votes are permitted.*
- 3. the list of 90 or so commoners is made available to candidates on request*
- 4. the Commoners Annual General Meeting is a public meeting."*

Councillor R.V. Stockton, the Cabinet Member (Community Services) stated that the introduction to the question was a broadly accurate statement of the factual position. He said that the Agreement, dated 22nd May, 1991, between the Council and Brockhampton Group Parish Council was the operating document which determined responsibility for, not only the management of the Bromyard Downs, but also the delegation of the function to the Parish Council. He said Mr Grover would be aware that a review had started which would consider carefully whether the present system should be maintained, with or without amendment. He said that under the existing arrangements it was a matter for the Parish Council to carry out appropriate electoral functions rather than the Council. It followed that electoral arrangements were also a matter for the Parish Council.

He went on to say that the list of commoners is a public document and should be available to any member of the public or the commoners and that the Council is willing to disclose such documents as it hold in relation to the Downs. He advised that the current management agreement is silent on elections and admission to meetings and those issues fall to the Parish Council to determine.

81. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS

There were no Notices of Motion.

82. CABINET

Before calling on the Leader of the Council, to present the report of Cabinet, the Chairman advised that the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2007/08 would be debated at pages 27 and 28 of the agenda. He asked any Members wishing to move an amendment to the proposed Council Tax and Budget, to do so once the Leader had proposed the recommendations.

He advised that, once the Council had agreed the whole of the Cabinet report, it would move to item 9 of the agenda to set the Council Tax and Revenue Budget for 2006/07, formally, in accordance with the legislation.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor R.J. Phillips, presented the report of the meetings of Cabinet held on 8th and 22nd February, 2007.

In relation to Item 1.1 - Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2007/08 - the Leader spoke of the many challenges facing the Council in terms of existing demands and future expectations in relation to service delivery and warned of the effect that the forthcoming report by Sir Michael Lyons would have on all local councils, but especially rural authorities such as Herefordshire. He said that the Review of Comprehensive Spending would lead to further pressures on Council funding and Herefordshire would be particularly affected by rising costs in services such as social care and waste management.

He reminded Council that Herefordshire's funding from central government was 20% below the national average and that its schools were the third poorest funded in the Country. He spoke of Herefordshire's need to maintain a three year medium term financial plan to deal with the funding pressures and that a draft plan, published in July and November 2006, had had the full backing of all the political groups on the Council and that the trade unions had been involved in the consultation.

He said that Herefordshire's situation was different to neighbouring authorities who were proposing significant cuts in front line services. Instead, Herefordshire was planning to introduce its Herefordshire Connects programme which was expected to produce efficiency savings of £11.5 million over the next few years. The project would be funded from reserves which had been built up over the past few years.

He stated that the total budget for 2007/08 was approximately £122 million not including the schools budget which amounted to some £81 million. He said that it was proposed to make £4 million in efficiency savings which would be used to fund social care for children, the elderly and those with learning disabilities.

The Capital Programme Budget, of approximately £64 million would be used for a range of projects from new schools and libraries to the upgrade of the crematorium as well as the current projects which included the Rotherwas Futures scheme, regeneration of the Edgar Street Grid and the Ross Flood scheme.

He said that the proposed Council Tax increase, at 3.8%, was the lowest in the Council's history. He confirmed that the Fire Service and the Police had already agreed rises of 4.94%, and that the parish and town councils had increased their precepts by an average of 2%. He acknowledged that even such a low increase could mean financial difficulty for those on low and fixed incomes but said the

Council needed to find a balance between maintaining services and affordability.

Councillor T.M. James, the Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group supported the proposed level of precept but had some concerns about whether the Herefordshire Connects Programme would deliver the anticipated savings within the anticipated timescale. He said there were a number of major challenges ahead, including the Accommodation Strategy and recent developments in relation to Equal Pay elsewhere in the country which may have major implications for the Council.

Councillor A.C.R. Chappell, the Leader of the Labour Group, also supported the proposals. He spoke of the difficulties that other Councils were facing including closure of care homes and said he would continue to lobby central government for better funding for Herefordshire. He recognised the importance of the Herefordshire Connects programme and welcomed the involvement of the trades unions in the consultation exercise.

Councillor R.I. Matthews, Leader of the Herefordshire Group of Independent Members also supported the proposals. He said that the Council had made considerable efficiency savings over the past year and thanked the Director of Resources and her team for their efforts in identifying such savings. He said the Council must continue to look for more cost effectiveness without affecting services. He was pleased that the works at Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site was being recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme and asked for clarification about the Hereford CCTV being "potentially" part funded by the police. In response, Councillor B. Hunt said he would be encouraging the Police Authority to support this very effective crime reduction measure.

Councillor Mrs. J.P. French spoke of the importance of the Herefordshire Connects programme to the Council and advised that, based on experiences in other authorities, the expected financial benefits were both conservative and prudent.

She also addressed Councillor James' concerns about equal pay claims. She said that Herefordshire was one of just 32% of councils in the country that had reached a settlement on job evaluation and single status. She acknowledged that, as a result of litigation elsewhere in the country, this may be an issue in the future but thought central government would be obliged to provide some help if this proved to be the case. She said that the trades unions in Herefordshire had been very responsible in dealing with job evaluation and single status and went on to praise staff employed by the Council. She said she was proud of the Info Shop which had recently opened in Hereford and hoped that, following the elections in May, Members and officers would continue to work together for the benefit of the citizens of Herefordshire.

Councillor W.J.S. Thomas, Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee, said that the most effective Councils nationally were those with the best scrutiny arrangements. He thanked the Members of his scrutiny committee and those officers who supported the committee for all their work during the year. He also stated that the Council needed to engage with the Voluntary Sector to ensure that services continued to be delivered in an effective and efficient manner. He warned that the level of regulation and governance in the voluntary sector was discouraging many people from getting involved and that this would make it increasingly difficult for the Council to deliver its services in the future.

Councillor James said that, despite the low level of Council Tax increase being proposed, the average increase over the past four years was between £250 and £300. He said the Council Tax system was unfair, did not reflect people's ability to pay, and should be reviewed.

In response to a query on the revised Council Tax report and appendices which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, Councillor R.M. Wilson, Cabinet Member (Resources) advised that the changes were necessary because one parish council had intimated that it would set its precept at a certain level. When it met, after the council agenda had been despatched, it actually set its precept at £1,000 less than had been anticipated. This had a knock-on effect on the rest of the figures.

He said that this was a common sense budget which would provide a clear financial steer over the next few years. He thanked Councillor Hunt for his comments and hoped the police would agree additional funding for CCTV. He agreed with Councillor J.P. Thomas's comments on homelessness and the need to provide additional housing, but advised that this was also a national issue and any improvements would rely on investment from central government.

The Leader closed the debate by responding to a number of comments and queries. He confirmed that the funding for the Rotherwas Futures project would be realised through a combination of projects and managing funding. He shared Councillor W.J.S. Thomas's comments on the voluntary sector and said that central government would need to understand the need to reduce the regulatory burden on the voluntary sector to encourage more people to volunteer. He spoke of the contribution Council employees make to society, making a difference to the lives of ordinary men and women, including the young and the elderly and the disadvantaged.

In relation to Item 1.2 - Proposed Corporate Plan 2007/10 - The Leader advised that approval of the Corporate Plan was integral to the approval of the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2007/08.

It was unanimously RESOLVED: That the report from the meetings of Cabinet held on 8th and 22nd February be received and the recommendations set out below be adopted:

- That (a) **the Medium Term Financial Management Strategy (MTFMS) for 2007/08 to 2010/11 be approved;**
- (b) **in approving the MTFMS (referred to in (a) above), Council also approves the:**
- a. **Medium-Term Financial Resource Model for 2007/08 to 2010/11;**
 - b. **Directorate revenue base budgets for 2007/08;**
 - c. **Invest to Save / Invest to Mitigate proposals for 2007/08;**
 - d. **Medium-Term Capital Plan for 2007/08 to 2010/11;**
 - e. **Capital Programme for 2007/08, (subject to the deferral at paragraph 7.1(ii) in the Cabinet report);**
 - f. **Efficiency Strategy for 2007/08 to 2010/2011**
 - g. **Treasury Management Strategy for 2007/08 and the Prudential Indicators for 2007/08 to 2009/2010;**
 - h. **Corporate Risk Register as at February 2007; and**

- i. Financial Risk Assessment as at February 2007.
- (c) the revenue and capital budget proposals for 2007/08 outlined in the MTFMS be approved for Council Tax setting purposes;
- (d) a corporate strategy on fees and charges be developed as an integral part of the MTFMS when it is updated prior to the start of the next Performance Improvement Cycle;
- (e) the delivery of the benefits resulting from the Invest to Save /Invest to Mitigate proposals be managed using the benefits realisation process developed for Herefordshire Connects;
- (f) the Council's responsibilities under Sections 25 – 29 of the Local Government and Finance Act 2003 be noted; and
- (g) subject to detailed final changes, the Corporate Plan 2007/10 be approved.

83. COUNCIL TAX AND REVENUE BUDGET RESOLUTION 2007/08

Following the resolution at Minute 82 above, it was **unanimously** formally **RESOLVED: THAT**

- (1) In respect of the Council's 2007/08 Budget:
 - (a) a council tax of £1,083.46 be levied (at Band D);
 - (b) service areas contain expenditure within "cash limits" i.e. outturn budgets with no further allowance for pay or price inflation beyond that already provided; and
- (2) in respect of council tax for 2007/08 that the following amounts be approved by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£311,899,880	being the estimated aggregate expenditure of the Council in accordance with Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;
(b)	£187,472,000	being the estimated aggregate income of the Council for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;
(c)	£124,427,880	being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its total net budget requirement for the year;
(d)	£47,904,366	being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimated will be payable for

the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant, increased by the transfer from the Collection Fund;

- (e) £1,113.39 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above all divided by the amount of the Council Tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (f) £2,056,880 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (g) £1,083.46 being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount of the Council Tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;
- (h) that the precepting authority details incorporated in Annex 1 (i-v), relating to Special Items, West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority be approved in accordance with Sections 30(2), 34(3), 36(1) and Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (3) Pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibility) (England) Regulations 2000, any decisions on the application of reserves and balances as required from time to time during the financial year be taken by Cabinet.

84. WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

In presenting the report of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 13th February, 2007 Councillor B. Hunt drew particular attention to the Police Authority's precept for 2007/08, an increase of 4.94% on the previous year's Council Tax. He reminded Council that the West Mercia Constabulary continued to be one of the best performing forces in England And Wales despite receiving one of the lowest government grants. He also pointed out that accommodation was to be provided for Community Support Officers at Bromyard Police Station.

Councillor Hunt received a number of questions and responses were given as follows:

Arrangements for covering Community Support Officers on long term sick leave - he advised that long term sickness levels among Community Support Officers in Herefordshire was in line with the national average. He said every effort was made to rearrange shift patterns to cover any absences.

Police Station opening hours - He advised that studies had shown that the number of people wishing to visit police stations after 6.00 pm was extremely low and that most enquiries were made by phone. He also said that less than 10% of police stations nationally opened after 6.00 pm.

Police Choir - Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor R.I. Mathews for his kind comments about the Police Choir which had recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Community Safety Officers - compliments - Councillor Hunt agreed that bad news received more attention than good news, but that the authority was working on ways of spreading good news.

Scrutiny of Policing - In response to a query from Councillor W.J.S. Thomas, Chairman of Health Scrutiny, Councillor A.C.R. Chappell, Chairman of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee advised that Chief Superintendent Mark Turner was due to attend his Committee on 26th March to answer pertinent questions and invited Councillor Hunt to attend the meeting. Prior to that the Committee would be attending a tour of the Police Station. In response to a request that some of the additional money raised from the increase in Council Tax be used to operate the CCTV system he advised that a scrutiny review of the CCTV system was ongoing. Councillor Hunt said he would also continue to lobby for additional police spending on the CCTV system.

Councillor T.M. James returned to a question he had asked at the previous Council meeting about the provision of lollipops in pubs over the Christmas and New Year period, asking how much this had cost and how it had been agreed, saying it would be better to spend the money on an additional Community Support Officer. Councillor Hunt did not have the figures to hand but advised that studies had shown that people were less likely to commit an assault while sucking or holding a lollipop.

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 13th February, 2007 be received.

85. HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

In presenting the report of the meeting of the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority which was held on 15th February, 2007, Councillor G.W. Davies advised that the Authority had been awarded four stars in its Corporate Performance Assessment and was judged to be progressing strongly. As a result, the Authority was currently ranked in the top four or five in the country.

In response to a query he advised that an Equality and Diversity Officer had been employed rather than using a uniformed Fire Officer to undertake this role.

He agreed to obtain a breakdown of the number of road traffic accidents attended compared to fire and rescue incidents.

Councillor D.W. Rule, MBE Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) paid tribute to the retained firefighters in the County but expressed concern that employers were increasingly unwilling to release employees to undertake these duties. He urged to Council to do more to highlight this very important work.

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting of the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority which was held on 15th February, 2007 be received.

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services****Wards Affected****Purpose**

1. To receive any questions from members of the public deposited more than six clear working days before the meeting of Council.

Background

2. Standing Order 4.24 of the Constitution states that: A member of the public may ask a Cabinet Member or Chairman of a Committee any question relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the County as long as a copy of that question is deposited more than six clear working days before the meeting i.e. by close of business on a Wednesday in the week preceding a Friday meeting. No supplementary questions may be asked.
3. A total of 25 minutes shall be set aside for the answering of questions from members of the public save that the Chairman, or Vice-Chairman, if presiding, shall have absolute discretion to vary the period of time by making it shorter or longer as he/she considers appropriate. Any questions unanswered at the expiry of the time limit shall be dealt with by way of written reply to the questioner.
4. Any question which contains defamatory material or the publication of which is likely to be detrimental to the Council's interests, may be rejected.

Questions

5. A number of questions have been received by the deadline and are attached at Appendix 1.

Questions from M and K Bucknell, Hereford

- 1 The Council recently announced the giving away of a valuable public asset - namely the rights to the River Wye in the centre of Hereford. When appraising this decision
 - a What monetary valuation was reached for this stretch of the River?
 - b How did the Council reach this valuation?
 - c What additional factors did the Council factor in on the expenditure and loss of income?

- 2 When walking through Castle Green on a summer's evening, we are aware that there are two distinct groups of young people. Firstly, the groups of young people who are sitting on the green, smoking, drinking alcohol; some of whom who get noisier throughout the evening. Secondly the group of similar aged teenagers who are learning river safety and kayaking skills at the Castle Green Canoe Training Centre.
 - a What facilities, north of the river do the Council offer to the young people of the city of Hereford?
 - b What plans, if any, do the Council have for the maintenance and development of facilities for the youth and future generations of young people of Hereford, particularly north of the River?
 - c We understand that all Council buildings, including the Canoe Training Centre, are going to be sold by the Council. Why is the Council selling an excellent and unique facility with access to well trained and qualified staff who can work with our young people?
 - d The Council has a duty of care to young people, so why is the Council reluctant to invest in facilities for them? Lack of investment is resulting in bored youngsters, using drugs and alcohol, often resulting in anti-social behaviour. What are the costs to the Council in Hereford City for the removal of graffiti, dealing with anti-social behaviour, police, primary care trust and social worker involvement caused by the actions of these bored youngsters?

Questions from Ms D Maber on behalf of the North Tupsley Action Group, Hereford

- 3 As a newly formed Community Association for the Whittern Way and surrounding areas, we have been requested by our members to find out why there has been no investment in North Tupsley.

The dog bin situation is an ongoing problem which no-one at Herefordshire Council seems able to resolve, despite the best efforts of our local councillor. The dog mess situation near to Broadlands Primary School is a health issue. There is a neglected and abandoned play area, which is sited in the wrong place, but no facilities for the young people in the area nor for anybody else for that matter.

In order to provide a community focus, we are in the process of compiling a Business Plan in order to purchase the lease on the White House public house in Whittern Way. This pub has been on the market for upwards of two years but is in need of refurbishment. We have been in contact with the owners and they are very interested in letting us have it. This building would be eminently suitable as it has huge potential and has sufficient capacity to be converted into a community building, right in the very centre of the estate.

We really need Herefordshire Council to partner us in this huge endeavour. Would you be able to help us?

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET

HELD ON 22ND MARCH AND 12TH APRIL, 2007

Cabinet Members: R.J. Phillips (Leader of the Council),
D.W. Rule, MBE (Deputy Leader),
Mrs. L.O. Barnett, P.J. Edwards, Mrs. J.P. French, J.C. Mayson,
R.V. Stockton, D.B. Wilcox, R.M. Wilson.

This is the final report submitted to Council for the current year and covers proceedings of the meetings listed above.

1. DECISIONS RESERVED TO COUNCIL UNDER PART 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1.1 There were no such decisions during the reporting period.

2. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

3. KEY DECISIONS BY INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN

3.1 **Capital Funding for Riverside Primary School and Sutton St Nicholas Primary School.** The Cabinet Members (Corporate Strategy and Finance) (Children and Young People) and (Resources) made a decision on 22nd March, 2007 that the capital projects at Riverside Primary School and Sutton St Nicholas Primary School proceed on the tenders received, but allowing for a reduction in the Sutton St Nicholas Primary School scheme through the reduction in the size of the new building. A further report was made to Cabinet following this decision, as referred to at paragraph 5.1 (ii).

3.2 **Connexions Transition Plan and Commissioning Arrangements.** The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) made a decision on 29th March, 2007 that Connexions (Herefordshire and Worcestershire) be the commissioning body for services for young people for the initial period 2008/10.

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE (Chairman of Cabinet – Councillor R.J. Phillips)

4.1 Report on Decisions Taken

(i) **Gender Equality Scheme** – Cabinet has received a report on the Gender Equality Scheme 2007/10. The Gender Equality Duty is part of the Equality Act 2006 and one of the functions is to create a duty on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity between men and women and to prohibit sex discrimination in the workplace. In short the three main functions are to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity. Cabinet has approved the scheme and accompanying action plan.

- (ii) **Future of Post Office Services in Rural Herefordshire** - Cabinet has received a report on the Department of Trade and Industry consultation document on the Government's proposed closure of up to 2,500 post offices nationally. The Council has noted the potential impact this could have on the county and has co-ordinated a response to the consultation and used this as an opportunity to examine sustainable models for delivering post office services in the County. The State of Herefordshire report indicates that 84% of the County's residents found it easy to access post office services and the Council intends to maintain this level of access. Cabinet also noted the impact the closures could have on the urban community of Herefordshire as well as rurally. Members suggested a campaign was needed to encourage people to use their local post office more often to prevent its possible closure and that a mapping exercise be carried out to locate Council and other rural services geographically in relation to current post office services across the county.
- (iii) **Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey** - Cabinet has received a report giving the results of a recently completed annual satisfaction survey. The data from the survey is important for service planning, performance assessments and the Council's improvement plan. The results indicate what the public think of the Council and its services and its partner organisations' services. Cabinet noted the perception indicators from the survey, which are central to the wider direction set for local government in the recent government white paper. A detailed analysis of all the results, including the growing number of comparisons, will be produced. The early rounds of the 2007 Herefordshire Voice panel will be used to identify the underlying reasons behind some of the key results including the overall satisfaction score. In addition the IPSO/MORI data provided by the LGA Reputation Campaign will be analysed on issues affecting public satisfaction and for lessons that can be applied locally. Staff, users and the general public will be consulted both on the results and the appropriate follow up actions.
- (iv) **Election Costs** - Cabinet has received a report on the proposed apportionment of election costs proposed between Herefordshire Council and the Parish and Group Parishes in the County. Parish Councils have been consulted on the proposals through the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) who have approved the principle of the election costs. Cabinet has approved the apportionment of fees which will be divided equally and be proportionate to the number of electorate in a Parish.
- (v) **Public Service Trust** - Cabinet has received an outline of the way forward for the proposed Public Service Trust for Herefordshire. It has agreed that the financial implications for a Public Service Trust were very significant and would be at the forefront of their considerations. The financial implications would need to be addressed separately both in terms of the construction of a budget for any period of interim operation and for the first year of operation. It has noted that both the Council and the Primary Care Trust have recognised the need for an independent or external auditor to carry out due diligence enquiries before proceeding with the Public Service Trust proposals.

Cabinet has agreed that, in order to maintain the timetable proposed to the Herefordshire Public Service Trust Project Steering Group on 16th April, 2007, authority would be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to enable them to give effect, if necessary, to any resolution of

the Steering Group in relation to the timing of public consultation and the timing of the placing of an advertisement for the post of Chief Executive for the Public Service Trust.

- (vi) **Herefordshire Connects Programme Update** - Cabinet has received the results of the evaluation of the three short-listed suppliers for the Herefordshire Connects Programme. Of the two options available for procurement: use of the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) or the CATALIST framework used by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), the Council had chosen the CATALIST framework and in doing so will receive ongoing support from the OGC.

Cabinet endorsed the recommendation that Deloitte be confirmed as the preferred supplier, with SERCO as the reserve. Cabinet agreed that the Director of Corporate and Customer Services conduct negotiations with the preferred supplier, supported by the Director of Resources and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, with a further report to be brought back to Cabinet outlining the outcome of the negotiations. Cabinet has also noted the recommendations of the Audit Commission in its report 'Herefordshire Connects' and agreed the actions proposed.

4.2 **Report on Items of Interest**

- (i) **Strategic Monitoring Committee** - Cabinet has received and noted the report of the Strategic Monitoring Committee, which is the subject of a separate report to Council.

5. **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** **(Cabinet Member: Councillor D.W. Rule, MBE)**

5.1 **Report on Decisions Taken**

- (i) **Brilley CE Primary School.** Cabinet has received a report advising of the decision of the Governors and Parents of Brilley CE Primary School to request the transfer of pupils to Almeley Primary School, and to consider the future of the school. Cabinet was advised of the falling numbers of children in the County and that Parents and Governors of the school had reluctantly come to the view that it was in the best interests of the children to transfer them to a larger school. Cabinet has approved the transfer of children to Almeley School and has agreed that notices be issued to cease maintaining Brilley CE Primary School from the 31 August 2007.
- (ii) **Funding Arrangements for Riverside Primary School and Sutton St Nicholas Primary School.** Cabinet has received a report informing them of the decision taken by the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) and the Cabinet Member (Resources) regarding additional funding arrangements for the above schools. Cabinet had previously received the month eight Integrated Performance Report at its meeting on 22 February 2007, which highlighted a funding gap on the replacement primary school projects for the above two schools. At that meeting Cabinet had noted the position and referred the matter to the Leader, Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) and Cabinet Member (Resources) for decision paragraph 3.1 of this report refers. Cabinet noted the actions of the Cabinet Members to put in place the additional funding

required for both capital schemes, and agreed the additional £50,000 funding from capital receipt reserves for the rainwater harvesting system for the Sutton St Nicholas Primary School scheme to be reinstated.

5.2 Report on Items of Interest

- (i) **Progress on Improvement in Children and Young People's Services.** Cabinet has received a report advising of the position following the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) Board meeting on 21st March, 2007. Cabinet noted that considerable progress had been made and the service was now operating well above the minimum requirement. It was noted that the Government Minister had determined prior to the Board meeting that there would be continued engagement regarding the service until September 2007. The Director confirmed that a meeting would be taking place shortly to mutually agree future targets.

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES (Cabinet Member - Councillor R.V. Stockton)

6.1 Report on Decisions Taken

- (i) **Withdrawal of Hereford City Council Support for Grounds Maintenance and its Impact on the Parks Service** – Cabinet has received a report outlining the reasons for Hereford City Council's decision to withdraw funding support for grounds maintenance in Hereford City for 2006/07 and advising on the impact to services in light of the decision. The loss of this funding will impact upon the ability of HJS to undertake a countywide grounds maintenance service. Cabinet has agreed the situation would not be resolved prior to the elections and has approved the adjustment of the base budget to allow the grounds maintenance to be funded pending a permanent resolution of the situation.

7. CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES (Cabinet Member - Councillor Mrs. J.P. French)

7.1 Report on Decisions Taken

- (i) **Scrutiny Review of ICT Services** – A review of ICT Services was included as part of the Strategic Monitoring Committee's forward work programme. The recommendations from the review need to be considered alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, Operating Plan and the Council's overall strategy for the Herefordshire Connects programme. Cabinet agreed there were a number of key issues that needed to be addressed in order to develop ICT services in line with the Council's business requirements and that an action plan be developed setting out how and within what timescale the recommendations would be addressed. Cabinet thanked the members of the scrutiny review for the work they had carried out.

8. ENVIRONMENT (Cabinet Member: Councillor P.J. Edwards)

8.1 Report on Decisions Taken

- (i) **Statement of Community Involvement** – Cabinet has received a report seeking approval for the adoption of the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is required as part of the new planning system and sets out how the Council will consult on planning matters. The process by which an SCI is prepared is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and adoption of the SCI is a statutory requirement. Cabinet has approved the SCI for adoption as the Council’s policy in respect of consultation on planning matters and has noted the Inspector’s report, which is to be adopted into the report.
- (ii) **Local Development Framework Task Group** – Cabinet has received a report outlining how the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) will align with the Community Strategy. Cabinet has noted the government guidance which emphasised there should be complete coherence between the Community Strategy and all other plans for the area. The strategy covers not only spatial planning and traditional land use planning, but also social aspects such as health, employment and crime prevention. Cabinet has agreed that a Local Development Framework Task Group should be established between Herefordshire Council and Partnership representatives as a first step to developing a collaborative approach to guiding work on the Core Strategy.
- (iii) **Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire** – Cabinet has received a report outlining the findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group, which was conducted after the Waverley Borough Council court case. It has approved the following recommendations:
- all new Polytunnel developments, whether for soil or table grown crops or otherwise, to be treated as development requiring planning consent.
 - Enforcement proceeding to be continued and/or initiated in accordance with priorities:
 - in respect of those sites where notices have already been served and/or in preparation;
 - 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;
 - 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 acknowledge planning interest,
 - the Cabinet response be reported to the Environment Scrutiny Committee in due course; and
 - a supplementary planning document is prepared on polytunnels developments to a timetable to be arranged by the Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Local Development Scheme is amended accordingly in consultation with growers and the community.

Cabinet recognised the importance of the advice given and the requirement not to deviate from the legal precedent set by the Waverley legal case in order to avoid the risk of judicial review and/or referral to the Local Government Ombudsman if it had failed to take account of the High Court Judgement.

8.2 Report on Items of Interest

- (i) **Outcome of Settlement Negotiations in Connection with High Court Proceedings Relating to the River Wye** – Cabinet has received a report on the settlement negotiations with the Church Commissioners for England and Wales and the Hereford and District Angling Association. The settlement concerned both fishing and mooring rights on a stretch of the River Wye between the Old Wye Road Bridge and the Victoria Foot Bridge. The negotiations have now been settled and the Council have secured the rights for persons under the age of eighteen to fish in that stretch of river. The Council has also been granted mooring and full fishing rights in respect of the area known as Corporation Wharf, near the Castle Green Training Centre. Cabinet has agreed to make a contribution towards the Church Commissioners' legal costs.

9. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION (Cabinet Member - Councillor D.B. Wilcox)

9.1 Report on Decisions Taken

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

10. RESOURCES (Cabinet Member - Councillor R.M. Wilson)

10.1 Report on Decisions Taken

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

10.2 Report on Items of Interest

- (i) **Forward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement 2007/08.** Cabinet has received a report on the Council's draft strategy for the 2007/08 Annual Efficiency process, indicating progress to date on procurement issues and providing an update on future prospects for the Government's efficiency agenda. It has been advised that since the appointment of the Strategic Procurement and Efficiency Manager the Council's procurement and efficiency activities had improved. Cabinet has noted concerns that West Mercia Supplies was not being used as much as it could be and ways were being examined on how to use it more efficiently. Managers would also be reminded to use West Mercia Supplies for procurement as much as possible. Cabinet has agreed the Council's list of efficiency gains as set out in the report.

- (ii) **Reserves.** Cabinet has received information on the level of reserves held by the Council. Cabinet is made aware of the overall position on a regular basis, the level of reserves indicating the financial health of the Council. Cabinet noted the outline position on the general fund balance and where processes could be tightened up. It also noted that the capital reserves were slightly healthier than expected. Cabinet has agreed that the current level of reserves was appropriate given the Social Care and Herefordshire Connects budget commitments. It has also agreed the move to a risk based assessment to determine the level of general fund reserves.
- (iii) **LGA Briefings on the Lyons Report and Budget.** Cabinet has received a report on the content of the Sir Michael Lyons' inquiry and the implications for local government of the Chancellor's budget. The Lyons report sets out the possible changes regarding the future of local government. The Chancellor's budget statement outlines the financial environment and the implications for local government. Cabinet has noted the main proposals.

11. RURAL REGENERATION AND STRATEGY (Cabinet Member - Councillor J.C. Mayson)

11.1 Report on Decisions Taken

- (i) **Homelessness Update.** Cabinet has received a report on the progress made in homelessness prevention. In July 2005 Cabinet had agreed several 'spend to save' initiatives to address financial pressures within homelessness services. These changes have been implemented and are proving to be very cost effective. Cabinet has noted the quarterly report on progress and development in homelessness prevention services and the reducing number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation.

12. SOCIAL CARE ADULTS AND HEALTH (Cabinet Member Councillor Mrs. L.O. Barnett)

12.1 Report on Decisions Taken

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

**COUNCILLOR R.J. PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Meetings held on 12 February, 09 March and 13 April 2007

Membership:

Robert Rogers (Independent Member) (Chairman); Councillor John Edwards, Councillor John Stone; Richard Gething (Town and Parish Council Representative); John Hardwick (Town and Parish Council Representative); David Stevens (Independent Member).

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007

1. We commented on the consultation to the Model Code of Conduct at our meeting on 12 February, and sent our comments to the Department of Communities and Local Government. The text of the new Model Code has now been published and can be found at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20071159.htm>. It will come into force on 03 May 2007, and must be adopted by Local Authorities by November 2007. We will be looking at the Model Code at our next meeting on 06 July 2007, and making recommendations to Council.

HEREFORDSHIRE CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

2. We have reviewed the Code of Corporate Governance, which has also been considered by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. We have redrafted the Foreword to the Code to make it simpler and more accessible to the public. We also felt that the Code itself needed to be simpler and shorter if it was to achieve its aims. We will take matters forward in close co-operation with the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOLS

3. The Committee reviewed the Council's draft Communications Protocols, which will assist the public in knowing who to contact on standards and ethics issues, and will provide guidance to Council members and officers in dealing with the media on such matters. We will produce the final document in laminated form for inclusion in the Standards Committee hearing guidance pack, which is available to all those involved in hearings.

INDUCTION REVIEW GROUP

4. We looked at the work undertaken by the Council's Induction Review Group in respect of the member's induction programme following the May 2007 elections. The Group has completed some excellent work in producing a thorough and helpful introduction to Herefordshire Council. Our Chairman will be contributing to the induction programme on May 11 by giving a talk on standards and ethics, and on the role of the Committee.

STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BULLETIN 32

5. It has been our regular practice for some time to consider the Standards Board for England bulletins, which contain useful information, case law summaries, guidance, updates and training. Bulletin 32 looks at the Model Code of Conduct in detail, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. There are also details of 11 roadshows which will look at the Model Code of Conduct and the introduction of the local filter system, proposed for 2008, which will be a major change in the local government standards framework. Two of our members, Mr David Stevens and Mr Richard Gething, will represent the Standards Committee at the roadshow in Birmingham in June.
6. The Standards Board is also keen to work with us, as an experienced committee, on one of its pilot projects in June this year. The pilot is designed to test and comment on approaches being developed by the Standards Board for England, and our topic is likely to be "Operating the Local Filter". The pilot will involve committee members and key officers.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

7. The Annual Assembly of Standards Committees will be held in Birmingham on 15 and 16 October, 2007. This year, it is called "*Down to Detail – Making Local Regulation Work*", and promises to focus in depth on putting local regulation and the revised Code of Conduct into action. This event is always an invaluable source of information and training, and all our members will be attending it at some point over the two days.

TRAINING

8. We will be holding more joint training sessions for Town and Parish Councils with the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils in June and October 2007. We will focus on the implications (and implementation) of the new Code of Conduct.

REFERRALS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND

9. We have noted the progress made with an investigation into Complaints Nos. 17223.07 to 17229.07, referred to the Standards Committee from the SBE.
10. The Committee met on Friday 9th March 2007 to consider the final report of an Investigation relating to a complaint by Mr Edward Kelly against Councillor John Edwards (Complaint No. SBE 15104.06). We found that there was no failure to follow the Code of Conduct. The full text of the Decision Notice can be located on the Council's website by clicking on "Council Committees" in the Quick Links box on the homepage, and then locating "Standards Committee", and the agenda for 09 March 2007.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

11. Good progress has been made on the standards and ethics web pages, and it is hoped that they will be "live" by the time of the Council meeting.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

12. All Herefordshire Councillors will now have received our Annual Report for 2006, which describes a wide range of work, focusing on adding value rather than merely activity. We also feel that Herefordshire has an excellent story to tell, which deserves to be known more widely; and we have therefore sent the Report to appropriate national authorities (such as the Standards Board, the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and Ministers) as well as to Town and Parish Councils in the County, and Standards Committees of local authorities in West Mercia.

**ROBERT ROGERS
CHAIRMAN
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Agenda papers of the meetings held on 12 February, 09 March and 13 April 2007.

COUNCIL

27TH APRIL, 2007

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE

Meetings Held on 30th March, 2007

Membership:

Councillors: T.M. James (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. P.A. Andrews (Vice-Chairman), B.F. Ashton, W.L.S. Bowen, H. Bramer, A.C.R. Chappell, J.H.R. Goodwin, Mrs M.D. Lloyd-Hayes, J.P. Thomas, and W.J.S. Thomas.

COUNCIL RESERVES

1. In considering the Budget Strategy at its meeting on 12th February, 2007 the Committee requested a report on the Council's reserves. The Committee was informed that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process had the Use of Resources as a key element of the overall assessment. The overall assessment for 2006 was 3: "consistently above minimum requirements, performing well". Further development of the Council's policies for holding reserves and balances was needed to improve this score. It has noted that the policy on reserves and balances had been reviewed in developing the Medium Term Financial Management Strategy. Emphasis was now being placed on identifying the key financial risks and setting aside specific reserves to meet these risks. The level of general fund balance remained a key area for further scrutiny.

INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT

2. The Committee has considered the Integrated Performance Report setting out performance to the end of January 2007 against the Annual Operating Plan 2006-07, together with performance against revenue and capital budgets and corporate risks, and remedial action to address areas of under-performance. It has also noted progress being made against the Council's Overall Improvement Programme.
3. In relation to capital expenditure the Committee was informed by the Chairman of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee of his concerns about how a funding gap of £2.28m between the lowest tenders for the two capital projects at Riverside Primary School and Sutton County Primary School and the resources available had arisen.
4. The Committee noted the action taken by the Children's Services Committee to try to ascertain the reasons for the shortfall. It has been advised that work is underway by officers and the Executive to address the issues identified and avoid a similar situation occurring again. The Committee has also identified this as an example of the need for Scrutiny Committees for pre-decision scrutiny to be developed to allow the scrutiny committees to play an effective role in assisting decision making.

FORWARD LOOKING ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2007/08

5. The Committee has noted the Council's draft strategy for the 2007/08 Annual Efficiency process, progress to date on procurement issues and an update on future prospects for the Government's efficiency agenda.

HEREFORDSHIRE SATISFACTION SURVEY

6. The Committee has considered the results of the recently completed survey and how

it should be used to inform future work programmes. It has agreed to consider a further report in three months time to assist in developing its work programme. The other scrutiny committees are requested to consider the data relevant to their areas of responsibility and to take appropriate action.

GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

7. The Committee has considered the Gender Equality Scheme and noted that the action plan forming part of the Strategy is to be reviewed annually.

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

8. The work of the Committees is analysed below as far as practicable under the following five roles for overview and scrutiny: holding the executive to account, best value reviews, policy development and review, external scrutiny, and improvement (performance management and review), the first four of which are identified as key roles in the report on "The Development of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister". Issues considered by the Strategic Monitoring Committee are listed for completeness.

Summary

9. The Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee met on 23rd March 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Homelessness Joint Scrutiny Review: Transition from Leaving Care Growing Older in Herefordshire
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Budget Report 2006/07 Performance Monitoring
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

10. The Committee has given considerable consideration to the issue of homelessness as part of its work programme. The Committee held a second homelessness consultation event in December 2006 following on from the initial homelessness event held in October 2005. The event included representatives from relevant agencies across the County. It focussed on lessons learned in the last year in terms of tackling the main causes of homelessness in Herefordshire and explored opportunities for closer working arrangements in the future. A number of recommendations have been made to the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health).
11. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on 19th March, 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	14-19 Strategy

	Scrutiny Review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Herefordshire Schools Joint Scrutiny Review: Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Progress on Improvement Current School issues
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

12. The Committee has completed the scrutiny review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Herefordshire Schools. The recommendations are appended. The Committee agreed the recommendations for referral to Cabinet and added a further recommendation to bring to Cabinet's attention the Council's 'duty of care' towards its employees.
13. The Committee also considered an urgent item concerning the significant gap in capital funding for projects at Riverside Primary School and Sutton County Primary School, which is referred to earlier in this report. The Committee requested an urgent informal meeting with officers to discuss how the situation had come about. This was held on 21st March and a number of observations were submitted to the relevant Cabinet Members.
14. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee met on 26th March, 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Scrutiny Review of the Hereford City Partnership Scrutiny Review of How to Retain 18-35 year olds in Herefordshire and Attract them to it.
External Scrutiny	Progress Report Following the Scrutiny Review of the Courtyard Centre for the Arts
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Herefordshire Community and Safety Drugs Partnership Performance Monitoring
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

15. Representatives of Herefordshire and Community Drugs Partnership addressed and answered questions from Members on the important work it carries out in the County. The Committee has completed scrutiny reviews of the Hereford City Partnership and the retention of 18-35 year olds in Herefordshire and how to attract them to the County. The recommendations from these reviews to Cabinet are appended.
16. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 12th March 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	-
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire. Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Monitoring of 2006/07 Service Plan Performance Indicators – April to December 2006 Environment Directorate Service Planning Waste Management Service Capital Budget Revenue Budget
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

17. The Committee received the findings of two scrutiny reviews. The findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group, which attracted approximately 40 members of the public, are appended to this report. The Committee considered the findings of the Group which had been reached on the basis of the legal and planning advice following the outcome of the Waverley Borough Council planning high court case. The Committee agreed that the recommendations be referred to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for consideration.
18. In relation to the Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire the Committee were advised that the result of the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy was still awaited and agreed that the report on the review be circulated to Parish Councils for comment. At its next meeting the Committee will consider the outcome of the Scrutiny Review in light of any implications from the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy and any comments from Parish Councils.
19. The Health Scrutiny Committee met on 2nd and 15th March and is due to meet again on 30th March 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Update on Emergency Planning Arrangements Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan Response to Scrutiny Review of GP out of hours service. Response to Scrutiny Review of Communication in the Local Health Service Access to Health Delivery of Ear Nose and Throat Services Access to Health Public Service Trust

External Scrutiny	Performance of the West Midlands Ambulance service Trust Annual Healthcheck declaration Staffing Issues at Hereford Hospital
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

20. The Committee has received progress reports in response to work it has carried out on Communication in the local Health Service, the GP Out of hours Service, the Ear, Nose and Throat Service and on emergency planning arrangements in the health sphere.
21. The Committee has also received detailed briefings from the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and the West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust to enable it to respond to the requirements of the Healthcare Commission for health scrutiny committees to produce commentaries on health bodies for the Commission's Annual Health Check.
22. The business conducted by the **Strategic Monitoring Committee** at its meeting on 30th March, 2007 is summarised below.

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Review of ICT Services – Cabinet's response
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Forward Looking Annual Efficiency Statement 2007/08 Gender Equality Scheme Reserves
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Integrated Performance Report Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey
Other	Scrutiny Improvement Plan Work Programme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

Summary of Recommendations

23. Each of the Scrutiny Committees has received a report summarising recommendations made since June 2003 and action taken in response to those recommendations.

T.M. JAMES
CHAIRMAN
STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Agenda Papers of the Meeting of the Strategic Monitoring Committee held on 30th March, 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS

- (a) The results from the staff questionnaire be used to form the baseline for similar studies to be undertaken in the future; (see para. 3.1)**
- (b) That an audit be undertaken of the positive parenting courses currently available across Children's Services (multi agency), and if necessary, the provision and information about such courses be increased. (see para. 3.6)**
- (c) A Directory of information be compiled of services available to both parents and professionals to support and improve pupil behaviour in schools; (see para. 3.8)**
- (d) Leaflets informing parents and professionals of key services be reviewed and updated where necessary; (see para. 3.8)**
- (e) The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) consider the merit in discussing with appropriate schools the further provision of Learning Support Units (LSUs) in the county; (see para. 3.10)**
- (f) The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) satisfies himself that procedure for the early identification of moderate learning difficulties is rigorously implemented; (see para. 3.11)**
- (g) When the expected legislation is brought into force the correspondence to parents of excluded pupils be revised to reflect the new legal responsibilities and the penalties of not supervising their children when excluded. Such correspondence to be where possible in plain English; (see para. 3.12)**
- (h) a review be undertaken into the level of support for healthy eating initiatives from both the Council and the Primary Care Trust (PCT), in particular to applaud those schools that have achieved the National Healthy Schools Status and to encourage the rest to do so; (see para. 3.13)**
- (i) 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; (see para. 6.1)**
- (j) 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. (see para. 6.1)**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE HEREFORD CITY PARTNERSHIP

- (a) That Herefordshire Council reinstates the Cabinet Member Portfolio with responsibility for Economic Development This Cabinet Member should take the lead on a strategic vision for Hereford City with support from partner organisations such as HCP and ESG, and ensure links with the wider County. (10.30)**
- (b) That Herefordshire Council representation on the HCP Board is revisited and a member representative with potentially more time to support the work of HCP is appointed. If the recommendation for the reinstatement of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development is accepted then that Portfolio Holder should assume this appointment. (10.2)**
- (c) 17. 3 That reporting mechanisms are put in place to enable the Hereford City Partnership manager to report to the Cabinet Member (Economic Development) on a regular basis. (10.1)**
- (d) 17.4 Herefordshire Council relocates the Hereford City Manager to one of its City Centre Office spaces, rather than being based at Plough Lane. (9.5)**
- (e) 17.5 That the Hereford City Manager's job particulars have a person specification prepared to go with the job description. (9.4).**
- (f) 17.6 The Hereford City Manager be provided with administrative support. (9.1)**
- (g) 17.7 The Membership of Hereford City Partnership be reviewed to ensure that all areas of the City are represented including the addition of major retailers as Members. (11.3)**
- (h) 17.8 That additional funding is put into HCP to support the Hereford City Manager and administrative support be provided in the short term prior to the emergence of a whole city vision and the development of ESG. (10.6)**
- (i) 17.9 That the annual funding of £16,000 which is put into HCP by Hereford City Council is matched by Herefordshire Council over the next three years, plus HCP maintains its existing funding and infrastructure support commitments to continue and develop its activities and events. (10.6).**
- (j) 17.10 That Hereford City Council investigate the possibility of increased support for HCP through the level of precept levied in the city. (8.13).**
- (k) 17.11 That Hereford City Partnership commence regular budgeting procedures and produce income and expenditure accounts. (8.15).**
- (l) 17.12 That Hereford City Partnership concentrate their main activities on the City Centre's economic and environmental wellbeing. (5.11).**
- (m) 17.13 That Hereford City Partnership liaise with other key partners with an interest in the City, including Hereford City Council, Herefordshire Council, Edgar Street Grid, South Wye Development Trust, and Rotherwas Futures. (10.4).**
- (n) 17.14 That mechanisms are put in place by Herefordshire Council enable the Hereford City Manager to report to Officers at Head of Service level. (10.7).**

- (o) **17.15 That the Street Trading Panel procedures are reviewed to enable direct reporting to the Cabinet Member (Economic Development). (8.11).**
 - (p) **17.16 That Hereford City Partnership fully instigates the proposed retail membership scheme with varying levels of membership to generate income. (8.14).**
 - (q) **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;**
- (r) **a further report on progress with respect to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOW TO RETAIN 18-35 YEAR OLDS IN HEREFORDSHIRE AND ATTRACT THEM TO IT

- (a) **That young people are involved in the shaping of major regeneration schemes and developments, specifically looking at how these can incorporate their recreational, cultural, and employment needs. This should include detailed and targeted inward investment promotion and working with property agents and developers to influence private investors and brand name companies.**
 - (b) **Due to the over provision of University places generally within the Country, avenues exploring other methods of retaining and attracting college graduates and young people to Herefordshire are pursued.**
 - (c) **Given that the figures demonstrate that there is an outflow of young people aged between 18 and 24, yet a net influx of people aged 25 to 35, available resources are concentrated on improving the County's Social and Economic offer to this age group.**
 - (d) **That the Business Start-Up programme is promoted to young people to support entrepreneurship within the age group.**
 - (e) **That the Council continues a programme of affordable housing linked to major developments.**
 - (f) **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;**
- (g) **a further report on progress with respect to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLYTUNNEL REVIEW WORKING GROUP

- (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 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 Executive's response be reported to the Committee in due course.**

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting Held on 2nd March, 2007

Membership:

Councillors: TW Hunt (Chairman), JB Williams (Vice-Chairman), Mrs PA Andrews, Mrs CJ Davis, PJ Dauncey, DJ Fleet, JGS Guthrie, PE Harling, JW Hope, B Hunt, Mrs JA Hyde, Brig P Jones CBE, RM Manning, PG Turpin, RI Matthews, Mrs JE Pemberton, R Preece, DC Taylor, WJ Walling.

PLANNING APPLICATION DCCW2006/3705/F - NEW DETACHED HOUSE WITH GARAGE AND VEHICULAR ACCESS AT WEIR VIEW, BREINTON, HEREFORD

1. The application for a detached house and garage on land outside the settlement at Breinton was referred to the Committee because the Central Area Planning Sub-Committee was mindful to approve it contrary to recommendation and the Council's policies. The Committee considered the crucial planning policy issues involved and the recommendations for refusal put forward by the officers. The Committee was of the view that a policy intended to restrict new residential development outside an existing settlement was not appropriate to Breinton Common, which had previously been identified as a small settlement in the former South Herefordshire District Local Plan. Having considered all the facts relating to the application and the advice given by officers, it was felt that the proposal constituted an acceptable form of infill development and that it would not have a detrimental impact on the nature and character of the village. It was decided that because of the particular circumstances and location involved, an exception could be made to the Council's planning policies and the application approved.

AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEES

2. Information reports have been received from the three Area Planning Sub-Committees which have dealt with the following matters:

(a) Northern Area Planning Sub-Committee

- Applications approved as recommended – 5
- Applications refused as recommended - 1
- Applications minded to approve or refuse contrary to recommendation – 6 (not referred to the Head of Planning Services)
- Applications deferred for further information or negotiations - 2
- Site inspections – 1
- Number of public speakers – 5 (1 parish councils, 0 objectors, 4 supporters)
- Appeals – 4 have been received and 6 determined (1 upheld and 2 dismissed)

(b) Central Area Planning Sub-Committee

- Applications approved as recommended – 11
- Applications deferred for further information or negotiations - 1
- Applications minded to approve or refuse contrary to recommendation – 1 (not referred to the Head of Planning Services)
- Site inspections – 2
- Number of public speakers – 13 (2 parish councils, 4 objectors, 7 supporters)
- Appeals – 3 appeals have been received and 8 determined (4 dismissed, 3 upheld and 1 withdrawn)

(c) Southern Area Planning Sub-Committee

- Applications approved as recommended – 7
- Applications refused as recommended – 3
- Applications deferred - 1
- Applications minded to approve or refuse contrary to recommendation – 4 (1 referred to the Head of Planning Services and to the Planning Committee)
- Site visits – 0
- Number of public speakers – 12 (1 Parish Council, 8 supporters, 3 objectors)
- Appeals – 7 appeals have been received and 18 determined (4 upheld, 12 dismissed and 2 withdrawn)

PROPOSED REVISED PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

3. The Committee has considered proposals to update the Council's Planning Enforcement Policy which was introduced in 2003. Since then there had been changes in the policy background to planning enforcement, a major one being the replacement of the former local and structure plans by the Unitary Development Plan . There had also been some adjustments to enforcement practice, including the introduction of six-monthly reports to the Committee about activity within the Enforcement Section. It was agreed that the Cabinet Member (Environment) be requested to accept the revised Planning Enforcement Policy.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

4. The Planning Inspector's Report has recently been received about the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is required as part of the new planning system and sets out how the Council will consult on planning matters and fulfil the requirements of that system. The Inspector has found the SCI to be

sound, subject to twelve recommendations being implemented. Unlike the previous system where the Council had flexibility about adopting the Inspector's recommendations, under the new system the recommendations are binding and the Council is required to publish the Inspector's report. The Cabinet Member (Environment) has been requested to receive the Inspector's Report and to submit the revised SCI to Cabinet for adoption as the Council's policy in respect of consultation on planning matters, in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004.

**T.W. HUNT
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Agenda for the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd March, 2007.

REPORT OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Meetings Held on 20th March, 2007 and 10th April, 2007

Membership:

Councillors: R.I. Matthews (Chairman), Brig. P. Jones CBE (Vice-Chairman) H Bramer, Mrs. S.P.A. Daniels, G.W. Davis, D.J. Fleet, J.W. Hope, T.W. Hunt, G Lucas, R. Preece, P.G. Turpin.

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 119 – APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDERS

1. The Committee has determined applications for the following Public Path Diversion Orders for which there has been consultation with interested parties, the local parish councils and the local Ward Councillors where appropriate:-
 - (a) Footpath MM3 (part) Much Marcle – approved and;
 - (b) Footpath FD4 (part) Ford - approved.

CASINO PREMISES LICENSES – SECTION 166, GAMBLING ACT 2005

2. The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has been informed that the Council did not wish to be considered as a location for one of the 17 casinos proposed in England. Although the DCMS had recently announced the location of the casinos and that no further licences could be issued at present, there is a possibility that the number could be increased in the future. Having considered the options available to it, the Committee has decided that it does not wish to consider any applications for casino premises licenses at the present time but that it will review the situation after a three-year period has elapsed.

DELEGATION OF LICENSING AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 152 - GAMBLING ACT 2005

3. The Committee has decided that the Council's responsibilities under Section 152 of the Gambling Act 2005 will be delegated to officers to deal with. These relate to the grant, variation, transfer or review of certain uncontentious licenses which do not need to be referred to the Committee or to the Regulatory Sub-Committee for determination.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IN RESPECT OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE GAMING MACHINE PERMITS: SCHEDULE 10, PARAGRAPH 7 - GAMBLING ACT 2005

4. Section 247 of the Gambling Act 2005 makes provision for Licensing Authorities to grant permits in respect of Family Entertainment Centres for Gaming Machines which fall within Category D (machines which have a maximum stake of 10p; or 30p when there is a non-monetary prize and with a maximum prize of £5 cash; or £8 non-monetary prize). The Committee has adopted a Statement of Principles in respect of Family Entertainment Centres to provide guidance for those wishing to apply for the appropriate permits and gaming machines.

**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IN RESPECT OF PRIZE GAMING PERMITS:
SCHEDULE 14, PARAGRAPH 8 - GAMBLING ACT 2005**

5. Section 289 of the Gambling Act 2005 allows a Licensing Authority to grant permits in respect of Prize Gaming Permits in respect of premises or events where prizes up to a certain value, rather than money, can be won. The Committee has approved a Statement of Principles in respect of Prize Gaming Permits to provide comprehensive advice and guidance for those wishing to apply for such permits.

**DELEGATION OF SMALL LOTTERIES REGISTRATION SCHEDULE 11, PART 5
- GAMBLING ACT 2005**

6. The Committee has decided that the functions under Schedule 11, Part 5, Paragraph 44 of the Gambling Act 2005 in respect of Small Society Lotteries should be delegated to authorised Licensing Officers unless representations are received, in which case the matter will be referred to the Regulatory Sub-Committee for a decision.

**APPLICATION FOR AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZES MACHINES PERMITS FOR
MORE THAN TWO MACHINES – SECTION 34 THE GAMING ACT 1968**

7. The Committee has previously decided that applications for more than two gaming machines must be submitted to it so that the siting and numbers of machines involved can be considered in relation to (i) preventing gambling being a source of crime or disorder; (ii) ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and (iii) protecting children and the vulnerable from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The following applications have been determined which fulfil the required criteria:-
- (a) The Grandstand, Grandstand Road Hereford – 3 machines; and
 - (b) The Mail Rooms, Ross-on-Wye – 4 machines.

**REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE, DRIVER AND
OPERATOR CONDITIONS. IMPLEMENTATION OF A TAXI LICENSING POLICY
AND PENALTY POINT SCHEME. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) ACT 1976, TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847**

8. A comprehensive review of Council's hackney carriage and private hire licensing conditions has been carried out in consultation with Members, the trade, the Police and interested parties. The review has taken into consideration the representations received, the operational experience gained since the unified licensing arrangements came into effect in 2000, legislation, Government advice, best practice and the views from the trade. The Committee has decided to introduce the revised licensing conditions, penalty point scheme and associated policy for a trial period of six months

**VEHICLE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO A SPECIALIST HACKNEY CARRIAGE
VEHICLE (PEDI CAB) TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

9. The Committee has approved licence conditions and granted hackney carriage vehicle licences for two pedi cabs for a trial period of twelve months. The pedi cabs are tricycles able to carry a small number of passengers. They do not have an engine and are powered entirely by a rider. They will operate within certain parts of Hereford City and be largely financed by advertising with passengers able to make a

donation if they so wish. The Committee is delighted at the prospect of this innovative and eco-friendly system being operated in Hereford.

REVIEW OF LICENSING FEES

10. The Committee has carried out a comprehensive review of licensing fees for the functions dealt with by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Department and introduced new fees for the forthcoming year.

APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

11. Five applications for the renewal or grant of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licences were referred to the Committee in accordance with the Council's terms and conditions and the advice on the interpretation of spent convictions and medical requirements. The applicants and their representatives gave details of the grounds for their applications and they provided the Committee with the circumstances giving rise to their offences or health situations. Four applications were granted and one was refused because the applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH LICENSING APPLICATIONS

12. Arrangements need to be put in place for the Regulatory Sub-Committee to determine applications between the forthcoming elections and the time that the new committees are appointed. The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Regulatory Sub-Committee to hear any application that cannot be agreed within 20 working days after the 28-day consultation period has closed. The Act does not provide the Council with any variation to these time limits. The Committee therefore recommends that its Members who are re-elected on 3rd May, 2007 be authorised to deal with the matter during the interim period.

RECOMMENDED

that the current Regulatory Committee Members who are re-elected, be made available to hear Regulatory Sub-Committee hearings during the period between the May 2007 elections and the point when the Annual Council appoints Members to Committees.

**R.I. MATTHEWS
CHAIRMAN
REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Agenda papers from the meetings of the Regulatory Committee held on 20th March, 2007; and 10th April, 2007.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting held on 13th April, 2007

Membership:

Councillors: A.C.R. Chappell,(Chairman) Mrs. P.A. Andrews, H. Bramer, T.M. James, J.G. Jarvis, R.I. Matthews, Mrs. S.J. Robertson.

COMPLETION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/07

1. The Committee has noted and endorsed changes made to the format and content of the Council's formal Statement of Accounts which is determined each year in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) and Accountancy Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Following the Committee's decision, the Statement of Accounts will be submitted for approval to a meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held in June to enable the completion of the external Audit and final publication of the Accounts by 30th September 2007.

AUDIT STRATEGY 2007/08

2. The Committee has reviewed and approved the Audit Strategy for 2007/08. The adoption of the Audit Strategy represents best practice as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for integral part of the Council's Internal Audit in Local Government (2006) and is an integral part of the Council's Internal Controls procedures under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Use of Resources.

AUDIT PLAN 2007/08

3. The Committee has adopted the Audit Plan for 2007/08. In reaching its decision, the Committee has noted that the Audit Plan represents best practice as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government and is an integral part of the Council's Internal Controls procedures under the Comprehensive Assessment Use of Resources and also highlights how the Council will comply with Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

AUDIT SERVICES UPDATED INTERIM ASSURANCE REPORT NO 2

4. The Committee has noted a report which has updated and advised Members on work status and key control issues in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom

PROGRESS ON THE COUNCIL'S 2006/07 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

5. The Committee has noted the progress being made in relation to the completion of the Council's Statement of Internal Control.

USE OF RESOURCES ACTION PLAN

6. The Committee has received a report which set out in detail the Use of Resources Action Plan for 2006/07 and which highlights specific actions to be taken by appropriate officers with timescales. The report followed on from a previous report to the Committee in January this year which outlined key areas requiring action.

**A.C.R. CHAPPELL
CHAIRMAN
AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee held on 13th April 2007