

# A G E N D A

## Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday, 9th June, 2008**

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Time: **9.30 a.m.**

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

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

*For any further information please contact:*

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### Herefordshire Council



# AGENDA

## for the Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

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

Councillors CM Bartrum, WLS Bowen, JHR Goodwin, JW Hope MBE,  
MAF Hubbard, TW Hunt, PM Morgan, A Seldon and PJ Watts

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

### 2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.

#### GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is and leave the meeting room.

### 4. MINUTES

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2008.

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|------------|--|---------|
| <b>5.</b>  | <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.   |         |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING)</b>  |         |
|            | The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) will comment on achievements or areas for improvement in the past year in his programme area as it related to this Committee, what will need to be addressed in the coming year and indicate issues he may wish to involve Scrutiny in in the future. |         |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION)</b>  |         |
|            | The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) will comment on achievement or areas for improvement in the past year in his programme area, what will need to be addressed in the coming year and indicate issues he may wish to involve Scrutiny in in the future.  |         |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE</b>   |         |
|            | To report on how the Directorate has performed against the Directorate Plan and performance targets and issues to be addressed in the future.  |         |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION</b>  |         |
|            | To report on issues the new Directorate will be addressing within the terms of reference of this Committee.  |         |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>REVIEW OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP WITH AMEY WYE VALLEY LTD - UPDATE</b>  |         |
|            | To update the Committee on progress with the review of the Council's Service Delivery Partnership with Amey Wye Valley Ltd.  |         |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOIRNG</b>   | 9 - 14  |
|            | To advise the Committee on the final outturn position for the 2007/08 Environment Capital Programme and to highlight the proposed programme for 2008/09.   |         |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING</b>   | 15 - 26 |
|            | To advise the Committee on the final revenue outturn position for Environment for 2007/08 and to outline the agreed budget for 2008/09, highlighting the emerging budget pressures.  |         |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES</b>  | 27 - 30 |
|            | To agree both the principle of a review of the Council's Planning Service, and its terms of reference.   |         |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</b>  | 31 - 34 |
|            | 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

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

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

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

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

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Generally, members of the public will also be able to contribute to the discussion at the meeting. This will be at the Chairman's discretion.

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

## **Remits of Herefordshire Council's Scrutiny Committees**

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

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

### **Children's Services**

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

### **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

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

### **Health**

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

### **Environment**

*Environmental Issues  
Highways and Transportation*

### **Strategic Monitoring Committee**

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

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

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee held at : The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 31 March 2008 at 9.30 a.m.**

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

Councillors: WLS Bowen, JHR Goodwin, JW Hope MBE, MAF Hubbard,  
TW Hunt, PM Morgan, PJ Watts and JD Woodward

**In attendance:** Councillors H Bramer, PJ Edwards, JG Jarvis (Cabinet Member - Environment and Strategic Housing), AT Oliver and DB Wilcox (Cabinet Member – Highways and Transportation)

**59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor A Seldon.

**60. NAMED SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor JD Woodward substituted for Councillor A Seldon.

**61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**62. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held 25 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no suggestions by members of the public.

**64. REVIEW GROUP REPORT ON THE HEREFORDSHIRE TRAVELLERS' POLICY**

The Committee considered the findings contained in the Review Group report on the Herefordshire Travellers' Policy.

At its meeting in September 2006 the Committee agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of the travellers' policy. While a degree of background work had been undertaken the review group undertook the bulk of its work during the latter part of 2007 and the report of the Group's findings was contained in the agenda.

The Chairman of the Travellers Policy Review Group, Councillor WLS Bowen, briefly reported on the work of the group and particularly highlighted the conclusions that:

- in relation to the travellers site at Stoney Street, Madley, the Review Group found that the site had never been popular with travellers as it was somewhat

isolated and was not on the usual routes used by Travellers. The site had not been used since 2002 apart from occasional unauthorised encampments and had suffered vandalism. In its present condition it was not available for further use. The Review Group was concerned about the ongoing situation with this site and took the view that an alternative location for the site should be sought but as this was a valuable asset it should be made available for use until such time that a replacement can be secured. It was proposed that the capital receipt from any sale of the site be ring fenced to support the acquisition of an alternative site(s).

- in relation to Open Fields, Linton, Bromyard, the Review Group found that this was a fourteen-pitch site which has been badly vandalised. At present only two pitches were occupied. These were the only plots that could be occupied without major refurbishment. The Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan had identified that this site needed to be redeveloped and redesigned with a reduction in pitch numbers. The Review Group concluded that this should be progressed as soon as is practicable.
- the other Traveller sites in the County seemed to be in good order and enjoyed by the residents.
- once West Mercia Constabulary had revised its procedures on dealing with Traveller issues a Service Level Agreement should be entered into thereby reflecting the position in neighbouring local authorities.
- the Cabinet Member consider involving the Review Group in any further development of the policy.
- subject to the correction of a number of typographical errors he commended the report for consideration by the Committee and forwarding to the Executive.

The Committee noted that the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, on which government guidance had recently been received, provided capital funding for improving and increasing Gypsy and Traveller site provision by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. Nationally £97million was available between 2008-11, with the grant being allocated regionally (£7.5m to the West Midlands) through the regional housing allocation. The Committee noted that grant criteria had moved from a financial limit per plot to showing value for money per plot/site.

The Committee also noted that in some instances travellers had either permanently or temporarily taken up permanent social housing. This had, on occasions, had implications for the affordable housing policy.

The Committee further noted that a sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (involving Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin and Powys) had been undertaken and the findings published. These findings will be incorporated into the assessments for the Regional Assembly. The findings of the sub-regional report indicate that Herefordshire will generate the need for a considerable number of plots (100 to 130) over the next 10 years. The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) commented that, while the County would provide its quota, this number was being challenged. The actual number of additional plots may also be reduced when current temporary plots are taken into account.

It was suggested that a number of small sites e.g. one or two plots, should be provided, so that family or family groups could be accommodated at one location.

Questioned on how encampments on private land were dealt with the Committee were informed that land owners were issued with advice and if the matter became a planning issue then enforcement action was taken. Close links had been

established between environment and planning services.

The Committee noted that the health service provision mentioned in the report was provided by the Primary Care Trust.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) thanked the Review Group for undertaking the review and that he would be considering the conclusions in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) **that the draft Travellers Policy, together with the conclusions set out at section 8 of the covering agenda report, be approved and referred to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) for consideration;**
- (b) **the Executive's response to the review including an action plan be reported to the first meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response; and**
- (c) **a further report on progress with respect to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

**65. THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS PERMIT SCHEME FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITES**

The Committee considered the current arrangements of the Commercial Vehicles and Trailers Permit Scheme for Household Waste Sites.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards outlined the background to the introduction of the scheme. He reported that since the scheme had been introduced there had been an overall reduction in waste of 12% across all household waste sites in the two Counties (Herefordshire and Worcestershire). This had led to savings for the two authorities for 2007/08 estimated at £871,000, whilst the costs of the scheme were estimated to be £240,000 (further detailed in Appendix 1 to the report).

Turning to allegation that incidents of fly tipping had increased he confirmed there was evidence to support this assertion. He emphasised that care needed to be exercised in assessing the problem and clarified that in April 2007 the service became aware that it had been underreporting incidents due to confusion over the definition of what was a recordable incident. This had been rectified in April 2007 resulting in a 100% increase in recordable incidents. The underlying trend appeared to be around 57% which appeared high compared to the Worcestershire authorities for the same period. He reported the cost of clearing fly tipping and estimated that the increased levels this year would cost about £9,000 extra. This extra cost when set against the savings of the Permit Scheme indicated that the Council would save in the order of £148,000 in the current year on the introduction of the scheme.

Responding to questions on enforcement of Fly tipping and whether publicity was given to successful prosecutions, the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that the joint Environmental Crime Unit currently had 20 ongoing cases, some of which were in the court process. The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) agreed that increased publicity concerning enforcement would be a benefit.

The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards further reported that major incidents of fly tipping were the responsibility of the Environment Agency. However, unless the incident was hazardous in nature the agency unfortunately left

the incident to the local authority.

While on the issue of waste it was suggested a different approach could be considered namely that of Norfolk County Council in setting up exchange sites.

**RESOLVED That the report be noted.**

**66. REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING IN HEREFORDSHIRE:  
EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Committee were informed of the current position following the Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire and the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Review.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) thanked the Review Group for undertaking the review and for the report on their findings. He commented that in a number of aspects things had moved on, namely that black bag collection would continue to be on a weekly cycle. However, other elements from the review would be considered as the waste contract was reviewed. Talks were ongoing with the contractor concerning changes to the contract and he anticipated holding a member seminar on waste issues in the next few months. This would be followed by a report to scrutiny on the key issues.

**RESOLVED That the report be noted and the key issues arising from the seminar be reported in due course.**

**67. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING**

The Committee were advised on the progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme for Environment within the overall context of the Herefordshire Council Capital Programme.

The Committee were advised that the total capital budget for Environment programme area had decreased to £27,586,000 from £28,931,000 as notified to the previous meeting. This represented a net reduction of £1,345,000 which was detailed in the report and appendix.

On scrutinising the report the following comments or principal points were noted:

- that in common with a number of other schemes the Rural Footway Improvement programme had been held up due to greater emphasis being placed on maintenance work arising from the summer floods. It was reported that the end of year outturn was likely to be approximately £45,000.
- An underspend was anticipated on the Rural Rail Improvement programme as this required the support of Network Rail who were being encouraged to participate.
- Land acquisition issues were ongoing in relation to the Park and Ride scheme.
- The current forecast was that the Public Rights of Way would spend at budget.
- It was suggested that greater emphasis was needed on the cycle network programme particularly in the Kings Acre/Whitecross area and in joining up the networks. In response the Acting Head of Highways and Transportation reported that a cycleway scheme for Holmer Road, Hereford, was being progressed with the Highways Agency and was likely to be completed in the next financial year. The Director of Environment commented that the

Sustrans project would make a significant contribution to the walking/cycling network. Comment was also made concerning the need to ensure that the cycle network was integrated with both other means of transport and the ESG development.

- Following protracted land negotiations work on the new Crematorium were now well underway.
- Part of the unused High Town refurbishment budget would be held over to supplement improvements to Widemarsh Street, Hereford, on which a report would be made to Cabinet.
- Responding to concerns that the Section 106 funding obtained through the Asda development may be lost the Acting Head of Highways and Transportation reported that this funding had originally been allocated to support the local bus service. Initial expenditure on the bus service had been met from other funding, but that funding would soon cease and therefore the Section 106 funding would be used.
- Responding to a suggestion that signs indicating distance and time by cycle be placed on main traffic routes into the City – thereby informing drivers that it may be quicker by cycle – the Acting Head of Highways and Transportation reported that, notwithstanding the intention to reduce street clutter, the suggestion would be considered.
- Responding to the issue of potholes in roads the Director of Environment reported that this was one of the issues that would be addressed in the Strategic Service Delivery review. Highway maintenance priorities were defined in the Highway Maintenance Plan.

The Chairman commented that the amount of capital borrowing needed to be carefully monitored as the amount of borrowing could have an adverse effect on the Council's future budgets.

**RESOLVED: That the Capital Budget Monitoring report be noted and the Executive be reminded of the need to carefully monitor the level of capital borrowing so that future budgets were not adversely effected.**

## 68. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee were advised of the financial position for the Environment Programme area budgets for the period to 29 February 2008.

The Director of Environment reported that while the Service had experienced pressures in a number of areas, as detailed in the report but principally overspends on Concessionary Travel and Winter Maintenance and reduced income from Car Parking, he expected the outturn to be within budget.

The Director of Resources representative reported that the total revenue budget for 2007/08 had reduced from £24,741,000 to £24,735,000. The reduction related to the transfer of finance staff budgets to Financial Services in the Resources Directorate. Other variations to budgets were detailed in the report and appendix.

On scrutinising the report the following principal comments or points were noted:

- Responding to the projected over spend of £293,000 in Planning the Head of Planning Services reported that this was down to four factors namely: reduced levels of fee income; reduced availability of external grant; high oncosts particularly IT related costs and the cost of implementing

- enforcement action for which there was no defined budget.
- Questioned further on the ICT costs the Head of Planning Services reported that the external facility used to digitally scan plans was expensive and had reached the end of its life expectancy and the Service was now looking to bring the facility in-house. Responding to concerns about the proliferation of ICT Systems he emphasised that as the facility had now ended a degree of urgency was needed to find a replacement but that the replacement would need to deliver both cost savings and be compatible with the anticipated wider ICT framework.
  - Responding to the issue of reduced Car Parking income it was reported that the budget had been set in anticipation of increased usage which had not materialised. The reduced availability of Merton Meadow due to the summer floods had also reduced the income levels.
  - Reference in the report at paragraph 20 to an overspend of £43,000 at Belmont related to a land purchase to facilitate the adoption of the land fill area.
  - The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reported that further to the information on the Waste Contract contained at paragraph 9 negotiations were underway with the contractor over the 'trigger figure' which would initiate the higher fee.
  - The Committee noted that no specific budget was allocated for employing consultants in relation to undertaking planning enforcement cases.
  - It was noted that the Central Support Costs e.g. for ICT support, were allocated to the budgets at the end of the year. This made it difficult for the Service to predict the precise end of year position as the Service had no control over the level of cost applied.

**RESOLVED: That the Revenue Budget Monitoring report be noted.**

**69. ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE PLAN: PERFORMANCE FOR THE TEN-MONTH PERIOD TO JANUARY 2008**

The Committee were updated on the progress towards achieving the targets for 2007-08 in the Directorate Plan. The Committee noted that the report followed a similar format to that used for the Integrated Performance and Finance Report (IPFR), but reported on performance only.

The Improvement Manager reported that overall performance was good. However, three areas were indicated as 'red' and required attention namely: 83a – Principal road condition; 94HC – relating to fly-tipping, and 9HC – relating to the removal of abandoned vehicles. He also highlighted that Strategic Monitoring Committee on 10 March had specifically commented on indicator 83a. He further highlighted that the CPA score for the Environment Service was 3 star (covering performance in 2006-07) an improvement on the previous Services score of 2 star. Details of the indicators were contained in appendix 1 to the report.

Responding to questions concerning the difference between 'principal' and 'rural' roads the Acting Head of Highways and Transportation reported that 'principal' roads related to main 'A' roads, whereas rural roads were non-principal non classified roads. The Committee noted that, while much improved over last year, the 5% target had been missed by 1%. The Director of Environment reported that the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP), discussed at the February 2008 meeting, would define the criteria for future investment in the transport network.

Questioned on the target 94HC (relating to fly-tipping) the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards reminded Members of the earlier debate at Minute 65



and commented that measures were now in place to accurately record incidents and enforcement action was being taken. While there had been sustained improvement the 100% target would not be met this year.

In relation to abandoned vehicles it was noted that the increased value of scrap metal had had a beneficial effect in reducing the number of incidents. The Environmental Crime Unit had brought together staff to deal with incidents in a co-ordinated and flexible way.

Reference was made to target 56HC (relating to municipal waste) and the fact that much of the trade waste went to land fill instead of being recycled. The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) reported that legislation for trade waste was different to household waste. He commented that a change in the national legislation for trade waste would be welcomed, particularly around the manufacturer's responsibility e.g. the collection and recycling of glass from public houses.

The Chairman conveyed a degree of public concern over the unsatisfactory state of the highway and drainage systems generally and suggested that these issues needed to be closely monitored by the Executive.

**RESOLVED: That the Performance Monitoring report be noted and the Executive's attention be drawn to the need to carefully monitor the state of the highway and drainage systems.**

#### 70. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) suggested the Committee may wish to consider undertaking a review of Planning Services. He commented that the Planning Service had enjoyed wide ranging success in recent years and in particular in relation to Development Control performance and the formulation of the initial stages of the Local Development Framework. The Challenge for the future was to respond locally to the national Planning Reform agenda. At its heart was the move from a land use to a spatial planning system as the Council rolled out the Local Development Framework and delivered the new Growth Point agenda. In this context he invited the Committee to undertake a scrutiny review of the Planning Service in the County and suggested particular focus could be given to:

- How the Planning function can deliver effectively the growth required up to 2026;
- How best planning policies can be implemented through the development management function;
- The relationship between Officer, Members, Parish/Town Councillors and Applicants;
- Developing processes that support and enable good communications and relationships to be maintained;
- Exploring service delivery arrangements that will assist in the ongoing modernisation of the service;
- Explore ways in which the Planning Service becomes an enabler service.

He also suggested that the review could explore other service delivery arrangements in local authorities in general and in high performing Councils in particular.

The Committee noted that, as reported earlier, a seminar on the Waste Contract would be held for all Council Members. This would be followed by a report to Scrutiny on the key issues involved.

The Committee wished to be kept informed of progress with the Strategic Service Delivery Partnership review (reported to the meeting on 25 February 2008) and noted that a report was expected to be made to Cabinet in May 2008.

Questioned on issues concerning the Council's Small Holdings Estate the Committee noted that this issue was being considered by the Strategic Monitoring Committee.

**RESOLVED: that**

- a) **A Scrutiny Review be undertaken into the Planning Service;**
- b) **The suggested membership of the Planning Services Review Group be Councillors: T Hunt (Chairman), CM Bartrum, WLS Bowen, RI Matthews; PM Morgan and PJ Watts; and**
- c) **Subject to the addition of a report on the key issues arising from the Waste Contract the work programme, as set out in the appendix to the report, be noted and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.**

The meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.

**CHAIRMAN**

**CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING****Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE****Purpose**

1. To advise the Committee on the final outturn position for the 2007/08 Environment Capital Programme and to highlight the proposed programme for 2008/09.

**Financial Implications****Capital Outturn 2007/08**

2. The final outturn position for the Environment Capital Programme for 2007/08 is shown in Appendix I.
3. The total of the Capital Programme slightly increased to £27,599,000 from the figure of £27,586,000 reported to the last meeting as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007. This is a net increase of £13,000 and relates to:
  - i) Additional contract costs for the Rotherwas Access Road of £227,000 bringing the 2007/08 outturn to £7,686,000. This is funded by Advantage West Midlands (£5,000,000), Capital receipts from various lease premiums (£565,000), Prudential borrowing (£1,383,000) and £738,000 from LTP budget.
  - ii) Reduction in rural network of cycle routes & parking of £149,000 due to delays with the development of schemes as work was prioritised to deliver the flood repair activities. Schemes have now been included in the programme for the current year.
  - iii) Additional capitalisation of principal roadworks of £375,000 and non-principal roadworks of £78,000. The outturn reflects the completion of the annual programme and additional works to alleviate pressure on the revenue budgets.
  - iv) Reduction in footway maintenance expenditure of £181,000 due to prioritising works on principal and non-principal roads.
  - v) Additional spend on the Ross Flood Alleviation Scheme of £237,000 in relation to main construction costs incurred before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Completion is expected in September 2008.
  - vi) Additional spend on the Hereford Crematorium of £315,000 in relation to contractor costs, cremator deposit and fees to maximise the VAT Partial Exemption Moratorium for 2007/08, the position for 2008/09 has not yet been confirmed. This scheme is due for completion in March 2009.
  - vii) Slippage in expenditure on Leominster Closed Landfill Site monitoring Infrastructure of £287,000. Half of this 60 week contract was completed by end of March 2008.

- viii) Slippage in Public Toilets Improvements Scheme of £167,000 relating to Broad St, Leominster and St Martin's, Hereford. These works will now be carried out in 2008/09. Public Toilets improvement schemes at Union Walk Hereford, Church Lane Ledbury and Wye St. Ross-on-Wye were completed in 2007/08.
- ix) Reduction in expenditure on schemes funded by s106 Agreement monies which will be carried forward into 2008/09 Programme.

**Capital budget 2008/09**

- 4. The proposed Capital Programme for 2008/09 is attached as Appendix II. This has increased to £19,949,000 from the original budget included in the Medium Term Financial Management Strategy of £16,203,000, This increase of £3,746,000 relates to:
  - i) Net additions to 2008/09 Programme due to slippage in the 2007/08 Programme;
  - ii) An additional allocation for Enhancements to High St, Hereford of £751,000;
  - iii) Provisional increase in costs of Rotherwas Access Road of £1,390,000 to match funding available. Compensation events are still to be agreed and forecast will be revised when the Project Manager assessments are completed. Also currently awaiting the outcome of Stage 3 Audit & Departure submission application for A49 tie in and associated works.

**Considerations**

- 5. The Environment General Capital Working Group meets regularly and keeps the overall spending position under careful review.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

## Environment Capital Programme Outturn 2007/08

Scheme	Budget 2007/08	Revised Forecast (31.01.08)	Outturn 2007/08
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Hereford Integrated Transport Strategy</b>			
<b>Walking and Access</b>			
Pedestrian Route & Disabled Access Imps	75	75	48
City Centre Pedestrian Enhancement	100	50	50
<b>Cycling</b>			
Cycle Network Development	200	150	139
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>			
Rail Improvements	25	25	15
Accessible Bus Network	45	85	85
<b>Park and Ride</b>			
Christmas Park and Ride	20	16	15
Park & Ride Permanent Site Development	500	95	47
<b>Rotherwas Access Road</b>			
Rotherwas Access Road	8,100	7,459	7,686
Hfd Intelligent Transport System	25	20	25
<b>Rural Areas &amp; Market Towns Integrated Transport Strategy</b>			
<b>Walking and Access</b>			
Pedestrian and Disabled Access Imps	20	20	17
Rural Footway Improvements	60	45	16
<b>Cycling</b>			
Network of Cycle Routes and Pkg	200	200	51
<b>Public Transport Minor Schemes</b>			
Rural Rail Imps	75	15	14
Public Transport Minor Improvements	55	55	63
HGV Projects	50	50	68
Travel Awareness Campaign	35	35	33
Accessibility Partnership Development	30	30	30
Public Rights of Way Access Imps	25	25	31
<b>Countrywide Safety Strategy</b>			
<b>Hearts and Minds</b>			
School Travel Plan Support	25	25	25
<b>Minor Safety Schemes</b>			
Minor Safety Improvements	300	400	400
<b>Traffic Calming</b>			
Traffic Calming	220	130	92
<b>SRTS (Including 20mph zones)</b>			
SRTS (Inc. 20 mph zones)	380	300	380
<b>Speed Control</b>			
Speed limit reductions	60	85	88
Signage		20	
<b>Monitoring</b>			
Monitoring (data collection)	40	48	48
<b>Highways Maintenance</b>			
Capitalised Maintenance of Principal Roads	1,867	1,867	2,022
Capitalised Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	3,550	3,996	4,074
Footways - Footways	1,065	1,065	884
Embankments	100	100	96
Rights of Way Improvements	25	25	27
<b>Bridge Maintenance</b>			
Capitalised Assessment & Strengthening of Bridges	700	750	753
Staff costs to be allocated over LTP	301	301	304
<b>Local Transport Plan TOTAL</b>	<b>18,273</b>	<b>17,562</b>	<b>17,626</b>

## Environment Capital Programme Outturn 2007/08

Scheme	Budget 2007/08	Revised Forecast (31.01.08)	Outturn 2007/08
	£000	£000	£000
<b>Non LTP Schemes</b>			
Ross On Wye Flood Alleviation Scheme	5,000	5,000	5,237
City Centre Enhancements - High Town & High Street		200	126
Crematorium Hereford	2,158	810	1,125
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	482	482	195
Public Convenience improvements	403	498	331
Grafton Travellers Site	39	49	16
Pembridge Travellers Site		0	
Land at Belmont Road		45	43
Waste Performance and Efficiency	129	12	105
Flood Defence Works(s106 - Asda)		2,172	2,172
Bus Service & Ped/Cycle Route Works (s106 Asda)		129	10
Shobdon Car Park (s106 - Kingspan)		25	12
LPSA2 - Street Scene	144	167	167
LPSA2 - Road Safety	218	218	195
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site - Gas Well & Pipework	70	70	
Strangford Closed Landfill Site	18		0
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site - Gas Flare	70	70	127
Specific Road Safety Grant		70	70
Parking - Hereford Sixth Form s106		7	3
Demolition works at Newton Farm (s106 - Kingspan)			30
Waste Disposal PFI - Annual uplift			9
<b>NON LTP TOTAL</b>	<b>8,731</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>9,973</b>
<b>Total Environment Capital Programme</b>	<b>27,004</b>	<b>27,586</b>	<b>27,599</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>			
	Budget 2007/08	Revised Forecast (31.01.08)	Outturn 2007/08
	£000	£000	£000
Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)	7,582	7,582	7,582
LTP Grant	3,021	3,021	3,021
Prudential Borrowing	3,201	4,089	3,287
Specific Road Safety Grant	70	70	70
Revenue Contributions		45	52
LPSA 2 Funding	362	385	362
Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant	129	12	105
DEFRA	5,000	5,000	5,237
AWM Rotherwas Access Road Grant	5,000	5,000	5,000
Capital Receipts Reserve	2,639	49	581
s106 Funding		2,333	2,297
Public Transport Minor improvements (Ins Claim)			4
Dept of Transport Grant			1
<b>Total Environment Capital Funding</b>	<b>27,004</b>	<b>27,586</b>	<b>27,599</b>

**Environment Capital Programme 2008/09**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>
	<b>£000</b>
<b>Behavioural Change Countywide</b>	
Travel Awareness Campaign	35
Monitoring	40
<b>Hereford Transport Strategy</b>	
Hereford Intelligent Transport System – Detailed Assessment	20
Rotherwas Access Road (LTP Block contribution to Major Scheme £500k)*	2,255
Hereford Outer Distributor Road – feasibility and support for Local Development Framework	
Core Strategy development	30
Christmas Park and Ride	15
Park and Ride A49 North Site	300
Park and Ride A49 South Site	100
Cycle Network & Parking	200
Accessible Bus Network	35
Hereford Rail Station Access Improvements	30
Other Pedestrian Access Improvements	75
<b>Rural Herefordshire Transport Strategy</b>	
Rural Pedestrian and Disabled Access Improvements	35
Rural Footway Improvements	60
Rural Cycle Routes and Parking	200
Public transport minor improvements	55
Rural Rail Station Access Improvements	120
HGV projects	50
ROWIP Access Improvements	25
Accessibility Partnership Development	30
<b>Road Safety Strategy</b>	
Specific Road Safety Grant	73
Minor Safety improvements	300
Traffic Calming	180
Speed Limits	60
Safer Routes to School and School 20mph Zones	350
School Travel Plan Support	25
<b>Maintaining the Transport Network</b>	
LTP Funded Capital Highway Maintenance	7,269
ROWIP Access Improvements	25
Bridgeworks (LTP)	900
Capitalised Staff Costs	301
<b>LTP Total</b>	<b>13,193</b>

**Environment Capital Programme 2008/09**

Scheme	Budget 2008/09
<b>Non LTP Schemes</b>	
Ross On Wye Flood Alleviation Scheme	1,671
Hereford City Centre Enhancements	1,161
Crematorium Hereford	1,807
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	287
Public Convenience improvements	273
Grafton Travellers Site	33
Waste Performance and Efficiency	442
Sustran Lottery Match funding	300
LPSA2 - Road Safety	24
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site	53
Strangford Closed Landfill Site	83
Various Planning Obligations for Transport (S106 Contributions)	622
<b>NON LTP TOTAL</b>	<b>6,756</b>
<b>Expenditure to be Financed</b>	<b>19,949</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>	
	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)	10,378
LTP Grant	780
Prudential Borrowing	5,558
Specific Road Safety Grant	73
LPSA 2 Funding	24
Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant	442
DEFRA	1,671
AWM Rotherwas Access Road Grant	160
Capital Receipts Reserve	33
s106 Funding	830
<b>Total Environment Capital Funding</b>	<b>19,949</b>



## REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

**Report By: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE**

### Purpose

To advise the Committee on the final revenue outturn position for Environment for 2007/08 and to outline the agreed budget for 2008/09, highlighting the emerging budget pressures.

### Financial Implications

#### Revenue Outturn 2007/08

1. A summary of the final revenue outturn variances is set out in Appendix I.
2. In overall terms the Environment Directorate overspent by £60,000, which represents a variance of 0.2% against the agreed budget. This excludes £360,000 the Environment Directorate met as part of the unfunded element of the damage caused by the July 2007 floods.

#### Planning Services

3. Planning Services overspent by £417,000. The main overspends were:

Description	Overspend £000
Fee income – both Building Control and Development Control fell short of the budgeted income targets (£36k and £37k respectively), however the position in building control was offset by staff savings and operational cost savings giving an overall underspend of £22k. Within Development Control there were also significant overspends on IT scanning £98k and legal costs £118k.	216
IT SLA charges. In the previous year, on a one-off basis, this pressure was met by Planning Delivery Grant however there was no capacity to do this in 2007/08.	75
The failure to secure the carry forward of the unspent project budgets from previous years into 2007-08 has resulted in an overspend in conservation.	34
Revenue contribution to capital for the purchase of land at Belmont.	43

#### Highways and Transportation

4. Highways and Transportation overspent by £920,000 although this includes the expenditure incurred on flood damage within the Belwin threshold level. This has been funded through central budgets and is shown as an overall adjustment to the directorate position. The main overspends were:

Description	Overspend £000
Concessionary travel due to inflationary increases during the year on fares of 10% and an increase of patronage of 5%.	33
Winter Maintenance - this reflects the costs for an average winter.	510
Car Parking fell short of the income target by £95k and also overspent on expenditure budgets by £66k.	161
Street lighting overspent mainly as a result of £160k payment to Amey Wye Valley Ltd relating to contract uplift adjustments on all work carried out by Amey Wye Valley Ltd and Herefordshire Jarvis Services since September 2003.	177
Various overspend on road maintenance.	71

### Environmental Health and Trading Standards

5. Environmental Health & Trading Standards underspent by £917,000. The main variances were:

Description	Over/ (Under)spend £000
Waste Disposal - 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. In previous years the underspend on the contract has been transferred to reserves to meet future waste disposal management pressures. In 2007-08 the underspend has been used to mitigate overspends within other services within the Environment Directorate.	(693)
Commercial Services underspend due to additional income received in the current year in relation to the successful outcome of the Cadbury's court case.	(63)
Licensing underspend due to some income areas exceeding budgets. This has been exacerbated by difficulties in recruitment.	(49)
Pollution underspend due to income received above target and staff vacancies.	(65)
An underspend on Trading Standards, this relates to the receipt of unbudgeted grant from the Food Standards Agency.	(45)
Cemeteries, crematorium, traveller sites and trade waste also underspent however there were overspends on recycling, domestic waste collection and management costs.	

**Revenue Budget 2008/09**

6. The total budget for the Environment in 2008/09 is £25,051,000. This is the controllable budget total before support service costs are factored in. A breakdown of the budgets is set out in Appendix 2.
7. The Medium Term Financial Management Strategy approved by Council sets the broad framework for service revenue budgets for 2008/09 and onwards. Inflation was added only to direct employee headings whilst client & customer income budget targets were increased by 2.5%. The following adjustments have also been made to the Environment Budget.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget Additions/ (Reductions)</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Waste Disposal PFI Contract	450
Various Grants transferred to RSG	241
Environment share of £750k Procurement savings	(88)
Employee Savings	(98)
Supplies & Services savings	(20)

8. Other than these adjustments Environment received a standstill budget for 2008/09. The impact of this standstill approach is that there are further pressures in relation to contractual inflationary increases on Waste Collection, Public Transport and Highways.
9. As in 2007/08, there are pressures in all service areas arising from the need to meet inflationary uplifts on non-staff costs. Services will be expected to manage their budgets within these constraints. Work is currently being carried out to address these pressures and will be reported to the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee.
10. The current budget pressures for 2008/09 are detailed below.

**Planning Services**

11. Fee income is expected to increase by £200,000 in 2008/09 following changes to Planning Fee regulations.
12. Staff savings £200,000 were identified for 2008/09 however overspend on staff costs were mitigated by Planning Delivery Grant in 2007/08 so it is unlikely that these savings will be fully realised in 2008/09.
13. There are additional pressures in Planning in 2008/09 of £200,000 for the replacement of the IT Scanning system and £75,000 for IT SLA. There is also pressure on the Planning budget for any legal costs incurred in relation to appeals to planning decisions.

**Highways & Transportation**

14. Car Parking Fee income is expected to increase by £230,000 in 2008/09 following the introduction of price increases on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 however there will also be additional cost pressures for one off costs and the budget shortfall, as reflected in the 2007/08 outturn, totalling £140,000.
15. There is also pressure on the Highways budgets in relation to contract inflation on the Roads Maintenance, Street Cleansing and Public Toilets payments to Amey Wye Valley Ltd, estimated at £300,000.
16. Public Transport contract payments are also expect to inflate by £100,000 in 2008/09. Concessionary Travel is also expected to increase due to contract inflation and increased patronage increasing costs by £540,000 but this pressure is being met by specific grant from Department of Transport of £543,000.
17. There is additional pressure on Winter Maintenance budget of £300,000. This reflects the cost of winter with average winter conditions and contract inflation.

**Environmental Health & Trading Standards**

18. Contract inflation on Waste Collection contracts is an estimated pressure of £350,000 on 2008/09 Waste budgets.
19. Current estimates from Worcestershire County Council of Waste Disposal contract costs project an expected underspend of £300,000 on Herefordshire's Waste Disposal budget for 2008/09. As indicated in para.13 the cost of the future new contract will be considerably higher than at present and any underspend on the contract should be transferred to reserves to meet future waste management pressures.
20. Savings were identified totalling £400,000 however following restructure, which created a new Enviro Crime Team and other redundancy costs it is unlikely that this level of savings will be realised in 2008/09.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2007-08**

	Final Outturn Variance Over/(Under) Spend £000
<b><u>Summary</u></b>	
Planning Services	417
Highways & Transportation	920
Environmental Health & Trading Standards	(917)
Less Belwin Threshold	(360)
<b>ENVIRONMENT Net Outturn</b>	<b><u><u>60</u></u></b>
<b><u>Planning Services</u></b>	
Management & Admin	162
Building Control	(22)
Development Control	216
Conservation	33
Forward Planning	28
<b>Sub-Total PLANNING SERVICES</b>	<b><u><u>417</u></u></b>

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2007-08**

	Final Outturn Variance Over/(Under) Spend £000
<b><u>Highways &amp; Transportation</u></b>	
Public Conveniences	(11)
Highways Staff & Running Costs	58
Roads Maintenance	71
NRSWA	(13)
Winter Maintenance	510
Land Drainage/Flood Alleviation	(27)
Bridgeworks	1
Shop Mobility	(8)
Street Lighting	177
Searches - Highways	(3)
S38 Fees	(9)
Public Transport (incl Rural)	(7)
Transport Planning	(1)
Traffic Management	8
Road Safety	(5)
Bus Stations	(6)
Concessionary Travel	34
Transportation Staff	(12)
Car parks	161
Decriminalised Parking	21
Street Cleansing	(19)
<b>Sub-Total HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b><u><u>920</u></u></b>

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2007-08**

	Final Outturn Variance Over/(Under) Spend £000
<b><u>Environmental Health &amp; Trading Standards</u></b>	
Cemetries	(12)
Crematorium	(34)
Commercial Environmental Health	(63)
Pollution	(65)
Landfill & Contaminated Land	(14)
Pest Control	(28)
Dog Control	(6)
Animal Health & Welfare	15
Trading Standards	(45)
Envt Health Management & Support	30
Licensing	(49)
Traveller Sites	(20)
Waste Disposal	(693)
Recycling	92
Trade Waste	(44)
Domestic Waste Collection	19
<b>Sub-Total ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH &amp; TRADING STANDARDS</b>	<hr/> <b>(917)</b> <hr/>





## ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGETS 2008/09

	GROSS BUDGET £'000	INCOME £'000	NET BUDGET £'000
<b><u>Summary</u></b>			
Directorate Management & Overheads	692	334	358
Planning Services	3,867	2,001	1,866
Highways & Transportation	15,391	6,227	9,164
Environmental Health & Trading Standards	17,979	4,316	13,663
<b>ENVIRONMENT BUDGET</b>	<b>37,929</b>	<b>12,878</b>	<b>25,051</b>

<b><u>Directorate Management &amp; Overheads</u></b>	<b>692</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>358</b>
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**Planning Services**

Management & Admin	665	1	664
Building Control	672	769	(97)
Development Control	1,326	1,229	97
Conservation	715	0	715
Forward Planning	489	2	487
	<b>3,867</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>1,866</b>

## ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGETS 2008/09

	GROSS BUDGET £'000	INCOME £'000	NET BUDGET £'000
<b><u>Highways and Transportation</u></b>			
Public Conveniences	358	0	358
Highways Staff & Running Costs	2,833	746	2,087
Roads Maintenance	1,737	0	1,737
NRSWA	32	156	(124)
Winter Maintenance	782	0	782
Drainage/Flood Alleviation	142	0	142
Bridgeworks	68	0	68
Shopmobility	59	0	59
Street Lighting	766	0	766
Searches	0	2	(2)
S.38 Fees	0	45	(45)
Public Transport (incl. Rural)	2,582	1,244	1,338
Transport Planning	87	0	87
Traffic management	493	44	449
Road Safety	503	364	139
Bus Stations	13	27	(14)
Concessionary Travel	1,775	543	1,232
Transportation Staff	826	291	535
Car Parking	603	2,155	(1,552)
DeCrim. of Parking enforcement	650	529	121
Street Cleansing	1,082	81	1,001
	<b>15,391</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>9,164</b>

## ENVIRONMENT REVENUE BUDGETS 2008/09

	GROSS BUDGET £'000	INCOME £'000	NET BUDGET £'000
<b><u>Environmental Health &amp; Trading Standards</u></b>			
Markets & Fairs	270	546	(276)
Cemeteries	230	162	68
Crematorium	220	498	(278)
Commercial Team	454	1	453
Pollution	643	82	561
Landfill Sites & Contaminated Land	238	0	238
Pest Control	157	118	39
Dog Control	120	6	114
Animal Health & Welfare	295	134	161
Trading Standards	566	18	548
Envt Health Management & Support	425	4	421
Licensing	323	340	(17)
Travellers Sites	154	92	62
Waste Disposal	9,325	1,350	7,975
Recycling	657	5	652
Trade Waste	351	820	(469)
DomesticWaste Collection	3,551	140	3,411
	<b>17,979</b>	<b>4,316</b>	<b>13,663</b>



**PROPOSED REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES****Report By: HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES****Wards Affected**

County-wide.

**Purpose**

1. To agree both the principle of a review of the Council's Planning Service, and its terms of reference.

**Financial Implications**

2. There are none identified at this stage. Detailed matters may arise during the review.

**Background**

3. The proposed review was briefly discussed at the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. It has subsequently been agreed that the matter should be brought back in detail to this meeting.
4. The Planning Service has enjoyed wide ranging success in recent years and in particular in relation to Development Control performance and the formulation of the initial stages of the Local Development Framework.
5. The challenge for the future is to respond locally to the national Planning Reform agenda. At its heart is the move from a land use to a spatial planning system as the Council rolls out the Local Development Framework and delivers the new Growth Points agenda.
6. At the time of preparing this report the Planning Service had been placed within the newly created Regeneration Directorate. Similarly at that time consultation was being undertaken within the Directorate on the potential for the incorporation of the Transportation Team into the Planning Service. These changes in themselves reflect key elements of the Planning Reform agenda. An important focus of any planning service is now expected to be its ability to deliver growth, and in a sustainable way linking housing and employment growth with transportation initiatives.

**Proposed Terms of Reference**

7. It was proposed at the March 2008 meeting that a cross party group should be established to undertake this review.
8. It is suggested that its Terms of Reference be as follows:-
  - (a) to explore the Key Lines of Enquiry (set out below) with both officers, Cabinet members and appropriate outside agencies.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Ashcroft, Head of Planning Services, on (01432) 383098

- (b) to explore other service delivery arrangements in local authorities in general, and in high performing Councils in particular.
- (c) to prepare a series of recommendations to the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 Committee.

### **Proposed Key Lines of Enquiry**

9. On the basis of the setting up of the Regeneration Directorate, the new growth points initiative and the financial and capacity issues which have previously been raised by members and officers, the following key lines of enquiry are suggested.
- How best can the Planning function deliver the growth required up to 2026?
  - How can the Local Development Framework best be integrated with the Growth Points agenda?
  - How will the Planning Service contribute to the regeneration of the County in general, and to the provision of infrastructure in particular?
  - Does the Planning Service have the capacity and the financial ability to deliver the wider agenda?
  - How best can planning policies be implemented through the development management function?
  - How effective are relationships between officers, members and parish/town councils?
  - What work needs to be done to develop process that support and enable good communication and relationships to be established and maintained?
  - What service delivery arrangements will assist in the ongoing modernisation of the service.

### **Other Issues**

10. The undertaking of a review of the Service will bring its own capacity issues. It is suggested that a senior officer not employed in the Planning Service should support the review.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that:**

- (a) a cross party group be appointed by the Committee to carry out the review.**
- (b) its terms of reference be those set out in paragraph 8 above.**
- (c) Its key lines of enquiry should include those set out in paragraph 9 above.**

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Ashcroft, Head of Planning Services, on (01432) 383098

(d) The group report back to this Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Andrew Ashcroft, Head of Planning Services,  
on (01432) 383098





**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK  
PROGRAMME****Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Democratic****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 relevant Director in response to changing circumstances.
- 5 A number of other possible issues for consideration have been logged and depending on the Committee's future instruction may be added to the programme as it is further developed. The issues are listed at the foot of the programme.
- 6 Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
- 7 Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact either the Director of Environment and Culture, the Director of Regeneration 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.



**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - AT 9 JUNE 2008**

<b>9.30am Monday 15 September 2008</b>	
Officer Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household Waste – Consideration of issues following a Members Seminar on the subject. (an extra meeting may be called prior to September to consider this subject)</li> <li>• Service Delivery Review – update.</li> <li>• Good Environmental Management (GEM) – End of Year Report.</li> <li>• Herefordshire Travellers' Policy: Executives Response to Scrutiny Review.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Report on Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme.</li> </ul>
Scrutiny Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-Street Parking Review</li> <li>• Planning Services Review.</li> </ul>
<b>9.30am Monday 24 November 2008</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Delivery Review – update.</li> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Report on Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-Street Parking Review</li> <li>• Planning Services Review.</li> </ul>
<b>9.30am Monday 23 March 2008</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring</li> <li>• Report on Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme</li> </ul>

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.

