

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 19th June, 2007

Time: **10.00 a.m.**

Place: Prockington 25 Hefod

Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,

Hereford

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of

the meeting.

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County of Herefordshire District Council



AGENDA

for the Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillor RI Matthews (Chairman)
Councillor KG Grumbley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors JHR Goodwin, JW Hope MBE, MAF Hubbard, TW Hunt, MD Lloyd-Hayes, PM Morgan, AT Oliver, SJ Robertson and PJ Watts

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 - 8

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2007.

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. INTRODUCTION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION)

To introduce the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) who will inform the Committee of his programme area.

7. INTRODUCTION BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING)

To introduce the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) who will inform the Committee of his programme area in relation to this Committee.

8. GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (GEM) - REVIEW

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To review the Council's environmental performance during 2006/07, particularly in relation to the corporate Environment Strategy & ISO 14001, to ensure that it continues to improve overall.

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	To advise Members on the final outturn position for the 2006-07 Environment Capital Programme and to highlight the agreed programme for 2007-08.	
10.	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING	27 - 32
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	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

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings

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

1. Identifying Areas for Scrutiny

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

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

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

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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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 which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available
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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, 12th March, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor JHR Goodwin (Chairman)

Councillor WLS Bowen (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: KG Grumbley, J.G.S. Guthrie, TW Hunt, MD Lloyd-Hayes,

GA Powell and JB Williams

In attendance: Councillors PJ Edwards Cabinet Member (Environment), J Stone,

DB Wilcox Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) and

R.M. Wilson

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs WU Attfield, Councillor JW Newman and Councillor Miss F Short.

40. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor Mrs Lloyd-Hayes substituted for Councillor Miss F Short.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held 4th December, 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

The public made no suggestions for areas of scrutiny. The Vice Chairman suggested that there may be an issue for consideration concerning riparian rights on the river Wye in Hereford.

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

The Committee considered the Council's role in relation to biodiversity conservation and the development of a strategy to cover the period 2007 – 2010.

The Director of Environment reported that while every public body must have regard to conserving biodiversity, the Council had been very proactive in this area particularly through the establishment of a Biological Records Centre and Biodiversity Partnership.

The Conservation Manager reported that the intention for proposing a strategic framework for biodiversity conservation was that the strategy would develop the objectives and form the basis for developing a programme of actions for the ecology services provided by the Council. This was further set out in the agenda report and the draft strategy, copies of which had been issued to members with the agenda. He further reported that DEFRA guidance for local authorities, expected to be published in February 2007, was still awaited. The draft strategy, together with expected guidance from DEFRA, would form the basis for internal discussion and then wider consultation and report.

The Committee noted that while there may be regulatory issues to consider the intention was to work with partners and local bodies to achieve the objectives. Fishing rights on the local rivers would be dealt with by the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED:

That

- a) The Cabinet Member (Environment) is recommended to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council in discussion with Member, the Committee and Directorates prior to a wider stakeholder and public consultation and in the light of guidance to be published by DEFRA; and
- b) A further report on progress of the Biodiversity Strategy be included in the Committee work programme for the September 2007 meeting.

45. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was advised on progress of the 2006/07 Capital Programme for Environment Areas within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resource's representative reported that the total for the capital programme had reduced to £12,222,000 from £13,387,000 previously notified. A brief overview of the financial position 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 requested that the Rural Footway Improvement priority list previously issued to Parish Councils be reinstated and noted that in relation to Roman Road the reference to £110,000 had been returned from the statutory undertakers as an under spend on the contract.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

46. ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee was advised of the financial position for the Environment Programme area budgets for the period to 31st January 2007.

The Director of Environment and the Director of Resources' representative reported that the total Environment budget for 2006/07 continued at £26,714,460. While the report indicated that in overall terms the year-end position for the environment budget projected an underspend of £766,000 this would be affected by recent additional spending due to recent snow on winter highway maintenance. 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 that the

introduction of planning Design & Access Statements had delayed the submission of some planning schemes and hence delayed fee income.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

47. MONITORING OF 2006/07 SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - APRIL TO DECEMBER 2006

The Committee received an update 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 Operation Plans and which are reported monthly to respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet; and
- The targets that appear in the Directorate Plan which are reported monthly to the respective Cabinet Members and, by exception, bi-monthly to Cabinet.

The Director of Environment and the Improvement Manager reported that the Directorate was consistently meeting standards as none of the indicators for which the Directorate had responsibility had received a red 'traffic light'. It was further reported that the Direction of Travel Statement highlighted that Environmental Health & Trading Standards performance had fallen. This related to only one indicator (BVPI 166, a quality of service checklist). However, other indicators, used for CPA but not the Direction of Travel, showed that both business and customer satisfaction levels were high and placed these services above the upper threshold.

On scrutinising the report the Committee noted that:

- the current shortfall in performance under indicator 'Number of Penalty Charge Notices issued' was due to a number of staff illnesses.
- The speed in determining planning applications had been improved by refusing those applications not up to submission quality, and by utilising specialist advice.
- All dog litter bins had been inherited from the outgoing authorities. Some had been relocated to provide a balanced service. While efficiencies had been made to the services the major cost to the services was not the cost of the bin but the resultant servicing of it.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

48. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE SERVICE PLANNING

The Committee received an update on the arrangements for services planning in the Environment Directorate.

The Director of Environment reported that the Directorate's service plan for the three years period 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2010 was currently being prepared and would be completed by 31st March 2007. Reports by the Cabinet Members for Environment and Highways & Transportation in June 2007 would include the performance and achievement, and aspirations contained in the Plan.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

49. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Committee considered a report on the delivery of the Waste Management Service.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that the service had undergone a high degree of change over the last two or three years. He highlighted the pressures on the service to deliver higher levels of recycling and waste minimisation as well as the need to maintain the financial performance of the service. In addition the service had been preparing for the 'front office' services to be moved over to 'info by Phone' with a resultant restructure of the service. He further highlighted that since 2001/02 the performance of the service had improved year on year and his report elaborated on this aspect.

The Committee noted that a substantial percentage of the services work e.g. telephone enquiries, would transfer to 'Info by Phone'. An element of the restructure would redress the balance between qualified and unqualified staff thereby enabling greater flexibility and quality within the service.

The Committee also noted that waste from schools had been designated household waste for which a charge could be made. Hospital waste, other than medical waste, was classed as trade waste.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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

The Committee considered the findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group, copies of the report having been circulated at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor T Hunt, reported that the Working Group had met in March and May 2006. However it soon became apparent that the planning case at Waverley Borough Council had a strong bearing on the review of the Code of Practice for the use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire and therefore the work of the Group had been suspended pending the outcome of that case. The Working Group met on 1st March and received advice from the Council's Legal and Planning Services. Attached to the report was a summary that set out the basis of that advice. The Legal Practice Manager and the Head of Planning Services orally elaborated on that advice at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Review Group further reported that having considered that advice the Review Group concluded that case law relating to polytunnels had now crystallised. It seemed clear that all new polytunnel developments within the County be treated as development requiring planning consent. In relation to those polytunnels already in situ a number of judgements needed to be made and these were set out in the summary of advice.

The Committee questioned whether there would be size thresholds, thereby taking small operators out of the requirement for making a planning application, and whether supplementary planning guidance would be given. The Head of Planning Services reported that normal planning considerations would be applied when considering any case.

The Chairman permitted a number of questions or comments from the public in attendance. The principal questions, together with the answers, are summarised as follows:

- What degree of protection was there within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the totality of the court judgement applied to the whole County.
- Clarification was sought on the 4 year rule from an enforcement point of

view the clock started from the time the structure was started. The clock would stop when an enforcement notice was served. The Planning Service therefore would be working on establishing individual cases and considering the expediency, as indicated in the summary of advice, of initiating enforcement. After 4 years the development may be immune from enforcement action.

- Would there be payment of compensation to public and tourist operators? –
 No.
- Will the public have their democratic say on planning applications Yes via the normal planning procedure.

The Head of Planning Services emphasised that the public may not see a difference in the fields for some time as the preparation and serving of an enforcement case could take 2-4 months and the whole enforcement procedure could take up to 1 year.

The Cabinet Member (Environment) welcomed the legal clarification given by the Waverley case and stated that the position would be considered by Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

THAT;

- (a) the findings of the review of the Polytunnel Review Group, be approved for submission to the Cabinet
- (b) 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;
- (c) that enforcement proceedings be continued and/or initiated in accordance with the priorities below:
 - 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
- (d) that the Executives response be reported to the Committee in due course.

51. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

The Committee considered the findings of the scrutiny review into Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.

The Chairman of the Review, Councillor K.G. Grumbley, presented the report of the

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

review Group and took the Committee through the report on a page by page basis particularly emphasising those elements that had lead to the recommendations. He also reported that as the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy, the results of which were still awaited, could have significant consequences on the management of Waste Services, he recommended that the report be held in abeyance until the next meeting when a report on the outcome of the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy could be given.

The Committee questioned the input from planning in relation to the provision in new developments for appropriate waste storage areas, particularly wheelie bins, and were informed by the Cabinet Member (Environment) that planning conditions were being worked up. He was however aware that waste storage facilities could be a problem for existing houses in multiple occupation.

In response to a question concerning the size of wheelie bins to be provided the Waste Services Manager reported that following the Worcester City Council implementation model, an initial requirement survey would be undertaken following which individuals could request smaller bins.

In relation to the placing of bring sites in pub car parks the Committee noted that care needed to be taken so as not to tempt their use for trade waste.

The Committee appreciated the great regard in which the Re-Box scheme in Ross-on-Wye were held. They noted that Re-Box had already been approached concerning the future of waste collection in the Ross-on-Wye area.

Following debate the Committee concluded that, pending the outcome of the government's review of the National Waste Strategy, the draft report be circulated to Parish Councils for comment. A report summarising the comments received together with a summary of the outcome of the government's review and the report of Working Group be submitted for consideration to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- a) the report by the Household Waste Recycling Review Group be circulated to Parish Councils for comment;
- b) A report summarising: any comments from the Parish Councils; the outcome of the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy together with the report on the Household Waste Recycling Review be submitted to the next meeting.

52. SUMMARY OF ACTION IN RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee were invited to note progress against recommendations made by the Committee.

The Democratic Services Officer reported that in preparing for the current round of meetings some scrutiny Chairmen had requested a round up of all the recommendations made in addition to those made as part of scrutiny reviews. A list which attempted to give effect to this, together with an indication of resultant actions or outcomes, had been included in the agenda.

The Committee agreed that it would be useful if such information appeared as part of the appendix to the Committee work programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and future reports appear as part of the

appendix to the Committee work programme.

53. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme.

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

The Committee questioned the latest situation concerning safety on the Counties trunk roads (A49 and A465) and were informed by the Director of Environment that talks were on-going with the Highways Agency and a number of safety measures were due to be implemented on the A49. A national issue seemed to be the role of the Traffic Manager in relation to responsibility for the roads. A further report on trunk road issues would be made to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the issues identified earlier in the meeting namely agenda Items: 6 – Biodiversity; 12 – Executive response to the Polytunnel Review; 13 – Review of Household Waste Review, and 15 Update on Safety on the Counties Trunk Roads be added to the work programme and the work programme be approved and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.

The meeting ended at 12.32 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

GEM MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Report from: Director of Environment

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To review the Council's environmental performance during 2006/07, particularly in relation to the corporate Environment Strategy & ISO 14001, to ensure that it continues to improve overall.

Financial implications

2. The external commitments in the Strategy have already been included in budgets. The internal Good Environmental Management targets are designed to be met within existing budgets and resources.

Considerations

- 3. The appended report summarises the Council's performance against corporate Environment Strategy objectives.
- 4. The aim of the Environment Strategy is to provide an accessible overview of major environmental commitments already made by the authority. The commitments address the council's Corporate Plan 2007-10 priority to "protect the environment, including recycling much more waste and significantly reducing carbon emissions". The strategy summarises the objectives adopted, including controls on areas such as waste, energy and transport.
- 5. Internally the authority is committed to tackling its own environmental impacts through its certification across all functions to ISO 14001, the international environmental management standard. This is monitored through twice yearly visits from our external certifiers, SGS. The next visit is due in July 2007.
- 6. Externally the authority makes a major contribution to Herefordshire's environment through working with the public, in partnership with other organisations and the wider community. The full Environment Strategy document (on the council website) includes links to the more detailed strategies from which the summary objectives are drawn.
- 7. A number of the strategy objectives have proved difficult to provide quantative data on and some new commitments have been entered into since the strategy was adopted in 2005. The strategy is therefore being refreshed during 2007 to ensure it remains up to date and that all entries have measurable outcomes. Some out turn figures for 06/07 are not yet available so gaps in the appended report will also be completed at that point.

Background

- 8. Reviews at top level by CMB, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Environment Scrutiny are designed to ensure that our commitment to overall improvement in environment performance, required by ISO 14001, is being met.
- 9. Environment Scrutiny have a role in scrutinising performance of the ISO 14001 system at full year and half year on behalf of Herefordshire residents and are defined within the system as interested parties. GEM (Good Environmental Management) plays a key role in delivering:
 - The council's commitment to safeguard the environment through everything in the Corporate Plan (1.5)
 - The council's Corporate Plan priority to 'protect the environment, including by producing much less waste, recycling much more of what remains and significantly reducing carbon emissions' (5.2)
 - Its environmental policy commitment to "demonstrable and continuous improvement of its environment performance" across all Directorates
 - The council's contribution to the Community Strategy for Herefordshire's guiding principle to "Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment", which states: -"Herefordshire has a rich and diverse environment with many unique features. This resource must be conserved and enhanced through raising awareness and education so that communities and future generation can continue to enjoy and benefit from the distinctive environment. This includes improving local public areas across the county, developing access to the countryside, protecting our biodiversity and tackling climate change through waste minimisation and energy efficiency measures. "

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The report be noted, subject to any comments members may wish to make to the Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing).



Herefordshire Council Corporate Environment Strategy

PERFORMANCE REPORT 2006/07







Sections

Waste
Transport
Energy and Climate
Natural & Built Environment
Planning & Development
Environmental Risks & Pollution
Community Involvement & Partnership Working

This report summarises performance information currently available for 2006/07.

The strategy itself is available on the web at

http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/Environmental_Strategy_Summary_-_12-08.pdf

Waste

	AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	Decrease the amount of waste	Decrease the amount of household waste collected per head	BV 84a & b JMWS Target 2	528.03kg	521.7kg	505.76kg
	generated per person	Decrease the amount of Council generated trade waste per employee (including recyclables)	GEM	(363,900/1 424.5) =255.5kg	(328,600/1 480) =222 kg	Data due July (FTE =1400)
	Decrease the amount of waste	Decrease both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings sent to landfill	BV 82d (i) & (ii)	78.28%	76.11%	72.86%
	going to landfill	Decrease the amount of Council trade waste sent to landfill	GEM	314.72 Tonnes	271.1 Tonnes	204.74 tonnes
	Increase the amount of waste recycled or	Increase both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings that are recycled	BV 82a (i) & (ii) JMWS Target 4	15.03%	17.31%	18.7%
composted		Increase both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings that are composted	BV 82b (i) & (ii) JMWS Target 5 JMWS Target 1 JMWS Target 6	6.69%	6.58%	7.36%
		Increase the amount of Council generated trade waste recycled through the Office Recycling scheme	GEM	49.18 Tonnes	57.5 tonnes	Data due July
	Increase the number of people	Increase the percentage of household residents served by the collection of recyclables	BV 91 JMWS Target 3	60.28%	62.28%	68.00%
	with access to recycling	Increase the number of Council employees with access to recycling	GEM	35 Offices served	37 Offices served	All offices now served
		Decrease the cost of waste collection per household Decrease the cost of waste disposal per tonne	BV86 BV87	£42.57 £58.51	£44.69 £78.99	Data due June Data due June

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AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Promote walking and cycling	 Increase the percentage of children walking or cycling to school at schools participating in SRTS Increase the number of schools with Adopted School Travel Plans Encourage businesses within the county to address issues of transportation (to be changed to 'the percentage of Hereford workforce 	LTP T6 LTP T9	65.4% 43 15	(biennial) 63 20 (24.8%)	Data due July 85 26.3%
	 covered by travel plans') Improve the public right of way network and promote its use by the public (percentage of total lengths of right of way in the LA area that are easy to use by the general public) 	BV 178a	45%	52%	49%
	 Increase the number of cycling trips by the public (index at 2001/02 =100) Increase the number of Council staff cycling a) to work and b) to meetings 	GEM	a) Oct 03 baseline b) 511 miles claimed	a) +5.29% b) 1595 miles claimed	a) +29% over 3 years b) 1086 miles claimed
Increase the use of public transport	 Increase the number of passenger journeys per year on public transport (Bus & Rail) Increase the accessibility of public transport services - journeys on low floor buses (index 2001/02 = 100) 	BVPI 102 LTP T1+2 LTP T1	B: 3,446,000 R: 3,089,000 110	B: 3,248,935 R: 3,079,000 112	B: Data due July R: Data due July Data due July
	Increase the number of staff members travelling on public transport a) to work and b) to meetings	GEM	a) Oct 03 baseline b) 398	a) - 36% b) 394	a) - 4% over 3 years b) 399
Reduce the dependence upon the car	 Restrict the growth of the annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes i) in Herefordshire (index 2001/02 = 100) ii) Rural and Hereford Decrease the proportion of children travelling to school by car at schools participating in Safe Routes To School (SRTS) 	LTP11 & 3 LTP T7	i) 99.8 ii) 102.1 25.9%	i) 99.6 ii) 100.4 (biennial)	i) 100.63 ii) Data due July Data due July
	Reduce car mileage claims from Council staff	GEM	2,603,049	2,338,103	2,282,567
Improve the County's roads and footpaths	 Improve the condition of the County's roads a) Principle roads, b) Non-principle roads, c) classified roads (percentage of road type needing further investigation) Improve the condition of surface footways (percentage of footways where structural maintenance should be considered) 	BV 223, 224a, 224b BV187	NEW 32.5%	a) 21% b) 49.5% c) 22.2% 30.68%	Data due June Data due June Data due June 31.0%
	 Increase the number of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people 	BV165	NEW	80%	92%
	 Time taken to rectify street lighting faults (days) under control of a) LA and b) Network Operator Decrease the number of temporary road closures Decrease the number of KSI road accident casualties (all/children) 	BV 215a & b BV100 BV99 (a,b,c,d&e) LTP; PSA3	3.1 146/6	a) 10.3 b) 47.1 0 141/8	a) 8.85 b) 56.15 0 119/10 (2006 data)

Energy & Climate Change

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide	Decrease carbon dioxide emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per head of population/year	Corp PI	15.37 tonnes (2002 baseline)	9.49 tonnes (Defra 2003 data/pop)	10.43 tonnes (Defra 2004 data /pop)
and other greenhouse gases	Reduce the fossil fuel and electricity consumption of operational council properties	BV 180a	16942 tCO2 (2004)	Awaiting figures	No requirement to report on BV180a
	Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from activities directly controlled by the Council or upon which it has an influence by 1.25%	CMAP/ PPI 4d	72,428 tonnes (2002 baseline)	69,746 (2005 prediction)	Data due August
Support and promote energy	Improve energy efficiency for all housing sectors	HECA	1.65%	1.77%	Data due October
efficiency measures	Reduce the energy costs of operational Council property per square metre Gross Internal Area	PPI 4b (AMP)	£7.22	£9.23	Data due August
	Electricity costs (excluding schools) Added in for 06/07 report	Based on account codes	-	£1,347,409	£1,618,825
Support and promote renewable	Support the use of renewable energy sources where they are economically and environmentally sustainable through the Unitary Development Plan	Permissions granted	0	1	Data due August
energy	Continue to secure 100% renewable electricity for operational Council properties.	GEM	Contract renewed	Contract renewed	Contract renewed.

Water & Flooding

<u> </u>					
AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Promote more efficient use of water resources	(Where relevant, all new developments will be required to minimise resource use, including water and energy)	None	recommend replacement of th		is objective
	Reduce the cost of water in Council operational buildings per square metre Gross Internal Area (GIA)	PPI 4c (AMP)	£1.71	£1.83	Data due August
Mitigate flood risk through adoption of the Unitary Development Plan	Secure the County's environmental resources by taking a precautionary approach to flood risk, having regard to the flood plains of the Rivers Wye and Lugg and their tributaries	Number of applications approved against EA advice in relation to flooding	0	1	Data due August
	(Ensure that where development is proposed in locations at risk of flooding, it should be demonstrated that there are no reasonable options available in a lower risk category, consistent with other objectives.)	None	Recommend replacement of this objective when Environmental Strategy is reviewed 2007.		
Respond effectively to major flooding incidents	Effectively manage the emergency response to flooding events through a) response exercises, b) incidents logged and c) Flood Forums held	N/A	-	a) 1 b) 2 c) 2	a) 1 b) 40 c) 2
Improve the quality of the County's Rivers	Contribute to improvement in the County's rivers in 'very good' or 'good' categories for both a) Biological and b) Chemical General Quality Assessments	SOH F6	a) 88% 2003 b) 83%2003	a) 85% 2004 b) 83% 2004	a) 84% 2005 b) 84% 2005

Natural & Built Environment

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Protect and enhance the County's	Prepare and maintain a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) with an effective monitoring and reporting system	N/A	BAP underway	BAP complete	Now on BARS. Began revision of BAP.
Develop and issue supplementary planning guidance (SPG) on landscape character, biodiversity conservation and trees	N/A	SPG re: landscape and biodiversity adopted in 2004	Tied in with adoption of UDP	UDP adopted in 2007 confirming status of SPG.	
	 Increase the proportion of Council owned land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity purposes 	Corp PI (& GEM)	2.35%	2.49%	13.42%
	Improve the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owned by the Council	PSA6	-	-	Of 5 sites found on NE website 3 were classed favourable / recovering
Conserve the built and historic heritage of the County	Increase the percentage of Conservation Areas with: a) Character Appraisals & b) Management Proposals	BV 219	NEW	a) 1.5% b) 0%	a) 12.5% b) 0%
County	Develop and issue planning guidance on the historic environment	N/A	These will be subject to review as part of		
	Review conservation areas and expand the Buildings at Risk Survey	N/A	Environment Strategy review in 2007		

Planning & Development

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Implement a Unitary Development Plan which contains clear principles to protect the environment Promote those forms of development that have a positive impact upon the environment	 Promote forms of environmental management which minimise the depletion of scarce non-renewable resources, reduce energy consumption and waste, and encourage use of recycled and renewable resources (P5) The UDP will favour forms of land use and development which work within the environmental capacity (P6) Protect, restore and enhance environmental assets giving special attention to irreplaceable resources and the distinctive character of local environments (P7) Promote sustainable land use and management, especially through the restoration, re-use and enhancement of degraded environmental assets (P8) Promote better accessibility to work, services and facilities in ways which reduce the overall need to travel and promote the use of non-car based transport (P9) Promote high design standards in the location, setting, layout and construction of both new development and improvements to existing developments. High priority will be given to energy efficiency in terms of design, use location and transport (P10) 	These are principles and as such as not intended to be directly measurable. A review of more appropriate objectives which would offer some way of measuring progress against the aim are being investigated.			The Environment Strategy is being reviewed during 2007 at which time these aims and objectives will be replaced.
	Increase the percentage of development taking place on Brownfield land	BVPI 106	68.3%	71.3%	Data due August
Improve the efficiency of the planning process	Reduce the time in which planning applications are determined: a) Major Applications, b) Minor Applications, c) Other Applications, d) Standard searches	BVPI 109 & 179 (BVPI 179 deleted April 2006)	a) 46% b) 51% c) 64% d) 95%	a) 61% b) 74% c) 82% d) 75.94%	a) 75% b) 84% c) 92% d) not reported

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Reduce levels of pollution Investigate and take	Reduce the annual mean levels of nitrogen dioxide at sites in Hereford and the Market Towns (av. Change)	SOH	252.2ug/m ³ (2004 total)	-8.5ug/m ³ (2005 total 243.7ug/m ³)	+22.7ug/m ³ (2006 total 266.4ug/m ³)
action to deal with contaminated land	Increase the percentage of pollution control improvements on existing permitted industrial installations completed on time	BVPI 217	NEW	95.29%	96.8%
	Increase the percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles that are a) investigated within 24hrs of notification and b) removed within 24hrs of being confirmed as abandoned.	BVPI 218a & b	NEW	a) 83% b) 90%	a) 98% b) 99%
Investigate and take action to deal with contaminated land	Identify (a) sites of potential concern in terms of contamination and (b) increase the percentage of those sites for which sufficient detail is available to decide whether remediation is necessary	BVPI 216a & b	NEW	a) 5,910 b) 0.15%	a) 2896 b) 0.2%
	Identify and address contamination of land controlled by the Council.	Registered sites	1	1	1
Improve Environmental Health and Trading	Improve the score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health	BVPI 166a	90%	45%	98.75%
Standards services	Improve the core against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards	BVPI 166b	86.6%	78.75%	100%

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Community Involvement & Partnership Working

	AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
-	Promote environmental management systems	Increase the number of local businesses with an accredited environmental management system (either EMAS or ISO 14001) review of this objective to include: a) number of members of HBEA b) number of companies who have attended at least one seminar	N/A	-	HBEA set up	a) 18 b) 72
		Extend the Council's environmental management system throughout all services and directorates.	GEM	10 remaining blocks	6 remaining blocks	All services and directorates now covered
	Promote awareness of environmental issues	Increase the (a) number of schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme and (b) the number that have achieved one of the award levels	N/A	a) 59 b) 17	(a) 72 (b) 17	(a) 81 (b) 49
	133063	Encourage householders to improve the energy efficiency of their homes (number of householders advised by the service)	Provided by EEAC	2990	2956	1478
		Increase staff awareness of GEM and environmental issues a) staff opinion survey results (% aware) b) numbers trained in GEM and through induction process	Staff Opinion Survey In house training	a) 79% (2004) b) data not available	a) not in survey b) 12 GEM / 221 induction	a) not in survey b) 17 GEM / 234 induction
		Support and contribute to the work of the Herefordshire Partnership Ambition Groups covering environment and transport (number of meetings attended)	N/A	4	4	Ambition groups stopped June 2006
	Improve the cleanliness of the local environment	 Decrease the proportion of relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of: a) Litter & detritus, b) Graffiti & c) Fly posting. Decrease the number of incidents and decrease the number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping. 	BV 199a/b/c BV 199d	(a) 27% (b) NEW (c) NEW NEW	a) 18% b) 3% c) 2% Grade 1 (very effective)	a) 17% b) 2% c) 1 Grade 1

Glossary of abbreviations

GEM Good Environmental Management (the name for the Council's Environmental Management System)

BV / BVPI Best Value Performance Indicators (set by the Government)

PPI Performance Indicators

JMWS Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (2004 - 2034)

LTP Local Transport Plan
KSI Killed & Seriously Injured
PSA Public Service Agreement

CMAP Carbon Management Action Plan

EA Environment Agency

HECA Home Energy Conservation Advice BARS Biological Action Recording System

BAP Biodiversity Action Plan

EEAC Energy Efficiency and Advice Centre

NE Natural England (successor to English Nature and parts of DEFRA)

UDP Unitary Development Plan SOH State of Herefordshire Report

HBEA Herefordshire Business Environment Association

AMP Asset Management Plan AMR Annual Monitoring Report

Environment Strategy Review

A number of the strategy objectives have proved difficult to provide quantative data on and some new commitments have been entered into since the strategy was written.

The strategy is therefore being refreshed during 2007 to ensure it remains up to date and that all entries have measurable outcomes.

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

1. To advise Members on the final outturn position for the 2006-07 Environment Capital Programme and to highlight the agreed programme for 2007-08.

Financial Implications

- 2. The final outturn position for the Environment Capital Programme for 2006-07 is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3. The total of the Capital Programme was increased to £13,197,000 from the figure of £12,301,000 highlighted in the IPR as at 31st January 2007. This is a net increase of £896,000 and relates to:
 - Additional spend on the Rotherwas Access Road of £1.369m. This relates principally
 to the purchase of land following the award of contract works and is funded through a
 grant from Advantage West Midlands.
 - Additional capitalisation of Principal Roadworks of £375,000.
 - Reduction in Bridgeworks expenditure of £333,000.
 - Slippage in the Hereford Crematorium of £158,000 due to land purchase issues not being resolved. There is now an anticipated start date on site in August.
 - Slippage in expenditure on Waste Performance and Efficiency of £129,000.
 - Reduction of expenditure on embankments of £107,000.
 - A number of other small reductions across several schemes totalling £121,000.

Considerations

- 4. The Environment General Capital Working Group meets regularly and keeps the overall spending position under careful review.
- 5. The Capital Programme for 2007-08 is attached as Appendix II. This has increased to £27,004,000 due to additional LTP funding, DEFRA funding for the Ross Flood Alleviation Scheme and AWM funding for the Rotherwas Access Road scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix I & II

Appendix I

Environment Capital Programme Outturn 2006-07

Scheme	Original budget 2006/07	Outturn 2006- 07
	£	£
Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy:		
Walking and Access		
LTP - Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75,000	62,875
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	200,000	159,129
Cycling		
LTP - Cycle Network Development	200,000	231,198
Public Transport Minor Schemes		
Rail Improvements		
LTP - Accessible Bus Network	45,000	14,347
Park and Ride		
LTP - Christmas Park and Ride	20,000	13,955
LTP - Park & Ride Permanent Site Development	150,000	50,495
Rotherwas Access Road		
LTP - Rotherwas Access Road	500,000	2,069,152
Roman Road		
LTP - Roman Road		16,463
Hfd Intelligent Transport System	95,000	68,715
Rural Areas & Market Towns Int Trans Strat:		
Walking and Access		
LTP - Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20,000	14,552
LTP - Rural Footway Improvements	95,000	158,468
Cycling		
LTP - Network of Cycle Routes and Pkg	200,000	86,497
Public Transport Minor Schemes		
LTP - Rural Rail Imps	50,000	24,886
LTP - Public Transport Minor Improvements	60,000	70,145
HGV Projects	50,000	71,031
Travel Awareness Campaign	35,000	17,192
Accessibility Partnership Development	30,000	30,000
Public Rights of Way Access Imps	25,000	18,825
Countrywide Safety Strategy:		
Hearts and Minds		
School Travel Plan Support	25,000	25,000
Minor Safety Schemes		
LTP - Minor Safety Improvements	300,000	338,125
Traffic Calming		
LTP - Traffic Calming	150,000	148,913
SRTS (Including 20mph zones)		
LTP - SRTS (Inc. 20 mph zones)	385,000	194,126
Speed Control		
LTP - Speed limit reductions	60,000	89,025
Monitoring		
Monitoring (data collection)	40,000	25,920
Highways Maintenance		
Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,728,117	2,102,994
Capitalised Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	3,547,082	3,644,484
Footways - Footways	1,063,801	1,020,626
Embankments	100,000	49,538
Bridge Maintenance	000	202 22=
Capitalised Ass'ment & Strength of Bridges	900,000	606,825
Rights of Way Imps	25,000	24,949
LTP - Staff costs to be allocated over LTP	301,000	301,095
LTP TOTAL	10,475,000	11,749,545

Appendix I

Environment Capital Programme Outturn 2006-07

Scheme	Original budget 2006/07	Outturn 2006- 07
Non LTP Schemes		
Hfd City Enh - Victoria Foot Bridge	310,000	303,000
Ross On Wye Flood Alleviation Scheme		1,652
Purchase of land rovers		40,456
Crematorium Hereford	1,046,950	92,202
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	500,000	48,396
Public Convenience improvements	200,000	157,343
Grafton Travellers Site	200,000	289,911
Pembridge Travellers Site	58,000	151,071
Waste Performance and Efficiency	74,484	120,036
LPSA2 - Street Scene		19,937
LPSA2 - Road Safety		213,952
PFI Waste Sites capital value uplift		10,000
NON LTP TOTAL	2,389,434	1,447,956
Expenditure to be Financed	12,864,434	13,197,501

Appendix II

Environment Capital Programme 2007-08

Scheme	Budget 2007-08
	£
Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy:	
Walking and Access	
LTP - Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75,000
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	100,000
Cycling	
LTP - Cycle Network Development	200,000
Public Transport Minor Schemes	
Rail Improvements	25,000
LTP - Accessible Bus Network	45,000
Park and Ride	
LTP - Christmas Park and Ride	20,000
LTP - Park & Ride Permanent Site Development	500,000
Rotherwas Access Road	
LTP - Rotherwas Access Road	8,100,000
Outer Distributor Road	
Hfd Intelligent Transport System	25,000
Roman Road	
Rural Areas & Market Towns Int Trans Strat:	
Walking and Access	
LTP - Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20,000
LTP - Rural Footway Improvements	60,000
Cycling LTD Network of Cycle Poyton and Plan	200 000
LTP - Network of Cycle Routes and Pkg Public Transport Minor Schemes	200,000
LTP - Rural Rail Imps	75,000
LTP - Public Transport Minor Improvements	55,000 55,000
HGV Projects	50,000
·	·
Travel Awareness Campaign	35,000
Accessibility Partnership Development	30,000
Public Rights of Way Access Imps	25,000
Countrywide Safety Strategy:	
Hearts and Minds School Travel Plan Support	25,000
Minor Safety Schemes	25,000
LTP - Minor Safety Improvements	300,000
Traffic Calming	000,000
LTP - Traffic Calming	220,464
SRTS (Including 20mph zones)	,
LTP - SRTS (Inc. 20 mph zones)	380,000
Speed Control	000,000
LTP - Speed limit reductions	60,000
Monitoring	,
Monitoring (data collection)	40,000
Highways Maintenance	
Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,867,000
Capitalised Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	3,550,000
Footways - Footways	1,065,000
Embankments	100,000
Bridge Maintenance	
Capitalised Ass'ment & Strength of Bridges	700,000
Rights of Way Imps	25,000
LTP - Staff costs to be allocated over LTP	301,000
LTP TOTAL	18,273,464

Environment Capital Programme 2007-08

Scheme	Budget 2007-08	
	£	
Non LTP Schemes		
Ross On Wye Flood Alleviation Scheme	5,000,000	
Crematorium Hereford	2,157,798	
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	481,604	
Public Convenience improvements	403,443	
Grafton Travellers Site	39,368	
Pembridge Travellers Site		
Land at Belmont Road		
Waste Performance and Efficiency	128,920	
S106 - Asda		
LPSA2 - Street Scene	143,563	
LPSA2 - Road Safety	218,048	
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site	70,000	
Strangford Closed Landfill Site	18,000	
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site	70,000	
NON LTP TOTAL	8,730,744	
Expenditure to be Financed	27,004,208	

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

To advise Members on the final revenue outturn position for the Environment Directorate for 2006/07 and to outline the agreed budget for 2007-08, highlighting the emerging budget pressures.

Financial Implications

Revenue Outturn 2006-07

- 1. A summary of the final revenue outturn variances is set out in Appendix I.
- 2. In overall terms the Environment Directorate underspent by £274,000, which represents a variance of 1.1% against the agreed budget.

Highways and Transportation

- 3. Highways and Transportation overspent by £751,000. The main overspends were:
- 4. Winter Maintenance particularly bad weather over a weekend in February required a higher level of gritting than normal, leading to an overspend of £241,000.
- 5. Highways Maintenance and Staff Costs some costs are normally transferred to the capital programme, however the overall underspend position emerging for the Directorate in 2006-07 meant it was prudent not to capitalise as much expenditure as originally planned.
- 6. Concessionary Fares the extension of this scheme to cover all pensioners resulted in a significant increase in the uptake of concessionary fares, leading to an overspend of £258,000. Forecasts suggest the impact in 2007-08 could be even higher.
- 7. Car Parking and Decriminalised Parking The income target for car park fees was increased for 2006-07 however charges did not increase resulting in a shortfall of £271,000. Staffing issues within decriminalised parking meant less penalty notices were issued than planned, leading to a shortfall in income of £46,000.

The main underspends were:

- 8. Street Lighting staff vacancies and the subsequent impact on capacity to commission works led to an underspend of £232,000.
- 9. Public Transport expenditure in several areas was constrained in order to mitigate the emerging overspend position on concessionary fares.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards

- 10. Environmental Health and Trading Standards underspent by £952,000. The main underspends were:
- 11. Licensing additional income from fees was earned resulting in an underspend of £58,000.
- 12. Waste Disposal Slippage in contract variations and volumes not increasing at the expected level led to an underspend of £1,002,000.

The main overspends were:

- 13. Trading Standards additional expenditure on indirect staff costs and court costs resulted in an overspend of £32,000.
- 14. Trade and non-domestic Waste Collection under-achievement of income led to an overspend of £49,000.

Planning Services

- 15. Planning Services underspent by £77,000. The main underspends were:
- 16. Building Control Additional income received over budgeted target.
- 17. Conservation Grant funding for a number of projects was received in advance of project expenditure. It is likely that there will be commitments against several of the projects in 2007-08 that will need to be funded.

The main overspends were:

18. Development Control – under-achievement of budgeted income for planning fees of £59,000 and overspends on operational expenditure of £54,000.

Final revenue outturn position

19. The overall underspend for the Directorate of £274,000 has been transferred to the waste reserve in the balance sheet to fund future costs arising from the new waste management contract.

20. Revenue Budget 2007-08

- 21. The total budget for the Environment Directorate in 2007-08 is £25,021,000. This is the controllable budget total before support service costs are factored in. A breakdown of the budgets is set out in Appendix 2.
- 22. The Medium Term Financial Management Strategy approved by Council sets the broad framework for service revenue budgets for 2007-08 and onwards. Inflation was added only to direct employee headings whilst income budget targets were increased by 2.5% (with the exception of Planning and Car parking). An additional £550,000 was added into the base to cover increases for the Waste PFI contract. Other than these adjustments the Directorate received a standstill budget for 2007-08.
- 23. The impact of this standstill approach is that known budget pressures and contractual inflationary increases have to be met through re-direction of other budgets. A number

of budget virements between service areas have been made to address known issues:

Contractual inflation	+£561,000
Increased budget requirement for Concessionary Fares	+£400,000
Total budget and inflationary pressures	+£961,000
Reduction in road maintenance revenue budget	-£909,000
Increased income targets for trading operations	- £52,000
Total of re-directed budgets	-£961,000

- 24. There will be pressures in all service areas arising from the decision not to allow inflationary uplifts on non-staff costs, however services will be expected to manage their budgets within these constraints.
- 25. The reduction in the road maintenance budget is partly addressed by an increase in capital funding through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Grant.
- 26. The Council has a winter maintenance reserve in the balance sheet of £500,000. Any additional costs arising from a repeat of the severe conditions experienced in February could be offset by the use of this reserve if there is not enough flexibility in the overall revenue position in 2007-08.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix I & II attached.

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE OUTTURN 2006-07

Final Outturn Variance Over / (underspend) £'000

Environmental Health & Trading Standards	
Environmental Health	2
Trading Standards	32
Waste Management	(950)
Licensing	(58)
Management & Administration	22
Final Underspend	(952)
Highways and Transportation	
Highways	519
Street Cleansing	(5)
Public Conveniences	(22)
Street Lighting	(232)
Transportation	46
Car Parking	271
DeCrim. of Parking Enforcement	46
Concessionary Travel	258
Public Transport	(130)
Final Overspend	751
Planning	
Building Control	(113)
Development Control	100
Forward Planning	18
Conservation	(78)
Final Underspend	(73)
Overall Underspend	(274)

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2007-08

	GROSS BUDGET £'000	INCOME £'000	NET BUDGET £'000
Environmental Health & Trading Standa	<u>ards</u>		
Environmental Health	2,048	202	1,846
Licensing	383	331	52
Trading Standards	551	16	535
Waste Management	14,333	2,798	11,535
Travellers Sites	193	90	103
Cemeteries	232	136	96
Crematorium	195	452	(257)
	17,935	4,025	13,910
Highways and Transportation			
Highways	3,400	174	3,226
Street Cleansing	1,382	79	1,303
Public Conveniences	451	0	451
Street Lighting	957	0	957
Transportation	1,491	425	1,066
Car Parking	671	2,257	(1,586)
DeCrim. of Parking enforcement	737	529	208
Concessionary Travel	1,719	0	1,719
Public Transport (incl. Rural)	2,772	1,162	1,610
-	13,580	4,626	8,954
<u>Planning</u>			
Building Control	728	751	(23)
Development Control	1,811	1,194	617
Forward Planning	659	2	657
Conservation	906	0	906
-	4,104	1,947	2,157
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT	35,619	10,598	25,021

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE PLAN: OUTTURN FOR 2006/07 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update Members on the achievement of targets included in the Environment Directorate Plan for the year April 2006 to March 2007.

Financial Implications

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

Content

- 3. The Committee received reports at each of its meeting in 2006-07 on performance against targets included in the Environment Directorate's Plan. Details of actual achievement against each of those targets are shown in Appendix 1.
- 4. The approach to developing the Plan for the forthcoming period has changed for each indicator there is a longer-term target for 2009-10 together with interim milestone targets for each of the years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Future reports to this Committee will focus on delivery and achievement against that Plan.
- 5. The 2007-10 Plan reflects action being taken during the current year (2007-08) to bring those few indicators (numbered 14, 15, 16, 51, 57, 69) where targets were not achieved back on track. There are longer-term proposals to improve customer satisfaction which is measured using the triennial User Satisfaction Survey (next conducted in 2009).

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Performance to April to March 2007

	Indicator	Target	Performance	е
1	Progress with local transport plan (CPA)	Well above average	Good	
2	Intervention by the Secretary of State under Traffic Management Act powers (CPA)	No intervention	No intervention	
3	Condition of principal roads - % worse than condition threshold (BVPI)	5	Due June 07	L
4	Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – classified (BVPI)	20	Due June07	L
5	Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – unclassified (BVPI, CPA)	21	Due June07	L
6	Number of Casualties All KSI (BVPI, CPA, LPSA, LAA, CP)	129	119 (2006 calendar year)	L
7	Number of Casualties Children KSI (BVPI, CP)	15	10 (2006 calendar year)	L
8	Number of Casualties All Slight Injuries (BVPI, CPA)	788	663 (2006 calendar year)	L
9	Local authority road works per kilometre of traffic sensitive road (BVPI)	0	0	L
10	Local bus services (passenger journeys per year) (BVPI, CP, CPA))	3817000	Due June 2007	Н
11	The percentage of users satisfied with the local provision of public transport information (BVPI, CPA)	62	70	Н
12	The percentage of users satisfied with local bus services (BVPI, CPA)	62	62	Н
13	The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people (BVPI, CPA)	90	92	Н
14	Condition of footways (BVPI, CPA)	30	31	L
15	The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority (BVPI)	5	8.85	L
16	The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a DNO (BVPI)	15	56.15	L
17	Change in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)	105	100.63	L

	Indicator	Target	Performanc	æ
	volumes - 1% growth p.a. (CP)			
18	No. of cycling trips (index) based on 12 hour week-day cycle movements (CP)	107	118.99	Н
19	Percentage of subsidised bus services operated with disabled accessible vehicles	80	80	Н
20	Number of Penalty Charge Notices issued	20000	16505	Н
21	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled (BVPI)	17.5	18.70	Н
22	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been recycled (BVPI)	16,271	16910.29	
23	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted (BVPI)	6.6	7.36	Н
24	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been composted (BVPI)	6,136	6657.02	
25	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings that has been recycled or composted (CPA)	24.1	26.06	Н
26	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources (BVPI)	0	1.08	Н
27	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources (BVPI)	0	974.5	
28	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled	75.9	72.86	L
29	Tonnage of household waste arisings which has been landfilled (BVPI, LAA, CP)	70,570	65887.51	
30	Kg of household waste per head per annum (BVPI, CPA, LAA, CP)	520	505.76	L
31	Percentage change from the previous year of Kg of household waste per head per annum (BVPI)		-1.19	Н
32	Cost of waste collection per household (BVPI)	£48.26	Due June 07	L
33	Cost of waste disposal per tonne for municipal waste (BVPI)	£78.41	Due June 07	L
34	The percentage of people satisfied with household waste collection (BVPI, CPA)	89	84	Н
35	The percentage of people satisfied with waste recycling (BVPI, CPA)	67	72	Н
36	The percentage of people satisfied with waste	82	86	Н
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	Indicator	Target	Performa	ıce
	disposal (BVPI, CPA)			
37	Percentage of population resident in the authority's are which area served by a kerbside collection of recyclables (BVPI)	67	68	Н
38	Percentage of population resident in the authority's area which area served by a kerbside collection of 2 recyclables (BVPI, CPA)	67	68	Н
39	The percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area (BVPI, CPA)	65	66	Н
40	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	17	L
41	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible (BVPI)	2	2	L
42	The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible (BVPI)	2	1	L
43	The year-on-year reduction in total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with flytipping' (BVPI)	1	1	L
44	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health (BVPI, CPA)	90	98.75	Н
45	Score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards (BVPI, CPA)	90	100	Н
46	Number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the local authority area], with respect to land contamination (BVPI)	5901	2896	L
47	Number of sites for which sufficient detailed information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary, as a percentage of all 'sites of potential concern' (BVPI)	1	0.2	
48	Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time (BVPI)	95.3	96.8	Н
49	Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification (BVPI)	95	98	Н

	Indicator	Target	Performa	nce
50	Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle (BVPI)	95	99	Н
51	Consumer satisfaction with trading standards service (CPA)	80	72	Н
52	Business satisfaction with trading standards service (CPA)	91	94	Н
53	Trading standards visits to high risk premises (CPA)	85	100	Н
54	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - high risk premises (CPA)	90	96	Н
55	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - medium risk premises (CPA)	90	92	Н
56	Trading standards, levels of business compliance of businesses visited - low risk premises (CPA)	90	91	Н
57	Customer Satisfaction levels – overall satisfaction with EH service	80	74	Н
58	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (BVPI, CPA)	60	76.7	Н
59	Percentage of major planning applications determined in under 13 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	60	75	Н
60	Percentage of minor planning applications determined in under 8 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	65	84	Н
61	Percentage of other planning applications determined in under 8 weeks (BVPI, CPA)	80	92	Н
62	The percentage of applicants and those commenting on planning applications satisfied with the service received (BVPI, CPA)	78	76	Н
63	Plan Making – Have a development plan (BVPI, CPA)	yes	yes	
64	Plan Making – Milestones (BVPI)	yes	yes	
65	Plan making – monitoring report (BVPI)	yes	yes	
66	Percentage of appeals allowed against authority's decision to refuse planning application (BVPI, CPA)	25	22	L
67	Quality of service checklist (BVPI, CPA)	94	94	Н

	Indicator	Target	Performanc	е
68	Total number of conservation areas in local authority area (BVPI)	64	64	
69	Percentage of conservation areas with an up-to- date character appraisal (BVPI)	14	12.5	Н
70	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals (BVPI)	5	0	Н
71	Percentage of Council land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity purposes	2.8	13.42	Н

Abbreviations:

BVPI Best Value Performance Indicator

CP Corporate Plan

CPA Comprehensive Performance Assessment

LAA Local Area Agreement

LPSA Local Public Service Agreement

H A high figure represents good performance

L A low figure represents good performance

19th June 2007

SAFETY ISSUES ON TRUNK ROADS

Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

To advise Members on the background and developments regarding safety on Trunk Roads within Herefordshire.

Background

Prior to 1998 all trunk roads within the County were maintained by the Council acting as Agents to the Department of Transport. In 1998, on Local Government Reorganisation, Herefordshire Council was reformed and management of trunk road matters passed from Local Authorities to the Highways Agency.

Currently all, trunk roads in the county namely the A49 from Brimfield to Bridstow, The A449 from Bridstow to the M50, the A40 from Ganarew to Lea and the A465 from Hereford to Llangua are managed and maintained by AmeyMouchel/ InterRoute on behalf of the Highways Agency. The majority of these roads are included in maintenance area 9 that also includes high speed, high traffic volume trunk roads and motorways in the Birmingham Area.

Current Issues

Whilst responsibility for safety matters on the trunk road network rests with the Highways Agency, accident statistics for trunk roads within the county are included in Herefordshire's figures for the purpose of key performance indicators.

Accidents on the trunk road network within the county have a detrimental effect on the local community and any subsequent road closures may require trunk road traffic to be diverted onto county roads resulting in increased danger to residents and road users and also damage to road surfaces.

Following a number of accidents on the trunk road network, in particular a number of serious and fatal accidents on the A49 at Ashton, Members and Staff lobbied Highways Agency Officials requesting the introduction of speed limits and also improvements to road signing, markings and surfaces.

Initially progress was slow due to the different priorities of the Highways Agency and the Council. However some success has now been achieved, a number of safety improvements have been made and more are planned.

In addition liaison between the Council and the Highways Agency has been improved, quarterly meetings are now held to discuss all trunk road issues likely to have an impact on Herefordshire. Staff from both organisations discuss issues arising on a daily basis, when necessary.

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Diversion routes for emergency road closures have been agreed and early detailed discussion is undertaken on major schemes.

It is intended that improved and increased liaison continues to take place at all levels in order to minimise the effect of acknowledged differences in priorities of the Council and the Highways Agency

RECOMMENDATIONS

That subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make to the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) the report be noted.

Background papers

None

SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP – HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update members on the progress on the Scrutiny Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire Review and consider the Committee's membership on the Review Group.

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

- 3. Members of the Strategic Monitoring Committee at their meeting on 20th July 2006 identified a number of issues as possible areas for scrutiny. At its meeting on 25th September 2006 Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed a scoping statement for the review and appointed Cllr KG Grumbley as Chairman and former Councillors: PJ Dauncey, JGS Guthrie and JW Newman to the serve on the review.
- 4. The Review was undertaken between October and December 2006 and their report, with recommendations, was submitted to the meeting on 12th March 2007 for consideration and submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment). However, as shown in the minutes of the meeting, considered earlier in this agenda, the Committee concluded that, pending the outcome of the government's review of the National Waste Strategy, the draft report be circulated to Parish Councils for comment and that a report summarising the comments, together with a summary of the outcome of the review of the government's National Waste Strategy, together with the draft report of the Review Group be considered at the next meeting (June 2007).
- 5. In view of the fact that the outcome of the governments' review of the National Waste Strategy has only recently been made available and the work of Parish Councils has been disrupted due to parish elections this work was held in abeyance.
- 6. Following this Council's elections the Review Group lost three of its members and it is therefore recommended that Councillor KG Grumbley continue as Chairman of the Review Group and that three Members of the Committee be appointed to continue the review in accordance with the Scoping Statement.
- 7. This Committee will consider the resultant Scrutiny Review report prior to submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing). It is anticipated that the draft report of the review will be submitted to the September Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT;

- a) Councillor KG Grumbley continue as Chairman of the Review Group and that three additional members be appointed to continue the review in accordance with the Scoping Statement;
- b) The resultant draft report of the Review Group be included for consideration in the work programme for the September 2007 meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.

SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP - DRAFT TRAVELLER'S POLICY

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update members on the progress on the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Travellers' Policy.

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

- 3. At the Environment Scrutiny Committee of the 4th December 2006 it was agreed that the finalised draft policy be issued for consulatation before being submitted to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for final approval.
- 4. Following early consultation and issues arising from one of the Travellers' Sites during January it has become apparent that there are issues relating to the tenure of Travellers' on Herefordshire Council sites that require addressing as part of the Policy. This work is approaching completion but has not yet been finalised.
- 5. More importantly, since the last meeting a Review of Traveller Site need across the West Midlands Region has been undertaken. Whilst under the original timetable it would have been possible to include this in the final document in July it is clear that there is not agreement over the final document. This means there is likely to be a delay in our ability to incorporate this into the final report. The first draft report had started to apply figures to the number of extra pitches required in the West Midlands and this document will clearly have an impact on the final Policy Document for Herefordshire.
- 6. Since the meeting of the 31st March 2007 there has been a change in the Membership of the Environment Scrutiny Committee and it is therefore recommended that four Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee be nominated to form the Scrutiny Review Group to consider the issues and evidence and draft the Scrutiny Review Report for the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing). The Review should determine and make representations to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Stretegic Housing) on the:
 - a. Acceptability of the Draft Policy for the Council.
 - b. Identifies any areas that require amendment, addition or deletion.

- c. Identifies any further areas of work that need to be undertaken on the Draft Policy
- 7. This Committee will consider the Scrutiny Review report prior to submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT; Four Members of Environment Scrutiny Committee be

nominated to form a Review Group for the Draft Herefordshire Travellers' Policy as detailed in paragraph 6

above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Herefordshire Council Traveller's Policy - November 2006

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Appendix 2 attempts to track those items that the Committee has discussed and expect action or outcome. Some of these items may already appear in the suggested work programme.
- Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
- 8 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.

APPENDIX 1

Sept 2007				
Officer Reports	Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity.			
	 Review of Polytunnels – Executive response to Scrutiny Review and update. 			
	Capital Budget Monitoring.			
	Revenue Budget Monitoring.			
	Report on Performance Indicators.			
	Committee Work Programme			
Scrutiny Reviews	 Findings of the Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire Review Group. 			
	 Findings of the Travellers Policy Development Review Group. 			
	Dec 2007			
Officer Reports	Good Environmental Management (GEM).			
	Capital Budget Monitoring.			
	Revenue Budget Monitoring.			
	Report on Performance Indicators.			
	Committee Work Programme.			
Scrutiny Reviews				
	March 2007			
Officer Reports	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.

Date	Issue and decision	Resultant action or outcome
12/3/07	Biodiversity Issues and the development of a strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity	The Committee is awaiting a progress report. This is scheduled for September 2007 in the work programme.
	RESOLVED: That	
	a) a) The Cabinet Member (Environment) is recommended to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council in discussion with Member, the Committee and Directorates prior to a wider stakeholder and public consultation and in the light of guidance to be published by DEFRA; and	
	b) b) A further report on progress of the Biodiversity Strategy be included in the Committee work programme for the September 2007 meeting.	
12/3/07	Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire (d) that the Executives response be reported to the Committee in due course.	The findings of the review were passed to the Cabinet Member (Environment) and Cabinet considered the recommendations at its meeting on 22nd March. Cabinet agreed the recommendations and added "(d) a Supplemental Planning Document be prepared on polytunnel developments to a timetable to be arranged by the Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Local Development Scheme be amended accordingly in consultation with growers and the community." In view of the additional recommendation it is suggested that the
		executive response report, together with an update on progress in

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Date	Issue and decision	Resultant action or outcome
		relation to part (d) above, be included in the work programme for the September 2007 meeting.
12/3/07	Resolved: That a) a) the report by the Household Waste Recycling Review Group be circulated to Parish Councils for comment; b) b) A report summarising: any comments from the Parish Councils; the outcome of the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy together with the report on the Household Waste Recycling Review be submitted to the next meeting.	Position report included in the agenda for this meeting.