

# AGENDA

## Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Friday, 9th November, 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:*

*Paul James, Democratic Services Officer,  
Tel:01432 260 460 Fax:01432 260286  
E-mail [pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk)*

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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 of any Member 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 24th September 2007.	1 - 10
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>PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION)</b> To receive a presentation by the Cabinet Member on key issues.	
7. <b>REPORT BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING)</b> To receive a report on key issues.	
8. <b>ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE RESTRUCTURE</b> To receive an oral update from the Director of Environment.	
9. <b>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING</b> To advise Members on the progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme for Environment within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.	11 - 14

<b>10. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING</b>	15 - 20
To advise Members of the financial position for the Environment Programme Area budgets for the period to 30th September 2007.	
<b>11. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE</b>	21 - 54
To consider the further findings of the scrutiny review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.	
<b>12. REVIEW OF TRAVELLERS POLICY - UPDATE</b>	55 - 56
To update Members on the progress of the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Travellers' Policy.	
<b>13. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b>	57 - 64
To consider the Committee work programme.	

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

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

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

The principal roles of Scrutiny Committees are to

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

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

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Public Involvement at Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

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

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

#### **1. Identifying Areas for Scrutiny**

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

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

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

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

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### **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing**

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

### **Children's Services**

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

### **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

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

### **Health**

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

### **Environment**

*Environmental Issues  
Highways and Transportation*

### **Strategic Monitoring Committee**

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

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## **COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 24th September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m.**

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

**Councillors:** CM Bartrum, JHR Goodwin, JW Hope MBE, MAF Hubbard, TW Hunt, MD Lloyd-Hayes, PM Morgan, A Seldon and PJ Watts

**In attendance:** Councillors AJM Blackshaw (Cabinet Member - Economic Development and Community Services), WLS Bowen, ACR Chappell, GFM Dawe, JP French, TM James, JG Jarvis (Cabinet Member - Environment and Strategic Housing), J Stone and DB Wilcox (Cabinet Member – Highways and Transportation)

**Persons specifically invited to attend the meeting and additional papers circulated**

Prior to the meeting the Chairman had agreed that the persons listed below be specifically invited to attend the meeting. Those unable to attend were invited to submit written comment.

In attendance:

Mr Jonathan Hines; Dr Stewart Bryant; Mrs Bobbie Heavens; Mr B Clay; Mr M George.

Apologies:

Mr Andrew Boucher; Mr William Wilson; Mr Nigel Swift; a representative from Kilmartin House Museum, Argyllshire.

The following additional papers were placed on the Members and invited persons desks prior to the meeting. Copies were also issued to the public and press.

1. Extract from the leaflet "Visit Herefordshire – Tourism Matters" dated Summer 2007.
2. Response from the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
3. E-mail from Mr Bill Klemperer, English Heritage dated 21st September 2007.
4. Letter dated 21st September 2007 from Mr W. Wilson to the Chairman of the Committee.
5. Letter from Mr Bob Clay, Save the Rotherwas Ribbon Campaign, dated 24.09.07 to Councillor Bob Matthews and Councillor Phil Edwards.

The following papers were issued to all present during the meeting:

6. E-mail from Andy Boucher to Hubbard, Mark (Cllr) dated 21/09/07
7. "An alternative vision for the Rotherwas Ribbon" issued by Mr J Hines

The Chairman allowed time for Members, invited persons and the public to read the additional papers referred to at 1-5 above.

**16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor AT Oliver.

**17. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)**

Councillor CM Bartrum substituted for Councillor AT Oliver.

**18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor CM Bartrum	Personal (owner of a bed a breakfast establishment)
Councillor AJM Blackshaw	Personal (owner of a bed a breakfast establishment)
Councillor MAF Hubbard	Personal (owner of a bed a breakfast establishment)
Councillor JG Jarvis	Personal (owner of a bed a breakfast establishment)
Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes	Personal.

**19. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June, 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

No suggestions were made by members of the public.

**21. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION ON ROTHERWAS ARCHAEOLOGY: OPTIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE RIBBON AND COMPLETION OF THE ROTHERWAS ACCESS ROAD**

The Committee considered Cabinet's decision on the preservation of the Rotherwas Ribbon and completion of the Rotherwas Access Road which had been called in by three Members of the Committee: Councillors MD Lloyd-Hayes, AT Oliver and MAF Hubbard.

The stated reasons for the call-in were set out in the agenda report. The draft decision notice (Ref No:2007.CAB.070KEY), together with the report to Cabinet on 6th September were included in the agenda.

The Chairman opened the discussion by emphasising that the focus of the meeting would be to review the decision by Cabinet as set out in the agenda papers.

A Member called into question the intention to deal with the issue at this meeting rather than programme it into the Committee work programme for a later meeting thereby allowing time for the Committee to gather evidence. Reference was then made to guidance given by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Strategic Monitoring Committee on 17th September 2007 on this point. The Legal Practice Manager clarified that, in relation to call-in, the expectation and good practice was that the Committee would meet and consider the issues before it within the 10 day period set out in the Council's Constitution. Only in exceptional circumstances would the period be longer.

On seeking clarification concerning the calling of 'witnesses' to the meeting the Chairman confirmed that an approach had been made by one of the Councillors initiating the call-in requesting that a number of persons be invited to the meeting so that further sources of information be on hand during deliberations. The Legal Practice Manager clarified the term witnesses in terms of the Council's Constitution as being more an invited contributor to the meeting rather than a witness in the courtroom context. The Democratic Services Officer reported upon actions he had taken to invite specific people to attend the meeting.

Mr B. Clay, Save the Ribbon Campaign Organiser, questioned why the Council's Scrutiny function had no dedicated budget. He also referred to an earlier conversation Councillor Lloyd-Hayes had had with the Chairman when she had suggested Mr Clay be co-opted onto the Committee. The Chairman reported that he had previously clarified this issue with Councillor Lloyd-Hayes in that his intention had been that Mr Clay be invited to the meeting, along with others on the invitation list, and that he intended to ensure that those invited had ample opportunity to put their comments. The Legal Practice Manager advised that in view of Mr Clay's close involvement with the Ribbon campaign his co-option to the Committee would probably have required him to declare a prejudicial interest. In relation to formal co-option this was the prerogative of the whole Committee. The Committee decided not to make any co-options.

At this point the Legal Practice Manager raised the question of declaring interests with Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes in view of the contents of her website ([www.marcelllloydhayes.com](http://www.marcelllloydhayes.com)) of which he had a screen print. Councillor Lloyd-Hayes referred to a letter from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and to her response dated 19th September 2007 on this issue. The Legal Practice Manager advised Councillor Lloyd-Hayes to consider declaring a prejudicial interest. In response Councillor Lloyd-Hayes stated that she had not predetermined the issue or was biased in her consideration of it. Councillor Lloyd-Hayes then declared a personal interest.

The Chairman invited Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) to comment on the decision of Cabinet.

Councillor Jarvis commented that a number of issues had had to be considered by Cabinet. He referred to the letter dated 14th August 2007 from English Heritage concerning the action taken by the Council; English Heritage's intention concerning scheduling the site and advice that the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ.

He commented that for various reasons the extent of the site had not been quantified and that this could take years. If further funding could be obtained then further exploration of the surrounding site could be undertaken. While the Director of Environment would be able to comment on funding he was aware that there was no specific budget for this. In relation to the potential tourist value of the site he had based his opinion that the existing site lacked tourist potential, on his professional experience and the opinion expressed by a number of "Visit Herefordshire" Board members.

He accepted that it had been unfortunate and unacceptable that the Peer Review document (Appendix A to the report to Cabinet 6th September 2007 and contained in the agenda papers for the Committee) had been issued to Cabinet late in the day. The document had been received on the 5th September and in hindsight could have been e-mailed to Cabinet Members. He did, however, think it right that no undue pressure had been placed on the report author to get the report completed to a shorter timescale. He pointed out that the preliminary conclusions in the Peer

Review report commended the Council as an example of best practice.

He then described his rationale for the decision as being: Bridge or Tunnel (options C or D) would be too expensive and would require planning approval which could also be subject to judicial review; moving the line of the road north or south (options A or B) could encounter further archaeological remains and the problem would then arise how to cross those and would significantly delay the project while the alternative routes were surveyed. The option chosen (option F – continuation of the road on its proposed course) complied with planning guidance PPG 16 and was acceptable to English Heritage.

A question was raised on the possible extent of the find to either north or south of the existing find. In response Dr Ray, County Archaeologist, commented that the extent of the find was unknown and therefore an application had been made to English Heritage for funding to help establish its extent. Slight topographical indications did exist towards the former munitions factory site and therefore limited geophysical work within the industrial estate had been recommended. There had not been the interest to record any finds when the munitions factory had been built in 1914-1918 or when the site was further developed just before the Second World War. English Heritage are advisors to the Government and they are usually cautious concerning recommendations for scheduling any monument. He confirmed that this was an exceptional find however and may well meet the criteria for scheduling.

Councillor Jarvis was questioned on whether he could see the potential for tourism from the find. In response he agreed that it would be appropriate for a proper display with appropriate supporting information to be made available, possibly at the City museum.

Questioned on when he first knew of the find Councillor Jarvis responded that in June 2007, around the time his name had been put forward as a Cabinet Member, he had been invited to a press conference on the subject but had been unable to attend. This was the first time he had known about the find.

Questions were put to Dr. Ray as to whether further funding would be made available from English Heritage to survey the site, and the potential for the monument to be scheduled. It was also put that the cost of such survey would be small compared to the overall cost of the Rotherwas Futures project. Dr Ray commented that English Heritage would require more information and probably an evaluation of the monument before it could be considered for scheduling. As to whether it would ultimately be scheduled, it was difficult for him to say. He thought it was likely to be a number of years until the full extent of the site was known. However, that may not mean that English Heritage do not recommend scheduling at least part of it. As for the timing of surveys, he understood that some of the land on either side of the road corridor was under Environmental Stewardship and therefore permission would need to be gained both from the landowner and Natural England before archaeological investigations could be undertaken.

At this point copies of additional paper 6 (E-mail from Andy Boucher) were issued to the meeting and questions were raised concerning the time and cost to commission geophysical surveys to discover the extent of the find. In response Dr Ray reported that the find had been made as a result of a carefully co-ordinated and painstaking process of excavation being undertaken in advance of the main construction programme for the road. Had only a watching brief been in place for this part of the scheme, the monument could have been missed altogether. He noted that although the Council were as concerned as anyone to have geophysical survey undertaken to chart the further course of the monument beyond the road scheme limits, he cautioned that for this type of find geophysical survey techniques were at their

technical limit and therefore it would also be necessary for exploratory trenches to be dug to reliably trace its course. He reported that there had been no brief to get access to private land as part of the road scheme archaeological works. Should funding become available then survey work, such as that indicated in additional paper 6, may be undertaken

The Committee then sought to establish the significance of the find as it had been referred to as 'significant' in Ms M Lane e-mail of 11th May, and whether the subsequent reporting of the find had been in accordance with procedures (members referred to Codes of Conduct and Protocols - 4 Local Members - particularly referring to "keeping local members informed about significant issues which affect their ward..."). Dr Ray explained that the context of the e-mail needed to be understood. At the time of the initial partial uncovering of the find it was acknowledged that it was likely to be significant, but it required further examination to establish how significant. In view of this instructions were issued to the archaeological contractors to undertake a more detailed recording of the site than would normally be done. As time went on and more was known the monument became more certainly significant. In view of this he had recommended that a design solution be formulated - a step he had not taken lightly.

Questioning then turned to the cost of Option G (suspend the construction of the road for 6 months £430K). In response the Head of Highways and Transportation reported that this figure was an indicative cost based on the contract rate. The Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing) commented that option G only delayed the project and would add £430k, plus inflation and time delays, to whatever final option were chosen. The Committee noted that any delay would not help the businesses on the Rotherwas Estate who had campaigned for the road.

Responding to possible similarities with the archaeological feature in Ohio, USA known as the Ohio Serpent, Dr Ray reported that the Ohio Serpent had been known about for many hundreds of years.

Questioned about the recipients of the Ms M Lane e-mail of 11th May, (reference was made to section 12.1.1.3 second bullet of the Council's Constitution) Dr Ray reported that this was outside his remit. However, the minutes of the access road scheme project team meetings recorded the find. The Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing) acknowledged that there may be an issue concerning the dissemination of information concerning the find due to the pre election (purdah period) and post election period, being a period prior to the appointment of Cabinet Members.

(At this point the Committee adjourned at 11.05am for 10 minutes and resumed at 11.15am)

The Chairman invited Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) to comment on the Cabinet decision.

The Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) commented that from the Tourism aspect he had viewed the Ribbon with a number of "Visit Herefordshire" Board Members who then had formed the view that the find was not a visually impressive feature to view and use to promote tourism. This view had been communicated via the 'Visit Herefordshire' leaflet to 1600 people involved in the tourism industry in addition to over 300 members of Visit Herefordshire, no criticism or challenge to this view had been voiced. (see additional paper 1). From the economic aspect Rotherwas Estate had 130 businesses with over 2,000 employees and a potential for a further 2,000 to be employed. Subject to funding for further investigations or the discovery of significant archaeological finds then Cabinet

may consider options relating to tourism education or heritage e.g. a display at the City Museum.

Responding to comments on the long term implications of building a road over a potentially major archaeological find and the potential for it to be a significant tourist attraction the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) commented that it had land drains cut through it and that it would quickly deteriorate if left uncovered. He thought that the feature itself lacked visual or aesthetic appeal. He could see some merit in delineating the line of the feature in the landscape. The commercial viability of a visitor centre on site would depend on what further finds were made. Cabinet may need to consider the possible provision of a visitor centre in due course.

The Head of Economic and Community Services agreed that it was too early to tell the extent of the site and what it may contain. The current Ribbon site was unlikely to give a visitor value for money.

Questioned on when the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) first knew of the find he responded that this had been just after the May election but was unable to recall the precise date.

Responding to comments on the feasibility of 2,000 further jobs at the Rotherwas Estate the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) reported that unfortunately many young people were leaving the county for better jobs elsewhere. The Rotherwas Access road gave businesses in the estate a degree of long-term reassurance to make further investment.

The Ward Member for St Martins & Hinton (Councillor Chappell) briefly informed the Committee of the work of the South Wye Regeneration Partnership in encouraging businesses to stay in the area and improving the quality of jobs and pay. He added that many of the residents were in favour of the new access road. He commented that the high number of visitors required for a visitor centre to be viable could have a significant adverse effect on transport in the area. The Committee noted that conversely there had also been a petition to preserve the area from the access road.

The Director of Environment was asked if he knew about the Ms M Lane e-mail of 11th May. He responded that if he had been listed as a recipient then yes.

The Chairman invited Mr Malcolm George, former Chief Executive, Heart of England Tourist Board, to comment on the tourism aspect.

Mr George briefly outlined a number of thoughts on the issue and specifically commented that while it may be too early to think about visitor numbers to the area, destinations were always looking for ways to promote their area and this may be a 'new symbol' that could be linked or promoted via other destinations in the area. He also commented that the economic impact should be considered and recommended undertaking discussions with for example Advantage West Midlands and Tourism West Midlands and that a scoping report i.e. a feasibility study of the nature of the attraction, the potential market and funding requirement for the project, be formulated.

The Chairman invited Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) to comment on the decision.

The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) reported that he had first heard about the Ribbon when a press conference was being arranged but was unable to remember the precise date. He had attempted to step back from the overall debate



so that the issue concerning the road was not the main focus and in order that a proper balanced view could be taken. He commented that the access road was a key element of the Rotherwas futures project and appreciated that any deviation of the route would cause problems e.g. via the Unitary Development Plan and further development of land at Rotherwas. He had been to see the Ribbon as someone interested in heritage and subjectively had been unable to see any tourism benefit. He had later returned to the site with the Leader of the Council following heavy rain and noted that silt had moved on the site. The Cabinet decision preserved the Ribbon in situ for future generations.

The Chairman invited Dr S Bryant, Head of Historic Environment, Hertfordshire County Council, to comment.

Dr Bryant reported that he had been requested by Herefordshire Council to assess whether the Council's procedures in respect of the Rotherwas Access Road had been undertaken in accordance with the principles of statutory planning guidance on archaeological and planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16. (Peer Review at Appendix A to Cabinet report). His preliminary conclusions, based on the documents received as set out in his report to Cabinet (appendix A), was that in almost all respects the guidance within PPG16 had been adhered to. He commented that further archaeological assessment of the site prior to the planning application may have identified more of the find and therefore provided further opportunity for archaeological mitigation. However, he acknowledged that access to the site may have been an issue. He further commented that the Council had considered options to preserve the find in situ, an opportunity rarely found in other major developments. On the evidence he had received he considered that best practice had occurred.

Responding to a question as to whether if a private developer had found the Ribbon the same outcome would have been achieved Dr Bryant responded that the same outcome may have occurred but it would probably have been far more difficult to achieve.

The Committee was informed that the Council did not own the land on either side of the road and therefore were currently unable to undertake further investigations. Preliminary negotiations had been held with the land owner who had indicated they had plans for their land and therefore would no doubt be looking to be compensated in the event of further archaeological investigations.

Questioned on the educational potential e.g. had archaeology students from the Hereford 6th Form College been given the opportunity to visit the site, Dr Ray responded that the opportunities for public visits to the site had been during the school holidays, and that in the experience of the archaeology service formal educational visits required considerable forward planning. Numbers of children of school age had been taken to visit the site by their parents on the public visits days.

On the question of whether scientific foundation funding had been looked at the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) responded that following further consideration by English Heritage concerning the precise extent of the find then funding opportunities may be explored.

The Committee further debated the issues of who knew what when about the find and who had reported what to whom and whether Cabinet Members or Ward Members had been informed. The importance of getting the information into the correct context to avoid misunderstandings was noted.

The Chairman invited Mrs B Heavens, Chair, Hereford City Partnership; current

Director of Tourism West Midlands and former Association for the Promotion of Herefordshire to comment on the tourism aspect.

Mrs Heavens reported that she had been to see the Ribbon and commented that it was not a very visually attractive feature and from the tourist point of view would need a lot more information or explanation to be made available. She agreed with the views expressed in "Visit Herefordshire" leaflet (additional paper No 1) in that a balanced view needed to be struck. She thought the Ribbon was probably part of a bigger story and therefore may provide an opportunity for a visitor interpretation centre. She agreed that the road should continue; that the Ribbon be protected and funding for site investigation, and if appropriate a visitor centre, be explored.

The Committee then heard from Mr J Hines who presented the meeting with copies of "An alternative vision for the Rotherwas Ribbon" (additional paper No 7). This was his suggestion for the road construction to be used creatively; providing a vision for a new visitor facility to include an interpretation for the Ribbon, and a tourism gateway for Herefordshire.

The Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) thanked Mr Hines and undertook to read the suggestions made.

Mr Clay complained at this point that the Committee had not addressed the fundamental questions concerning the call-in and that the Council's call-in procedure was messy.

(The Committee adjourned for 10 minutes and resumed at 1.15pm)

On resuming the meeting the Committee considered whether it wished to accept the decision of Cabinet or to refer the decision back to Cabinet for further consideration and if so what recommendations it wished to make to Cabinet.

Councillor MAF Hubbard put forward a suggestion that the Committee recommend that Cabinet suspend the road build to more properly evaluate the issues of conserving the archaeological find.

The Vice-Chairman proposed an amendment, which was read to the Committee.

The matter was put to the vote whereupon Councillor Hubbard's proposal was defeated and the Vice-Chairman's was accepted.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1) the decision taken by Cabinet on 6th September 2007 with regard to proceeding with option F for the completion of the Rotherwas Access Road be endorsed;**
- 2) While endorsing this decision the Committee notes that there might have been instances when information flow within the Council fell short of that normally expected. Cabinet is recommended to set in place work to address this for the future during periods of "purdah" and immediately following elections.**
- 3) the County Archaeologist be congratulated on the universally acknowledged standards and quality of his work on the ribbon thus far. We sincerely hope he will be able to lead further researches either side of the present find in due course.**

- 4) We urge Cabinet to continue to seek funding for further research into the ribbon including a tourism scoping report when appropriate.**

The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) thanked the Committee and reported that the Committees recommendation would be reported back to Cabinet.

Mr. Hines commented that in his view the recommendations had not reflected the opinions expressed during the meeting.

Mr. Clay claimed that the Council's Standing Orders had not been complied with and due process had not been followed.

The Chairman commented that a number of issues, not strictly relating to the Rotherwas Ribbon decision, had been raised and that he would be taking further advice on those issues and would, if he thought appropriate, take the matters further.

The meeting ended at 1.25 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**



## CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

Report By: Director of Environment

### Purpose

1. To advise Members on the progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme for Environment within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.

### Financial Implications

2. Capital Budgets for the Environment Programme Areas for 2007/08 are shown in Appendix 1, on an individual basis, with funding arrangements indicated in overall terms.
3. The total of the Capital Programme has been increased to £28,931,000 from £27,004,000 notified to the previous meeting (see Appendix 1). This is a net increase of £1,927,000 and relates to:
  - Reduction of £728,000 in estimated costs of the Rotherwas Access Road project, this revised amount does not include any estimate for works in relation to the Rotherwas Ribbon;
  - An addition of £260,000 in relation to the City Centre Enhancements project, transferred from the Economic Development Programme;
  - An increase of £10,000 in relation to landscaping work at Grafton Travellers site;
  - An increase of £9,000 to reflect final works carried out at Pembridge Travellers site which is funded through contributions from the revenue budget;
  - An additional budget of £45,000 relating to the purchase of Land at Belmont Pool, which will be funded through a contribution from the Planning service;
  - An addition of £25,000 in relation to works at Shobdon Car Park, funded by s106 monies from Kingspan;
  - Additional funding through s106 agreement with Asda of £2,306,000. £2,172,000 relates to Flood Defence Works in Hereford. Contract negotiations are currently taking place with the Environment Agency, who will take overall responsibility for this project. £134,000 relates to contributions to the Bus Service and Pedestrian and Cycle Route works.

### Considerations

4. The report has been largely based on the latest round of capital monitoring, which involved an examination of all schemes at the end of September 2007. Care is being taken to ensure the forecast spend accurately reflects the expected spend in 2007/08. The Environment General Capital Working Group is keeping the overall spending position under careful review.

5. The total spent or committed to 30th September is £12.5 million or 43.2% of the Revised Forecast. The actual amount spent is £7.69 million.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified.

## Environment Capital Programme 2007-08

Scheme	Budget 2007-08	Revised Forecast as at 30th September 2007	Change in Forecast	Spend/Known Commitments	% Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy</b>					
<b>Walking and Access</b>					
LTP - Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75	75		60	80.0%
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	100	100		4	4.0%
<b>Cycling</b>					
LTP - Cycle Network Development	200	200		86	43.0%
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>					
Rail Improvements	25	25		7	28.0%
LTP - Accessible Bus Network	45	45		14	31.1%
<b>Park and Ride</b>					
LTP - Christmas Park and Ride	20	20		0	
LTP - Park & Ride Permanent Site Development	500	500		46	9.2%
<b>Rotherwas Access Road</b>					
LTP - Rotherwas Access Road	8,100	7,372	(728)	4,287	58.2%
Hfd Intelligent Transport System	25	25		0	0.0%
<b>Rural Areas &amp; Market Towns Integrated Transport Strategy</b>					
<b>Walking and Access</b>					
LTP - Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20	20		14	70.0%
LTP - Rural Footway Improvements	60	60		5	8.3%
<b>Cycling</b>					
LTP - Network of Cycle Routes and Pkg	200	200		161	80.5%
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>					
LTP - Rural Rail Imps	75	75		57	76.0%
LTP - Public Transport Minor Improvements	55	55		35	63.6%
HGV Projects	50	50		(22)	(44.0%)
Travel Awareness Campaign	35	35		30	85.7%
Accessibility Partnership Development	30	30		30	100.0%
Public Rights of Way Access Imps	25	25		9	36.0%
<b>Countrywide Safety Strategy</b>					
<b>Hearts and Minds</b>					
School Travel Plan Support	25	25		25	100.0%
<b>Minor Safety Schemes</b>					
LTP - Minor Safety Improvements	300	300		308	102.7%
<b>Traffic Calming</b>					
LTP - Traffic Calming	220	150	(70)	2	1.3%
<b>SRTS (Including 20mph zones)</b>					
LTP - SRTS (Inc. 20 mph zones)	380	380		256	67.4%
<b>Speed Control</b>					
LTP - Speed limit reductions	60	60		46	76.7%
<b>Monitoring</b>					
Monitoring (data collection)	40	40		30	75.0%
<b>Highways Maintenance</b>					
Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,867	1,867		776	41.6%
Capitalised Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	3,550	3,550		2,195	61.8%
Footways - Footways	1,065	1,065		552	51.8%
Embankments	100	100		82	82.0%
Rights of Way Improvements	25	25		13	52.0%
<b>Bridge Maintenance</b>					
Capitalised Assessment & Strengthening of Bridges	700	700		563	80.4%
LTP - Staff costs to be allocated over LTP	301	301		301	100.0%
<b>LTP TOTAL</b>	<b>18,273</b>	<b>17,475</b>	<b>(798)</b>	<b>9,972</b>	<b>57.1%</b>

## Environment Capital Programme 2007-08

Scheme	Budget 2007-08	Revised Forecast as at 30th September 2007	Change in Forecast	Spend/Known Commitments	% Spent/ Committed
	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Non LTP Schemes</b>					
Ross On Wye Flood Alleviation Scheme	5,000	5,000		1,116	22.3%
City Centre Enhancements - High Town & High Street		260	260	192	73.8%
Crematorium Hereford	2,158	2,158		183	8.5%
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	482	482		310	64.3%
Public Convenience improvements	403	403		160	39.7%
Grafton Travellers Site	39	49	10	1	2.0%
Pembridge Travellers Site		9	9	21	233.3%
Land at Belmont Road		45	45	43	95.6%
Waste Performance and Efficiency	129	129		0	0.0%
Flood Defence Works(s106 - Asda)		2,172	2,172	0	0.0%
Bus Service & Ped/Cycle Route Works (s106 Asda)		134	134	8	6.0%
Shobdon Car Park (s106 - Kingspan)		25	25	10	40.0%
LPSA2 - Street Scene	144	144		62	43.1%
LPSA2 - Road Safety	218	218		203	93.1%
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site - Gas Well & Pipework	70	70		62	88.6%
Strangford Closed Landfill Site	18	18		0	0.0%
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site - Gas Flare	70	70		0	0.0%
Specific Road Safety Grant		70	70	95	135.7%
Roman Road				59	
<b>NON LTP TOTAL</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>11,456</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>22.0%</b>
<b>Total Environment Capital Programme</b>	<b>27,004</b>	<b>28,931</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>12,497</b>	<b>43.2%</b>

### Funded by:

	Original Budget 2007-08	Revised Forecast as at 31st July 2007
	£	£
Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)	7,582	7,582
LTP Grant	3,021	3,021
Prudential Borrowing	3,201	5,333
Specific Road Safety Grant	70	70
Revenue Contributions		54
LPSA 2 Funding	362	362
Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant	129	129
DEFRA	5,000	5,000
AWM Rotherwas Access Road Grant	5,000	5,000
Capital Receipts Reserve	2,639	49
s106 Funding		2,331
	<b>27,004</b>	<b>28,931</b>



## **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING**

**Report By: Director of Environment**

### **Purpose**

1. To advise Members of the financial position for the Environment Programme Area budgets for the period to 30th September 2007. The report lists the variations against budget at this stage in the year.

### **Financial Implications**

2. It is expected that the Environment Revenue Budget for 2007/08 will be underspent by a net amount of £357,000.

### **Considerations**

3. The detailed report on Budget Monitoring to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
4. The total Environment Budget for 2007/08 has reduced from the amount reported to the last meeting of the Committee, which was £25,021,000, to £24,741,000. This reduction of £280,000 relates to:
  - The transfer of staffing budgets from the Planning Service (£178,000) and Environmental Health & Trading Standards (£37,000) totalling £215,000 to the 'Info by Phone' team.
  - Annual contributions to fund prudential borrowing used to purchase Vehicles and Machinery in Highways & Transportation. These purchases replaced items previously leased, being the more cost-effective option.
  - Following the review of Service Level Agreements with Hereford City Council, the overall income targets for contributions for services provided by Herefordshire Council has been re-allocated to the relevant Directorates. An additional income budget of £27,000 has been allocated to Highways & Transportation in relation to Christmas Lights.

### **Environmental Health & Trading Standards**

5. The current projected underspend in this service of £600,000 relates to the Waste Disposal budget. This projection is mainly based on forecasts from Worcestershire CC in relation to the joint Waste Disposal contract. In previous years there has been significant underspend and until the new Contract variations are agreed this position will continue, however the cost of the new contract will be considerably higher than at present. The final position will be reflected in the overall revenue account but, as in previous years, any underspend against the contract will need to be earmarked for reserves to meet future waste management pressures.
6. All other areas spending will be contained within the service budget.

**Highways & Transportation**

7. Concessionary travel is expected to overspend by £100k. This projection is based on inflationary increases during the year on fares of 10% and an increase of patronage of 5%, based on increases already seen so far this year.
8. The Highways budgets continue to be under considerable pressure in relation to road maintenance. This is mainly due to budget virement, reported to the previous Committee, reducing the Roads Maintenance budget by £909,000 to meet contract inflationary pressures within Environment. Every effort will be made to contain spending within the service budget.

**Planning**

9. There is likely to be an overspend in relation to IT SLA charges in Planning of £100k. In the previous year, on a one-off basis, this pressure was met by Planning Delivery Grant however there is no capacity to do this in the current year.
10. There is also an additional projected overspend of £43k in relation to a revenue contribution to Capital for the purchase of land at Belmont.
11. Although Planning Fee income is on target for the Period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007, current forecasts based on income patterns in the previous two years, which take seasonal fluctuations into account, indicate a potential shortfall of income of £30-60k for the year. As Fee income levels are difficult to predict, income will be closely monitored.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Appendix I attached.

**2007/08 Environment Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 30th September 2007**

	2007/08 Annual Budget £000	2007/08 Outturn £000	Actual to Period 6 £000	Budget to Period 6 £000	Overspend/ (Underspend) to date £000
<b><u>Summary</u></b>					
Directorate Management and Support	352	352	336	342	(6)
Planning Services	1,909	2,052	871	869	2
Highways & Transportation	8,987	9,087	4,088	4,326	(238)
Environmental Health & Trading Standards	13,493	12,893	4,216	4,762	(546)
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>24,741</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>9,511</b>	<b>10,299</b>	<b>(788)</b>

	2007/08 Annual Budget	2007/08 Outturn	Actual to Period 6	Budget to Period 6	Overspend/ (Underspend) to date
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><u>Directorate Management and Support</u></b>	<b><u>352</u></b>	<b><u>352</u></b>	<b><u>336</u></b>	<b><u>342</u></b>	<b><u>(6)</u></b>
<b><u>Planning Services</u></b>					
Management & Admin	676	819	268	252	16
Building Control	(83)	(83)	(92)	(41)	(51)
Development Control	116	116	111	58	53
Conservation	717	717	316	359	(43)
Forward Planning	483	483	268	241	27
<b>Sub-Total PLANNING SERVICES</b>	<b><u>1,909</u></b>	<b><u>2,052</u></b>	<b><u>871</u></b>	<b><u>869</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
<b><u>Highways &amp; Transportation</u></b>					
Public Conveniences	358	358	207	171	36
Highways Staff & Running Costs	2,081	2,081	1,060	1,138	(78)
Roads Maintenance	1,592	1,592	830	688	142
NRSWA	(124)	(124)	(72)	(62)	(10)
Winter Maintenance	782	782	288	154	134
Land Drainage/Flood Alleviation	142	142	12	39	(27)
Bridgeworks	68	68	8	28	(20)
Shop Mobility	52	52	26	26	0
Street Lighting	766	766	239	327	(88)
Searches - Highways	(2)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(1)
S38 Fees	(45)	(45)	(6)	(22)	16
Public Transport (incl Rural)	1,336	1,336	758	746	12
Transport Planning	86	86	28	43	(15)
Traffic Management	465	465	200	222	(22)
Road Safety	136	136	(260)	68	(328)
Bus Stations	(15)	(15)	(2)	1	(3)
Concessionary Travel	1,232	1,332	434	449	(15)
Transportation Staff	513	513	413	407	6
Car parks	(1,594)	(1,594)	(676)	(690)	14
Decriminalised Parking	156	156	135	144	(9)
Street Cleansing	1,002	1,002	468	450	18
<b>Sub-Total Highways &amp; Transportation</b>	<b><u>8,987</u></b>	<b><u>9,087</u></b>	<b><u>4,088</u></b>	<b><u>4,326</u></b>	<b><u>(238)</u></b>

	2007/08 Annual Budget £000	2007/08 Outturn £000	Actual to Period 6 £000	Budget to Period 6 £000	Overspend/ (Underspend) to date £000
<b><u>Environmental Health &amp; Trading Standards</u></b>					
Cemetries	72	72	9	30	(21)
Crematorium	(266)	(266)	(128)	(125)	(3)
Commercial Environmental Health	451	451	83	226	(143)
Pollution	560	560	207	277	(70)
Landfill & Contaminated Land	238	238	95	119	(24)
Pest Control	41	41	(20)	2	(22)
Dog Control	102	102	38	42	(4)
Animal Health & Welfare	162	162	109	79	30
Trading Standards	502	502	191	251	(60)
Envt Health Management & Support	455	455	108	133	(25)
Licensing	(10)	(10)	(15)	(5)	(10)
Traveller Sites	63	63	7	32	(25)
Waste Disposal	7,524	6,924	2,258	2,287	(29)
Recycling	470	470	234	200	34
Trade Waste	(449)	(449)	(354)	(257)	(97)
Domestic Waste Collection	3,578	3,578	1,394	1,471	(77)
<b>Sub-Total ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &amp; TRADING STANDARDS</b>	<b>13,493</b>	<b>12,893</b>	<b>4,216</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>(546)</b>



## REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

**Report By: Chairman of the Household Waste Recycling  
Review Group**

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

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

### Financial Implications

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

### Background

3. The Committee received the report of the Scrutiny Review Group on Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire at its meeting in March, 2007. At that meeting as Chairman of the Review Group I recommended that the report be held over pending the results of the Government's review of the National Waste Strategy, which could have significant consequences on Herefordshire's management of waste services. The Committee endorsed this approach and agreed that a further report should be made following the outcome of the Government's review, with the original report also being resubmitted for consideration.
4. As the other members of the Review Group no longer serve on the Council the Committee at its meeting on 19th June agreed that Councillor PJ Edwards, and I review the original report and, following discussion with officers, prepare this supplementary report which takes account of the National Waste Strategy and other factors since the main review.

### Commentary on the original Report

5. In making its original report the Group's key assumptions included:
  - that the waste collection contract would be relet in 2008.
  - that the success of any proposal for recycling and refuse collection would be dependent on the availability of processing facilities and that a Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) facility to process waste would be operational when the contract was relet.
  - that the Government's target for combined recycling and composting would rise to at least 40% from 2010 and that it would therefore be prudent to adopt a

system that would enable the County to reach a 40% target with flexibility for further increases.

6. The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is currently being revised which has nullified some of the time assumptions the Group worked to and specifically as a result of this the current waste collection contract has been extended to July 2009.
7. The development of the MRF facility in Worcestershire is proceeding and could be operational by July 2009. If the MRF was not operational by this time, recyclable materials could be diverted to another MRF.
8. As discussed below the higher targets for recycling and composting of household waste anticipated have been confirmed
9. Timescales aside I am therefore advised that the basis on which the Group reached its conclusions and made its recommendations to this Committee in March 2007 remains sound and the recommendations remain valid.
10. A copy of the scrutiny review report as of March 2007 is appended.

#### **Supplementary Report – Implications of the Government’s Review of The National Waste Strategy**

11. The National Waste Strategy, as anticipated, includes higher targets for the recycling and composting of household waste. The target increases from the present 21% to 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015, and 50% by 2020. Whilst these are national targets and the Government is expected to announce local targets later in the year, which may vary, linked to the Comprehensive Spending Review, as the Group previously highlighted, the collection systems need to be capable of reaching the national targets with flexibility for future increases.
12. The Strategy has a new focus on waste prevention. This will be recognised through a new target to reduce the amount of household waste, not re-used, recycled or composted. The Government has used 450 kg per person in 2000 as the benchmark. Their stated aspiration is to reduce this figure to 225 kg per person by 2020. Again, this is a national target and local targets are expected to be set by the Government and the required reduction is clearly significant.
13. There is also a push to remove the ban on household incentives for waste reduction/recycling. The intention is that there will be revenue neutral schemes to pay householders who recycle, funded by those who don't. This reinforces the Group's original recommendation that it is essential to microchip wheelie bins from the outset.
14. The landfill tax escalator is to be increased so that the standard rate of tax will increase by £8 per tonne of waste landfilled per annum resulting in a doubling of the tax from £24 per tonne now to £48 in 2010. Other major financial incentives include the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme which will penalise over reliance on landfill by a fine of £150 per tonne of waste.
15. There were various campaigns against Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) around the time of the local elections in May 2007 and the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government produced a report on refuse collection on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The following are extracts from the Select Committee report with regard to AWC:



*“We recognise that research conducted to date into the health impacts of AWC has found no evidence of adverse health impacts. Given the strength of public concern, however, allied with the wealth of anecdotal evidence about increased populations of flies, maggots, rats and other vermin associated with AWC, we strongly recommend that the Government commission further and more detailed research if the public is to be persuaded that there is no appreciable risk.*

*If councils are to collect food and kitchen waste only every two weeks as part of an AWC system, Government guidance must stress the absolute necessity to provide householders with sealable containers, such as hard-sided wheeled bins or boxes.”*

*“The adoption of AWC in around 140 local authority areas in England has been accompanied in most of them by rapid and substantial increases in local recycling.”*

*“AWC is clearly not appropriate to all areas, particularly highly urban areas characterised by much shared accommodation. Whether a weekly or alternate system is best for a particular area is a matter for local choice.”*

16. In relation to the final bullet point it is important to emphasise that local choice refers to the discretion of the local authority to determine whether or not to introduce AWC. In its review the Group stressed the need to plan the implementation of any changed collection system very carefully. I believe pre-planning remains critical to the success of any change. We can learn much from the experience of Worcester City and now Redditch Borough in this regard. In Braintree – the approach to educating the public about AWC was so effective that it was not even an issue in the May elections. Elsewhere of course it was a huge issue.
17. In relation to bins Worcester City Council found that it was desirable to adopt a flexible approach to bin sizes recognising the need to strike a balance between catering for family needs and increasing recycling. It is recognised that reducing bin size is a desirable objective from a recycling perspective. Flexibility does, however, have a cost implication and it is again important to recognise that there would have to be some criteria in place to manage requests. Bin storage is another issue as well as bin size. The Group recommended that wheelie bins be purchased with pre-installed identification chips. There is a further lesson from Chichester DC who did not buy the cheapest wheelie bins but paid a bit more for bins with proper clip-shut lids.
18. It is important to bear in mind the lessons we take from other Authorities who have trodden this path. It is also essential that Officers continue to work with WRAP to identify best practice and learn from the experiences of other authorities.

### **Summary**

19. In summary the National Waste Strategy has confirmed the assumptions the Working Group made in producing its original report in terms of targets. However, the timescale has changed with the new waste collection contract not now due to come into force until July 2009. The new contract will need to take account of the increased targets for Household Waste Recycling in the National Waste Strategy. Equally whilst the remit of the review was to focus on household waste recycling it is important to recognise that recycling arrangements are part of the household waste collection arrangements as a whole.

**Supplementary Recommendations:**

- (a) That the recommendation in the original report that wheelie bins be purchased with pre-installed identification chips be reinforced and in addition careful consideration given to the level of flexibility which can be permitted in relation to the size of bin noting the balance to be struck between catering for family needs, encouraging recycling, the need for consideration of bin storage and the subsequent costs.
- (b) that the Council's discretion to introduce alternate weekly collection (AWC) in some areas and retain weekly collection in others needs to be exercised most carefully and accompanied by a planned thorough educational campaign.
- (c) acknowledging that whilst the remit of the review was to focus on household waste recycling it is important to recognise that recycling arrangements are part of the household waste collection arrangements as a whole.
- (d) the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) considers extending the current coloured bag recycling collections further into rural areas currently not covered by this service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- THAT** (a) the Committee considers whether it wishes to agree the findings of the review of the original Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire and the supplementary recommendations identified above for submission to the Cabinet Member (Environment).
- (b) subject to the Review being approved, the Executive's response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response;
  - (c) a further report on progress in response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None

# **Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire**

## **Report by the Household Waste Recycling Review Group February 2007**

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

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

***Quality life in a quality county***

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## **Chairman's Foreword**

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Household Waste Recycling Review – Summary

## Introduction

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

## Method of Gathering Information

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

## The Current System and the Need to Change

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

## The Future Collection System

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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



**1.6. that the Cabinet Member:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Household Waste Recycling Review – Main Report

## 1. Introduction

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

## 2. Method of Gathering Information

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

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

### **3. Current Collection System and the need to change**

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

### **4. Future Collection System**

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. Managing the introduction of Wheelie-bins

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

## Issues Raised During the Course of the Review

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

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

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

## 8. Household Waste Sites

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

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

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

## 9. Green Garden Waste

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



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

## 10. Plastics, Packaging and Labelling

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

## 11. Publicity and the availability of information to public

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

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

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

## **12. Bulk Collection**

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

## **13. Fly Tipping**

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

## **14. Commercial Waste**

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

## **15. Means of measuring the success of the Service**

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

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

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

## **16. Links to the Community Strategy**

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

## **17. Conclusions**

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

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

## **18. Next Steps**

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

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

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

## SCOPING

### Terms of Reference

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

### Desired outcomes

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

### Key questions

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

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

### **Links to the Community Strategy**

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

### ***Timetable***

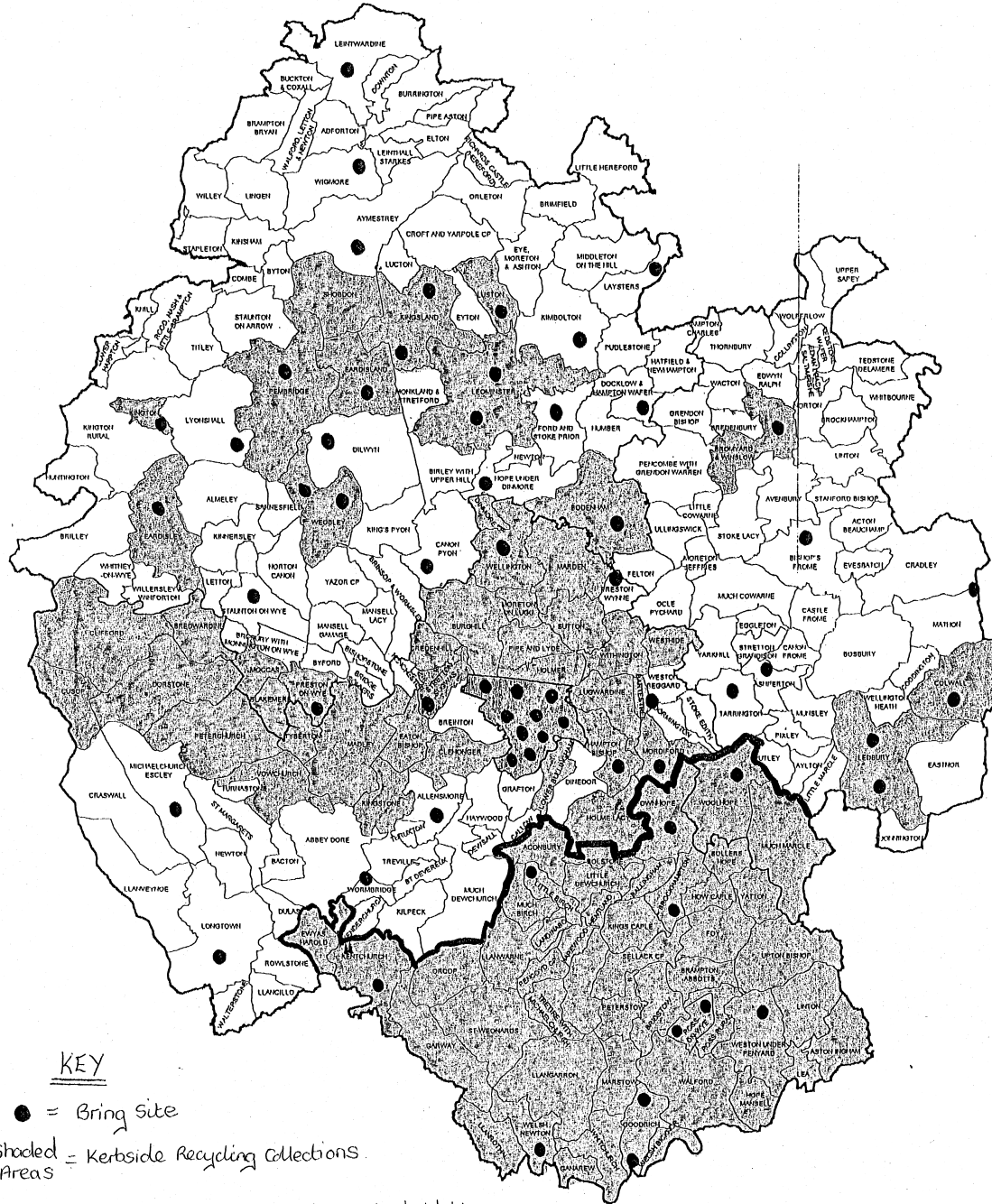
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Agree approach, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/dates	First meeting of Review Group to be held in September or early Oct 2006
Collect current available data	
Collect outstanding data	
Analysis of data	
Final confirmation of interviews of witnesses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

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



# Herefordshire

Showing Parishes and Previous District Councils



**KEY**

● = Bring Site

Shaded = Kerbside Recycling Collections Areas

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

Scale : 1:215,000

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



## LIST OF COMMERCIAL WASTE RECYCLERS

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

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

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

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

**Acknowledgements**

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

Councillor Mrs G Churchill - Bromyard and Winslow Town Council;

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

Councillor Mr A. Taylor – Hereford City Council,

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

Mr N Spencer – Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR)

Ms R. Froggatt - Worcestershire Community Recycling (WCR)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Documents considered during the review.**

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

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

## Glossary of terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Recyclate** – Material that can be recycled.

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

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

**Side Waste** – Any surplus waste left outside the bin.

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





**REVIEW OF THE TRAVELLERS' POLICY - UPDATE****Report By: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT****Wards Affected**

County-wide

**Purpose**

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

**Financial Implications**

2. None.

**Background**

3. Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 nominated a Review Group for the draft Travellers' Policy, which met and produced a finalized draft policy. At the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 it was agreed that this draft should be issued for consultation.
4. The Director for the Environment reported to the Scrutiny Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 that following early consultation issues had arisen concerning one of the Council's Traveller sites, it had become apparent that issues relating to tenure of Council owned sites had to be addressed. Also work on Traveller Housing needs on a Sub-regional level (Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Powys) was being undertaken and that this could have an impact on the final policy.
5. Due to the outstanding Travellers' Housing Needs assessment (which is outside the control of Herefordshire Council), a position had not been reached where it was appropriate to have another meeting of the Review Group. However work has now progressed to a point where it would be appropriate to call a meeting in the near future of the Review Group the membership of which was appointed on the 19th June 2007. It is expected that a report on the housing needs will be presented to the Review Group in December 2007.

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT;**

- (a) **The report be noted and the Review Group complete the review of the Traveller Policy in accordance with the Director of Environment's report of the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006.**

- (b) The Review Group report their findings to the Committee in March 2008 for approval and forwarding to the Cabinet Member (Environment & Strategic Housing) consideration.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Herefordshire Council Traveller Policy 2002.

## 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 A number of other issues for consideration have been discussed with the Director and, depending on the Committee's future instruction, may be added to the programme as it is further developed. The issues are listed at the foot of the programme.
- 6 Appendix 2 attempts to track those items that the Committee has discussed and expect action or outcome. Some of these items may already appear in the suggested work programme.
- 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 OCTOBER 2007**

<b>9.30 am Monday 3rd December 2007</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Environmental Management (GEM)</li> <li>• Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity.</li> <li>• Review of Polytunnels – Executive response to Scrutiny Review and Action Plan.</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	
<b>10.00am Monday 25th February 2007</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<b>9.30am Monday 31st March 2007</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: Executive response to Scrutiny Review and Action Plan.</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	

I  
Since the Committee last considered its programme the following items have been noted for consideration:

- **Waste Strategy** - Strategic Monitoring Committee at their meeting on 17 September 2007 requested that the Committee look at the Waste Strategy by making a proactive and reactive contribution to the development of the Waste Strategy
- **Residential Parking Scheme** - Councillor Hubbard has requested that the Committee look at the residential parking scheme. A number of deficiencies in the scheme have been brought to his attention.
- **Parking Charges in Hereford City** - Councillor Hubbard has highlighted that there is to be a review of parking charges in Hereford City the outcome of which may put further pressure on the system.

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.

Summary of actions in response to Committee recommendations

Appendix 2

Date	Issue and decision	Resultant action or outcome
12/3/07	<p>Biodiversity Issues and the development of a strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That</p> <p>a) The Cabinet Member (Environment) is recommended to develop a Biodiversity Strategy for the Council in discussion with Member, the Committee and Directorates prior to a wider stakeholder and public consultation and in the light of guidance to be published by DEFRA; and</p> <p>b) A further report on progress of the Biodiversity Strategy be included in the Committee work programme for the September 2007 meeting.</p>	<p>The draft strategy and approach is being reviewed in the light of DEFRA guidance on section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. A report is scheduled for the December 2007 meeting.</p>
12/3/07	<p>Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire</p> <p><b>(d) that the Executives response be reported to the Committee in due course.</b></p>	<p>The findings of the review were passed to the Cabinet Member (Environment) and Cabinet considered the recommendations at its meeting on 22nd March. Cabinet agreed the recommendations and added "(d) a Supplemental Planning Document be prepared on polytunnel developments to a timetable to be arranged by the Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Local Development Scheme be amended accordingly in consultation with growers and the community." Following consideration by the Chairman the work programme has been adjusted so that a full report can be made to the 5th December 2007 meeting and will incorporate the executive response report, an update on progress in relation to part (d) above, and an update on any enforcement action.</p>

Date	Issue and decision	Resultant action or outcome
19/6/07	<p>Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT;</b></p> <p>a) Councillor KG Grumbley, Chairman of the Review Group and Councillor P Edwards be appointed to complete the Scrutiny Review in accordance with the Scoping Statement;</p> <p>b) The resultant draft report of the Review Group be included for consideration in the Committee work programme for the September 2007 meeting; and</p> <p>The Cabinet Member (Environment &amp; Strategic Housing) host a Members seminar on Waste Management as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A report on the findings of this Scrutiny review are included in the agenda.</p>
19/6/07	<p>Scrutiny Review Group: - Draft Travellers Policy</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That</p> <p>a) Councillor WLS Bowen continue as Chairman of the Review Group together with Councillors: T Hunt, P Morgan and JB Williams; and</p> <p>b) the findings of the Review Group be included for consideration in the Committee work programme for the September 2007 meeting.</p>	<p>An update on the work of the Review is included in this agenda.</p>
24/9/07	<p>Call-in of Cabinet decision on Rotherwas Archaeology: Options for the preservation of the ribbon and completion of the Rotherwas Access Road</p>	<p>The four part resolution resulting from the call-in meeting have been referred to Cabinet for consideration and were considered on 25th October 2007.</p>





