

A G E N D A

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday, 15th September, 2008**

Time: **9.30 a.m.**

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

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

For any further information please contact:

*Paul James, Democratic Services Officer,
Tel:01432 260 460 Fax:01432 261868
E-mail pjames@herefordshire.gov.uk*

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, JW Hope MBE, MAF Hubbard, TW Hunt, PM Morgan, A Seldon, NL Vaughan and PJ Watts

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)	
To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
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 9 June 2008.	1 - 10

5.	SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY	
	To consider suggestions from members of the public on issues the Committee could scrutinise in the future.	
6.	ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE	11 - 30
	To review the Council's performance against the corporate Environmental Strategy targets and to update the committee on the Council's targets in relation to climate change and carbon management, with particular reference to the Council's own carbon emissions.	
7.	ENVIRONMENT: PERFORMANCE FOR THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD TO JULY 2008	31 - 58
	To update Members on the progress towards achievement of targets for 2008-09 relevant to the Environment Scrutiny Committee and contained within the Environment & Culture Directorate and the Regeneration Directorate.	
8.	SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES - UPDATE	59 - 60
	To seek an extension of time to report on the findings of the Scrutiny Review.	
9.	ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME	61 - 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

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

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*

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

Please Note:

Agenda and individual reports can be made available in large print. Please contact the officer named on the front cover of this agenda **in advance** of the meeting who will be pleased to deal with your request.

The Council Chamber where the meeting will be held is accessible for visitors in wheelchairs, for whom toilets are also available.

A public telephone is available in the reception area.

Public Transport Links

- Public transport access can be gained to Brockington via the service runs approximately every half hour from the 'Hopper' bus station at the Tesco store in Bewell Street (next to the roundabout junction of Blueschool Street / Victoria Street / Edgar Street).
- The nearest bus stop to Brockington is located in Old Eign Hill near to its junction with Hafod Road. The return journey can be made from the same bus stop.

If you have any questions about this agenda, how the Council works or would like more information or wish to exercise your rights to access the information described above, you may do so either by telephoning the officer named on the front cover of this agenda or by visiting in person during office hours (8.45 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8.45 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. Friday) at the Council Offices, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.



Where possible this agenda is printed on paper made from 100% Post-Consumer waste. De-inked without bleaching and free from optical brightening agents (OBA). Awarded the Nordic Swan for low emissions during production and the Blue Angel environmental label.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire or emergency the alarm bell will ring continuously.

You should vacate the building in an orderly manner through the nearest available fire exit.

You should then proceed to Assembly Point J which is located at the southern entrance to the car park. A check will be undertaken to ensure that those recorded as present have vacated the building following which further instructions will be given.

Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee held at :The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Monday, 9 June 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

Present: 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

In attendance: Councillors PJ Edwards, TM James, JG Jarvis (Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing), AT Oliver, J Stone and DB Wilcox (Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

There were no named substitutes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That subject to recording that Councillor CM Bartrum had been in attendance the minutes of the meeting held 31 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

No suggestions were received from members of the public.

6. PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING)

The Committee received an oral presentation by the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) who commented on: the achievement or areas for improvement in the past year in his programme area, as it related to this Committee, what needed to be addressed in the coming year and indicated issues he may wish to involve Scrutiny in.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) briefly described: the highlights from 2007-08; performance, and the challenges to be faced.

He also commented on future work for scrutiny, not necessarily this committee, and highlighted the review of planning services, being a later agenda item. He also referred to the wider issues and purpose of regeneration and how this related to the

sub national review of economic development and the evolving role of Advantage West Midlands. He further referred to the need to ensure that the growth point status delivered sustainable communities and provided an appropriate mix of housing and employment in high quality environments and were well served by a choice of transportation.

During the presentation and subsequent debate the following principal points or comments were noted:

- The Committee congratulated the Service on the successful outcome from the Cadburys court case.
- In conjunction with the police spot checks and follow-up action was undertaken in relation to enforcing alcohol licensing, which included sales through supermarkets.
- The Cabinet Member acknowledged that the provision of recent information on the proposed Butter Market Refurbishment scheme may have been fragmented. A meeting would be held later in the week to agree the Lead Cabinet Member and a team to progress the scheme. Further information would be provided to Members and to a future meeting of the Committee.
- The Cabinet Member commented that the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy indicated that 16,600 new homes should be built in Herefordshire in the period 2006-2026. If the County were unable to meet any extended target then evidence would need to be provided through the Local Development Framework.
- Herefordshire was recycling 30% of its waste against the Government target of 40% by 2010. Public consultation – including web-blogs - was underway about continuing the weekly residual waste (back bags) collection and proposal to change recycling collections to fortnightly, where possible by wheeled bin. The Government target related to weight and therefore wheeled bin would enable mixed recyclables, including glass, to be collected. While a wider range of materials could be sorted via a comingled process, issues still remained in finding an end market for the sorted material. Discussions had been on going with Envirobility on how to diversify or integrate the successful scheme covering the Ross-on-Wye area. A Members seminar on waste had been held earlier in the year and the Cabinet Member invited Members to consult with their Parish Councils to ensure that as much input could be given to future debate.
- Questioned on the 'waste to power' option the Committee noted that discussions were ongoing concerning letting and delivering the new waste collection contract.
- The Committee noted that the Council had no responsibility towards commercial waste. The Council had undertaken a trial recycling scheme of glass from public houses, however, this had been stopped due to continual problems with sorting the various glass types. The Cabinet Member agreed that the recycling of commercial waste needed to be addressed by central government.
- Responding to comments regarding the restricted opening of household waste bring sites the Cabinet Member responded that many of the sites had limited opening due to planning restrictions.
- The Committee noted that after a number of years in trying to establish a baseline energy usage by Council premises a firmer position had been established. It was also noted that the contract for 'green electric' had been cancelled.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing for his presentation and comments on his programme area.

7. PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION)

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation by the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) who commented on: the achievement or areas for improvement in the past year in his programme area, what needed to be addressed in the coming year and indicated issues in which he may wish to involve Scrutiny. Copies of the presentation were made available at the meeting and a copy has been entered in the Committee minute book.

The Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) gave a brief overview of the Highways and Transportation Service; achievements in 2007/08; funding and work both underway and for the future.

During the presentation and subsequent debate the following principal points or comments were noted:

- Key indicators showed an improvement to the condition of principal and non-principal roads. Cycling had also increased. The Cabinet Member expressed disappointment that the number of 'killed and seriously injured traffic casualties' had risen against last year. He also commented that a fine balance was needed between expenditure on both principal and non-principal roads, which ensured continued government support, and expenditure on unclassified roads which also required considerable maintenance. Current funding was limited to maintain the 2000 miles of road in the County and this made it difficult to meet the demands for adequate maintenance on unclassified roads.
- While the Local Transport Plan provided the bulk of the funding other funding streams were pursued whenever opportunities arose.
- Responding to questions on the working relationship with the Highways Agency and possible detrunking of the A49 and A645, the Cabinet Member responded that he was currently seeking a meeting with the new Regional Director of the Highways Agency to discuss issues. The Agency had offered to detrunk the A465 but the conditions were currently not acceptable to the Council and the situation had to be looked at in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly. Currently the Agency were not offering to detrunk the A49. The Agency's maintenance priorities were still focused on motorways and major accident black spots in the region.
- Questioned on whether the increase in cycling could be attributed to work/school trips the Committee were informed that fixed 'counting points' were used. While they provided reliable data it was not possible to determine the destination of the cycle trip. Further work was underway with Children's Services to try to ascertain any increase in cycling to school.
- The Cabinet Member emphasised that every casualty or death was one too many and in liaison with the police every incident was investigated. He undertook to provide a further break down of the accident statistics.
- The Cabinet Member commented that major consultation would be undertaken on the Hereford Outer Distributor Road proposal. The results of a submission to the West Midlands Regional Assembly for their support would be known in late summer. This subject would no doubt be debated in future meetings. A view was expressed that local Members and Parish Councils should be kept informed and closely involved.
- The replacement of Colwall Railway Bridge by Network Rail was expected to start in spring of next year. The Councils contribution towards costs would not be known until a detailed design had been agreed.
- The Rotherwas Access Road was expected to be open in the next 2 to 3 weeks. The date of the official opening by AWM had yet to be announced.

- Responding to a question concerning progress with the Leominster Relief Road the Cabinet Member reported that a report from Leominster Town Council had just been received and was being appraised officers.
- Questioned on the justification for splitting Transportation and Highways the Cabinet Member responded that transportation encompassed the strategic element and, combined with planning, could contribute to the many planning policy objectives. Highways dealt with the management, maintenance and operation of the road network.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) for his presentation and comments on his programme area.

8. REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

The Committee received a report on how the Environment Directorate (now the Environment and Culture Directorate) had performed against the Directorate Plan and performance targets and were informed of issues for the future.

The Director of Environment and Culture (formerly Director of Environment) reported that there were continuing financial pressures on budgets arising from the need to meet inflationary uplifts on non-staff costs and gave the example that the construction industry inflation figure was at 12%. The review of the Amey contract was therefore critical to service delivery and cost management for future years.

He reported that the Directorate/Improvement Plan could be set out under four headings and commented that:

1. Customers – there was a need to ensure that services were representative of the wishes of the public and met the targets set. This needed to be monitored e.g. through the Satisfaction Survey, and addressed if necessary.
2. Reputation – the Council needed to ensure that areas of good practice was known about and shared. Further promoting the County as a good place to live and work would also help with staff recruitment and morale.
3. Value for Money – benchmarking against similar authorities would continue to ensure that a cost effective quality service was provided. The issue of sustainability should also be considered, on which this authority was leading the way.
4. Staff – most staff lived in the County and therefore were also users or customers of the service. Staff were encouraged to participate in staff opinion surveys.

On a general note he emphasised the need to both discuss and deliver projects with the Council's partners. He also commented on the need to identify assets and integrate services to ensure that they provided the right service in a timely efficient way.

Questioned on his comment regarding ensuring that the Herefordshire Council logo was given due prominence, he clarified that whenever or wherever the Council had been involved in a project or funding then the Council's part in that project should be made known to the public.

Clarifying the comment on sustainability in relation to Value for Money the Committee noted that while financial, social and economic issues were automatically considered within projects the Council were actively looking to extend this to include sustainability issues.

Responding to a comment regarding the loss of continuity, particularly when staff left the Council, the Director of Environment and Culture acknowledged that this had

been an issue, particularly in highways, however, this was being addressed. Amey also wished to ensure that local issues were addressed and therefore were keen to engage with Parish Councils.

In answer to a question concerning contract inflation the Director of Environment and Culture explained that it was common for contracts to be linked to a rate of inflation of which there were many methods of calculation. Many environment contracts were linked to the construction industry method of calculation which, due to the high demand for steel and concrete in places like China and India and the increasing Olympic effect, meant that costs were high.

Returning to Value for Money a point was made that the Council needed to ensure that tenders and contracts were properly specified and monitored to ensure that over inflated prices were not being paid.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Environment and Culture for his report.

9. REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

The Director of Regeneration gave a brief overview of how the new Directorate would contribute to the aims and ambitions of the Council, within the terms of reference of this Committee.

The Director of Regeneration reported that the establishment of the new Council/Primary Care Trust management team and structure had resulted in the establishment of the Regeneration Directorate. This reflected the growing need to bring together a range of service that supported the economic life and regeneration of the County. He highlighted the range of current and emerging central and regional government policies which needed to be addressed, particularly in the areas of planning; transportation and housing. The Directorate now provided a number of cross portfolio holder services and this would ensure that Cabinet Members; Directors and staff provided co-ordinated outcomes.

He outlined a number of priority areas including: working with stakeholders/partners in raising the profile of the County at regional level to secure additional funding; ensuring growth without damaging the assets of the County; ensuring that new housing was in the right place thereby contributing to communities and supporting schools. Work would continue on projects such as the Rotherwas Futures and the Widemarsh improvements/ESG scheme.

The new Directorate would comprise of a Head of Planning and Transportation; a Head of Economic and Community Services and a Head of Strategic Housing. The underlying structures in the Directorate were subject to review.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Regeneration for his report.

At this point the Committee adjourned for 5 minutes and reconvened at 11.59am.

10. REVIEW OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP WITH AMEY WYE VALLEY LTD - UPDATE

The Committee received an update on progress with the review of the Council's Service Delivery Partnership with Amey Wye Valley Ltd.

Committee Members received a copy of a report to be presented to Strategic Monitoring Committee on 13 June 2008 covering Phase 2 of the Service Delivery

Review which had been produced since publication of the Environment Committee agenda.

The Acting Head of Highways and Transportation reminded Members that the aim of the project was to review the Council's approach to delivering services through the existing Service Delivery Partnership and to identify a preferred option to ensure that the Council can deliver a better service for less cost. The review was commissioned to examine alternative forms of service delivery with a view to identifying an approach for the future that would meet the objectives of: securing annual savings to the Council of a minimum of £1 million and improving current quality and levels of service. He reported that the first phase of the review had been completed namely identifying possible approaches to service delivery and a set of criteria against which the options could be shortlisted. The second phase had considered the shortlisted options in more detail to identify a model for future implementation in Herefordshire. The Phase 2 report examined the potential future partnership between Herefordshire Council and Amey through the analysis of the identified models described in detail in the report. In summary these were:

- Improved business as usual which would look to improving the current agreement with extra bonus and penalty payments;
- Implementing a managing agent contract that would shift the partnership interface to give a greater responsibility for planning to Amey;
- Implement a managing agent type model but with services delivered by an organisation staffed by employees of both Amey and Herefordshire Council and managed by a single manager reporting to both organisations.

The Committee were informed that Amey were being very cooperative in jointly reviewing the contract. At this early stage in the review the 'total estimated savings' indicated in the report were only estimates and could not be guaranteed.

The Committee noted that the report would be considered by Strategic Monitoring Committee and that any comments should be directed to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman to raise at that Committee.

The Director of Environment and Culture emphasised that this was a Council contract being reviewed by the Council. Any issues needed to be raised at an early stage so that they could be addressed during the review as the Council would have to work with the resultant revised contract.

RESOLVED That the current position set out in the report to Strategic Monitoring Committee and further out lined above be noted and Members agreed to refer any questions or comments to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman for discussion at Strategic Monitoring Committee on 13 June 2008.

11. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITAIRNG

The Committee were advised on the final outturn position for the 2007/08 Environment Capital Programme and the proposed programme for 2008/09.

The Committee were advised that the total of the Capital Programme had slightly increased to £27,599,000 from the figure of £27,586,000 reported to the previous meeting. Brief details of the net increase were set out in the agenda report together with the final outturn position set out at appendix 1 to the report.

The proposed Capital Programme for 2008/09, attached to the report at appendix 2, indicated the budget had increased to £19,949,000 from the original budget included in the Medium Term Financial Management Strategy of £16,203,000. This increase

related to net additions due to slippage in the 2007/08 programme; an additional allocation for enhancements to High Street, Hereford, of £751,000 and various costs (£1,390,000) associated with the Rotherwas Access Road.

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

- Concern was raised regarding an apparent mismatch in the use of the budgets. It was suggested that greater emphasis had been placed on vehicle related budgets, hence many of the overspends, in favour of the people related budgets e.g. underspends in footway and cycle related budgets, and that this was contra to the Local Transport Plan. The Acting Head of Highways and Transportation acknowledged that due to the July 07 floods a number of schemes in the programme had been delayed and the budgets had been adjusted accordingly. Overall, under the direction of the Cabinet Member and the Director of Environment and Culture, the programme had been adjusted to make best use of the capital allocation.
- Responding to a comment that the investment was not alleviating the gridlock in the City, the Acting Head of Highways and Transportation informed the Committee that evidence from local surveys indicated that both cycle and public transport usage had risen. The congestion issue was taken seriously and both the Park and Ride scheme and an intelligent transport scheme were contained in the LTP.
- Questioned on the additional allocation (£751,000) for enhancements to High Street, Hereford, the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) informed the Committee that the improvement works to High Town, undertaken during 2007, had also included works to Widemarsh Street. However, at the request of a number of traders those works had not been undertaken at that time. While the intention had been to undertake improvements to Widemarsh Street to create an integrated streetscene to link to the ESG within the current financial year, he warned that, to ensure a consistent use of materials etc, the improvement programme may slip to the 2009/10 financial year.
- Asked to clarify the increase in costs of the Rotherwas Access Road the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) reported that while some elements had been covered by the contingency fund in the contract e.g. work due to the Rotherwas Ribbon, other unforeseen works, such as necessary adaptations to accommodate utility works, needed to be funded.
- Questioned on the underspend on rail improvements the Committee noted that improvement schemes were intended for Hereford, Ledbury and Leominster stations, however, progress had been delayed due to negotiations with the rail authority.

The Director of Environment and Culture concluded by commenting that with the number of schemes underway a number of delays were almost inevitable and therefore schemes or budgets were re-profiled to make best use of the available capital resource.

RESOLVED: That

- a) **The position as set out in the Capital Budget Monitoring report be noted; and**
- b) **The Committee regrets the continual underspends on sustainable transport budgets, particularly cycling initiatives, as opposed to overspends on car management and road building. The Committee requests that all officers delivering the Local Transport Plan should make every effort to ensure that budgets for sustainable modes of transport will be fully committed in 2008/9.**

12. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee were advised of the final revenue outturn position for Environment for 2007/08 and the agreed budget for 2008/09 and the emerging budget pressures.

The Director of Resources representative reported that in overall terms the Environment Directorate overspent by £60,000, which represented a variance of 0.2% against the agreed budget. This excluded £360,000 the Directorate met as part of the unfunded element of the damage caused by the July 2007 floods. Brief details of the main overspends (or underspends) were set out in the agenda report.

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

- The Head of Planning Services confirmed there was no specific budget for any legal costs incurred in relation to appeals to planning decisions. This may be an issue the proposed scrutiny review of the planning service would need to look into. (See following agenda item).
- In view of the general down turn in the housing market it was questioned whether the expected increase in planning fee income (£200,000) could be realised. The Head of Planning Services responded that both the number of developer applications and the availability of mortgages had a bearing on the number of developer or home improvement applications. The position would be closely monitored and further reported later in the financial year.
- In view of the large underspend (£917,000) in Environmental Health and Trading Standards budget the Committee sought assurances that all elements of the service were being adequately provided. The Head of Environmental Health and Trading Services reported that a high level of service was being provided. A major contributor to the underspend had been the continued standstill on the Waste Disposal contract; additional fee income from the Cadbury's court case and unbudgeted grant from the Food Standards Agency.
- The Committee noted that the 'Winter Maintenance' budget (£510,000 overspend) had been used to account for the unexpected additional expenditure arising from the July 07 floods which the Council had been unable to claim under the Belwin scheme. The Committee questioned whether an appropriate maintenance budget had been set for an 'average winter'.
- The Committee noted a suggestion by the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation) that increased usage in one area e.g. Concessionary Travel (£33,000 overspend) could result in an effect in another budget e.g. reduced income (£95,000) on car parking.

RESOLVED: That the position set out in the Revenue Budget Monitoring report be noted.

13. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES

The Committee considered both the principle of a review of the Council's Planning Service and its terms of reference.

The Chairman apologised for the haste with which the item, and the appointment of members, was considered at the previous meeting. Written terms of reference were now available in the agenda which the Committee considered.

The Vice –Chairman suggested two changes at paragraph 9 namely that at the 4th

bullet point the word 'ability' be changed to 'resources' and at bullet point 7 'process' be changed to the plural.

The Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) commented in relation to the 1st bullet point that the Service needed to move to being an enabler service. Ideally the completion of the review should coincide with that of the Local Development Framework.

The Committee debated a suggestion to invite HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils) to put forward a representative to serve on the review team. The Committee decided not to seek a representative but emphasised that HALC/ Parish & Town Councils should be given ample opportunity to input evidence to the review as set out in the terms of reference.

RESOLVED:

That

- a) subject to incorporating the two amendments detailed above the terms of reference be agreed; and
- b) the membership of the Planning Service Review Group to be Councillors: PA Andrews (Chair); CM Bartrum; WLS Bowen; PM Morgan; JB Williams; PJ Watts and RI Matthews as ex-officio member.

14. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the work programme.

Resolved that the Committee work Programme be endorsed and reported to Strategic Monitoring Committee.

The meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

Report from: Director of Environment & Culture

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To review the Council's performance against the corporate Environmental Strategy targets and to update the committee on the Council's targets in relation to climate change and carbon management, with particular reference to the Council's own carbon emissions.

Financial implications

2. The Environment Strategy includes the Council's carbon management targets. There is a strong link between cost and carbon emissions, which mainly relate to use of fuel, electricity and gas. There is strong upward pressure on energy prices which will put pressure on budgets across the Council during the coming and future years. This will affect all council directorates and schools.

Risk Management

3. The Council now leads on the Herefordshire Partnership Local Area Agreement target to cut county carbon emissions by 4.9% over 3 years. There is increasing public interest in the council's management of its own emissions and its performance against its 2005 Nottingham Declaration target of a 20% reduction by 2020 (an average of 1.25% per year). This has been highlighted by critical coverage in the Hereford Times on 28th August of the council's performance.
4. There is increasing international and national pressure to act swiftly to reduce carbon emissions because of the scientific consensus that deep cuts in carbon must be made urgently to avoid irreversible changes to our climate and environment.

Considerations

5. The Environmental Strategy report for 2007/08, included as Appendix 1 to this report, shows strong performance overall on our targets, particularly in the areas of waste management, air pollution control, biodiversity, supporting environmental management within the Council and local businesses, provision of planning services, and EcoSchools. Areas where objectives were not met include the number of reported cycle trips and use of buses by the public and dealing with abandoned vehicles.
6. The Council's ISO 14001 triennial renewal visit in July went well and the council has retained corporate certification for all unitary council functions to the international management standard. Options for rolling ISO 14001 out to the PCT are being

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Trish Marsh, Sustainability Manager, on 261930

explored. However our external certifiers raised one non-conformity: for the second visit in a row this related to the Council's approach to reducing its own carbon emissions.

7. The new National Indicator set, in place from April 2008, includes new Environmental Sustainability Indicators on which all Councils must report annually. On climate change there are now Indicators for the council's own emissions (NI185), county emissions (NI186), both co-ordinated by the Sustainability Unit, adaptation of council services to climate change, eg extreme weather (NI 188) led by the Director of Environment & Culture. Other indicators relevant to climate change include fuel poverty (on which Strategic Housing lead) and flooding (Director of Environment & Culture leads).
8. Herefordshire's Local Area Agreement has set 3 year targets both for reducing carbon emissions in the county and for improving the condition of Special Wildlife Sites (the national indicator on biodiversity), on which Conservation (Regeneration) lead.
9. Over 100 councils have adopted targets against the NI 186 county indicator in their Local Area Agreements. Herefordshire's target is an overall 13.1% reduction in county per capita carbon emissions over 3 years. Of this 8.1% is due to be delivered by national programmes and 4.9% is deemed to be under the influence of the Council. The main areas covered by the target are the emissions from business and public sector, domestic housing and road transport. There is a concern that although this indicator has been adopted as a priority within the Local Area Agreement, resources have yet to be allocated for its delivery. Preparatory work on the approach to this wide-ranging target has begun and will be reported to a future meeting.
10. The Council's current carbon emissions inventory for its own operations (Appendix 2) shows a small reduction in emissions (1.25%) from March 2005 to March 2008. This is below the target set in 2005 and included in the Corporate Plan 2007-10. There are considerable fluctuations from year to year in the extensive data set which underpins this calculation; these are not yet fully understood.
11. The figures currently available for 2007/08 show that the Council emits at least 17,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. This inventory does not yet include emissions from social care contracted transport, vehicles owned by the council and buildings and transport operated on our behalf by our contractors. On the current figure the Council needs to make reductions of over 200 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year to meet its 1.25% target. The current Action Plan does not include estimates of actions' impact on emissions and is not sufficient to meet this target.

Background

12. The Environmental Strategy, passed in June 2005, enables people to get an overview of our performance against our key environmental commitments. It is due for review later this year and will be updated to more accurately reflect the council's current commitments and targets, to ensure all entries are quantifiable, to make reference to the new national indicators, and to include priority topics identified in the Staff Sustainability Opinion Survey.
13. Steep rises in utilities prices are expected in the coming year as utility contracts are relet. West Mercia Supplies, our utility partners, have alerted us to expected price rises. In their summer newsletter they note that gas prices have risen by 100% and

electricity by 32% since the current contract price was set. Fuel prices for vehicles have also risen significantly in the last few months. Although prices may fall back for a period the trend in price for these finite resources is expected to continue to rise.

14. The Council spends significant amounts of money on energy and fuel. In 2007/08 just under £2.5 million was coded to electricity, gas, oil, solid fuel, LPG and vehicle fuel for direct expenditure in council buildings (including schools) and vehicles. The major contributors are: heating oil £109K, vehicle fuel £119K, gas £570K and electricity £1.65 million. The council also spends significant amounts indirectly on utilities and fuel via contractors working directly on our behalf: these sums have not yet been quantified.
15. The effect of price rises in utilities and fuel will be felt in all directorates. An example is street lighting, who currently budget £255,000 for powering street lights, illuminated bollards and signs from a green source: prices are anticipated to rise from 6.478p a unit to over 10p a unit when this contract is relet in Spring 2009. National research published by the LGA in July found that in 2006/2007, councils spent £541 million on fuel costs to run vehicles such as their rubbish bin fleets, gritters and meals on wheels vans. In this financial year (April 2008 – March 2009), it is expected that should fuel prices stay at the same level as they are currently, then it will cost £780 million to provide the services.
16. Schools make up a significant fraction of the Council's emissions from property. Schools are included in the council utility contracts but pay their own bills; they are likely to be hard hit by utility price rises over the coming winter. Timely consideration of help and advice they could be offered on options for low cost and longer-term energy saving measures would be helpful.
17. The LGA have just brought out guidance "Cutting Through the Green Tape, the Powers Councils have to tackle Climate Change" which highlights the considerable powers that local authorities have at their disposal to tackle climate change, for both mitigation and adaptation activity. The report includes several case studies, including Islington, which has set up a Climate Change capital fund of £3 million for capital projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and costs through the borough as part of their Local Area Agreement's Climate Change Partnership.
18. The LGA report also highlights Energy Saving Trust guidance that councils should dedicate a member of staff to energy management for each £1 million energy spend, and that 10% of council's energy expenditure should be spent on energy efficiency. This is not currently the case, which may be a contributory factor to our failure to meet our reduction target.

Response to reducing council carbon emissions

19. A progress report on the Council's carbon management from 2005 – March 2008 is now on the website The Council has undertaken a number of initiatives to increase awareness and reduce emissions. A new flare was installed this spring at Stretton Sugwas landfill site to reduce methane emissions, which are 21 times more damaging to the atmosphere than CO₂. The MY Energy programme has engaged council staff in low cost and no-cost measures to reduce consumption in their buildings and has provided incentives for staff to undertake measures at home. The Steps to Sustainability programme lays out both positive steps the public can take and the council's measures in place. A Local Climate Impacts Profile is currently

underway to investigate the council's vulnerability to future extreme weather by tracking responses to past events.

20. The Council do not face this issue alone as 85% of councils have now included one or more targets relating to climate change in their Local Area Agreements. Many Councils have already achieved substantial and sustained reductions in their emissions and there are Energy Agencies well positioned locally to provide support. Some external funding is available, though this usually requires match funding that is not currently available within the Council. West Mercia Supplies are interested in working with us to develop an Invest to Save mechanism allowing buildings and schools to upgrade their energy performance and repay the investment through their energy bills. Mechanisms exist to factor carbon pricing into financial and other decisions: the Government are currently using a price of £26 per tonne of CO₂, set last December.
21. A strategic look at Council emissions is needed so that carbon reductions can be built into Directorate and Service Plans. The first priority is to establish the council's exposure, both in terms of emissions and costs. This data will build an improved Emission Inventory, which will form the 2008/09 baseline for NI185, due for completion next summer. The data sets already identified show considerable variation from year to year. Further work is thus likely to be needed to establish what is causing fluctuations and identify the most effective approaches to achieving consistent reductions in emissions over the next decade.
22. This work should include careful scrutiny of capital spend and contracts to ensure that high standards of energy efficiency are built in to reduce future running costs. Contractors should be invited to work with us to achieve the reductions required for mutual benefit. Officers in Property, CYPD, Risk Management and Social Care are all likely to play a significant role in this work. Work to develop an Invest to Save mechanism is also critical and would be particularly useful to schools.
23. Next summer, when the baseline is in place and the numbers and the options for action have been evaluated, it would be prudent to revisit the internal 1.25% target, which is currently below the 1.6% target (4.9% over 3 years) we are aiming to achieve in the wider county and consider the savings profile. It will also be important to decide our approach to landfill emissions, which are not currently within NI186 or NI 185, but are the Council's highest single source of emissions.
24. The need is to determine and deliver an evidence-based long-term carbon management and reduction programme that will meet our emissions targets for our own activities, reduce our exposure to price increases and play our part in leading local efforts to combat climate change. Further resources dedicated to this work should see multiple payoffs economically, socially and financially.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The report be noted, subject to any comments Members may wish to make to the Cabinet Member, Environment and Strategic Housing.

Attachments

- Appendix 1: Environment Strategy 2007-2008 performance report
- Appendix 2: Council Carbon Emissions Inventory 2004-08

Consultees for this report

- Head of Asset Management and Property Services, Environment Accountant, Systems Accountant, Highways Network Manager

Background papers

- Council Carbon Management Action Plan report 2005-08
(http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/CMAP_Report_0508_.pdf)
- NI186 figures for Herefordshire emissions
(http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/Herefordshire_Emissions_Graph_2005.pdf)



Herefordshire Council Corporate Environment Strategy

PERFORMANCE REPORT 2007/08



Sections

- [Waste](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Energy and Climate](#)
- [Natural & Built Environment](#)
- [Planning & Development](#)
- [Environmental Risks & Pollution](#)
- [Community Involvement & Partnership Working](#)

This report summarises performance information available for 2007/08 as of 13th August 2008.

The strategy itself is available on the web at http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/Environmental_Strategy_Summary_-_12-08.pdf

Waste

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Decrease the amount of waste generated per person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the amount of household waste collected per head 	BV 84a & b JMWS Target 2	521.7kg	505.76kg	483.33kg
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the amount of Council generated trade waste per employee (including paper recycled) 	GEM	(328,600/1480) =222 kg	(255,590/1400) = 182.6kg	Awaiting data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings sent to landfill 	BV 82d (i) & (ii)	76.11%	72.86%	69.57%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the amount of Council trade waste sent to landfill 	GEM	271.1 Tonnes	204.74 tonnes	Awaiting data
Increase the amount of waste recycled or composted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings that are recycled 	BV 82a (i) & (ii) JMWS Target 4	17.31%	18.7%	22.80%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase both the percentage and tonnage of household waste arisings that are composted 	BV 82b (i) & (ii) JMWS Target 5 JMWS Target 1 JMWS Target 6	6.58%	7.36%	7.63%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the amount of Council generated trade waste recycled through the Office Recycling scheme 	GEM	57.5 tonnes	56.49 tonnes	Awaiting data
	Increase the number of people with access to recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of household residents served by the collection of recyclables 	BV 91 JMWS Target 3	62.28%	68.0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of Council employees with access to recycling 		GEM	37 Offices served	All offices now served	All offices now served
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the cost of waste collection per household 		BV86	£44.69	£47.03	£55.01
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the cost of waste disposal per tonne 		BV87	£78.99	£79.09	£86.48

Transport

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Promote walking and cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of children walking or cycling to school at schools participating in SRTS Increase the number of schools with Adopted School Travel Plans Encourage businesses within the county to address issues of transportation (to be changed to 'the percentage of Hereford workforce covered by travel plans') Improve the public right of way network and promote its use by the public (percentage of total lengths of right of way in the LA area that are easy to use by the general public) Increase the number of cycling trips by the public (index at 2001/02 =100) Increase the number of Council staff cycling a) to work and b) to meetings 	<p>LTP T8</p> <p>LTP T6 LTP T9</p> <p>BV 178a</p> <p>LTP T5</p> <p>GEM</p>	<p>(biennial)</p> <p>63 20 (24.8%)</p> <p>52%</p> <p>113</p> <p>a) +5.29%</p> <p>b) 1595 miles claimed</p>	<p>No comparable data for 06/07</p> <p>85 26.3%</p> <p>49%</p> <p>118.99</p> <p>a) +29% over 3 years b) 1086 miles claimed</p>	<p>37% walking 2% cycling 95 26.9%</p> <p>Awaiting data</p> <p>110.86</p> <p>a) Data due December b) Awaiting data</p>
Increase the use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of passenger journeys per year on public transport (Bus & Rail) Increase the accessibility of public transport services - journeys on low floor buses (index 2001/02 = 100) Increase the number of staff members travelling on public transport a) to work and b) to meetings 	<p>BVPI 102 LTP T1+2 LTP T1 (LTP2 in place 06/07)</p> <p>GEM</p>	<p>B: 3,248,935 R: 3,079,000 112</p> <p>a) - 36%</p> <p>b) 394</p> <p>i) 99.6 ii) 100.4</p>	<p>B: 3,433,043 R: Not available Indicator has been changed in LTP2</p> <p>a) - 4% over 3 years b) 399</p> <p>i) 100.63 ii) 101.71</p>	<p>B: 3,355,000 R: Not available</p> <p>a) Data due December b) Awaiting data</p> <p>i) 99.39 ii) 101.51</p>
Reduce the dependence upon the car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrict the growth of the annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes i) in Herefordshire (index 2001/02 = 100) ii) Rural and Hereford Reduce car mileage claims from Council staff 	<p>LTP11 & 3</p> <p>GEM</p>	<p>2,338,103</p>	<p>2,282,567</p>	<p>Awaiting data</p>
Improve the County's roads and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the condition of the County's roads a) Principle roads, b) Non-principle roads, c) classified roads (percentage of road type needing further investigation) Improve the condition of surface footways (percentage of footways where structural maintenance should be considered) Increase the number of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people Time taken to rectify street lighting faults (days) under control of a) LA and b) Network Operator Decrease the number of temporary road closures Decrease the number of KSI road accident casualties (all/children) 	<p>BV 223, 224a, 224b</p> <p>BV187</p> <p>BV165</p> <p>BV 215a & b</p> <p>BV100</p> <p>BV99 (a,b,c,d&e)</p>	<p>a) 21% b) 49.5% c) 22.2% 30.68%</p> <p>80%</p> <p>a) 10.3 b) 47.1 0 141/8</p>	<p>a) 14% b) 21% c) 24.28% 31.0%</p> <p>92%</p> <p>a) 8.85 b) 56.15 0 119/10 (2006</p>	<p>a) 6% b) 11% c) 32.0% 11.2%</p> <p>92%</p> <p>a) 6.61 b) 9.5 0 133/11</p>

Energy & Climate Change

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease carbon dioxide emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per head of population/year 	Corp PI	9.49 tonnes (Defra 2003 data/pop)	10.43 tonnes (Defra 2004 data /pop)	9.4t CO2 (Defra 2005 data /pop)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the fossil fuel and electricity consumption of operational council properties 	BV 180a Baseline 2004/05 11,899t CO2	11,008t CO2	12,429t CO2	11,916t CO2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from activities directly controlled by the Council or upon which it has an influence by 1.25% 	CMAP/ PPI 4d Baseline 2004/05 12,933t CO2	11,859t CO2	13,259tCO2	12,767t CO2
Support and promote energy efficiency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve energy efficiency for all housing sectors 	HECA	1.77%	1.83%	Data due October
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the energy costs of operational Council property per square metre Gross Internal Area Electricity costs (excluding schools) <i>Added in for 06/07 report</i> 	PPI 4b (AMP)	£9.23	£14.05	Awaiting data
Support and promote renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the use of renewable energy sources where they are economically and environmentally sustainable through the Unitary Development Plan 	Based on account codes	£1,347,409	£1,618,825	£1,656511
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to secure 100% renewable electricity for operational Council properties. 	Permissions granted	1	5	Data due October
		GEM	Contract renewed	Contract renewed.	Contract not renewed

Water & Flooding

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Promote more efficient use of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Where relevant, all new developments will be required to minimise resource use, including water and energy) 	None	recommend replacement of this objective		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the cost of water in Council operational buildings per square metre Gross Internal Area (GIA) 	PPI 4c (AMP)	£1.83	£1.70	Awaiting data
Mitigate flood risk through adoption of the Unitary Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the County's environmental resources by taking a precautionary approach to flood risk, having regard to the flood plains of the Rivers Wye and Lugg and their tributaries 	Number of applications approved against EA advice in relation to flooding	1	1	Awaiting data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Ensure that where development is proposed in locations at risk of flooding, it should be demonstrated that there are no reasonable options available in a lower risk category, consistent with other objectives.) 	None	Recommend replacement of this objective when Environmental Strategy is reviewed in 2008.		
Respond effectively to major flooding incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively manage the emergency response to flooding events through a) response exercises, b) incidents logged and c) Flood Forums held 	N/A	a) 1 b) 2 c) 2	a) 1 b) 40 c) 2	a) 0 b) 4 c) 2
Improve the quality of the County's Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to improvement in the County's rivers in 'very good' or 'good' categories for both a) Biological and b) Chemical General Quality Assessments 	SOH F6	a) 85% 2004 b) 83% 2004	a) 84% 2005 b) 84% 2005	2006 data not yet available on audit commission website

Natural & Built Environment

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Protect and enhance the County's biodiversity assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and maintain a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) with an effective monitoring and reporting system 	N/A	BAP complete	Now on BARS. Began revision of BAP.	Revision due for completion end August
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and issue supplementary planning guidance (SPG) on landscape character, biodiversity conservation and trees 	N/A	Tied in with adoption of UDP	UDP adopted in 2007 confirming status of SPG.	Objective to be reviewed for 2008/09
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the proportion of Council owned land without a nature conservation designation but managed for Biodiversity purposes 	Corp PI (& GEM)	NA (Figures quoted in previous reports found to be inaccurate)	25.34%	31.1%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owned by the Council 	PSA6	-	* 5 sites found on NE website 3 were classed favourable / recovering	Awaiting data
Conserve the built and historic heritage of the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of Conservation Areas with Character Appraisals 	BV 219	a) 1.5%	a) 12.5%	a) 25%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and issue planning guidance on the historic environment 	N/A	These will be subject to review as part of Environment Strategy review in 2008		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review conservation areas and expand the Buildings at Risk Survey 	N/A			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Council owned historic environment assets and issue guidance for their management 	N/A			

* Definitive figures for all Council owned sites not available. Figures quoted are taken from a sample that could be identified on the NE website.

Planning & Development

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
<p>Implement a Unitary Development Plan which contains clear principles to protect the environment</p> <p>Promote those forms of development that have a positive impact upon the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote forms of environmental management which minimise the depletion of scarce non-renewable resources, reduce energy consumption and waste, and encourage use of recycled and renewable resources (P5) The UDP will favour forms of land use and development which work within the environmental capacity (P6) Protect, restore and enhance environmental assets giving special attention to irreplaceable resources and the distinctive character of local environments (P7) Promote sustainable land use and management, especially through the restoration, re-use and enhancement of degraded environmental assets (P8) Promote better accessibility to work, services and facilities in ways which reduce the overall need to travel and promote the use of non-car based transport (P9) Promote high design standards in the location, setting, layout and construction of both new development and improvements to existing developments. High priority will be given to energy efficiency in terms of design, use location and transport (P10) 	<p>These are principles and as such as not intended to be directly measurable. A review of more appropriate objectives which would offer some way of measuring progress against the aim are being investigated.</p>			<p>The Environment Strategy is being reviewed during 2008 at which time these aims and objectives will be replaced.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of development taking place on Brownfield land 	BVPI 106	71.3%	76.7%	74.6%
<p>Improve the efficiency of the planning process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the time in which planning applications are determined: a) Major Applications, b) Minor Applications, c) Other Applications, d) Standard searches 	BVPI 109 & 179 (BVPI 179 deleted April 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 61% b) 74% c) 82% d) 75.94% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 75% b) 84% c) 92% d) not reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 68% b) 79% c) 89% d) not reported

Environmental Risks & Pollution

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Reduce levels of pollution Investigate and take action to deal with contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the annual mean levels of nitrogen dioxide at sites in Hereford and the Market Towns (av. Change) 	SOH	- 8.5ug/m ³ (2005 total 243.7ug/m ³)	+ 22.7ug/m ³ (2006 total 266.4ug/m ³)	- 48.8ug/m ³ (2007 total 217.6ug/m ³)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of pollution control improvements on existing permitted industrial installations completed on time 	BVPI 217	95.29%	96.8%	97.9%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles that are a) investigated within 24hrs of notification and b) removed within 24hrs of being confirmed as abandoned. 	BVPI 218a & b	a) 83% b) 90%	a) 98% b) 99%	a) 94.74% b) 97.83%
Investigate and take action to deal with contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify (a) sites of potential concern in terms of contamination and (b) increase the percentage of those sites for which sufficient detail is available to decide whether remediation is necessary 	BVPI 216a & b	a) 5,910 b) 0.15%	a) 2896 b) 0.2%	a) 2892 b) 0.04
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and address contamination of land controlled by the Council. 	Registered sites	1	1	1
Improve Environmental Health and Trading Standards services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for environmental health 	BVPI 166a	45%	98.75%	100%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for trading standards 	BVPI 166b	78.75%	100%	100%

Community Involvement & Partnership Working

AIM	OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Promote environmental management systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of local businesses with an accredited environmental management system (either EMAS or ISO 14001) <i>review of this objective to include:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> number of members of HBEA number of companies who have attended at least one seminar 	N/A	HBEA set up	a) 18 b) 72	a) 24 b) 50
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the Council's environmental management system throughout all services and directorates. 	GEM	6 remaining blocks	All services and directorates now covered	All services and directorates now covered
Promote awareness of environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the (a) number of schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme and (b) the number that have achieved one of the award levels 	N/A	(a) 72 (b) 17	(a) 81 (b) 49	a) 86 b) 62
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage householders to improve the energy efficiency of their homes (number of householders advised by the service) 	Provided by EEAC	2956	1478	Due October
Improve the cleanliness of the local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase staff awareness of GEM and environmental issues <ol style="list-style-type: none"> staff opinion survey results (% aware) numbers trained in GEM and through induction process 	Staff Opinion Survey In house training	a) not in survey b) 12 GEM / 221 induction	a) not in survey b) 17 GEM / 234 induction	a) 81% b) awaiting data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and contribute to the work of the Herefordshire Partnership Ambition Groups covering environment and transport (number of meetings attended) 	N/A	4	Ambition groups stopped June 2006	Not applicable
Improve the cleanliness of the local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the proportion of relevant land and highways with unacceptable levels of: a) Litter & detritus, b) Graffiti & c) Fly posting. 	BV 199a/b/c	a) 18% b) 3% c) 2% Grade 1	a) 17% b) 2% c) 1% Grade 1	a) 14% b) 2% c) 0 Grade 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the number of incidents and increase the number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping. 	BV 199d			

Glossary of abbreviations

GEM	Good Environmental Management (the name for the Council's Environmental Management System)
BV / BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicators (set by the Government)
PPI	Performance Indicators
JMWS	Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (2004 - 2034)
LTP	Local Transport Plan
KSI	Killed & Seriously Injured
PSA	Public Service Agreement
CMAP	Carbon Management Action Plan
EA	Environment Agency
HECA	Home Energy Conservation Advice
BARS	Biological Action Recording System
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
EEAC	Energy Efficiency and Advice Centre
NE	Natural England (successor to English Nature and parts of DEFRA)
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
SOH	State of Herefordshire Report
HBEA	Herefordshire Business Environment Association
AMP	Asset Management Plan
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report

Environment Strategy Review

A number of the strategy objectives have proved difficult to provide quantitative data on, and some new commitments have been entered into since the strategy was written in 2005. In addition, the Council launched its 'Steps to Sustainability' initiative in 2008 of which the Environmental objectives are a key part. Therefore, the Environment Strategy review will be closely tied in with the production of a Steps to Sustainability Strategy in 2008.

Activity	Service Area	Data supplier	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 comparable	2007/08 full	
				Carbon figures not included in total - see notes column					
Smallholdings							7278333	7278333	
Major closed landfill sites		Environmental Health							
Leominster		BC	9,325,000	8,466,000	7,792,000	7,117,000	6,503,000	6,503,000	
Strangford		BC	2,393,000	2,270,000	2,147,000	2,025,000	1,902,000	1,902,000	
Stretton Sugwas		BC	20,491,000	18,528,000	16,749,000	15,031,000	13,497,000	13,497,000	
Landfill subtotal			32,209,000	29,264,000	26,688,000	24,173,000	21,902,000	21,902,000	
Social Care transport (in-house)		Prevention Services	56,788	51,099	49,051	48,080	49,927	49,927	
Education transport		AB					2,098,853	2,098,853	
HC Business mileage		BB	1004805	970681	791428	771256	790,360	790,360	
HC Rail warrants			9688	11792	10576	11039	11039	11039	
Transport subtotal			1,071,281	1,033,572	851,055	830,375	851,326	2,950,179	
Stationary sources									
Street lighting							2,011,538	2,011,538	

Property gas & electricity use	Property	EDS/MM										
Property electricity half hourly	Property	S	11,138,846.00	10,247,747.00	11,001,563.00	10,301,056.00	10,301,056.00	10,301,056.00				
Plough Lane gas & elec			760679.9	760679.9	1,427,571.70	1615134.4	1615134.4	1615134.4				
Stationary sources subtotal			11899525.9	11,008,426.90	12,429,134.70	11,916,190.40	14,194,215.10	14,194,215.10				
Estimated overall emissions			1,071,281	11,859,482	13,259,510	12,767,516	17,144,394	17,144,394				

% change from 04/05 baseline Baseline year **-8.30** **2.75** **-1.25** **32.98**

Carbon benefits

HECA	Private Sector	HF	8333000	10,500,000	8147000	14040000						
HC Cycle Mileage	Integrated Transport	BB	308	511	1595	1086						
Activity	Service Area Data	supplier	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2007/08 full				
	Carbon figures not included in total - see notes column			1.25% reduction on 04/05 baseline would be				comparable				1.25% reduction on best current figure for 07/08 is
	Carbon figures included in overall total			193,996 kgs CO2 pa								219,026 kgs CO2 pa

Cost	Carbon factor applied	Notes
Figures prepared by consultants.	Carbon footprint for tenanted agricultural land owned by the council including energy & fuel, methane from livestock and nitrous oxides. Not included in NI185 or CMAP. LA has a responsibility for these sites though it does not manage them all. For the purposes of assessing the potential scale of emissions from the site, it has been assumed that the waste inputs comprised 70% domestic waste, 20% commercial waste and 10% inert waste. Methane has a Global Warming Potential (GWP) which is 21 times that of carbon dioxide	
Flare installed in early 2008 should reduce methane emissions. Included in 2005 CMAP but not included in NI185. Excluded from total as figures are reducing as a result of natural decay only.		
Miles x 1.609 (miles/kms) x 0.27 CO2 Factor (medium diesel van)	In-house mileage in diesel minibuses	Figure not included in total because only one year's data
Litres x 2.63 (diesel/litre)	Miles x 1.609 (miles/kms) x 0.21	Average petrol car (av diesel car is 0.2)
0.06 per passenger km	Assuming round trips, half to London & half to Birmingham: trips (row 16) x 200 miles x 1.609 x 0.06	Underestimate: does not include contracted out transport eg social care and contractors
c £250,000	Street lighting is included in NI 185. Not included in this total because inventory only updated this year. Street lighting energy use is calculated as an Unmetered supply (estimated rather than read) because of the dispersed pattern of the c. 11983 lights, 977 Signs, 373 Bollards and 260 Traffic Light Heads = Total 13593 units. Price of supply per unit expected to increase to over 10p when contract is relet in 2009.	

Standard grid factors used: electricity, 0.523 and gas 0.185	Data produced by WMS and analysed by EDS. Full assumptions on separate worksheet in this file. 100% Renewable energy purchased between Nov 03 & Nov 07
Standard grid factors used: electricity, 0.523	Calendar year figures supplied by WMS: see also Property assumptions tab
0.523 electricity. Gas: x0.185	Consumption data provided by Chris Preedy of Scottish & Newcastle. Gas x0.313 to convert from cubic feet to kwh (Digest of UK Energy Stats 2003)
% in relation to cell F33 as 100%	2007/08 full column remains an underestimate: does not include social care contracted transport or emissions from vehicles owned by council or contractors
	Reductions in emissions from measures taken by households. Not included in NI185 or CMAP 2005.
	0
Cost	Notes
Carbon factor applied	Last update 11/08/08 TM Sustainability Unit

ENVIRONMENT: PERFORMANCE FOR THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD TO JULY 2008**Report By: Director of Environment & Culture and Director of Regeneration****Wards Affected**

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update Members on the progress towards achievement of targets for 2008-09 relevant to the Environment Scrutiny Committee and contained within the Environment & Culture Directorate and the Regeneration Directorate. It has been the practice for this report to have a similar format to that used for the Integrated Performance and Finance Report (IPFR), but reporting on performance only. As a significant number of the performance indicators are new (from the National Indicator set) a different format has been chosen for this report only to enable a more detailed description of each indicator to be provided. Future reports will revert to the normal format.

Financial Implications

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

Content

3. Performance has been judged using the following criteria:

Red Not on target and planned activity not taking place

Amber Not on target, but planned activity undertaken and remedial measure in place; or no data available but planned activity undertaken

Green On target, or baseline data is not available for a new indicator and planned activity has taken place

Progress against the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities – Environment and Culture Directorate (see Appendix A)

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

Priority	No. of Indicators	Judgement		
		R	A	G
Economic development and enterprise	2	0	2	0
Safer and stronger communities	1	0	0	1
Sustainable communities	4	0	2	2
Total number of indicators	7	0	4	3

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

Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)

6. The one remaining LPSA target is judged **G**.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

7. For the LAA, no indicators are judged **R**, 3 **A** and 1 **G**.

Overall performance

8. Overall performance is considered to be on track for all Local Area Agreement, Community Strategy and Corporate Plan indicators on which the Environment and Culture Directorate leads or towards which it is making a significant contribution. There is a similar picture for other indicators, including those from the National Indicator set.

Customer satisfaction

9. The Environment and Culture Directorate has been undertaking regular monthly customer satisfaction surveys since March 2008. Responses to the June survey have been analysed, the following being highlights:

- 81% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the service they received and 16% were very or fairly dissatisfied
- 66% agreed their issue had been dealt with, 3% felt it had been only partially dealt with and 16% considered the issue had not been dealt with
- 59% got the outcome they wanted, 19% did not and 6% considered they only partly received the outcome they wanted.
- Particularly high levels of satisfaction were noted for staff politeness and courtesy (94%), ease of finding how to contact us (93%), opening hours (93%) and staff helpfulness (91%).

- High levels of satisfaction were also noted for speed of response (87%), the ease of finding the right person to deal with the enquiry or request (83%), and whether the respondent felt that they had been listened to and understood (84%).
 - The lowest levels of satisfaction, although still in excess of 70%, related to the clarity of our stated intent (74%), whether we did what we said we would do (73%), the number of times the requester had to call (73%), the speed of resolution of the enquiry or request (71%), and the effectiveness of our actions (76%).
10. The survey is currently limited to requests for services which are received either through Info by Phone or through the highways inspection system. June was the first month in which data based on the restructured Environment and Culture Directorate was available, so there is no direct comparison with the data collected in previous months.

Improvement

11. In addition to those indicators which the council measures itself against through its Corporate Plan, the Council is likely to be externally judged, particularly for the Comprehensive Area Assessment, on its improved performance against those indicators which are in the National Indicator set. Performance and comparative performance by the Environment Directorate against relevant indicators is shown in **Appendix A**.
12. Of those indicators where in-year data is currently available and there is comparative data for 2007-08, the current direction of travel shows that 8 of indicators are on course to improve on last year, but 3 of the indicators are currently showing performance that is worse than for the same period last year.

Progress against the Council’s Corporate Plan Priorities –Regeneration Directorate (see Appendix B)

13. Analysis of Performance Against Target:

No. of Indicators	Judgement		
	R	A	G
17	0	9	8

14. Details of the performance indicators for the Regeneration Directorate are in **Appendix B**.

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

Performance to end July 2008

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak (NI)	<p>This indicator measure the average journey time per mile on major routes in Herefordshire, during the morning peak. Its purpose is to monitor the level of congestion, and over time give an indication of how well the road network is managed, and the effectiveness of any measures taken to cut congestion.</p> <p>This is a new indicator and the Department for Transport, which collects the data, will report performance annually.</p>			<p>A review of traffic control systems has commenced to develop a planned replacement programme.</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of fixed penalty notices for streetworks the street works system has been improved Testing is underway with all utilities.</p> <p>New protocol for traffic regulation orders developed.</p>	A
Condition of principal roads - % worse than condition threshold (NI, LAA, CP)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of A-roads where maintenance should be considered. This is derived from a survey of the surface condition of the road network, to be conducted annually. Its purpose is to monitor the state of the highways.</p> <p>A specialist contractor collects data</p>	6%	5%	<p>A detailed analysis of the 2007-08 survey has informed the development of the 2008-09 Joined Up Programme with Amey which is now being delivered.</p>	A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – classified (NI, LAA, CP)	<p>annually in September/October.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of B and C-roads where maintenance should be considered. This is derived from a survey of the surface condition of the road network, to be conducted annually. Its purpose is to monitor the state of the highways.</p> <p>A specialist contractor collects data annually in September/October.</p>	11%	10%	A detailed analysis of the 2007-08 survey has informed the development of the 2008-09 Joined Up Programme with Amey which is now being delivered.	A
Condition of non-principal roads - % worse than condition threshold – unclassified (local)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered. This is derived from a survey of the surface condition of the road network, to be conducted annually. Its purpose is to monitor the state of the highways.</p> <p>A specialist contractor collects data annually in September/October.</p>	32%	32%	A detailed analysis of the 2007-08 survey has informed the development of the 2008-09 Joined Up Programme with Amey which is now being delivered.	A
People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (NI, LAA, LPSA, CP)	This indicator measures the percentage change in number of people killed or seriously injured during the calendar year compared	133 (2007)	< 129 (2008)	36 (January to June) compared with 43 for the same period last year	G

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
LPSA, CP)	<p>to the previous year. Figures are based on a 3 year rolling average, up to the current year (e.g. 2006-08 compared with 2005-07).</p> <p>To aid performance management the target is expressed as an absolute number for each year. Performance relates to calendar years.</p> <p>In-year data is unaudited and is subject to change.</p>			period last year	
Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents KSI (NI)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage change in number of children killed or seriously injured during the calendar year compared to the previous year. Figures are based on a 3 year rolling average, up to the current year (e.g. 2006-08 compared with 2005-07).</p> <p>To aid performance management the target is expressed as an absolute number for each year. Performance relates to calendar years.</p> <p>In-year data is unaudited and is</p>	11 (2007)	< 11 (2008)	4 (January to June) Compared with 5 for the same period last year	G

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
	subject to change.				
fPeople slightly injured in road traffic accidents (local)	This indicator measures the number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents during the calendar year. In-year data is unaudited and is subject to change.	713	< 713	301 (January to June) Compared with 194 for the same period last year	A
Local authority road works per kilometre of traffic sensitive road (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed.	0	0	0	G
The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed.	92%	100%	94%	G
Condition of footways (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data will be collected for 2008-09 whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed. Data is collected annually.	11.2%	11.2%	A detailed analysis of the 2007-08 survey has informed the development of the 2008-09 Joined Up Programme with Amey which is now being delivered.	A

Appendix A

		2008-09	
Indicator	Comment	2007-08	Performance to date
		Outturn	Target
The average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed.	6.61	2.45 Compared with 2.79 for the same period last year
The average time taken to repair a street lighting fault, where response time is under the control of a DNO (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed. The Council has no control over response times for these street lights	9.5	19.2
The percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of (a) litter, (b) detritus, (c) flyposting and (d) graffiti that falls below an acceptable level (NI, CP)	This indicator measures the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed by survey as having deposits of litter, detritus, graffiti and flyposting that fall below an acceptable level. Litter Is anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited that causes defacement in a public place. Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, gravel, stones, leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic or other		(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 2 (d) 1 The first Local Environmental Quality Survey conducted on behalf of Defra has been received and is currently being analysed to improve targeted action and develop a longer-term improvement plan. The LEQS report has highlighted detritus as a particular problem, which has been borne out by initial analysis of the first four-month series of transects.

Appendix A

		2008-09	
Indicator	Comment	2007-08	Performance to date
		Outturn	Target
	<p>finely divided materials. Graffiti is any informal or illegal marks, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made. Fly-posting is any printed material and associated remains informally or illegally fixed to any structure. The purpose of this indicator is to reduce unacceptable levels of litter, detritus, flyposting and graffiti, key part of Government's 'Cleaner Safer Greener Communities' work.</p> <p>Although this is the same indicator as BVPI 199 a-c, it uses an updated methodology. Targets have been set using previous data, but these will be re-assessed following analysis of the first series of completed survey transects in August.</p>		series of transects.
The year-on-year reduction in total number of incidents and increase in total number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping' (NI)	This indicator measures the year on year change in the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with; and the year on year change in enforcement actions taken against fly tippers. The purpose of this measure is to reduce the incidence of illegally dumped waste as part of	Grading 3	Grading 3 The number of fly-tipping incidents continues to increase. A more rigorous approach to enforcement has now been developed. The first Local Environmental
			A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
	Government's 'Cleaner Safer Greener Communities' work.			Quality Survey conducted on behalf of Defra has been received and is currently being analysed to improve targeted action and develop a longer-term improvement plan. The survey indicates that, in relation to fly tipping, standards are good.	
Overall/general satisfaction with local area (NI)	This indicator measures the percentage of people who are satisfied overall with the area as a place to live. The information will be gathered in a survey, to be conducted every two years. Its purpose is to measure satisfaction with the area as a place to live, and help identify and address issues affecting how residents feel about their local area. Baseline to be established in 2008-09.			<p>The first Local Environmental Quality Survey conducted on behalf of Defra has been received and is currently being analysed to improve targeted action and develop a longer-term improvement plan.</p> <p>The survey indicates that the standards relating to litter, leaf fall, weed growth, flytipping, waste placed out, flyposting, graffiti and the degree of fill of wastebins are either good or satisfactory whereas the standards relating to detritus, surface staining, highway infrastructure condition, street furniture and bus stops is unsatisfactory.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">G</p>	

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed.	94.74	94.74	100	G
Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed.	97.83	97.83	100	G
% CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations (NI, CP)	<p>This measures the percentage year on year reduction in CO2 emissions from Herefordshire Council operations. To measure progress in CO2 emission reduction by the authority, and its contribution to government climate change objectives.</p> <p>Baseline data is being collected during 2008-09.</p> <p>The target is taken from the 2005-08 Environment Strategy. As this indicator uses different data sets the target will be reviewed when</p>		1.25%	<p>A full inventory of the Council's vehicle fleet is currently underway.</p> <p>Accreditation to ISO 14001 (GEM) retained.</p> <p>Eco-schools event being planned.</p> <p>Business case being developed for LED traffic signals.</p> <p>The MyEnergy scheme is currently being evaluated.</p> <p>External funds are being sought to establish a recyclable "Energy</p>	G

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Level of air quality – reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations (NI)	<p>the baseline has been established.</p> <p>This indicator measures the year on year reduction of primary PM10 (airborne particulates) and NOx (nitrous oxides) emissions from local authority estate and operations. The purpose of this indicator is to identify authorities that are proactive in minimising air pollution emissions from their estate and operations.</p> <p>Baseline data is being collected during 2008-09 alongside that for CO2 emissions.</p>			<p>Fund".</p> <p>A full inventory of the Council's vehicle fleet is currently underway.</p> <p>Accreditation to ISO 14001 (GEM) retained.</p> <p>Eco-schools event being planned.</p> <p>The MyEnergy scheme is currently being evaluated.</p> <p>External funds are being sought to establish a recyclable "Energy Fund".</p>	G
% reduction in per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area (NI, LAA, CP)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage reduction in CO2 emissions per person in Herefordshire against the emissions in the baseline year (2005). Its purpose is to measure the impact of action on climate change.</p> <p>Data relates to calendar years and is provided by Defra two years in arrears.</p>	9.4 tonnes (2005 baseline)	13.1% (2010)	<p>World Environment Day (5th June) and EarthWatch (7th – 9th June) supported.</p> <p>Participating in RE:think Energy, a capital grant scheme for SME's (small/medium enterprises) in the RRZ (rural regeneration zone) supporting the installation of renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>Encouraging schools, parishes and community groups to take up three</p>	A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Planning to adapt to climate change (NI)	This indicator measures the level of preparedness the Council has reached in managing risks to service delivery, the public, local infrastructure, businesses and the environment from a changing climate, and in making the most of new opportunities that change might present. The Council can be rated from 0 to 4, depending on achievement of criteria necessary for each level. To ensure preparedness to manage the risks and opportunities arising from a changing climate. A baseline is being established this year.			different grants - each for up to 50% towards microrenewables. Herefordshire Declaration on climate change revived. Application for a £25k grant from the Energy Saving Trust for a community awareness campaign	A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Flood and coastal erosion risk management (NI)	This indicator measures the percentage of agreed actions to implement long term flood and coastal erosion risk management plans that are being undertaken satisfactorily. Agreed actions are identified in the Shoreline Management Plans and the Catchment Flood Management Plans relating to the authority (only the latter in Herefordshire's case) that have been signed off by the Environment Agency's regional director. Its purpose is to record progress in delivering agreed actions to implement long term flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) plans. Data is provided by Defra annually.				A
Number of 'sites of potential concern' [within the local authority area], with respect to land contamination (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed. Data is collected annually.	2,892	2,892		A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Number of sites for which sufficient detailed information is available to decide whether remediation of the land is necessary, as a percentage of all 'sites of potential concern' (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed. Data is collected annually.	0.04	0.04		A
Percentage of pollution control improvements to existing installations completed on time (local)	This is a former Best Value indicator. Data continues to be collected whilst its potential as a benchmarking indicator is being assessed. Data is collected annually.	97.9	97.9		A
Residual household waste per household (NI, LAA, CP)	This indicator measures the number of kilograms of residual household waste collected per household. Residual waste includes any waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting or anaerobic digestion. Its purpose is to measure the Council's progress in reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill, incineration or energy recovery. Data is available one month in		762 kg	197.6kg (to June)	G

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
% household waste recycled and composted (NI)	<p>arrears.</p> <p>This indicator measures the percentage of household waste that has been sent for reuse, recycling, and composting or anaerobic digestion. Its purpose is to maximise the percentage of waste that is reused, recycled or composted.</p> <p>Data is available one month in arrears.</p>	30.43%	32%	31.12% (to June) Compared with 26.32% for the same period last year	G
Municipal waste land filled (NI)	<p>The purpose of this indicator is to measure the percentage of municipal waste that has been landfilled. Municipal waste encompasses all waste in the possession of or under the control of the Council (including trade waste). Its purpose is to divert an increasing proportion of waste away from landfill.</p> <p>Data is available one month in arrears.</p>		64.92%	66.4% (to June)	G
Satisfaction of businesses with local	This indicator measures the percentage of business customers			Similar surveys in previous years have indicated high levels of	A

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2008-09		
		2007-08	Performance to date	
<p>authority regulation services (NI)</p>	<p>of trading standards, environmental health and licensing agreeing that they have been treated fairly and/or the contact has been helpful. Satisfaction will be measured by means of a survey of both compliant and non-compliant businesses. Its purpose is to improve the quality of regulation, and how it is enforced and administered, and contribute towards having a business-friendly environment.</p> <p>Baseline to be established in 2008-09.</p> <p>Ideally this data should be collected monthly in arrears. However, the precise details of the indicator were only available at the end of February this year and it has been decided to conduct the survey quarterly in arrears (which is an option within the indicator methodology) for 2008-09, changing to monthly for 2009-10 and subsequent years.</p>	<p>Outturn</p>	<p>Target</p>	<p>satisfaction. No changes are planned to current service delivery arrangements until data using the new survey methodology has been received and analysed.</p>

Appendix A

	Comment	2008-09	
		2007-08	Performance to date
Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment (NI)	<p>This indicator measures the number of significant issues recorded by Consumer Direct which the Trading Standards service is called upon to deal with, less the number it is actually able to deal with, scaled against a measure of trading activity within the local area. This yields a percentage figure allowing comparison between authorities. Its purpose is to measure the outcome of activity to create and maintain a fair trading environment for businesses and consumers.</p> <p>Baseline to be established in 2008-09</p>		Revised data collection arrangements under consideration.
Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law (NI)	<p>This indicator measures the percentage of food establishments in the area that are 'broadly compliant' with food hygiene law (i.e. scoring within acceptable limits on scales developed by the Food Standards Agency). Its purpose is to protect public health by ensuring food is safe and fit to eat. This also acts as a proxy measure of the effectiveness of the authority's food</p>		<p>Inspection programme on target.</p> <p>Revised data collection arrangements under consideration to provide a proxy indicator for performance management.</p>

Appendix A

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
	<p>safety interventions on food safety compliance.</p> <p>Data will be provided annually by the food standards agency.</p> <p>Baseline to be established in 2008-09</p>				
<p>Notes:</p> <p>NI National indicator</p> <p>LAA Indicator and target included in the Local Area Agreement</p> <p>LPSA Indicator and target included in the 2005-08 Local Public Service Agreement</p> <p>Local Local developed indicator or former Best Value Performance Indicator</p> <p>CP Corporate Plan</p> <p>R Not on target and planned activity not taking place</p> <p>A Not on target, but planned activity undertaken and remedial measure in place; or no data available but planned activity undertaken</p> <p>G On target; or baseline data is not available for a new indicator and planned activity has taken place</p>					

Performance to end July 2008 (Directorate of Regeneration - Planning and Transportation)

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Net Additional Homes Provided (NI)	This indicator measures the net increase in dwelling stock over one year. This will be collected via the Housing Flows reconciliation	805 houses (2006/07)	760	The performance outturn is assembled in September for the financial year which ended in the previous March. (5 Year target is 3964 over the period 2007-2012)	A
Processing of Planning Applications (NI)	This indicator measures the percentage of planning applications by type determined in a timely manner. A timely manner is define as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 13 weeks for Major applications • Within 8 weeks for Minor and Other applications This information is reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government on a quarterly basis	Major – 68% Minor – 80% Other – 89%	Major – 60% Minor – 65% Other – 80%	Current performance figures are exceeding national targets. There has been a marginal fall back in performance since 2007/08 due to staff turnover Outturn to end of July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major 63% • Minor 73% • Other 85% 	G
Supply of ready to develop housing sites (NI)	This indicator assesses the degree to which authorities are maintaining a 5 year supply of deliverable sites.	4167 sites (April 07)	3460	The annual monitoring report incorporates the Housing Land Availability Study and reports upon	A

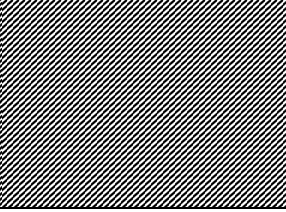
Appendix B

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
(NI)	This is reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Annual Monitoring form			an April base. As at April 2007, 4167 sites were available for housing development which equates to more than a 5 year housing land supply.	
Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than five years (NI)	This indicator measures the proportion of the area of developed land that is vacant or derelict for more than 5 years. This information is provided by the English Partnerships.			The information of previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for over 5 Years is not currently available.	A
The percentage of new homes built on previously developed land (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator. This indicator measures the number of new homes that are built on previously developed land and conversions of existing buildings in order to minimise development on green fields.	77% (2006/07)		The council has exceeded the Government's target of 60% since 2002-3 and for the last 4 years has achieved the Unitary Development Plan target. Discontinued for 2008/09	G
Did the Local Planning Authority submit the Local Development scheme (LDS) by 28 th March 2006 and there after maintain a 3-year rolling programme? (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator. This indicator is to ensure that the council plan effectively for Herefordshire to deliver sustainable development outcomes through efficient and high quality planning and development management processes.	Yes		The council sets out and submits its Local Development Scheme (LDS) Annually in January to maintain a three year rolling programme of forward planning work. The third review was submitted in January 2008.	G

Appendix B

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Has the Local Planning Authority met the milestones that the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out? (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator.	Yes (With Exceptions)		All documents identified within the latest Local Development Scheme are meeting milestones identified with the following exceptions:- Polytunnels SPD – now expected to be adopted Nov 2008. Historic Landscapes SPD - Draft Delayed.	A
Did the Local Planning Authority publish an annual monitoring report by 31 st December of the last year? (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator.	Yes		The third review was submitted in January 2008.	G
The number of planning appeal decisions allowed against the Local Authority's decision to refuse on Planning Applications, as a percentage of the total number of planning appeals against refusals of planning applications (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator. This indicator measures the percentage of planning appeals and includes only appeals on applications where planning permission has been refused. It does not include planning appeals against conditions or non-determinations.	36.4%		Outturn to End of July 36.4% The National Average is 34%	A

Appendix B

		2008-09	
Indicator	Comment	2007-08	Performance to date
		Outturn	Target
The Local Authority's score against a 'quality of planning services' checklist (BVPI)	This is a former BVPI indicator. This indicator measures the quality of planning services as they stand at the end of the current financial year	19/21	 The council cannot achieve all of the elements of a quality planning service with the current IT facilities. Cabinet has now approved a package of measures which will eventually overcome this issue
Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented (NI, LAA, CP)	The indicator measures the percentage of all Local Sites in the local authority area where positive conservation management has taken place up to five years prior to the reporting date (31 st March)	Current Baseline = 28.7%	Increase of 3.5% (i.e. 30 sites)
The percentage of conservation areas in the Local Authority Area with an up-to date character	This is a former BVPI indicator. This indicator monitors whether planning and other decisions are	23.4%	Positive conservation management is understood as including those sites with their management schemes under the Woodland Grant Scheme, English Woodland Grant Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Agreements, Environmental Stewardship Agreements; along with all of the designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves (currently 109 in Herefordshire); and local sites with other specific management plans, e.g. Community Commons Project, Pond Restoration and Celebration Project and Earth Heritage Trust.
			Draft Survey appraisals have been approved in order that management plan status can be attained. No plans to roll

Appendix B

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
appraisal (BVPI)	based on an informed understanding of the special character of the local historic environment and the needs of the communities it supports.			appraisals out any further.	
Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling (NI, CP)	This indicator measures access to selected core services and facilities by individuals via non-private modes of transport. The Department of Transport will collect the data, and will report annually.	91%	91%	This a challenge to maintain the public transport network in a large rural county in the context of increasing costs but it is currently at the 91% baseline level	G
Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes) (NI)	This indicator measures the percentage of people of working age (aged 16-74 years) living within the catchment area of a location with more than 500 jobs by public transport, demand responsive transport and / or walking. The Department of Transport will collect the data, and will report annually.			This is a new National Indicator the baseline will be established in April 2009, which will enable a target to be set	G

Appendix B

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Performance to date	
Local Bus Passenger journeys originating in the authority area (NI, BVPI)	This indicator measures the total number of local bus passenger journeys originating in Herefordshire in a given year. The Department of Transport will collect the data, and will report annually.	3.355 M	4.017 M	Seeking to revise this target in discussion with the GOWM. The baseline was established in 2003/2004 which had an unusually high level of usage.	A
Bus services running on time (NI, LAA, CP)	This indicator is measured in two different ways: the percentage of non-frequent buses on time and the average excess waiting time for frequent services. The Department of Transport will collect the data, and will report annually.	67%	69%	The National Indicator definition has changed the understanding of previous performance definitions and the baseline will be established from historic data enabling an updated target to be set.	G
Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used – Car, Car Share, School / Public Transport, Walk, Cycle (NI)	This indicator measures the proportion of school aged children in full time education travelling to school by the mode of travel that they usually use and is broken down by specific modes of transport. Data processed and provided by DfES. This data is received by the council during the summer from	33.7%	34.0%	There are several modes of transport for this indicator, the main issue is the reduction in car use, therefore overall progress is measured against this.	G

Appendix B

Indicator	Comment	2007-08		2008-09	
		Outturn	Target	Outturn	Performance to date
	the previous academic year.				
Notes:					
NI	National indicator				
LAA	Indicator and target included in the Local Area Agreement				
LPSA	Indicator and target included in the 2005-08 Local Public Service Agreement				
Local	Local developed indicator or former Best Value Performance Indicator				
CP	Corporate Plan				
R	Not on target and planned activity not taking place				
A	Not on target, but planned activity undertaken and remedial measure in place; or no data available but planned activity undertaken				
G	On target; or baseline data is not available for a new indicator and planned activity has taken place				

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANNING SERVICES - UPDATE

**Report By: Councillor P A Andrews, Chairman, Planning
Services Scrutiny Review Group**

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To seek an extension of time to report on the findings of the Scrutiny Review.

Background

2. At its meeting on 9th June 2008 the Committee approved the terms of reference and appointed Members to a Scrutiny Review of Planning Services. Since then members of the Review Group have held a number of meetings and received or heard a range of evidence on the subject.
3. Due to the breadth of the subject, the Review Group will be unable to meet the intended target namely to report its findings to the 24th November 2008 meeting of this Committee. It is therefore requested that the reporting date be extended to early 2009 so that a considered set of recommendations can be formulated.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the review period be extended to early 2009.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.

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 into 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 – TO 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

9.30am Monday 24 November 2008	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery Review – update. • Capital Budget Monitoring • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Report on Performance Indicators • Committee Work Programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-Street Parking Review • Planning Services Review.
9.30am Monday 23 March 2008	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Budget Monitoring • Revenue Budget Monitoring • Report on Performance Indicators • Committee Work Programme

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)
- 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.

