

# Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday, 3rd December, 2007**

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Time: **9.30 a.m.**

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

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

*For any further information please contact:*

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**County of Herefordshire  
District Council**



# AGENDA

## for the Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillor 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, A Seldon and PJ Watts

	Pages
1. <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence.	
2. <b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b> To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4. <b>MINUTES</b> To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2007.	
<b>Minutes of meeting held 9th November 2007</b>	
While the printed paper version of the agenda indicates that the minutes are to follow the minutes have been inserted into this electronic version.	
5. <b>SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY</b> To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.	
6. <b>HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION</b> To consider progress in the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy for Herefordshire Council, and seek the views of the Environment Scrutiny Committee upon the draft document.	1 - 14
7. <b>POLYTUNNEL DEVELOPMENTS IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b> To consider progress in the control of polytunnel development in the County since the matter was last considered by this Committee in March 2007 when the findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group were reported.	15 - 16
8. <b>ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE PLAN: PERFORMANCE FOR THE SIX-</b>	17 - 30

**MONTH PERIOD TO SEPTEMBER 2007**

To update Members on the progress towards achievement of the targets for 2007-08 in the Directorate Plan.

**9. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

To consider the Committee work programme.

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## **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.

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

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

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

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**MINUTES of the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Friday, 9th November, 2007 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Present:** Councillor RI Matthews (Chairman)  
Councillor KG Grumbley (Vice Chairman)

**Councillors:** GFM Dawe, JHR Goodwin, JW Hope MBE, TW Hunt, MD Lloyd-Hayes, PM Morgan, AT Oliver, A Seldon and PJ Watts

**In attendance:** Councillors PA Andrews, WLS Bowen, PJ Edwards and DB Wilcox  
(Cabinet Member – Highways and Transportation)

**22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor MAF Hubbard.

**23. NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor GFM Dawe substituted for Councillor MAF Hubbard.

**24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

During discussion on agenda item 11 Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire – Councillor PJ Edwards declared a personal interest as the former Cabinet Member (Environment).

**25. MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting Councillor GFM Dawe had submitted a number of suggested amendments to the minutes, copies of which were available prior to the meeting. Councillor GFM Dawe and Councillor M Lloyd-Hayes expressed concerns that the minutes should contain a fuller record of the meeting in that the minutes didn't mention there being no specific budget for scrutiny or the estimated cost of undertaking a scoping report. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded Members that minutes were not a verbatim record but a summary of proceedings that included only the essence of the discussion and the decision. While in most cases the suggested amendments added to the understanding of the meeting the Committee agreed that the printed Minutes represented an accurate record.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.**

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

A Member of the public made general comments in relation to road safety which were noted.

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

The Committee received a presentation by Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) on key issues in his portfolio area. A copy of his presentation has been appended to the agenda in the minute book.

The Cabinet Member reported on four main areas namely: an overview of the Highways and Transport service; achievement in 2006/07; funding, and work underway and for the future.

An overview of the Highways and Transport service. He highlighted the wide range of important services provided; the Council's strategy towards implementing the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and that the Service had been awarded the Centre of Excellence award following its successes in road safety and providing public transport services. Information packs had also been provided to other highway authorities setting out best practice in 11 areas of operation.

Achievement during 2006/07. He then commented on the areas of: Key Performance including helping pedestrians by the restoration of the Victoria Footbridge; promoting sustainable transport including school travel plans, work place travel plans, cycle parking and new cycle routes. Supporting Public Transport including increased patronage, free travel for people over 60 and travel corridor enhancement. Further achievements included the excellent response by the service to the July flooding and in maintaining the massive network of highways, which included bridges and street lighting.

Funding. He highlighted that capital funding under the LTP including the LPSA2G/SRSG totalled £10,889,000. Following completion of a good submission a Government bonus of 5% had been expected, however, the Government had reduced the bonus scheme to 3%. The LTP covered the period 2001/2 to 2010/11 and while the level of annual funding during the early years had been increasing he warned that levels of funding were now decreasing. There were also issues concerning supporting the revenue funding from LTP funding. On general revenue funding he reported that this stood at £9,266,000 being approximately 5% of the Council Tax.

Work underway and the future. He highlighted a number of schemes or developments including: tackling flooding in Hereford and Ross-on-Wye; the cost of the Streetscene service; the Rotherwas Access Road which was due for completion in Spring 2008 and the Holme Lacy Road improvements which were on track for completion. He encouraged Members to vote in the bid for Sustrans Connect 2 – Rotherwas River Wye Crossing Big Lottery funding. Due to ongoing negotiations he was unable to confirm the site of the Northern Park and Ride site. Negotiations were also underway for a site on the South side of the City. The Service was working with the ESG Co (Edgar Street Grid) to help clarify transport benefits and ensure impacts were properly mitigated. Work was underway on road safety improvements and speed indicating devices. Various initiatives to improve public transport, including rail, were being developed or underway.

On questioning the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) the Committee noted the following points:

- A number of parish councils received payment under the 'Lengthsman' scheme to undertake a range of predefined works, however, should further works be required then these would be considered.
- Regular meetings were held with bus operators to discuss provision, subsidies and timetabling, which included representatives of Children's

Services Directorate to represent school bus provision. The monitoring, including spot checks, of subsidised services was undertaken. A suggestion was made whether school busses returning to their depots could be utilised as services busses. Also during debate an issue was raised whether operators allowed bicycles and dogs onto busses.

- Talks continued with the Highways Agency concerning road safety on trunk roads in the County.
- While £1.2m was received from the government towards concessionary fares the Council still provided a subsidy.
- If the County failed to win Big Lottery funding for the Sustrans Rotherwas cycle/walkway then the Council would need to look at where it placed this project in its transport priorities.
- A view was expressed that the Council could do more to improve rail travel through membership of rail partnerships. Also that the Council could consider employing a rail officer.
- Responding to a claim that an Outer Distributor Road was contra to the intentions of the Carbon Reduction Plan the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) replied that moving traffic created less emissions than standing traffic and that the emissions from moving traffic were more dispersed.
- The term Outer Distributor road more accurately described the function of the road. i.e. it will distribute traffic around the city rather than simply allow long distance "through traffic" to bypass the city.

The Chairman thanked Councillor DB Wilcox Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) for his presentation and answering the Committee questions.

## **28. REPORT BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING)**

Director of Environment gave an oral overview of key elements of the Environment programme area on behalf of the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing).

The Director of Environment and the Head of Planning Services highlighted the following issues:

- elements of the waste subject would be mentioned during a later agenda item however, it was noted that the joint waste contract with Worcestershire was complex and crucial and that major penalties could be incurred in the future if the contract was wrong. The current collection contract was being reviewed, the correct infrastructure needed to be in place to deal with the resultant waste and significant investment would be needed.
- the service was consulting on implementing the National initiative 'score on the door' scheme. Following a food hygiene inspection of the premises the score would be publicly displayed on the premises door there by providing a competitive advantage to premises with good hygiene standards. The Committee also noted that under a new inspection regime wherever possible inspections would be combined to reduce the number of visits and disruption to premises.
- Discussions were ongoing concerning increasing the level of service provided during out of hours towards antisocial behaviour (noise) issues. As part of this discussion meetings were being held with the police to co-ordinate actions and pool data.
- Good progress was being made with the Local Development Framework, which would replace the UDP and provide the core strategy to 2026. Officer and member involvement was needed to consider the infrastructure implications in meeting the regional planning targets.

- Edgar Street Grid (ESG) development would provide a key focus to new housing in the City. A Supplementary planning documents had been completed. ESG are working with three shortlisted developers to discuss pre planning application issues. A planning application for the site was expected in 2008.
- Work was ongoing concerning the Biodiversity Action Plan on which a report would be made to the December meeting of the Committee. The Plan facilitated the drawing down of government funding and considered issues concerning new or existing conservation areas.
- Planning application numbers and fees were holding up well. The Service were looking to upgrade the IT system in 2008 to enable planning applications and correspondence to be electronically scanned and made readily available.

Questioned on the provision of new housing the Committee noted that the UDP would continue for a further 3 years. There would need to be broader thinking around the type of housing provided and infrastructure provision to enable the 16,500 new homes to be encompassed in the UDP.

Responding to questions on whether the Council could impose higher building standards to require developers to provide eco-style housing the Head of Planning Services reported that the Council could only invite developers to comply. He remarked that the larger developers may be willing to work to higher standards, however, economic issues seemed to prevail concerning the development of small plots by local developers. He hoped that the national regulations would be revised to reflect eco-policies.

The Committee further noted that issues concerning procedure and guidance on 'planning obligations' would be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

## 29. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE RESTRUCTURE

The Committee received an oral update from the Director of Environment on the restructure of the Environment Directorate.

The Director reported that he had inherited the 2007/08 budget for the Directorate. He had therefore had to consider the future financial position based on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. In line with this the Directorate's budgets would not receive any uplift for non-salary inflation, which would be further affected by recent increases in fuel charges. Added to this he needed to address the cost of improving the IT systems in the directorate and make further moves to co-locate staff to improve efficiency, and to improve staff development and training.

Due to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review and levels of inflation, he anticipated needing to make £1.8m of savings. He was therefore looking at a number of options including a maximum reduction of 60 personnel posts in the Directorate. He currently estimated that this would involve approximately 40 posts resulting in 20 to 25 redundancies. A project board had been set up involving Members, staff and unions, to oversee the review. He had also set up a project team to look at maximising the budget and a review of the contract with Amey Wye Valley Ltd had been initiated with a remit to save £1m without reducing the service.

He anticipated that the review would be completed by the end of January 2008 with

the aim of implementing changes by the end of April 2008, however, he emphasised that the Council needed to get it right so the timetable may vary.

Questioned on cuts to services he categorically assured the Committee there would be no reductions to services provided investment was made in IT services and staff were co-located.

The Committee briefly discussed the issues concerning the availability of a suitable building to co-locate staff and the Councils ability to vary the Amey Wye Valley Ltd contract.

A number of Members expressed concern regarding when they had been informed of the proposals.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

### **30. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING**

Members were advised of progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme for Environment within the overall context of the Herefordshire Capital Programme.

The Director of Resources representative reported that the total of the Capital Programme had increased to £28,931,000, as set out in appendix 1 to the agenda report, from £27,004,000 notified to the 19 June 2007 meeting. This was a net increase of £1,927,000 and details of these budget changes were set out in the agenda report.

On scrutinising the report the Committee noted that:

- Finance for improvements or developments to the cycle network were spread over a number of budget headings. It was also noted that while the cycle network wasn't extensive in the market towns this issues was being looked at.
- Responding to whether the current unspent budget for traffic calming could be spent in villages the Committee noted that any underspend would be reallocated to other parts of the LTP programme.
- The Director of Environment confirmed that funding was being sought to undertake archaeological investigations on either side of the Rotherwas Ribbon site.
- Questioned on the repayment period under prudential borrowing the Committee noted that this was dependant on the type of scheme and the life of the asset, which could be over 10 to 20 years.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

### **31. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING**

The Committee were advised of the financial position for the Environment Programme area budgets for the period to 30th September 2007.

The Director of Resources representative reported that it was expected that the Environment Revenue budget for 2007/08 will be underspent by a net amount of £357,000. He reported that the Environment revenue budget for 2007/08 had reduced from the amount reported in June 2007 (£25,021,000) to £24,741,000. The

reduction of £280,000 was set out in the agenda report.

While scrutinising the Revenue report the Committee noted the following points in response to questions raised:

- Clarification was given concerning the transfer of staff, and resultant transfer of staffing budgets, to the 'info by phone' team.
- Following the ending by the City Council of the service level agreement for various services the highways and transportation budget had been allocated an additional income budget in relation to Christmas Lights.
- Questioned on the levels of fee income and staffing costs the committee noted that the report and appendix was a top-level report to indicate expenditure at budget head levels. While a more detailed report could be provided the Director of Environment reported that his services managers were currently undertaking a performance cost comparison against other authorities.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

### **32. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE**

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

The Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor KG Grumbley, reported that the review Group had submitted its findings in March 2007 (appendix 1 to the agenda report) however, it was agreed that the report be held over pending the then awaited results of the Governments review of the National Waste Strategy. The Committee in June 2007 agreed that Councillor Grumbley, together with Councillor PJ Edwards, review the scrutiny findings in light of the governments review and resubmit the scrutiny report.

Councillor KG Grumbley reported the review had been carried out in accordance with the scoping statement (appendix 1 to the report) and provided a detailed commentary on the original report. He then commented on the implications for Herefordshire arising from the Government's Review of the National Waste Strategy and highlighted that as anticipated the Government had set higher targets for recycling and composting of household waste and would be increasing the standard rate of landfill tax, as indicated in the supplementary report.

He further reported that since compiling the report and supplemental report he had learned that the new waste collection contract for Herefordshire was unlikely to come into operation until Summer 2009 when a new recycling plant should be operational near Worcester. Based on this assumption he recommended that the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) consider further extending the current coloured bag collection system to areas of the County not currently covered. He further commented that the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) had indicated to him that he was currently minded to introduce weekly black bin (residual waste) collection with recycled materials being collected fortnightly.

The Chairman suggested that in view of concerns over alternate weekly collections and the change to wheelie bins that a seminar on waste collection and disposal options be held for all members and that at the same time all town and parish councils be consulted over this sensitive issue.

Questioned on the recycling of commercial waste the Committee noted that this comprised a sizable element of the waste stream and a number of members



suggested that the Council should encourage the Government to take on the issue of reducing this element of waste.

Responding to a number of questions the Director of Environment commented that: the judicial review appeal for the planning application at Madley (proposed autoclave facility) was that morning being heard in the High Court. The issues of wheelie bin use at terrace premises would need serious consideration. Black bags left in the street constituted fly tipping and could, as a first resort, be tackled by fixed penalty notices.

The Committee questioned the capital cost of changing to wheelie bins compared with the cost of black bags. In response the Waste Services Manager reported that from a study undertaken by WRAP, bag collection for refuse and recycling was the most expensive form of collection. If Herefordshire changed to wheelie bins then the cost of the bins and the change to the collection fleet could be factored into the cost of the collection contract.

In view of the range of issues concerning waste collection and disposal three Members suggested deferring consideration of the report until after the previously suggested seminar.

The Committee considered whether it wished to approve the report including supplementary recommendations or defer consideration until the after a seminar on waste collection and disposal. The Committee decided to agree the report and supplementary recommendations.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) **subject to part b below the Committee agree the findings of the original Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire review and the supplementary recommendations identified in the agenda report for submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing);**
- b) **The Committee strongly recommends that before any further consideration is given to the suggestion of alternate weekly collections and the change-over to "wheelie bins", that a seminar on Waste Collection and Disposal Options be held for all members, and that at the same time, all Town and Parish Councils be consulted over this very sensitive issue;**
- c) **The Executives 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**
- d) **A further report on progress in response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

**33. REVIEW OF TRAVELLERS POLICY - UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the progress of the scrutiny review of the Council's Travellers' Policy.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards representative reported that in December 2006 an initial draft policy had been produced and considered for consultation, however, subsequent work at sub-regional level in the area of Travellers' Housing Needs had necessitated further work on the policy being temporarily put on hold. While the outcome of the sub-regional Travellers' Housing Needs work was still awaited, other work on the policy had progressed to a point

where it was considered appropriate to hold further meetings of the review group. It was anticipated that the findings of the review group would be reported to Committee in March 2008.

**RESOLVED: That the current position regarding the review of the Travellers' Policy be noted and the findings of the review be reported for consideration to the March 2008 meeting of the Committee.**

#### **34. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its work programme as set out at appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee decided that the Waste Strategy issue, referred from Strategic Monitoring Committee, be considered following the seminar on waste collection and disposal, referred to earlier in minute No. 32.

In relation to the two parking issues raised by Councillor MAF Hubbard the Committee agreed that Members inform the Head of Highways and Transportation of issues and that a report be presented to the March 2008 meeting.

**RESOLVED: that subject to the above the Committee work programme be approved.**

The meeting ended at 12.55 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**

# HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

**Report By: Director of Environment**

## Wards Affected

County-wide

## Purpose

1. To consider progress in the preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy for Herefordshire Council, and seek the views of the Environment Scrutiny Committee upon the draft document.

## Financial Implications

2. The adoption of the strategy will not of itself have any direct financial consequences. However it will not be possible to meet fully all the objectives and actions in the 3-year strategy within the existing budgets of those services responsible for implementing the actions identified. The intention should, however be to make progress in all the areas described within the strategy, and monitoring progress should identify whether resources need to be redirected. The funding of many activities is complicated: for example some are pursued through combination of funding with partners; some through encouraging other organisations to pursue them independently; some through bids to grant giving bodies; and some through realigning budgets. In some areas the Council has statutory obligations to meet duties and responsibilities; while others are driven by the need to meet targets. In both instances budgets should reflect this. The key to determining whether budgets need to be realigned is a comprehensive and effective monitoring procedure (see paragraph 11 below).

## Background

3. Environment Scrutiny Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 recommended the Cabinet Member for Environment develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council, carrying out internal consulting and seeking the views of this Committee, in particular in the light of advice anticipated by DEFRA arising from a new biodiversity duty placed on public authorities. A report was to be submitted to this Committee in September but deferred until December because of the extent of other business. A draft strategy document was circulated to Committee members at the March meeting.
4. The draft strategy was circulated within the Council and a copy also placed on its website. In addition to the Environment Directorate, those services most closely involved with matters where biodiversity issues may arise include Property Services (especially in relation to small holdings, land holdings such as Rotherwas Industrial estate, and school grounds maintenance) and the Parks, Countryside and Leisure Development Services (especially parks, open space, commons). Both those Services have identified areas where they are undertaking or could undertake measures to enhance biodiversity. Although they have and will continue to seek

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager on (01432) 261783

resources, including from external sources to undertake work that contributes to increasing biodiversity, funding and staff resources remain issues.

5. Since the March meeting DEFRA has issued guidance to public authorities in general and local authorities more specifically upon how they should have regard to the conservation biodiversity which is a new duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2007. Appendix 1 attached is a briefing note upon implementing the “*new biodiversity duty*”, derived from the DEFRA guidance.
6. Officers have reviewed the draft biodiversity strategy (Appendix 2 is issued as a separate document) in the light of the DEFRA guidance, comments received and changes in Government’s approach to national indicators. The six objectives and associated actions and projects included within the draft Biodiversity Strategic compare closely with those activities described in the DEFRA advice. A comparison between the two has been made and a summary is set out in Appendix 3. It can be seen from this that there are a limited number of actions and projects described in the draft Biodiversity Strategy that are not reflected in the DEFRA guidance. The Council should, nevertheless continue to promote these and they have the support of the wider Biodiversity Partnership work especially in relation to implementing the LBAP.
7. There are also a limited number of actions suggested in the DEFRA guidance that are not included in the draft Biodiversity Strategy. These include:
  - Local Biodiversity Action Plans are among the elements local authorities should build upon when preparing Community Strategies (Section 2.4 of the guidance);
  - Local Area Agreements (LAAs) provide an opportunity for local authorities to take action to deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity, cross cutting with health, community cohesion and education (Section 2.5); and
  - Green Infrastructure (the multi-function and benefits of greenspace in concert with land development as distinct from open space planning) can play a positive role in achieving the objectives of clean air, water, soil and biodiversity conservation (Section 2.7)
8. Integration of biodiversity fully into the Community Strategy is an objective being pursued by Herefordshire Environment Partnership, upon which this Council is represented. Protection of the environment is identified as a key local issue under the Community Strategy theme ‘Safer and Stronger Communities’ and the Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan is referred to.
9. Reference is made in the DEFRA guidance to the possibility of drawing up local priority biodiversity targets for inclusion within LAAs. Since publication of this advice, however, Government has commenced a process of reducing the number of national indicators to less than 200 from which each local strategic partnership can pick up to 35. A draft list has been issued for consultation and it includes a national indicator (reference - NI197) for “*Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites*”. The definition of what this will encompass is expected at the end of November and should this advice be received in time, the committee will be advised verbally. It is expected that even if this indicator is not chosen as one that should be monitored as part of the negotiated LAA it will have to be reported on and may influence any Corporate Area Assessment for the Council.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager on (01432) 261783

10. Green infrastructure is an emerging concept whereby a range of environmental land uses and designations are looked at in a comprehensive study, which forms the basis for an integrated green infrastructure strategy to be implemented, primarily, through the Local Development Framework. Government Office for the West Midlands is funding such a study for Herefordshire as part of the work considered necessary following the 'growth point' designation. The study phase should be completed in February 2008 and followed then by the development of the strategy.
11. The strategy defines a monitoring system to measure effectiveness and performance. One target for each objective is specifically highlighted. It is also suggested that service plans, strategies and guidance be monitored. These should also indicate whether the appropriate level of resources is available to meet the strategy and, more particularly the Council's obligations under the new biodiversity duty. Should the strategy be agreed, discussions will take place with those services directly responsible for specific actions and projects to determine the most appropriate way of reporting regularly on progress to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the**

- a) **The draft Biodiversity Strategy is amended to make reference to the work being undertaken to prepare a green infrastructure strategy as part of the evidence basis and approach to the Local Development Framework.**
- b) **Subject to any amendments the Committee may wish to make the Committee recommend the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) approve the Biodiversity Strategy 2007 - 2010; and**
- c) **The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) agree and implement reporting arrangements upon progress towards achieving the actions, projects and targets within the Biodiversity Strategy, following discussions with relevant services**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Herefordshire Council Environment Scrutiny Committee Report -12<sup>th</sup> March 2007
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty – DEFRA, May 2007
- Guidance for Public Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty – DEFRA, May 2007
- The Community Strategy for Herefordshire – The Herefordshire Partnership, 2006
- Herefordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan – Herefordshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2005
- Planning to Halt the Loss of Biodiversity – British Standards Institute, 2006
- The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships – DCLG, October 2007

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager on (01432) 261783



## BRIEFING NOTE: BIODIVERSITY DUTY

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) places a duty upon public bodies. It states:

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

1.2 Government guidance (DEFRA) has been produced, separately, for local authorities and other public bodies to assist them fulfil this duty.

### 2. Definitions

2.1 Biodiversity – *“the variety of life on earth, including all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them”.*

2.2 Conserving biodiversity – *“includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats as well as protecting them”.*

### 3. The Importance of Biodiversity

3.1 In addition to being important in its own right, biodiversity underpins local quality of life, gives a sense of place and offers opportunities for tourism, economic development, health promotion, sustainable communities and social cohesion. We also have international responsibilities with national and local systems in place to protect and enhance it.

### 4. Local Authority Good Practice

4.1 Four areas of activity are specifically highlighted where local authorities can play an important role in conserving biodiversity include:

- Leading through integrating biodiversity with local policies and strategies – making this a corporate priority; improving delivery through local policies; including this within Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and Housing Renewal; delivering through partnership working
- Managing local authority controlled land and buildings – managing designated sites, green infrastructure, road verges, and school grounds amongst others.
- Planning, infrastructure and development – supporting national planning policy; environmental and sustainability appraisals; including within forward planning and development control.
- Education, advice and awareness – within the education system; provision of advice to a range of interests; community engagement and awareness raising.

### 5. Implementing the Duty

5.1 The guidance proposes that to demonstrate it has fulfilled its *biodiversity duty* a local authority should show it has:

- Identified and taken opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions, and ensured that biodiversity is protected and enhanced in line with current statutory requirements;
- Raised awareness of staff, managers and elected members with regard to biodiversity issues;
- Demonstrated a commitment and contribution to key initiatives, in particular through performing a key role in relation to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), supporting the Local and/or Regional Record Centres, and playing the lead role in establishing a Local Site systems; and
- Demonstrated progress against biodiversity indicators and targets.

5.2 The need for additional expenditure in cases where local authorities are not meeting current statutory commitments cannot be discounted although there is thought to be scope for transferring costs through changing land management regimes. A range of potential external sources of money is highlighted, as is involving volunteers and local communities, and working in partnership with other organisations. Promoting cultural change through training and awareness and linking biodiversity measures with other programmes are also suggested to minimise the cost of fulfilling the *biodiversity duty*.

5.3 The guidance identifies the following key activities that Government indicates local authorities should be able to demonstrate:

- Providing leadership in the community – increasing the profile of biodiversity across the authority's functions.
- Examining opportunities to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant service areas and functions, taking steps to implement the opportunities identified.
- Managing local authority land holdings – a compliant local authority will manage its own sites in a way that is sensitive to biodiversity.
- Making efforts to raise awareness of all staff, managers and elected members with regard to biodiversity issues.
- Demonstrate a commitment and contribution to key local biodiversity initiatives, such as LBAPs and contributing to delivery outcomes, for BAP and LBAP listed priority species and habitats, where appropriate.
- Use of information and data and demonstrating progress against key biodiversity indicators, such as through Local Record Centres and Local Biodiversity Partnerships.
- Progress against any biodiversity indicator included in the local government performance framework.

5.4 A number of biodiversity indicators are suggested from a range of sources that could be used to measure performance and also used as the basis for drawing up local priority targets for Local Area Agreements.

## **6. Other Public Authorities**

6.1 Biodiversity conservation is not simply an environmental issue but a core component of sustainable development. Not only does it cut across a range of local authority services but other public services also. There are opportunities to deliver biodiversity conservation through Local Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.



**APPENDIX 3: Comparison between the Draft Biodiversity Strategy and DEFRA Guidance to Local Authorities on s40 Duty**

<b>Biodiversity Strategy Objective</b>	<b>Biodiversity Strategy – Proposed Actions</b>	<b>DEFRA Guidance (The relevant section where guidance can be found is referred to)</b>
<p>Objective 1 – To support co-ordination of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).</p>	<p>Action 1.1 – Play a leading role promoting the LBAP.</p> <p>Action 1.2 – Encourage others to participate in a local biodiversity partnership, seeking opportunities to progress actions.</p> <p>Action 1.3 - Play an active role in implementing plans for priority habitats and species.</p> <p>Action 1.4 – Assist with monitoring the delivery of BAP targets.</p>	<p>Section 2.8 – Local authorities have a key role to play in the selection, protection and management of local sites for nature conservation through the Biodiversity action Plan process</p> <p>Section 2.8 – LBAPs are delivered through partnership working. They secure resources from partners and external funders to implement the plans.</p> <p>Section 2.8 – As the representatives of local communities, local authorities have a key role to play in the selection, protection and management of local sites for nature conservation through the Biodiversity action Plan process.</p> <p>Section 2.8 - LBAPs are delivered through partnership working. ....they monitor and record the work undertaken</p>
<p>Objective 2 – To promote an understanding and support for biodiversity by local communities.</p>	<p>Action 2.1 – Be involved in producing and delivering a BAP Communication plan to involve all sectors of the local community in the BAP process.</p>	<p>Section 2.8 – LBAP Partnerships raise awareness and educate all parts of their communities through a variety of media.... have access to a wealth of information and local expertise.</p>

<p>Section 5.4 – Integrating biodiversity into specific projects and activities offers opportunities to provide informal education opportunities for people of all ages to learn about their natural environment.</p> <p>Section 1.4 – (Conserving biodiversity) helps to enhance our physical and mental health, by encouraging outdoor recreation, exercise and relaxation.</p> <p>Section 6.1 – Much can be achieved for biodiversity through volunteers and local communities.</p> <p>Section 4.5.2 – Natural England has developed a model and guidance to provide a benchmark for the provision of access to greenspace.</p> <p>Section 5.3 – Local authorities can promote biodiversity through the provision of advice to the public.</p> <p>No specific reference (The biodiversity duty also applies to Parish and Town Councils and it would therefore be beneficial to promote such an approach to them.)</p> <p>Section 5.2 – Encouraging the inclusion of biodiversity in education is a positive step that local authorities can take.</p> <p>Section 3.8 – Projects in school grounds offer opportunities to introduce children to the natural environment and to biodiversity in a practical way.</p>	<p>Action 2.2 – Provide opportunities for people to be involved in learning and studying the natural environment.</p> <p>Action 2.3 – Develop new and innovative biodiversity projects to involve older people, disadvantaged groups and isolated communities in nature conservation.</p> <p>Action 2.4 – Encourage the voluntary sector to provide opportunities for people to volunteer for practical conservation tasks on council owned/managed sites.</p> <p>Action 2.5 – Provide access to greenspace and wildlife sites, including seeking to meet standards for access where appropriate.</p> <p>Action 2.6 - Advise the public on the protection of birds and other animals and plants under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. 1981(as amended)</p> <p>Action 2.7 – Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity in Parish Plans, to include safeguarding habitats and enhancement/creation projects.</p> <p>Action 2.8 – Investigate incorporating biodiversity into school education.</p> <p>Action 2.9 – Encourage schools to become more involved in using their grounds for nature conservation.</p>	
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<p>Objective 3 – To guide sustainable development through planning policy and development control</p>	<p>Action 2.10 – Support sustainable tourism and marketing based on an attractive, wildlife rich countryside.</p> <p>Action 3.1 – Maintain a suite of planning policies for biodiversity in the development plan, accompanied by relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance/Documents.</p> <p>Action 3.2 – Ensure awareness of biodiversity conservation through the Local Development Framework</p> <p>Action 3.3 – Provide consistent and expert advice to Development Control so that full regard is taken of the protection of species and habitats.</p> <p>Action 3.4 Ensure all planning decisions are informed by adequate information, through the submission of quality ecological surveys and assessments.</p> <p>Action 3.5 – Obtain information on the biodiversity interest of sites prior to allocation of land for development.</p> <p>Action 3.6 – Incorporate biodiversity at an early stage into site development briefs.</p>	<p>No specific reference (This action has however been recognised as beneficial to the economy of the County.)</p> <p>Section 4.5.2 – Strategic objectives and policies should be developed for biodiversity, including objectives for enhancement.</p> <p>Section 4.5.2 – Strong and effective planning policies for biodiversity in LDFs and LDPs will enable biodiversity conservation to be given full and proper weight in development control decisions.</p> <p>Section 4.6 – Key elements (for development control) are screening development proposals for potential effects on biodiversity and seeking planning conditions and obligations to achieve biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Section 4.6 - Guidance is being developed for planners and ecologists to specify what information should be submitted with a planning application in order for it to be valid.</p> <p>Section 4.5.1 – A comprehensive study of baseline conditions and trends ..... enables the development of well informed spatial planning policies setting the overall framework for development proposals.</p> <p>Section 4.5.2 – Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance have a role in delivering biodiversity enhancement opportunities as apart of a development brief.</p>
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<p>Objective 4 – To apply a best practice approach when managing Council land</p>	<p>Action 3.7 - Encourage provision and take up of biodiversity training opportunities</p>	<p>Section 6.2 – In some cases it may be necessary to provide specialist training in incorporating biodiversity considerations in particular activities or service areas, e.g. planning or grounds maintenance.</p>
	<p>Action 3.8 – Continue to monitor performance in relation to the development plan through the Annual Monitoring Report</p>	<p>Section 4.5.4 – Local planning authorities are required to monitor the effectiveness of Local Development Documents and Development Plans, reporting through Annual Monitoring Reports.</p>
	<p>Action 3.9 – Assess the possibility of adopting PAS2010 Code of Practice – Biodiversity conservation standards for planning in the UK.</p>	<p>No specific reference. (This is a specification prepared by the British Standards Institute, and are recommendations and model procedures that planning authorities are recommended to adopt as a code of practice.)</p>
	<p>Action 3.10 - Seek protection of important hedgerows through the Hedgerow Regulations</p>	<p>No specific reference (This is a statutory duty under the Environment Act 1995).</p>
<p>Objective 4 – To apply a best practice approach when managing Council land</p>	<p>Action 4.1 - Provide ecological advice to develop and implement good practice, in particular to contribute towards meeting BAP targets.</p>	<p>Section 6.2 – Many local authorities have in-house expertise to advise staff on how they can have regard to biodiversity in their activities and functions.</p>
	<p>Action 4.2 - Take action to comply with legislative requirements in relation to managing our own statutory nature conservation sites.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 – Duties fall under the Habitats Directive and section 28G of the wildlife and Countryside Act as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.</p>
	<p>Action 4.3 – Manage Council owned SSSIs to recover and maintain their favourable condition.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 – The Secretary of State expects all public bodies will take full account of their responsibilities whenever their actions may affect SSSIs.</p>

<p>Action 4.4 – Seek to influence initiatives for Council owned non-statutory nature conservation sites to conserve and enhance their biodiversity interest.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 – Local sites are selected by local partnerships for their substantive nature conservation value. There are over 35,000 Local sites in England, many of which are owned or controlled by local authorities.</p>
<p>Action 4.5 – Maintain and increase awareness of Council departments in relation to designated sites through alert data.</p>	<p>Section 3.3 – Effective protection and management of designated sites requires all parts of the council to be aware of their location and extent.</p>
<p>Action 4.6 – Undertake surveys and audits of the biodiversity value of council land and premises.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 – A first step to maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity value of a local authority's estate is to assess the potential of the resource..... undertaking surveys.....</p>
<p>Action 4.7 – Seek to increase the take up by Council smallholdings of national agri-environment schemes</p>	<p>Section 3.7 – Local authorities have a key role to play in encouraging tenants to enhance the management of land for biodiversity through their tenancy agreements.</p>
<p>Action 4.8 – Initiate a project to identify new road verges of biodiversity importance and change cutting regimes where this will not compromise safety.</p>	<p>Section 3.6 – If managed with regard to biodiversity (road verges) can provide an important resource and act as corridors linking other habitats.</p>
<p>Action 4.9 - Survey and produce brief management plans for key public spaces having biodiversity value.</p>	<p>Section 3.5 – Local authorities own and manage a variety of green areas, which, if managed sympathetically, can provide important habitats for wildlife as well as offering opportunities for people to get close to nature.</p>
<p>Action 4.10 – Harness and promote the uptake of existing funding schemes to best manage council land for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Section 6.1 – A variety of external funding sources may help local authorities to meet biodiversity commitments.</p>
<p>Action 4.11 – Map Council land managed for biodiversity on a GIS layer</p>	<p>Section 3.3 – Effective protection and management of designated sites requires all parts of the council to be aware of their location and extent.</p>

	<p>Action 4.12 – Encourage new planting and landscaping schemes on Council land to include native tree species and shrubs appropriate to the local area and benefit wildlife</p> <p>Action 4.13 – Provide biodiversity training to grounds maintenance personnel and contractors</p> <p>Action 4.14 – Ensure biodiversity is systematically accounted for in decision-making and operations to meet the environmental management system ISO 14001.</p>	<p>Section 3.2 – Local authorities plant large numbers of trees and plants on their land, and by using native species can maximise the benefits for biodiversity.</p>
<p>Objective 5 – To collect and maintain data and ensure its effective use.</p>	<p>Action 5.1 – Play a leading role in the development of the Herefordshire Biological Record Centre</p> <p>Action 5.2 – Maintain site alert maps on the Council's GIS system for use by the Planning service and other departments</p> <p>Action 5.3 – Seek to improve knowledge of the location and extent of BAP priority habitats and species</p> <p>Action 5.4 – Undertake and promote relevant surveys of priority habitats and species in Herefordshire</p>	<p>Section 6.2 – It is important that training in relevant functions has regard to biodiversity issues, for example to staff and contractors involved in grounds maintenance, highways and buildings maintenance.</p> <p>Section 2.3 – Environmental management systems can help local authorities systematically deliver outcomes at a strategic level on resource efficiency ..... demonstrating it is serious about its environmental obligations.</p> <p>Section 4.5.1 – Local and/or regional record Centres can provide a vital role in enabling local authorities to obtain good quality baseline information on habitats and species.</p> <p>Section 3.3 – Effective protection and management of designated sites requires all parts of the council to be aware of their location and extent.</p> <p>No specific reference. (This is however part of the process for preparing, monitoring and reviewing LBAPs)</p> <p>No specific reference. (This is however part of the process for preparing, monitoring and reviewing LBAPs)</p>
<p>Objective 6 – To secure the protection, management and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest through</p>	<p>Action 6.1 – Provide information and advice to land managers and owners on wildlife legislation covering sites and species.</p>	<p>Section 5.3 – There are a number of ways in which local authorities can provide biodiversity advice to local businesses, organisations and landowners and managers.</p>

<p>assisting other land managers and owners.</p>	<p>Action 6.2 – Disseminate relevant advice produced by other organisations.</p>	<p>Section 5.3 – as above</p>
	<p>Action 6.3 – Adopt the Government’s latest guidance on local wildlife sites – “Local sites: Guidance on their identification, selection and management (2006)”, setting up a partnership to administer the system.</p>	<p>Section 4.5.3 – It is important for local authorities to play the leading role in establishing systems to conserve and enhance Local Sites.</p>
	<p>Action 6.4 – Take an active part in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Grasslands Forum.</p>	<p>Section 2.8 – LBAPs are delivered through partnership working. They secure resources from partners and external funders to implement the plans.</p>
	<p>Action 6.5 – Promote Council grant aid for local conservation projects.</p>	<p>No specific reference. (This is however part of the process for preparing, monitoring and reviewing LBAPs, and an activity that this Council has undertaken with partners for many years.)</p>
	<p>Action 6.6 – Review existing management agreements under s39 of the wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 when they come up for renewal.</p>	<p>No specific reference. (The power for local authorities to enter into management agreements with the owners of key nature conservation sites is provided by s39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)</p>
	<p>Action 6.7 – Participate in area based and landscape scale projects.</p>	<p>No specific reference. (This is an evolving approach to biodiversity conservation and is expected to form the basis for policies and actions within the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.)</p>





## POLYTUNNEL DEVELOPMENTS IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Report By: Head of Planning Services

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider progress in the control of polytunnel development in the County since the matter was last considered by this Committee in March 2007 when the findings of the Polutunnel Review Working Group were reported.

### Financial Implications

2. None

### Background

3. The Council had operated a Code of Practice in respect of the use of polytunnels for soft fruit production from 2003. A significant case concerning Tuesley Farm, Waverley Borough Council was determined in December 2006 with the judgement being published in February 2007. In the light of that judgement the Polytunnel Review Working Group reported to the Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007, that changes were needed in the way the Council sought to control this type of development. The Committee agreed with the findings and submitted the recommendations to Cabinet for consideration. Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 considered the issue and resolved, *inter-alia*, that all new polytunnels would henceforward require planning permission. A phased programme of enforcement action was also set out in the event that planning applications were not forthcoming.
4. The Cabinet decision, in respect the statement that "all new polytunnel developments within the county.... be treated as development requiring planning permission" has been challenged by way of Judicial Review. In effect, the words used are too absolute and go beyond the tests established in the "Tuesley Case" and other related cases. It is anticipated that a revised wording will be agreed by Cabinet and the Judicial Review process can then be set aside. The fact remains that the large scale polytunnels used by the main growers of soft fruit in the county are of a sufficient size, scale, degree of attachment to the ground and permanence (i.e. the "Tuesley tests") that they do need planning permission, and the relevant growers were informed of this view by letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007.
5. Since March 2007 planning officers have been in contact with all the main growers who use large scale polytunnels. In some cases a programme for removal has been agreed, in others planning applications have been submitted. Enforcement Action is now underway in respect of those growers who have not submitted applications and are not, apparently, intending so to do, and whose polytunnel installations damage material planning interests. A full schedule of cases can be provided if needed. Where planning

applications are received they are being reported to the Area Planning Sub-Committee in the ordinary way.

6. Following Cabinet's decision to accept the findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group and the work underway to implement that decision the Committee need to consider whether it requires further monitoring reports on this issue.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT that the Committee note the actions taken by Cabinet in response to the findings of the review outlined in the report and consider whether further reports are needed.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE PLAN:  
PERFORMANCE FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD TO  
SEPTEMBER 2007**

**Report By: Director of Environment**

**Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

1. To update Members on the progress towards achievement of the targets for 2007-08 in the Directorate Plan. The report has a similar format to that used for the Integrated Performance Report (IPR), but reports on performance only.

**Financial Implications**

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

**Content**

HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE	
•	2 of 57 Environment Directorate-lead indicators from the AOP are currently marked <b>R</b> . A large proportion of indicators remain <b>A</b> , many of which are measured through the council's Annual Satisfaction Survey. The results of the survey, against which an accurate judgement can be made, should be available early next year.
•	59% of indicators used in external judgements, where data is available, are currently showing an improvement against last year's performance.
•	Both LPSA indicators are judged <b>G</b> .

***Progress against the Council's AOP Priorities (Appendix A)***

1. Performance has been monitored for each indicator using the following system.

	<b>G</b>	On target/met target
	<b>A</b>	Some progress/data not yet available so not possible to determine trend
<b>R</b>		Not on target

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Michael Hainge, Director of Environment on 01432 260041

2. Analysis of performance against target by Council priority is detailed below:

Priority	No. of Indicators	Judgement			n/a <sup>1</sup>
		R	A	G	
Improving transport and the safety of roads	9	0	7	2	0
Sustaining thriving communities	36	2	24	3	7
Protecting the environment	10	0	4	3	3
Understanding the needs and preferences of service users and Council Tax-payers, and tailoring services accordingly	2	0	1	0	1
<b>Total number of indicators</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

3. Details of the indicators within each of the priorities above are in **Appendix A**.

### **Exceptions – indicators judged **R** at the end-of-September**

2 indicators are now judged as **R**. These are:

94 HC Grade for the year-on-year reduction in the total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with 'fly-tipping'

*The number of fly-tipping incidents has increased since May, following the introduction of permits at household waste amenity sites. Performance against this indicator has now levelled-off, but is not anticipated to improve above level 3 in the current financial year.*

96 HC % of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point where the Council is legally entitled to remove the vehicle

*Performance fell during the summer. One team deals with both abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping; handling a significant, and initially unexpected, increase in fly-tipping incidents resulted in a reduction in the response times for abandoned vehicles. Arrangements have now been put in place to provide back-up for the team and performance has improved in recent months; however, as the target is 100% this will not be achieved this year.*

### **Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)**

4. Both of the 2 LPSA targets were judged , **G**.

<sup>1</sup> 11 indicators have been considered as not suitable for awarding a judgement in this report, essentially because they are either tracker indicators or indicators that require a baseline to be set during the year.

***Local Area Agreement (LAA)***

5. For the LAA, no indicators were judged **R**, 4 **A** and 6 **G**. These include the LPSA indicators.

***Direction of Travel and CPA (Appendix B)***

6. In addition to those indicators which the council measures itself against through its Annual Operating Plan, the council is externally judged on its performance against a number of national indicators, including Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). Performance by the Environment Directorate against relevant indicators is shown in **Appendix B**. Primarily, the council is judged **on its performance against previous year**, rather than against target, and this comparison will be used by the Audit Commission to inform the annual Direction of Travel Assessment in February 2009.
7. Of those indicators where in-year data is currently available, the current direction of travel shows that 59% of indicators are on course to improve on last year, but 16% of indicators are predicted to be worse than last year. The focus of attention in the coming months will now be to at least maintain performance in those areas that are currently performing well against last year's outturn, and to address the current under-performance in those areas that are falling below last year's performance, where that is practicable.
8. A forecast CPA service score for Environment should be available in time for the next report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None



KEY									
<b>G</b>	On target/met target								
<b>A</b>	Some progress/data not yet available so not possible to determine trend								
<b>R</b>	Not on target								
Template	In-year data is not available so an action plan is used to monitor performance until data is available at year-end. This means that, even where actions are complete, they not move the indicator in the right direction.								
Tracker indicator	Actions over a 12 month period will have little or no impact on this indicator, but data will be monitored annually to show the rate of progress towards a longer term objective								
n/a	Either there is no mechanism for measuring performance this year or no target is required								
Performance Indicator Reference	Performance Indicator	Plan indicator is from	Baseline as per AOP or the most recent year-end outturn	Performance to date	AOP target	IPR judgement against target Red, Green or Amber (see KEY above)	Commentary on performance	Frequency of Reporting	Commentary (where relevant) for the current period
	Indicator		Baseline	July	September	Target		April-July April-September	
	Local Area Agreement (LAA)	✓	Local Public Service Agreement - second generation (LPSA2G)						
	Herefordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	✓		May	September				
		✓							
		✓		21%	16%	<=15%		<b>G</b>	
<b>54</b>	HCS	% of streets and public areas falling below Grade B for cleanliness (litter)	17%					<b>G</b>	Although performance has fallen compared with last year's outturn, performance is ahead of the same period last year.
				<p>Shaded boxes signify data was not due to be reported in this period; unshaded boxes signify data was expected but not available</p>					
				<p>Council priority</p>					
The indicators are listed under each council priority in turn. Indicators lead by partners are listed at the end of the appendix, with judgements to the end-of-July.									

APPENDIX A - AOP INDICATORS  
PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET

Reference Number	Indicator	Herfordshire Community Strategy (HCS)	Local Area Agreement (LAA)	Local Public Service Agreement - second generation (PSA2G)	Baseline	May	July	September	Target	Frequency of Reporting	Commentary (where relevant)
<b>Improve transport and the safety of roads</b>											
52	HCS No. of people (all ages) killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads	✓	✓	✓	119	43 (June)	84 (August)		<=134	G	Performance relates to the calendar year so is currently on track to achieve target, albeit marginal.
99	HC No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions				732	194 (June)	464 (August)		<=788	G	
6	HCS The percentage of adult residents in Herefordshire that usually travel to work for their main job by driving a car or van - on their own (Method of Travel to Work)	✓			61%				<=57%	A	
7	HCS Index of annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes into Hereford City	✓	✓		100.63	Templates			<=108	A	
7	HCS Index of annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes on principle rural road networks	✓	✓		100.63	Templates			<=109	A	Integrated transport projects included in the LTP are being implemented
72	HC Indexed number of cycling trips				118.99				=>118	A	
76	HC No. of passenger journeys per year on public buses in Herefordshire (thousands)				3,433,043				=>3,948,000	A	
83a	HC Principle Roads condition				14%	Templates			<=5%	A	Survey work has been brought forward so more timely use can be made of the data. The results should be reported as part of the next IPR to end-of-November.
83b	HC Non Principle Roads condition				21%				<=19%	A	The current highway maintenance plan is being delivered, but was affected by the recent flooding. The impact of flooding on the network has been assessed and details submitted under the Bellwin scheme
<b>Sustain thriving communities, including by securing more efficient, effective and customer-focused services, clean streets, tackling homelessness and effective emergency planning</b>											



APPENDIX A - AOP INDICATORS  
PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET

Reference Number	Indicator	Local Area Agreement (LAA)	Local Public Service Agreement - second generation (LPSA2G)	Baseline	May	July	September	Target	April-July	April-September	Frequency of Reporting	Commentary (where relevant)
54	HCS % of streets and public areas falling below Grade B for cleanliness (litter)	✓	✓	17%		21%	16%	<=15%	G	G	Monthly	Although performance has fallen compared with last year's outturn, performance is ahead of the same period last year.
92	HC Proportion of relevant land and highways from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible			2%		2%	1%	<=2%	G	G	Monthly	
93	HC Proportion of land and highways from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible			1%		0%	0%	<=1%	G	G	Monthly	
94	HC Grade for the year-on-year reduction in the total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with 'fly-tipping' (Grading 1 - very effective; 2 - effective; 3 - good; 4 - poor)			Grading 1 (very effective)		1	3	1	G	R	Monthly	The number of fly-tipping incidents has increased since May, following the introduction of permits at household waste amenity sites. Performance against this indicator has now levelled-off, but is not anticipated to improve above level 3 in the current financial year.
96	HC % of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point where the Council is legally entitled to remove the vehicle			99%			94.74%	100%	A	R	Monthly	Performance fell during the summer. One team deals with both abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping; handling a significant, and initially unexpected, increase in fly-tipping incidents resulted in a reduction in the response times for abandoned vehicles. Arrangements have now been put in place to provide back-up for the team and performance has improved in recent months; however, as the target is 100% this will not be achieved this year.
95	HC % of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area			66%				>=66%	A	A	Annually at end-of-January	
97	HC b Adult perceptions of improvement in CLEAN STREETS			-23%					n/a	n/a	Annually at end-of-January	
97	HC h Adult perceptions of improvement in PUBLIC TRANSPORT			-24%					n/a	n/a	Annually at end-of-January	
97	HC j Adult perceptions of improvement in ROAD AND PAVEMENT REPAIRS			-51%					n/a	n/a	Annually at end-of-January	
97	HC m Adult perceptions of improvement in THE LEVEL OF POLLUTION			-42%					n/a	n/a	Annually at end-of-January	
<b>Protect the environment, producing much less waste, recycling much more of what remains and reducing carbon emissions</b>												
56	HCS a Amount of household waste collected per person per annum	✓	✓	505.82kg		127,26kg (June) (cumulative)	219,33kg (August) (cumulative)	<=505kg	A	A	Monthly	
56	HCS b % of household waste going to landfill	✓	✓	72.85%		73.68% (June) (cumulative)	70.85% (August) (cumulative)	<=68.5%	A	G	Monthly	

APPENDIX A - AOP INDICATORS  
PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGET

Reference Number	Indicator	Local Area Agreement (LAA)	Local Public Service Agreement - second generation (LPSA2G)	Baseline	May	July	September	Target	April-July	April-September	Frequency of Reporting	Commentary (where relevant)
56	HCS c % of municipal waste (excluding household waste) recycled	✓		0%		0% (June) (cumulative) 100% (August) (cumulative)	0% (August) (cumulative)	0%	G	G	Monthly	Although current performance is behind target, projections suggest year-end performance <b>may</b> achieve target
56	HCS d % of municipal waste (excluding household waste) landfilled	✓		100%		100% (June) (cumulative) 19.42% (August) (cumulative)	100%	G	G	Monthly		
56	HCS e % of household waste recycled	✓		18.71%		18.02% (June) (cumulative) 19.42% (August) (cumulative)	==23.97%	A	A	Monthly		
55	HCS % of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in favourable condition	✓		22%		Tracker indicators, to be reported at year-end			A	n/a	Annually @ end-of-March	As a tracker indicator no judgement should have been made in the last report
57	HCS No. of key species	✓		No baseline		Tracker indicators, to be reported at year-end			n/a	n/a	Annually @ end-of-March	Key species are still to be defined
58	HCS Environmental/Climate change measure (Carbon per head)	✓		No baseline		Tracker indicators, to be reported at year-end			n/a	n/a	Annually @ end-of-March	
67	HC % of Council-owned or managed land without a nature conservation designation, managed for biodiversity			13.42%		Templates			A	A	Annually @ end-of-March	Data will be available at year-end
102	HC Council carbon dioxide equivalent emissions			To be set		10% reduction by 2010			A	A	Annually @ end-of-March	

KEY												
△	Performance is better than last year											
◁▷	Performance is either the same or likely to be the same as last year											
▽	Performance is worse than last year											
n/a	There is either no guidance to suggest whether high / low performance is good or bad; or, a direction of travel judgement does not apply to this indicator											
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator											
CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment - these indicators are used in CPA service assessments for Environment											
BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
82a i			The percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Local Authority for recycling	High	18.71%	18.02% (June)	19.42% (August)	Monthly	23.97%	△		
BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
82a i			The percentage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Local Authority for recycling	High	18.71%	18.02% (June)	19.42% (August)	Monthly	23.97%	△		

How often and when will data be reported

Current year's target

Performance to date

Last year's performance

Indication as to whether good performance is High or Low outturn

Performance Indicator

Performance Indicator - national reference

Shaded boxes signify data was not due to be reported in this period; unshaded boxes signify data was expected but not available

A number of the national indicators also feature in Appendix A, primarily through inclusion in either the LPSA or LAA. Where this is the case, the target may be different between appendices. This is because the LPSA and LAA targets were set using historical outturn data.

APPENDIX B - NATIONAL INDICATORS  
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AGAINST LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
82a ii			Tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent by the Local Authority for recycling	High	16,921.66	4,100.41 (cumulative) (June)	7,617.45 (cumulative) (August)	Monthly	22,444.11	<▷		
82b i			The percentage of household waste sent by the Local Authority for composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion	High	7.36%	8.3% (June)	9.73% (August)	Monthly	6.85%	△		
82b ii			The tonnage of household waste sent by the Local Authority for composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion	High	6,657.02	1,888.49 (cumulative) (June)	3,814.63 (cumulative) (August)	Monthly	6,413.94	△		
82c i			The percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	High	1.08%	0% (June)	0% (August)	Monthly	1.05%	▽		
82c ii			The tonnage of household waste arisings which have been used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	High	974.5	0 (June)	0 (August)	Monthly	983.16	▽		
82d i			The percentage of household waste arisings which have been landfilled	Low	72.85%	73.68% (June)	70.85% (August)	Monthly	68.50%	△		
82d ii			The tonnage of household waste arisings which have been landfilled	High	65,887.51	16,764.62 (cumulative) (June)	27,995.47 (cumulative) (August)	Monthly	63,792.96	<▷		
E6			Recycling and composting performance (BVPI 82a i + BVPI 82b i)	High	26.07%	26.32% (June)	29.15% (August)	Monthly	30.82%	n/a		
E26			The number of kilograms of household waste collected per head of the population	Low	505.82	127.26 (June)	219.33 (August)	Monthly	505.00	<▷		
84b			The percentage change from the previous financial year in the number of kilograms of household waste collected per head of the population	Low	-3.04%	-6.52% (June)	-1.42% (August)	Monthly	-0.15%	n/a		
91a			The percentage of households resident in the Local Authority's area served by a kerbside collection of recyclables	High	68%	70%		Quarterly	70%	△		
91b	E45		The percentage of households resident in the Local Authority's area served by a kerbside collection of at least 2 recyclables	High	68%	70%		Quarterly	70%	△		
99a i			The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions (in 2006)	Low	147				<134	△		This BVPI uses data from 2006. The number of KSIs in 2006 was 119.
99a ii			The percentage change in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the previous year	Low	4%				-28%	n/a		
99a iii			The percentage change in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the 1994-98 average	Low	-41%				-46%	n/a		

APPENDIX B - NATIONAL INDICATORS  
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AGAINST LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

BPVI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	September	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
	E12		The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions (in 2007)	Low	119 (2006)	43 (cumulative)	84 (cumulative) (August)	<130	n/a	
99b i			The number of children (aged under 16 years) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions (in 2006)	Low	13			<15	△	This BPVI uses data from 2006. The number of KSIs of children in 2006 was 10.
99b ii			The percentage change in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the previous year	Low	63%			-7%	n/a	
99b iii			The percentage change in the number of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the 1994-98 average	Low	-41%			-30%	n/a	
99c i			The number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions (in 2006)	Low	732			<788	△	This BPVI uses data from 2006. The number of slight injuries in 2006 was 663.
99c ii			The percentage change in the number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions since the previous year	Low	-6%			5%	n/a	
99c iii			The percentage change in the number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions since the 1994-98 average	Low	2%			10%	n/a	
	E40		The number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions (in 2007)	Low	663 (2006)	194 (cumulative)	464 (cumulative) (June)	<772	n/a	
100			Number of days of temporary traffic controls, or road closure, on traffic sensitive roads, caused by road works, per km of traffic sensitive road	Low	0	0		0	△	
109a			The percentage of major applications determined within 13 weeks	High	75%	59%	61%	76%	<△	Despite current performance falling below last year's outturn, expectations are that last year's performance may still be equalled
109b			The percentage of minor applications determined within 8 weeks	High	84%	78%	80%	85%	<△	
109c			The percentage of 'other' applications determined within 8 weeks	High	92%	91%	91%	93%	<△	
	E2		The percentage of major applications determined within 13 weeks (to-end-of-June)	High	63.89% (June 2006)			60%	n/a	
	E2		The percentage of minor applications determined within 8 weeks (to-end-of-June)	High	77.11% (June 2006)			65%	n/a	
	E2		The percentage of 'other' applications determined within 8 weeks (to-end-of-June)	High	85.84% (June 2006)			80%	n/a	
165	E16		The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people, as a proportion of all crossings in the Local Authority area	High	92%	92%	92%	100%	<△	
166a	E21		Score against a checklist of best practice for Environmental Health	High	98.75%			100%	No data	

APPENDIX B - NATIONAL INDICATORS  
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AGAINST LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
166b	E27		Score against a checklist of best practice for Trading Standards	High	100%			Annually @end-of-March	100%	No data		
199a			The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) that is expressed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level	Low	17%	21%	21%	16%	Monthly	15%	△	The year-end forecast is 15%
				Low	5%		0%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to primary retail / commercial land use
				Low	12%		8%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to secondary retail / commercial land use
				Low	17%		18%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to high density housing
				Low	21%		35%		Quarterly	≤30%		This relates to low density social housing
				Low	10%		17%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to low density private housing
			Cleanliness of public places (litter and detritus)	Low	23%		20%		Quarterly	≤30%	n/a	This relates to industry / warehouse / retail sheds
				Low	20%		14%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to main roads
				Low	21%		14%		Quarterly	≤30%		This relates to rural roads
				Low	29%		29%		Quarterly	≤30%		This relates to other highways
				Low	14%		0%		Quarterly	≤20%		This relates to recreation areas
199b			The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of graffiti are visible	Low	2%	2%	2%	1%	Monthly	2%	△	
199c			The proportion of relevant land and highways (expressed as a percentage) from which unacceptable levels of fly-posting are visible	Low	1%	0%	0%	0%	Monthly	1%	△	
199d			The year-on-year reduction in the total number of incidents and increase in the total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with 'fly-tipping'	Low	Grading 1 (Very Effective)	1	1	3	Monthly	1	△	Following the introduction of the permit scheme at household waste sites there has been a significant increase in the number of incidents of fly-tipping. The score of 3 is predicted to remain for the year.
204	E42		The number of planning appeal decisions allowed against the authority's decision to refuse on planning applications, as a percentage of the total number of planning appeals against refusals of planning applications	Low	22%	30%	30%	32%	Monthly	21%	▽	
205	E43		The local authority's score against a 'quality of planning services' checklist	High	94%	94%	94%	94%	Monthly	94%	△	
215a			The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the Local Authority	Low	8.78	2.79	2.79	8.43	Monthly	5	△	
215b			The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a Distribution Network Operator (DNO)	Low	57.16	0	0	22	Monthly	30	△	
218a			The percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours of notification	High	98%			89.16%	Monthly	100%	▽	

APPENDIX B - NATIONAL INDICATORS  
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AGAINST LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
218b			The percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Local Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle	High	99%			94.74%	Monthly	100%	▽	Performance fell during the summer. One team deals with both abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping; handling a significant, and initially unexpected, increase in fly-tipping incidents resulted in a reduction in the response times for abandoned vehicles. Arrangements have now been put in place to provide back-up for the team and performance has improved in recent months; however, as the target is 100% this will not be achieved this year.
219b			Percentage of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up-to-date character appraisal	High	12.50%	20%	20%	20%	Monthly	26.56%	△	
223			Percentage of the local authority principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered	Low	14%				Bi-annually November & March	5%	No data	Survey work has been brought forward to September / October so that more timely use can be made of the data.
224a			Percentage of the non-principal classified road network where maintenance should be considered	Low	21%				Bi-annually November & March	19%	No data	The current highway maintenance plan is being delivered, but was affected by the recent flooding. The impact of flooding on the network has been assessed and details submitted under the Bellwin Scheme.
224b	E11		Percentage of the unclassified road network where structural maintenance should be considered	Low	24.28%				Bi-annually November & March	19%	No data	
E32			Trading standards, visits to high risk premises	High	85.7			17	Monthly	95	n/a	Performance is typical for this period of the year.
E33			Trading standards, levels of business compliance, high-medium- and low-risk premises	High	83.5% 85.3% 87.7%			98% 83% 100%	Monthly	92% 93% 90%	n/a	Performance is typical for this period of the year.
86			Cost of household waste collection per household	Low	£47.03				Annually @ end-of-March	£52.13	No data	
87			Cost of waste disposal per tonne of municipal waste	Low	£79.09				Annually @ end-of-March	£82.33	No data	
102			Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area undertaken each year	High	3,433,043				Annually @ end-of-March	3,948,000	No data	
106	E23		Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	High	76.70%				Annually @ end-of-March	60%	No data	
187	E18		Percentage of the category 1, 1a and 2 footway network where structural maintenance should be considered	Low	31%				Annually @ end-of-March	27.50%	No data	
200a			Did the Local Planning Authority submit the Local Development Scheme (LDS) by 28 March 2006 and thereafter maintain a 3-year rolling programme?	n/a	Yes				Annually @ end-of-March	Yes	△	The year-end forecast is Yes
200b	E44		Has the Local Planning Authority met the milestones that the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out?	n/a	Yes				Annually @ end-of-March	Yes	△	The year-end forecast is Yes
216a			The number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the Local Authority area], with respect to land contamination	n/a	2,896				Annually @ end-of-March	5,841	n/a	

APPENDIX B - NATIONAL INDICATORS  
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AGAINST LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE

BVPI	CPA	PAF	Indicator	Good Performance	Baseline	May	July	September	Frequency of Reporting	Target	Direction of Travel	Commentary
216b			The 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'	Low	0.2				Annually @ end-of-March	2	No data	
217			Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time	High	96.80%				Annually @ end-of-March	96.80%	No data	
E19			Intervention by the Secretary of State under Traffic Management Act powers	n/a	No				Annually @ end-of-March	No	n/a	
E30			Consumer satisfaction with trading standards service	High	82.9				Annually @ end-of-March	80	n/a	Surveys are now being conducted quarterly. The first survey has been undertaken, but results are not yet available.
E31			Business satisfaction with trading standards service	High	89.6				Annually @ end-of-March	90	n/a	Surveys are now being conducted quarterly. The first survey has been undertaken, but results are not yet available.
89	E38		% of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area	High	66%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
90a	E8A		The percentage of people satisfied with household waste collection	High	82%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
90b	E8B		The percentage of people satisfied with waste recycling	High	70%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
90c	E8C		The percentage of people satisfied with waste disposal	High	86%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
103			Satisfaction with passenger transport information	High	48%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	These indicators are included in this report because the outcome from 2006 (the baseline) will be used in the CPA results announced in February 2008 and 2009
E14			Satisfaction with passenger transport information (that have seen information)	High	70%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
104			Satisfaction with bus services	High	49%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
E15			Satisfaction with bus services (users)	High	62%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
111	E3		Satisfaction with Planning Service	High	76%				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	
E1			Progress with local transport plan	n/a	Good				Not measured in 2007-08		n/a	



## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Report By: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

- 1 To consider the Committee work programme.

### Financial Implications

- 2 None

### Background

- 3 In accordance with the Scrutiny Improvement Plan a report on the Committee's current Work Programme will be made to each of the scheduled quarterly meetings of this Scrutiny Committee. A copy of the suggested Work Programme is attached at appendix 1.
- 4 The programme may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Director of Environment in response to changing circumstances.
- 5 At the last meeting it was agreed that car parking issues be reported to the March 2008 meeting. However, following further consideration by the Chairman and the Director this agenda item has been brought forward to the February meeting.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

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



**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - AT DECEMBER 2007**

<b>10.00am Monday 25th February 2008</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Environmental Management (GEM)</li> <li>• On-street parking in Herefordshire.</li> <li>• Highway and Footway maintenance. Following consideration of the Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey and monitoring of Performance Indicators the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have identified this issue for further Committee consideration.</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>9.30am Monday 31st March 2008</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire: Executive Response to Scrutiny Review and Action Plan.</li> <li>• Review of Travellers Policy. To report the findings of the Scrutiny Review.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Report on Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	

Note:

Details concerning the seminar for Members on Waste Collection and Disposal Options, referred to in Minute 32, are awaited.

The date of further committee meetings will be notified once the Council diary has been confirmed.

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.

