

Deputy Chief Executive's Office

Dean Taylor

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CA/SAHC

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24 February 2011

Dear Councillor,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the meeting of the Herefordshire Council to be held on **Friday 4 March 2011** at The Shirehall, St Peter's Square, Hereford. at 10.30 am at which the business set out in the attached agenda is proposed to be transacted.

Please note that car parking will be available at the Shirehall for elected Members.

Yours sincerely



C CHAPMAN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

AGENDA

Council

Date: **Friday 4 March 2011**

Time: **10.30 am**

Place: **The Shirehall, St Peter's Square, Hereford.**

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

For any further information please contact:

Sally Cole, Committee Manager Executive

Tel: 01432 260249

Email: scole@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Sally Cole, Committee Manager Executive on 01432 260249 or e-mail scole@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Council

Membership

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Councillor J Stone

Councillor JB Williams

Councillor PA Andrews
Councillor LO Barnett
Councillor PL Bettington
Councillor WLS Bowen
Councillor ACR Chappell
Councillor PGH Cutter
Councillor H Davies
Councillor BA Durkin
Councillor MJ Fishley
Councillor JHR Goodwin
Councillor DW Greenow
Councillor KS Guthrie
Councillor MAF Hubbard
Councillor RC Hunt
Councillor JA Hyde
Councillor JG Jarvis
Councillor Brig P Jones CBE
Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes
Councillor RI Matthews
Councillor PM Morgan
Councillor JE Pemberton
Councillor GA Powell
Councillor SJ Robertson
Councillor RH Smith
Councillor AP Taylor
Councillor AM Toon
Councillor WJ Walling
Councillor DB Wilcox

Councillor WU Attfield
Councillor CM Bartrum
Councillor AJM Blackshaw
Councillor H Bramer
Councillor ME Cooper
Councillor SPA Daniels
Councillor GFM Dawe
Councillor PJ Edwards
Councillor JP French
Councillor AE Gray
Councillor KG Grumbley
Councillor JW Hope MBE
Councillor B Hunt
Councillor TW Hunt
Councillor TM James
Councillor AW Johnson
Councillor JJD Lavender
Councillor G Lucas
Councillor PJ McCaull
Councillor AT Oliver
Councillor RJ Phillips
Councillor PD Price
Councillor A Seldon
Councillor RV Stockton
Councillor DC Taylor
Councillor NL Vaughan
Councillor PJ Watts
Councillor JD Woodward

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. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

AGENDA

	Pages
1. PRAYERS	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2011.	1 - 32
5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive the Chairman's announcements and petitions from members of the public.	
RECOMMENDATION: That Council confirm the cancellation of the Council meeting scheduled for Friday 15 April 2011.	
6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC To receive questions from members of the public.	33 - 40
7. FORMAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN UNDER STANDING ORDERS To receive any written questions from Councillors.	
8. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDERS There are no Notices of Motion.	
9. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2011/12 To set the Council Tax amounts for each category of dwelling in Herefordshire for 2011/12 and to calculate the Council's budget requirements.	41 - 62
10. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN To agree revisions to the timetable for preparation of the Local Development Framework; and agree interim arrangements in respect of the Local Transport Plan.	63 - 68
11. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	
A. Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board To advise Members of the proposed requirement to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and to progress the Council's status as an Early Implementer for the Department of Health (DoH) by creating a shadow board.	69 - 76
B. Substitute Members To seek approval for and present matters relating to the Council Constitution.	77 - 80
12. LEADER'S REPORT To provide an overview of the Executive's activity since the last meeting of	81 - 84

Council and over the period of the administration.

13. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE	85 - 90
To inform the Council of the main activities of the Committee during the period from January 2010 to February 2011.	
14. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2010-2011	91 - 92
To inform the Council of the activities of the Committee during the previous year.	
15. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE 2010-2011	93 - 96
To note the main activities of the Committee during the period June 2010 – February 2011.	
16. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2010-2011	97 - 100
To inform the council of the activities of the above Committee between May 2010 and January 2011 and to note the report, which is for information.	
17. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010-2011	101 - 108
To inform Council of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny function from May 2010 to February 2011.	
18. WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY	109 - 114
To receive the report of the meeting of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 14 December 2010. Councillor B Hunt has been nominated for the purpose of answering questions on the discharge of the functions of the Police Authority.	
19. HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	115 - 120
To receive the report of the meetings of the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority held on 17 December 2010 and 16 February 2011.	

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:-

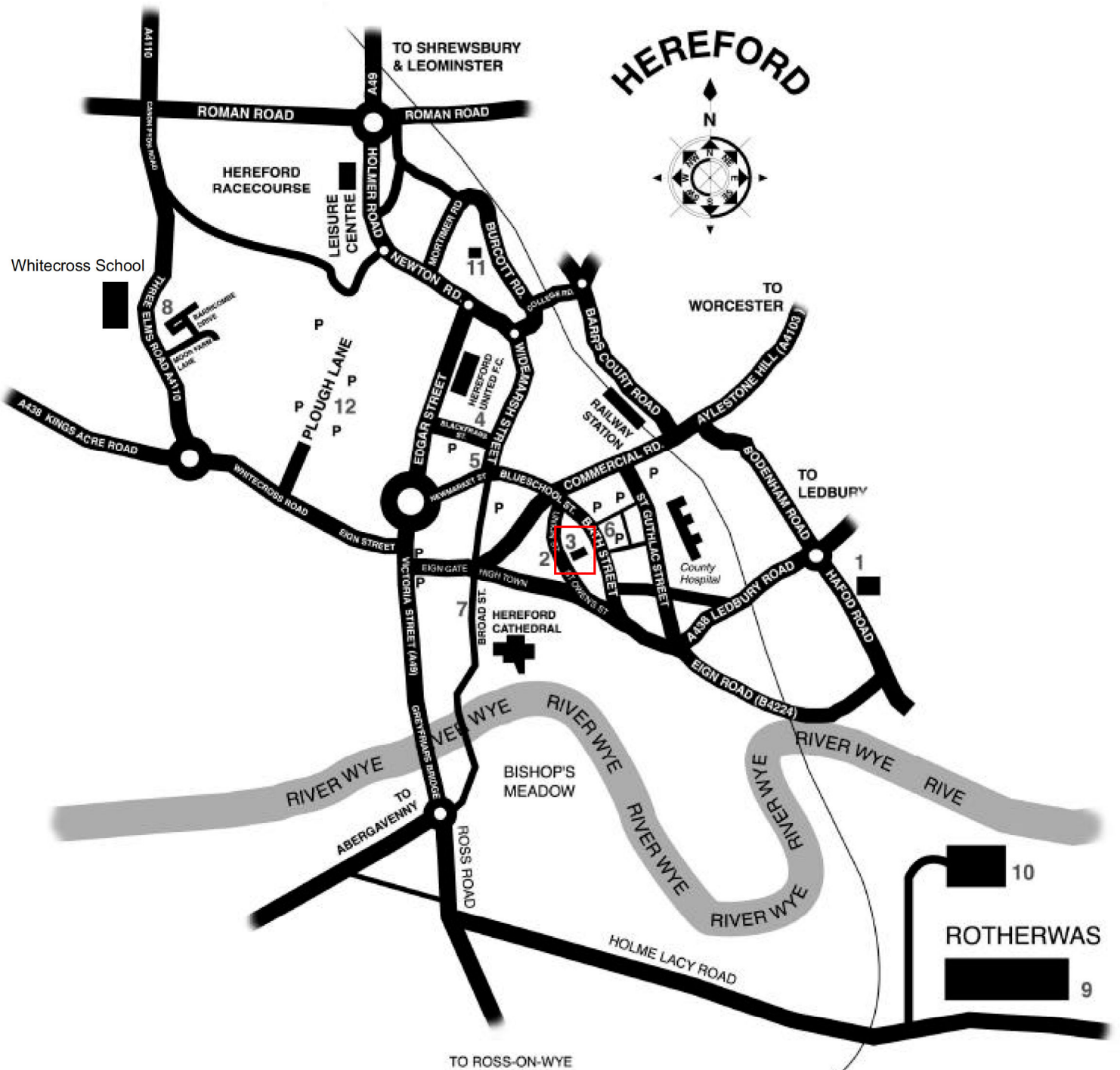
- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees 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 the Cabinet, 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, 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.
- A member of the public may, at a meeting of the full Council, ask a Cabinet Member or Chairman of a Committee any question relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the County as long as a copy of that question is deposited with the Monitoring Officer eight clear working days before the meeting i.e. by 12:00 noon on a Monday in the week preceding a Friday meeting.

Public Transport Links

- The Shirehall is ten minutes walking distance from both bus stations located in the town centre of Hereford. A map showing the location of the Shirehall is found opposite.



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| 1 | Brockington | 7 | Kemble House |
| 2 | Town Hall | 8 | Trinity House |
| 3 | Shire Hall | 9 | Thorn Office Centre |
| 4 | Education Centre | 10 | Herefordshire Commercial Services |
| 5 | Garrick House | 11 | Merchant House |
| 6 | Bath Street | 12 | Plough Lane |

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

IN CASE OF FIRE

(no matter how small)

1. Sound the Alarm
2. Call the Fire Brigade
3. Fire party - attack the fire with appliances available.

ON HEARING THE ALARM

Leave the building by the nearest exit and proceed to assembly area on:

GAOL STREET CAR PARK

Section Heads will call the roll at the place of assembly.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Council held at The Shirehall, St Peter's Square, Hereford. on Friday 4 February 2011 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)
Councillor JB Williams (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: PA Andrews, WU Attfield, LO Barnett, CM Bartrum, PL Bettington, AJM Blackshaw, WLS Bowen, H Bramer, ACR Chappell, ME Cooper, PGH Cutter, SPA Daniels, GFM Dawe, BA Durkin, PJ Edwards, MJ Fishley, JP French, JHR Goodwin, AE Gray, DW Greenow, KG Grumbley, KS Guthrie, JW Hope MBE, MAF Hubbard, B Hunt, TW Hunt, JA Hyde, TM James, JG Jarvis, AW Johnson, Brig P Jones CBE, Lavender, MD Lloyd-Hayes, G Lucas, RI Matthews, PJ McCaull, PM Morgan, AT Oliver, JE Pemberton, RJ Phillips, PD Price, SJ Robertson, A Seldon, RH Smith, RV Stockton, DC Taylor, AM Toon, PJ Watts, DB Wilcox and JD Woodward

In attendance: Councillors

52. PRAYERS

The Very Reverend Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford, led the Council in prayer.

The Council stood in silent tribute to mark the death of the former Chairman and Councillor, Peter Harling.

The Chairman thanked all the services for their work during the snow which included the maintenance of roads by Amey, the collection of waste by Focsa. Local farmers were also thanked for clearing the more rural roads of snow.

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors H Davies, RC Hunt, GA Powell, AP Taylor, WJ Walling and NL Vaughan

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7. DRAFT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14.
Councillor ACR Chappell, Personal, Employment as a professional carer.

55. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 November 2010 were approved as a correct record.

56. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Copies of all public questions accepted and received by the deadline, with written answers, were distributed prior to the commencement of the meeting. A copy of the public questions accepted and written answers, together with the supplementary questions asked at the meeting and answers are attached to the minutes as Appendix 1.

57. FORMAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS TO THE CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Copies of questions from Councillors to Cabinet Members and Chairman of Committees accepted and received by the deadline, with written answers, were distributed prior to the commencement of the meeting. A copy of these questions and written answers together with supplementary questions asked at the meeting and answers provided at the meeting, or a subsequent formal letter to a Member, are attached to the minutes as Appendix 2.

58. DRAFT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14

The Leader presented the report and proposed the three year draft financial strategy for 2011/14 which included the 2011/12 budget. The following points were highlighted to the Council:

- The budget was the toughest in the life of the authority. Recent years had seen high levels of public investment which had given rise to both a national and international situation which could not now continue. The coalition government had been established and was now tackling the deficit; Government was spending £1 in every £4 on borrowing and £43 billion was being spent annually on debt interest alone.
- It was stated that these were difficult times for the public sector as a whole and that local authorities had been preparing for reduced budgets for some time.
- Herefordshire Council had absorbed a cut in grant receipt of £1 million during 2010/11. Council was advised that when grants go, funding ends.
- In preparing for the necessity of reducing the number of employees, the authority had implemented a policy of temporary employment and agency contracts. 250 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts would go in the next two years out of a total of 1700; a quarter of all the Council's management posts would go.
- In preparing for the local government settlement, the authority had identified £8 million savings. On receipt of the final settlement on 13 December 2010 such savings would not be enough. The late publication of the settlement details together with changes in funding formulas put consequential pressures on drawing up the authority's budget. The formal consultation was undertaken within very tight timescales.
- The settlement outlined the following reductions needed in the budget over three years, 11/12 - 13.3%, 2012/13 - 8.6% and 2013/14 - 1.9%; the frontloading of the budget reductions had been challenging.
- The core principles by which savings would be identified within the Star Camber process had been agreed as: Valued Services, Cutting Red Tape, Supporting the Vulnerable, Cutting Costs, Local Delivery and Personal Responsibility. It was stated that it had been pleasing to note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had endorsed these principles as sound and appropriate.
- To deliver the 2011/12 budget, £10.3 million worth of cuts were required from a £150 million budget. It was emphasised that Members should be under no illusion as to the scale and depth of the cuts which were being replicated in local authorities across the country.
- The principal aim for Herefordshire Council would be to reduce the cost of delivering services whilst protecting front line services. Those Members who opposed such an approach would need to clearly outline where alternative cuts would be made.
- An additional difficulty to the budget setting process was the rural nature of Herefordshire as it cost more to deliver services due to its geography and the current high cost of energy. Members were advised that the Leader would be

- writing to the local MPs to make them aware of the impact of high energy and fuel costs to the public and private sector as well as to individuals.
- The shared services project was crucial to delivering efficiencies; it would be effective from 1 April 2011.
 - There was a wider organisation re-design currently taking place within the Council which would have personal consequences on individual employees.
 - A commercial strategy was being developed and the SMARTer delivery of functions both of which would contribute to the efficiencies needed to deliver on the budget.
 - Government grants had been reduced from 77 to 6, with some disappearing altogether whilst others being absorbed into the formula; pages 125 and 126 of the agenda pack listed those grants which had ceased, those which had been rolled into formula grant, and those still to be announced.
 - It was emphasised to Councillors that if no grant was to be received, there would be no service. Should grant funded services be reinstated and supported from the main Council budget there would be a consequential need to cut the budget elsewhere.
 - Herefordshire's pupil premium grant of £4,000 had historically been one of the lowest in the country. The pupil premium for 2011/12 would be £4,700, however this amount was made up of the previous pupil premium and all other appropriate grants; no additional grants would be available.
 - Herefordshire concessionary fare grant had been reduced by 20% (Oxfordshire's similar grant had been reduced by 51%).
 - The budget had made several general assumptions which included:
 - (a) taking advantage of government funding of up to 2.5% of Council tax.
 - (b) pay would not be increased (however a small increase to cover the outcome of the actuary's revaluation of the pension fund was included).
 - (c) the application of inflation at 2% to budgets and discretionary fees and charges
 - Additional funding would be received by Adult Social Care; this included the allocation of monies from NHS. Due to the deep partnership with health, agreement for the transfer of monies had been swift; other local authorities had not yet reached such agreement.
 - With over 4,500 clients, the demand on social care provision had increased by 7% in the previous 12 months. Whilst the additional funding was welcomed, it was stated that ongoing additional investment would be required for local authorities, not solely for the NHS. Whilst recognising these additional funds for adult social care, this did not exclude the service from delivering efficiencies through re-assessment of care packages, remodelling of contracts etc.
 - Within the Children and Young People's Directorate significant staff reductions had been delivered, a redesign of the youth service provision would be undertaken, and further work would be done to align the service with the localities initiative.
 - The number of Child Protection Plans has increased by 210% in the last 12 months. The cost of caring for looked after children equated to approximately £400 per week 'in county' and approximately £1,000 per week 'out of county'.
 - It was important to place vulnerable citizens at the core of any budget.
 - It was proposed that there would be a reduction of 15% over two years to the Council's contribution to both the Courtyard Theatre and Halo. The importance of the need to establish a Cultural Trust was emphasised.
 - In relation to libraries, it was stated that whilst static provision would remain the mobile service would be reviewed, which would bear in mind the needs of the housebound.
 - Government had reduced funding for highways maintenance; a letter would be sent to all parish councils advising them that whilst the lengthman scheme would continue highways maintenance and repairs must be of priority. Government

would be lobbied to ensure that, following two successive severe winters which damaged the road network, that appropriate investment was placed in the road infrastructure from motorways to unclassified roads.

- The budget was tough, but was realistic. It had been planned and would require continual monitoring. It was clear that the public sector must take its share of the national problem.
- It would be important that the public understood the situation that the Council was in and the importance for the Council to work with other partnerships and voluntary organisations, with town and parish councils, with the wider community and others to deliver on priorities.
- The Big Society concept as outlined by Government has been embedded within Herefordshire for generations.
- Projects which had been successfully supported from funding in the Capital Programme had included Hereford Leisure Pool, broadband, Ledbury Library.
- A meeting between the Leader, Chief Executive and the Trade Unions would take place on Monday 7 February.
- It was acknowledged that delivering a budget had not been easy and whilst it may be difficult for all Members to agree it, no alternative options had been received.

In debate the following principal points were made:

- The Director of Resources and his team were congratulated for their work on the budget.
- It was commented that the front loading of the budget reductions could be seen as a political manoeuvre from Government.
- Spend on agency and consultancy staff was considered excessive at £5.125million. It was stated that the strategy did not refer to how these costs would be reduced; this was an omission which would need to be tackled.
- Other unknowns in the budget included the funding for the New Homes Bonus of £660,000 as the current economic climate did not encourage development and house buying. Some of the agreed planning developments in the county were currently undeliverable.
- 2013 would see the abolition of the PCT. The costs of setting up the GP consortia was not in the MFTS.
- Amey had recently estimated that it would take £40 million to repair the existing network; it was essential to lobby had to get more funding.
- Several Members stated that they would abstain in the vote, reasons given included, (i) lack of detail in some areas of the budget, (ii) no alternative budget, (iii) lack of clarifications on where savings would be met.
- There had been a commitment in the previous meeting that those most vulnerable in the community would not be affected, however it was disappointing that some employees in adult social care were 'at risk' and that there was an expectation for the directorate to find savings of £2.6million.

It was moved and seconded that the two recommendations in the report be taken separately.

The following comments were made during debate on the amendment.

- Some Members stated that whilst they had reservations about the detail contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the approval to freeze the council tax would be acceptable.
- It was necessary to agree the MFTS and to approve the council tax together.

The amendment was moved and put to the vote. The amendment was lost 21 votes to 30, with one abstention.

The following were additional comments raised in the continuation of the original debate:

- Members were informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; had supported the core budget setting principles; recommended that more detail be provided about the budget reductions in order to better understand the impact on the community and recommended that greater information be given about capital programmes.
- With so many uncertainties in the budget it would be difficult for ward members to explain it to their communities. There was a need to better explain the impact of the budget on residents.
- Many elderly and vulnerable residents in wards were reliant on buses; if town and parish councils were to be asked to support with the continuation of bus services when would such discussion take place so that town and parish councils could budget for the future.
- It was stated that the report expressed the programme of rationalisation, financial stringency and the boundaries within which the budget had to be delivered. The MTFS and budget was coherent and sound.
- As some grant funding and cuts had been announced the previous day, and others were awaited, the financial picture had not been fully revealed.
- Concerns were expressed that many rural villages would end up with no bus services.
- Many buses were owned by the council or by schools it was suggested that consideration be given to organisations such as parish councils to use such vehicles (and be provided a subsidy) for the benefit of their communities.
- Concerns were expressed about the new arrangements for the Coroner's Service as there was the potential to increase travel costs for funeral directors. In response the Cabinet Member Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources stated that a coroner for Herefordshire would remain, however the services would be aligned with that of Worcestershire; this matter had been considered by the Group Leaders. The review of the Coroner's Service would deliver savings and a more resilient service.
- The development of a cultural trust was to be welcomed.
- The partnership with the NHS was delivering dividends, however concerns were raised regarding the arrangements in place for the progression of placements of vulnerable individuals from the children and young people directorate to that of adult social care.
- In respect of Disabled Facilities Grant it was noted on page 91 of the agenda pack that the allocation would be circa £0.6million, however in response to a formal written question from a Councillor (agenda item 6), the figure given was £1.08million; such discrepancy meant that the budget would be difficult to support.
- Those Members considering not supporting the budget were challenged to state what services would be cut in order to deliver a balanced budget. No alternative budget had been produced or suggestions put forward for consideration.
- A seminar had been held for all members on the budget, it had been considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Officers and Cabinet Members had made themselves available to any Member seeking information in the budget.
- All Members were urged to work together to solve the authority's pressing problems and to make the difficult decisions that the settlement had necessitated.
- The Cabinet Member for Environment and Strategic Housing stated that no libraries would be shut nor would rural bus services be withdrawn in Herefordshire. Such services were being cut in other parts of the country. Collectively the Cabinet with the support of officers had worked hard to deliver a balanced budget by making difficult decisions on efficiencies and in increasing income generation (such as planning fees). Members were urged to support the proposition.

- It was stated that a reason why no alternative budget had been forwarded was that full budgetary figures were not available.
- Council was reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not have membership from all the political groups.
- Clarification was sought as to the amount to be taken from reserves as the report implied a total of £2million (two separate drawing down of £1million). This being the case, with the reduction in the formula grant of £5.7 and the additional need to repay up to £2million into reserves, the starting point for additional savings for 2012/13 would surely be £7.7million.
- Clarification was sought as to the future role of parish councils and community groups in delivering services, and what, if any funding would be provided.
- The report outlined that some pockets of deprivation in Herefordshire had got worse since 2004. As the economic climate was now vastly changed what chance had these areas of improving in future years?
- It was questioned whether the budget setting principle of including net inflation of 2% was sufficient as the current Bank of England base rate was 3.7%. On a point of order, the Leader stated that whilst accepting that there were differing measures for inflation rates, emphasised that the budget needed now to take account of inflation which had been included at an assumed rate of 2%.
- The view was expressed that Members had been told little or nothing on the budget setting process and that confusion was rife due to the worrying lack of detail. It was necessary to have clarity on the Council's priorities
- It was suggested that Herefordshire Matters be discontinued and that communications be disseminated via the town and parish councils.
- Concern was expressed that if fees were increased, the public would suffer.
- The reduction in management costs was welcomed.
- Members were reminded that the Council had a legal obligation to produce and agree a budget. Given the information provided to the authority, the budget under consideration was excellent. It was re-emphasised that no alternative budget had been proposed.
- The complex partnership between the NHS and the Council was paying huge dividends; this was welcomed and the Chief Executive commended for his work in aligning these two organisations.
- Concern was expressed that the administration was not transparent in its strategy. Added to this were concerns that the capital reserves during the life of the administration had gone from £18million to £4.5million whilst borrowing had increased by over 100% with the council spending £17.5m servicing the debt. Such an approach was neither prudential nor strategic.
- Whilst the principles of the budget setting process were supported, it was commented that it was important to reduce the number of staff on high salaries. It was stated that between 2005 and April 2010 the number of council employees earning £50,000 or above rose from 51 to 117 (from £3.4million to £7.6million) – an increase of 154%.
- It was stated that the Courtyard Centre for the Arts attracted people and business into Hereford. Concerns were expressed that no impact assessment had been undertaken prior to the reduction of the grant.
- Assurance was sought that the Council would not make staff redundant only for them to be re-employed via outsourcing at a higher cost.
- Clarity was sought on the budget and the detail of the front line cuts.
- It was stated that the public were angry about the high level of public sector salaries.
- Members were advised that in 2003 a press release was issued accusing the then administration of putting a burden of debt on the county as borrowing approached £50million. The current situation was that borrowing had risen by three times as much and included a further £50-60million off book in pfi schemes

(indirectly from the public). In total the county was carrying a debt burden of over £200million.

- Concerns were expressed that the county had one of the lowest satisfaction ratings in the region and had dropped from being the best performing in the region to the lowest.

Responding to points raised in debate, Cabinet Members made the following comments:

- The Cabinet Member Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources advised the Council that all group leaders were entitled to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee as ex-officio members. All Members had been invited to attend a seminar on the budget process and had access to officers and cabinet members. It was acknowledged that putting together an alternative budget was hard work; however it had been undertaken in the past. The Council should be rightly proud of the partnership with the NHS and others; it would be necessary to increase our working with others in order to sweat the public pound. Members were urged to focus on the wider picture and not on the minutiae as it was stated that monies could be vired across to budgets during the year. It was recognised that there were big challenges ahead and that there was a need to work together for the benefit of Herefordshire's residents. All directorates were working hard to deliver efficiencies and to work in different ways; investment had been made to IT and systems to support this. In relation to salary levels, the Council was reminded that the National Employers Organisation had responsibility for the setting of salaries for the majority of local authorities. Consideration and respect needed to be given to all those staff affected by the reduction in posts, all of whom had provided valued contributions to the Council. A greater focus would be given to procurement in order to achieve better efficiencies by reducing the number of suppliers whilst also ensuring opportunities for local businesses and suppliers. Council Members were encouraged to support the budget.
- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation emphasised that Herefordshire was at the top of the agenda whilst recognising that the grant reductions would have an effect on the county. Several hundred letters and some petitions had been received in relation to the reduction in bus subsidy for the county. Assurance was given that the issue would be dealt with in a responsible manner and that the authority would be using reserves, consulting with partners and communities as well as undertaking a retendering process on half the bus contracts during the autumn. It was acknowledged that bus services were important and any changes would be done in a structured and measured way. It was additionally stated that the highways budget had been cut by 12% from £13million to £10.3million. £2.4 million had been budgeted for winter maintenance. Road safety and maintenance must remain a key priority.
- The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Community Services complimented the Resources Directorate for their excellent treasury management and loan book management and reminded Members that the council had a triple A rating. The authority had taken advantage of the current low interest rates in order to benefit in the longer term. In relation to the Courtyard Centre for the Arts, its management commercial aspects were complimented; the Board had been made aware of the grant reductions, however it was noted that Arts Council support remained buoyant. The Council was also made aware that the county's regeneration scheme was one of the few remaining projects continuing in the country.
- The Cabinet Member for Resources emphasised to Members the economic climate and the consequential impact of the CSR and the settlement. Council was reminded that the budget sought to reduce the cost of delivering services, and to retain the service delivery. The temporary use of reserves would ensure the funding for concessionary fares for the year ahead despite the reduction in the grant funding. Members were advised that £16million must be cut from the budget over the next two years.

- The Leader advised Council that the joint draft MTFs had been signed off by the Board of the PCT. It was clear that there was a need to take account of the Localities Bill and the expectation that town and parish councils would take on various work; the full details were awaited. It had been the choice of the Council to use supported borrowing from Government to build and repair roads and schools. Prudential borrowing had been used to build Leominster swimming pool, a new crematorium and Riverside School as the Government did not provide supported borrowing. The budget sought to deliver minimum impact to the front line. Other public sector organisations were known to be using reserves and not paying it back – this would not be the case in Herefordshire. It was important for Herefordshire to deliver the vision with NHS and other partners through the landscape of change and defend the county values such as health services and the city and community hospitals. Locality working would form a key part of Herefordshire's future strategy and would deliver early intervention for problems and issues. The Council was reminded that a £10million budget cut was substantial and that the budget had been the most difficult in recent memory due to its scale and timescale.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried 30 to 22

RESOLVED THAT Council:

- (a) **approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) shown in Appendix A (of the report), which includes the 2011/12 budget, and Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement; and**
- (b) **approve a freeze of Council Tax for 2011/12 at 2010/11 levels;**

59. JOINT CORPORATE PLAN

The Leader presented the report on the joint Corporate Plan 2011-2014 and advised Council that reference should also be made in the Plan to broadband.

RESOLVED THAT:

Council approve, with amendments, the Herefordshire Council and NHS Herefordshire Joint Corporate Plan vision, priorities and long-term outcomes at Appendix 1 to the report

60. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

Council considered a report on the outcome of the recent review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations following the direction by the Electoral Commission to review any polling station with an electorate of between 2000 and 2500. Council's approval was sought to the proposed changes to polling districts within the Ledbury ward.

Members were advised that any matters relating to polling places and stations be directed to the Returning Officer as they were not matters for determination by Council.

RESOLVED That Council:

- (a) **Notes the outcome of the review (summarised at Appendix A to the report); and**

- (b) **Approves the creation of a new polling district within Ledbury ward (based on the New Mills estate) to facilitate a reduction of the electorate in polling districts N-UC and N-UE.**

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Question from D Phelps, Hereford

Question 1

The JOINT CORPORATE PLAN under 'Economic development and enterprise' seeks as a LONG TERM OUTCOME 1.1, 'Higher quality, better paid jobs and reduced unemployment' and one of the Council's justifications for growth is the need to improve wages and services in the county:

How many jobs have been created and how much have wages increased in Herefordshire as a result of new housing built over the last five years?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

Answer to Question 1

The data is not available to assess the difference housing building specifically has made. However we have maintained our record for low unemployment in the county. Given our sustained investment in regeneration initiatives, such as Hereford City and the current work on superfast broadband as an example, housing provision must reflect anticipated future growth as well as meeting the needs of the existing resident population in the county.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from A Fisher, Hereford

Question 2

The draft JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 dated 12 January 2011 indicates Local Transport Plan funding has been cut but that further funding may be available for 'both capital and revenue need' through the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund (para 2.9.1)

What steps is the Council taking to ensure that it retains and enhances its capacity to plan and deliver modal shift to walking cycling and public transport in the face of cuts in grant funding, the availability of the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund and its decision to shed 250 FTE posts?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to Question 2

The local sustainable transport fund provides a significant opportunity to secure funding for this important work and the Council plans to submit a bid. The changes to our delivery arrangements for highways and transport improvements with Amey Herefordshire have already reduced the cost of management of the service, and enables access to additional delivery capacity as and when funds become available.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Mrs J Straker, Fownhope, Hereford

Question 3

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus

How will the Council spend the estimated £660,000 p.a. it expects to receive from the New Homes Bonus?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Resources

Answer to Question 3

The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the Council's future spending plans; anticipated income from the New Homes Bonus is not ring-fenced for any specific purpose, and is being used as part of the overall funding target.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from D Straker, Fownhope, Hereford

Question 4

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus

Since the Council is expecting income from the New Homes Bonus, where will the new homes in Herefordshire be built between now and 2014 (please indicate numbers of homes in each location)?

Answer from Councillor JG Jarvis, Environment and Strategic Housing

Answer to Question 4

It is not possible to identify exactly either the number or location of future housing development; this will be guided by the current Unitary Development Plan and its successor, the Local Development Framework (LDF) which is currently in development.

The draft LDF does not project any significant growth in the rate of new housing provision from that which has been taking place in the county in the last 15 years. New and affordable homes will be built to match local need, the birth rate and economic growth, and the LDF reflects the need to ensure that this vital housing provision is closely aligned to improvements to the county infrastructure.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from C Nicholls, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford

Question 5

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 AND BUDGET UPDATE 2011/12, New Homes Bonus.

Given the reduced resources in the period ahead and the Council's expectations of earnings from the New Homes Bonus, how many new homes earning the New Homes bonus will be built in Herefordshire between now and 2014 and of these how many will be affordable?

Answer from Councillor JG Jarvis, Environment and Strategic Housing

Answer to Question 5

The rate of house building is outside the direct control of the Council. The typical annual house building rate for the County varies between 500 and 1000 depending on market conditions.

I would also refer the questioner to the answer provided to question 4 above.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from S Brown, Bucknell, Herefordshire

Question 6

THE HEREFORDSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES VISION refers to Long Term Outcomes of 1.1 'The regeneration of Herefordshire', and 4.3 'Enhancing local democracy and community engagement' while the report to Cabinet on the Joint Corporate Plan states that 'all the key issues the people of Herefordshire regard as important, drawn from various consultations' are capable of being covered in the plan'...

What account has been taken of the 13000 signature petition given to Herefordshire Council asking for a halt to the ESG retail centre and a re-assessment?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

Answer to Question 6

The petition was received in November 2009. The five recommendations contained in the petition have been taken into consideration, together with other consultations, and reflected in adjustments to the Master Plan.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

It is not a simple case of 'either the redevelopment of the livestock market site or enhancement of the city centre'; these are not mutually exclusive. Both are vital elements to the future sustainability of the city and the county, and in addition to pursuing our longer-term ambitions for the old livestock market site and surrounding area we have continued to progress enhancements within the city itself including completing the redevelopment of Widemarsh Street, supporting retailers through activity such as the launch of the Truffle Card, and progressing plans for the enhancement of the Buttermarket site. At a time when, due to the economic climate, many other city regeneration plans are faltering, it is a mark of the value we all place on the future of our city and county that our plans continue to become a reality.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from B Mee, Hereford

Question 7

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. 'Improve infrastructure and learning and employment opportunities, enabling business growth and sustainable prosperity for all'; LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport'.

'More people walking, cycling and using public transport' has been a stated policy aim of Herefordshire Council for some time. As a result of its level of investment in sustainable transport measures in the Council's first two Local Transport Plans, how many car trips have been transferred to walking, to cycling, and to public transport so far and how many more car trips does the Council intend to transfer to these modes as a result of future investment under 'the reduced resources in the period ahead'? (para 5 in the report to Cabinet on the Joint Corporate Plan 20 January 2011)

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to Question 7

Since 2003/04 surveys indicate that the number of vehicle movements on non-trunk roads within Hereford has decreased somewhat and on rural routes the number of vehicles has remained constant. Over the same period cycle and rail use has increased. Overall countywide bus use has declined slightly, but there is a marked difference where this decline has occurred. Within Hereford City bus use has declined significantly. This is in large part due to commercial decisions made by the bus operator regarding profitability of underused routes. Within rural areas where the Council has provided investment through the Low-Floor Bus Project bus usage has been increasing. Future targets for transfer have not yet been set.

No supplementary question was asked.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Question from Mrs P Hughes, Hereford

Question 8

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. 'Improve infrastructure and learning and employment opportunities, enabling business growth and sustainable prosperity for all'; LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport'.

What levels of walking, cycling and public transport use (and by what year) will enable the Council to determine how well it is progressing on this 'long-term outcome'?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to Question 8

Whilst the questioner refers to the outgoing plan, reduced congestion and a shift in transport habits remains important and the Council sees this as making an important contribution to securing the growth and sustainability of Herefordshire.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Ms C Protherough, Clehonger, Hereford

Question 9

The draft JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/14 dated 12 January 2011 states that 'the financial management strategy for increasing capital investment capacity centres on maximising developers' contributions ...' (para 7.9.6)

What impact will the Council's plans to maximise developer contributions have on the rate of house-building in the County and in particular on the rate of build of affordable homes?

Answer from Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Answer to Question 9

These plans will have no impact on the rate of house building.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford

Question 10

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

JOINT CORPORATE PLAN, 'VISION' Value for money

What are the Council's criteria for demonstrating 'value for money' and how will both these criteria and demonstrations of value for money be made available to the public?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to Question 10

As part of the external audit process the Audit Commission must assess the Council's performance in delivering Value for Money against nationally specified criteria contained in the Code of Audit Practice and can be found on Audit Commissions website at: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/auditmethodology/pages/valueformoneyconclusion.aspx>

As a result of the external auditor's independent assessment of the council's performance delivering Value for Money the Audit commission issued an unqualified conclusion on the Council's arrangements to secure the three key elements of Value for Money (economy, efficiency and effectiveness). This is part of the Annual Audit Letter which is a public document available on the Council's website at: <http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=568&MId=3222&Ver=4>

Supplementary question

Is this the same value for money test being used for the relief road as with other projects?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

The District Auditor applies the test to this and any other projects.

Question from Mrs M Brown, Hereford

Question 11

THE JOINT CORPORATE PLAN refers to 'Affordable housing appropriate to people's needs' (Long term outcome 5.3)

How have the Comprehensive Spending Review, public sector cutbacks, increased unemployment and the 'reduced resources for available in the period ahead' (Report to Cabinet on Joint Corporate Plan 2011-2014, para 5) affected the number of affordable homes needed in Herefordshire and the Council's ability to ensure that they are supplied over the life time of the JCP?

Answer from Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Answer to Question 11

We anticipate more people will need access to affordable housing although the impacts of the changes referred to cannot at this stage be quantified. The Council is awaiting the outcome of a local housing market assessment to obtain an up to date view of affordable housing need; the results are expected by April.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Ms M Burns, Hereford

Question 12

THE JOINT CORPORATE PLAN refers in 'OUR VISION' to 'avoidable ... accidents' and 'doing all we can to combat climate change' and its 'PRIORITY THEMES', STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES and 'LONG TERM OUTCOMES' specifically set many goals that would be supported by fairer management of the road network to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages (for example LONG TERM OUTCOMES 1.5, 'Better roads, reduced traffic congestion, with more people walking, cycling or using public transport', 3.1 'Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles with less obesity...', 4.5 'Fewer accidents and injuries', 6.2 'Reduced CO2 emissions ..', 6.5 'Investment in high quality streets...' etc. etc.

When will the Council 'spend to save' and get value for money by introducing 20mph speed limits in all residential and shopping streets and continuous pavements and mandatory cycle lanes on higher speed roads in order to ensure that the road networks in Hereford and our market towns are attractive and safe for sustainable active travel on foot and by bicycle?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to Question 12

It is not the Council's policy to pursue such a blanket aim, even were it affordable. However, we are progressively implementing 20mph zones around schools and 30mph zones in villages and will continue to implement measures that improve safety and encourage walking/cycling, within the resources available.

Supplementary question

What economic evaluation has been undertaken in identifying 20 mph zones and what assumptions have been made when doing so?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Road safety, not economic issues is the primary reason for implementing 20mph zones. There are no specific costs per scheme as each is costed individually. The overall scheme costs originate from within the Local Transport Plan.

Question from S Rowe, Hereford

Question 13

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY According to p65 of the draft Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy, annual capital expenditure will fall from nearly £75m in 2010/11 to under £15m in 2013/14.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

What specific areas of the Council's operations are covered by this capital expenditure and how will the proportions of the available funds spent on each vary between 2010/11 and 2013/14?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to Question 13

Capital expenditure delivers projects which are essential to the local community including; Riverside School, Leominster swimming pool, the new Crematorium, Rotherwas Relief Road, enhancements to Hereford City Centre, Kington Library, the Mortgage Reserve Scheme, the Museum Resource and Learning Centre at Friars Street and improvements to disability access.

Over the period 2010/11 to 2013/14 the Council will see a reduction in capital expenditure across all areas largely as a result of central government funding for major schemes such as the replacement schools programme coming to an end. In 2013/14 our two largest areas of capital expenditure will still be in Children's Services with £4.8m for Schools Maintenance and Sustainable Communities with £9.8m for Highways Maintenance.

No supplementary question was asked.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Question from Councillor A Seldon of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services with regards to Agenda Item 7

- 1A *How much money, if any, has the Courtyard Theatre complex received in subsidy in 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11?*
- 1B *Is there any subsidy projected for 2011/12?*
- 1C *What are the attendance figures for the same periods?*
- 1D *What percentage utilisation does the complex achieve?*
- 1E *Do any other theatres in Herefordshire receive a subsidy?*

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

Answer to question 1

- 1A & B Funding provided to the Courtyard is on the basis of a commissioning agreement not subsidy. The funding is:

2007/08	£386,080
2008/09	£387,588
2009/10	£385,931
2010/11	£366,520
2011/12	£348,194

1C

2007/08	82,576
2008/09	95,390
2009/10	95,316
2010/11	NYA

- 1D It is not clear whether the question refers to building utilisation percentages in relation to event capacity. If Cllr Seldon would care to let me have more precise details of the information he is seeking I will be happy to provide a written response.

1E No

Supplementary question from Councillor A Seldon of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

Given that the figures outline that the Courtyard is funded by the Council of almost £1,000 per day, and given that there have been reports of member of the public being turned away when trying to access catering facilities, is it not

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

time to reconsider funding for the benefit of other theatres in Herefordshire e.g Conquest Theatre in Bromyard, which is a sustainable community theatre?

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

The theatres in market towns are held in high regard and admired. The Courtyard is a Centre for the Arts and in the difficult economic environment there has been a reduction to their support from the Council. Market towns were urged to continue to support their domestic theatres.

Question from Councillor AT Oliver of Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement with regards to Agenda items 7 and 8

2 *In the proposed budgetary savings for 2011/12, reference is made to £46,000 savings on school transport.*

2A *Is this saving being achieved by cutting out the discretionary travel subsidy to all 16+ students?*

2B *How many students will be affected and what is the current annual cost per student?*

Answer from Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement

Answer to question 2

2A For the 2010/11 academic year, parents/carers make an annual contribution of £405 towards the cost of providing discretionary travel assistance to post-16 students. The level of this contribution is being reviewed.

2B The annual contribution is paid by the parents/carers of approximately 900 students. The average cost of travel assistance, per student, is £600.

Supplementary question from Councillor AT Oliver of Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement

In view of the scrapping of the Educational Maintenance Allowance, could the service consider maintaining the level of travel assistance grant provided?

Answer from Councillor PD Price Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement

As stated in the original answer, the level of contribution is being reviewed.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Supplementary question from Councillor AT Oliver of Cllr H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources with regards to Agenda item 7

- 3 *The new homes bonus is estimated to be worth £660,000 plus each year to Herefordshire. What plans are there to use this funding in the budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13 to increase the housing stock in the county and in particular the stock of affordable homes?*

Answer from Cllr H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 3

- 3 I refer to the answer provided to Mrs J Straker (public question number 3) – *noted below in the minutes for completeness.*

Answer to Question 3

The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the Council's future spending plans; anticipated income from the New Homes Bonus is not ring-fenced for any specific purpose, and is being used as part of the overall funding target.

Supplementary question from Councillor AT Oliver of Cllr H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Could it be confirmed that the £660,000 would be subsumed into a general fund despite the need for affordable housing?

Answer from Cllr H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

It was confirmed that the new homes bonus would be received into a general fund.

Questions from Councillor AT Oliver of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation with regards to Agenda item 7

- 4A *What funding, if any, is provided within the local transport plan budget for 2011/12 for improvements to the Holme Lacy Road?*
- 4B *As the proposed improvements were a condition of planning agreement being given for the Rotherwas Relief Road, should not this funding be a priority for the Council?*
- 4C *Is the Council preparing a bid for a grant from the Government's local sustainable transport, and if so, what is the size of the bid and how might it help the local transport budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13.*

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to question 4

- 4A LTP funding contributes to the Council's programme of highway works. The Holme Lacy works are among those being considered for inclusion in the 2011/12 programme.
- 4B The Council remains committed to delivering this scheme and this will be taken into account when prioritising delivery within the available budget for 2011/2012.
- 4C Yes. Government guidance on bid submission is awaited, and will inform the size and content of the bid.

Supplementary Questions from Councillor AT Oliver of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Given that the Rotherwas Relief Road was opened three years ago, how much of a priority are the improvements?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

The Council was committed to making the improvements a priority. Whilst there had been a 17% reduction in Government grant in 2011/12, it was stated that the improvements would be a main priority.

Question from Councillor RI Matthews of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation with regards to Agenda item 7

- 5 *Under the funding arrangements for Capital Investments, one of the funding opportunities is the Local Sustainable Transport fund [for sustainable transport initiatives]. Have the Council submitted a bid for any of this funding, considering that the first bidding round closes in April 2011?*

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to question 5

- 5 I refer Cllr Matthews to the answer to Q4c above.

Supplementary question from Councillor RI Matthews of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Given that the deadline for bid submission was in eight weeks time, when was Government guidance expected?

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Initial guidance was published in January 2011 from which many queries had arisen and clarity sought on some ambiguities in the document. Further information from Government was due to be published in March 2011 and many local authorities would be waiting for this in order to submit an appropriate bid. Bids for up to £5million would need to be submitted by 18 April 2011, with those bids up to £50million submitted by June.

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources with regards to Agenda item 7

Impact of cuts on service delivery and capital investment.

6A *How far does the Council plan to secure developer gain to make up for the projected rapid contraction in capital expenditure and how will both the cuts and the developer gain be prioritised (please indicate by directorate, programme and relative proportions for each)?*

6B *What are the largest sources of developer gain for the Council and what calculations has the Council made into the impact of the current economic climate on future income from developer gain?*

Answer from Cllr H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 6

6A The council's capital programme makes no assumptions around potential developer gain. There is a well-established principle that the council does not incur capital expenditure on the basis on potential planning gain - developer funding is only planned to be spent when the necessary triggers occur and the funding is received.

6B Developer contributions at present are based on the published policies for Section 106 Planning Obligation Agreements. These deal with the detailed aspects of individual development proposals and only seek developer contributions where there is a specific impact of that development which needs to be addressed – and the contribution is ring fenced to addressing that impact. As I detail above, developer funding is only planned to be spent when the availability of that funding is confirmed.

Supplementary question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Could the Cabinet Member confirm that developer contributions were no longer locality based and whether the contributions were put in a general pot or locality specific?

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Answer from Cllr JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

The current situation was that the authority was still working under the existing section 106 rules which tied monies to the immediate locality. The Community Infrastructure Levy will be introduced towards the end of the year, and whilst specific detail is awaited, the contributions could be used for infrastructure around the county.

7 Question withdrawn

Question from Councillor MAF Hubbard of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services with regards to Agenda item 8

Projects under the Joint Corporate Plan

8A *How much money has been spent so far on the new Plough Lane accommodation for the Council? Is this project to continue?*

8B *How much money has been spent so far on the plan to build a 600 space car park at Plough Lane for Council employees? Is this project still going ahead?*

8C *How much has been spent on the new Ledbury Library so far and has the funding for actually building Ledbury Library entirely disappeared?*

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 8

8A £4.887m, of which £4.25m related to acquisition costs. This investment in the council's property portfolio has not only reduced future costs against the revenue budget, but provides a sound basis on which to undertake the property rationalisation needed within the public sector in the county. It provides an opportunity to reduce operating costs, work more efficiently and effectively and make a significant reduction in our carbon footprint.

8B Costs included within above. Yes. Given reducing staff numbers, the car park size has been reduced to 350 spaces.

8C £420,453 has been spent in prior years and £100,000 is expected to be spent in this current financial year on the Ledbury Project. This figure includes the costs of refurbishment works to convert St Katherine's to a TIC.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Supplementary question from Councillor MAF Hubbard to Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Given the joint corporate plan's commitment to reduce congestion and increase walking and cycling, how can a brand new facility be built with 350 car parking spaces?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

The planned number of car parking spaces had been reduced to 350 and a review of car parking charges undertaken.

Question from Councillor JD Woodward of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources with regard to Agenda item 7

Council and council tax payer exposure to risk

9A *Are there any contracts for service delivery or capital expenditure in the lifetime of the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy that the council will be unable to honour as a result of the cuts?*

9B *If so what are the contracts for and what are the cancellation costs, if any, for each?*

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 9

9A No

9B Not applicable

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes of Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council with regards to Agenda item 7

10 *In light of the Council's commitment to working with the Voluntary Sector, would the Leader agree that outsourcing the Youth Service to the third sector would be both financially prudent, more sustainable and community led?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Answer to question 10

10 I fully acknowledge the valuable role the voluntary & community sector plays working with young people in the county, and have already commissioned a review of options for the future scope and delivery of

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

youth services to inform the most effective and efficient delivery arrangements for the future to meet the needs of Herefordshire's young people.

No supplementary question was asked

Question from Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources with regards to Agenda item 7

11A *Question disallowed.*

11B *How much of the Council's budget for service delivery (including capital expenditure) over the lifetime of the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy relies on outside party suppliers or agencies? Please specify by directorate.*

11C *Question disallowed.*

11D *How many of these third party suppliers or agencies are companies based in or with their headquarters in Herefordshire?*

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 11

11B

	£000's
Sustainable Communities	28,000
Adult Services	59,000
Children & Young People	19,000
Resources	5,500
Deputy Chief Executive	5,000
Public Health	330
Central Services	934
Total	117,764

NB these figures relates only to current contractual arrangements and does not include the Joint Venture Company, Integrated Care Organisation or mental health trust, the detail of which is not yet available

11D This information will take time to collate and I will provide a written response in due course.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Councillor MD Lloyd-Hayes

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

12 *Does Herefordshire Council have a strategic action plan for autism?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Answer to question 12

12 No.

Statement from Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Council was advised that that whilst there was no specific action plan for autism, it was incorporated as an element within other plans for both children and adults.

Question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources with regards to Agenda item 7

13A *Question disallowed.*

13B *Page 44 of full Council report: Government will not make new supported borrowing allocations as part of the Formula Grant. How much from the Formula Grant is projected to be spent on servicing loans in 2012, 2013, 2014?*

13C *How much from Council Tax is projected to be spent on servicing loans in 2012, 2013, 2014?*

13D *The Government has increased the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) rate to 1% over the gilt rate. How much of the council borrowing does this affect? How much has it added to Council expenditure?*

13E *Can you provide a breakdown of capital expenditure under the draft MTFS (See Table 7.10.2, Capital Investment Programme); can you break this down into named projects? How much is the interest on each of these projects?*

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

Answer to question 13

13B It is not possible to accurately allocate net borrowing costs to the different sources of finance.

13C The Council's funding for borrowing costs comes from various sources of finance and it is not possible to precisely allocate borrowing costs to the Council's various sources of finance.

13D All council borrowing consists of fixed rate loans and so the impact will not be felt until the council wishes to take out new loans. It will then

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

have to pay approximately 0.75% more (or £7,500 per annum per £1 million borrowed).

13E

Scheme	2011-12 £'000	2012-13 £'000	2013-14 £'000
Academy-Wyebridge Replacement School	5,166		
Targeted Capital Fund 14-19	7,090		
Primary grant	5,566		
Co-location	52		
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,695	2,695	2,695
Individual Pupil Needs	2,154	2,154	2,154
Devolved Formula Capital	679		
Sub total	23,402	4,849	4,849
Corporate Accommodation	4,784	7,028	
Hereford Leisure Pool	945		
Small holdings	500		
Sub total	6,229	7,028	
Systems costs	482	208	
Social Care SCP	453		
Mental Health	370		
Community Equipment	300		
Sub total	1,123		
LTP Funded Capital Highway Maintenance	10,348	9,985	9,792
Sustrans Lottery Match Funding	1,460	351	
Yazor Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	1,648		
Livestock Market	2,314		
Belmont pools	79		
Rural Enterprise grant	1,667		
Ledbury Project	2,402		
Halo Golf Driving Range			

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

	347		
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,098		
Affordable Housing Grants	1,000		
Housing Condition Survey	50		
Broadband Pilot	1,000	5,000	
Sub total	23,413	15,336	9,792
Leominster Closed Landfill Site Monitoring Infrastructure	233		
Stretton Sugwas Closed Landfill Site	28		
Strangford Closed Landfill Site	28		
Sub total	289		
Contingency	539	224	147
TOTAL	55,477	27,645	14,788

It should be noted that these figures do not necessarily reflect the whole cost of the scheme and that some will be re-paid to the Council. Approximately three quarters of the total is government funded.

It is not possible to provide figures for interest by project as in some cases the capital grant is received in advance of spend thereby earning interest, whereas in other cases we will borrow to fund schemes at the best interest rate available as and when cash balances deplete.

Supplementary question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

If 13(b) and (c) cannot be answered could an approximation be given?

Answer from Councillor H Bramer, Cabinet Member Resources

All relevant information was available to and reviewed by the District Auditor

Question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation with regards to Agenda items 7 and 8

14A *Buses: I am pleased that money has been found to continue with concessionary fares (p. 45 of full council agenda). However, how much money is saved by not allowing concessionary fares before 9.30 am on the buses?*

14B *Question disallowed.*

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

14C *Buses: Has the Council's Sustainable Communities Directorate, Transport Section, applied to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (for sustainable transport, initiatives) which is available for both capital and revenue need (first bidding round closes in April 2011) for money to fund rural buses in Herefordshire?*

14D *The Joint Corporate Plan has many stated aims to Preserve and Enhance the Environment, Combat Climate Change and Increase Cycling and Pedestrians. Given that we know from national and local studies, such as the Council's own TPi August 2010 Sustainable Options Package Report that building a new bypass will induce traffic and have a discouraging effect on walking, cycling and public transport, and a severely detrimental impact on the environment, will the Council now do what it says, abandon plans for a bypass and instead plan for easing traffic congestion through traffic management and encouragement of sustainable transport measures?*

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to question 14

14A It is projected to be in the region of £100k

14C I refer Cllr Dawe to the answer to question 4c above

14D No. As Cllr Dawe will recall, at its meeting on 13 November 2009, Council overwhelmingly resolved that:

This Council affirms that the sustainable future for our City and County depends on creating more and better paid jobs, significantly increasing the number of homes, particularly affordable, improving leisure and shopping and procuring the supporting infrastructure. This must include another bridge crossing over the Wye and relief roads for Hereford and Leominster.

Question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Would the money be reinvested in bus services to maintain services at the current levels?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

The grant would not be received; therefore there was no money for reinvestment.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

Question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services with regards to Agenda item 7

15 *Has funding for the 'Link Road', an integral part of the Edgar Street Grid, now entirely disappeared?*

Answer from Councillor AJM Blackshaw, Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services

Answer to question 15

15 No. A “package” approach is being pursued with a number of different potential sources being explored.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council with regards to Agenda item 7

16 *Can I have Cllr. Phillips' assurance that none of the static (as opposed to mobile) libraries in Herefordshire, which constitute important front line services, are to have their staff numbers cut, and that 'co-location' is not a euphemism for this (paragraph 35, page 52)?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Answer to question 16

16 No. Co-location means exactly that. It has been a long-standing policy to pursue co-location of services (as demonstrated in Bromyard and Kington), providing a single ‘shop-front’ for services. This both improves access for local people and delivers savings through efficiencies around building, staffing and management costs. It is because we have been taking these actions over recent years that Herefordshire has been better placed than most to manage the current budget reductions with a minimum of impact on front line services.

Supplementary question from Councillor GFM Dawe of Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Does ‘no’ mean nil reduction to the number of staff within static libraries?

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

With 12% of workforce of the authority being cut, there will inevitably be loss of posts from within the library service. The fact that the council has operated a policy of integrated services and co-locating with other front line services has saved many of the county’s static libraries. Single standalone libraries in

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 FEBRUARY 2011

market towns across the country have become very vulnerable; such a situation emphasises the right policy has been pursued in Herefordshire.

Question from Councillor SJ Robertson of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation with regards to Agenda item 7

- 17 *In view of the proposed spending cuts what measures are being taken now to ensure that vital bus services for rural areas are protected and not cut, which could lead to wider implications on other Council services caused by social isolation?*

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Answer to question 17

- 17 The Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/14 seeks to protect bus services. There will be a review of the bus network in 2011/12 and this will include consultation with members, parish and town councils, bus operators, community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that any changes to the network are focussed on the best outcome for local communities.

Supplementary question from Councillor SJ Robertson of Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

A recent public transport conference highlighted the issue of rural isolation. Does the Cabinet Member agree that rural bus services are vital in reducing rural isolation as well as being essential to those with medical or mental health issues? Bus services were also essential for economic and educational wellbeing. Could assurance be given that no stone would be left unturned to seek to maintain and retain public transport services across the county?

Answer from Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

A constant dialogue with providers was underway and all options were being considered. Certain reserves would be used to ensure that the best service could be provided under the current difficult financial circumstances.

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAW AND GOVERNANCE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To receive any questions from members of the public deposited more than eight clear working days before the meeting of Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Members of the public may ask a question of a Cabinet Member or Committee or other Chairmen. Written answers will be circulated to Members, the press and public prior to the start of the Council meeting. Questions subject to a Freedom of Information request will be dealt with under that separate process.
- 2 Standing Order 4.1.14.4 of the Constitution states that: a question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by electronic mail to the Monitoring Officer no later than midday eight clear working days before the day of the meeting (ie the Monday of the week preceding the Council meeting where that meeting is on a Friday). Each question must give the name and address of the questioner and must name the person to whom it is to be put.
- 3 A questioner who has submitted a written question may also put **one** brief supplementary question without notice to the person (if s/he is present at the meeting) who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original request or reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds for rejecting written questions set out in these Council rules or if the question is too lengthy, is in multiple parts or takes the form of a speech. In any event, any person asking a supplementary question will be permitted only **1 minute** to do so.
- 4 The Monitoring Officer may reject a question or a supplemental question if it:
 - Is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the County or a part of it;
 - Is illegal, scurrilous, defamatory, frivolous or offensive or otherwise out of order;
 - Is substantially the same as or similar to a question which has been put at a meeting of the

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Chapman, Assistant Director Law and Governance on (01432) 260200

Council in the past six months or relates to the same subject matter or the answer to the question will be substantially the same as the previous answer;

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information;
- Relates to a planning or licensing application;
- Relates to an employment matter that should more properly be dealt with through the Council's Human Resources processes.

5 There will be a time limit of a maximum of 30 minutes for public questions and of 30 minutes for Members' questions. If either public or Member questions are concluded in less than 30 minutes, then the Chairman may allow more time for either public or Member questions within an overall time limit of one hour for all questions and supplementary questions. There will normally be no extension of time beyond one hour, unless the Chairman decides that there are reasonable grounds to allow such an extension, and questions not dealt with in this time will be dealt with by written response. The Chairman will decide the time allocated to each question.

Questions

6 Nineteen questions have been received by the deadline and are attached at Appendix 1.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

Question from Mr P McKay, Hereford, to the Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 1

My previous questions have identified shortcomings in the Council's highway records; which term includes public rights of way; and now that Amey have settled in and our highways are being managed well, may I please enquire if we can progress and take into consideration the 2026 cut-off date imposed in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, when unrecorded rights of use are extinguished and it may be costly to reinstate such rights.

Is it the Council's objective to have complete and correct highway records by that date, if this date will be taken into consideration when determining priorities, and if the Right of Way Improvement Plan update will incorporate a section encouraging and promoting Parish Council participation with this objective?

Question from Ms J Stanton, Hereford, to the Leader of the Council Councillor RJ Phillips

Question 2

Deloittes have calculated the repayment of Environmental Information charges to be £6m at one council. What contingent liability is Herefordshire Council putting in their accounts and who is paying it?

Question from S Horsfield, Hereford to Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Question 3

What energy efficiency standards will the Council require for new homes in Herefordshire?

Question from R Priestley, Hereford to Councillor JG Jarvis, Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing

Question 4

Our economy in Herefordshire is based overwhelmingly on the use of fossil fuels: coal for electricity, gas for heating and oil for transport. All of these fuels contribute to climate change, and their continued use is not compatible with the sustainability of a healthy biosphere, upon which we are utterly dependent. All these fuels are also finite; their use cannot possibly be maintained at current levels indefinitely. There is much economic data to suggest that extreme price increases are probable over the coming few years: long

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

before 2026 they may simply be unaffordable. Prosperity can only be sustainable in the longer term if it is based on energy efficiency, 100% renewables and a proper stewardship of the biosphere. It will take time to transform the economy: now is the time to start.

For how long do you envisage the economy of Herefordshire being able to maintain a certain rate or level of growth based on the massive and continuing use of fossil fuels?

Question 5 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (19 November 2010) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question from Mrs E Morawiecka, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 6

The Sustrans/Connect 2 River Wye crossing to the East of the city of Hereford, linking Tupsley and Rotherwas still has not materialised into a planning application. Planning applications have however been submitted for a link road (with no bus lanes) and a large Plough Lane car park with 644 spaces.

After well over 2 years debate over a route, how much longer does this council think it will take before they can determine a route for a footpath and cycle way to cross the River Wye on the eastern side of Hereford City, which will improve the sustainable travel options for local residents and can they guarantee they will be able to complete this route before the funding is lost?

Question 7 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question from S Brown, Bucknell, Herefordshire to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 8

What Quality Assurance or other nationally or internationally recognised procedures and standards apply to the production of council reports and documents intended for public scrutiny such as consultation documents?

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

Question from Mrs M Brown, Bucknell, Herefordshire to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 9

How have the findings of the November 2008 Herefordshire Public Services Strategic Options Public Consultation influenced the Council's policy development, expenditure and financial strategy (please cite examples)?

Question 10 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

Question 11 disallowed on the grounds that the issue raised in the question is not a matter for which the Council has a responsibility – Herefordshire Council Constitution 4.1.14.7 a.

Question 12 disallowed on the grounds that the question is the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 February 2011) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7.

Question from Ms V Wegg-Prosser, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 13

The 'Vision' of the Hereford Preferred Option states in para 2.5 that 'The provision of a relief road will be key to enabling a congestion free city by enabling *an alternative trunk route ...*'

Can you point to any other local highway authority in England, Wales or Northern Ireland that has provided a developer funded 'alternative trunk route' for the Highways Agency and, if so, were any of these 'alternative trunk routes' roads that had been dropped from the National Roads Programme after failing at a Public Inquiry?

Question 14 disallowed on the grounds that it was the same or similar to a question raised in the last six months (4 March 2011 - the same question has been raised at question 13) Herefordshire Council Constitution Part 4, 4.1.14.7 c.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

Question from Professor L Clements, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 15

I understand that contraflow cycling on St Owen's Street is ranked 2nd in cycle schemes for Hereford and has been a priority for cyclists since the days of Hereford and Worcester County Council. I further understand that several years ago Councillor Wilcox took the decision that an informal contraflow should be introduced. Could you please inform me what are Councillor Wilcox's plans for delivering this scheme?

Question from D Phelps, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 16

When will the Council be conducting the poll on its proposals for a road going around the west or east side of Hereford and what laws and regulations will apply to the poll? Please cite specific relevant legislation and regulations.

Question from Ms P Mitchell, Hereford to Councillor DB Wilcox, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation

Question 17

The Hereford Preferred Option consultation document states that the Delivering a Sustainable Transport Policy Study (DaSTS) (2010) 'concluded that the level of growth planned through the Core Strategy would need both a strong package of sustainable transport measures and also new road infrastructure' (para 4.30)

Where is this conclusion arrived at in the DaSTS (please give full quote and paragraph references) and does 'new road infrastructure' specifically mean a relief road?

Question from Professor A Fisher, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 18

It is clear that at the time the Council consulted on the Hereford Preferred Option the viability study on the road proposal was 'ongoing' (para 4.26) and therefore could not have informed that consultation.

How many weeks before the Council's advisory poll on the road will the 'viability' study be available for public scrutiny and how will the public be informed of its availability?

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 4 MARCH 2011

Question from Ms P Churchward, Breinton, Hereford to Councillor RJ Phillips, Leader of the Council

Question 19

The Council emphasised through out the consultation on the Hereford Preferred Option and in other communications, its view that the spatial strategy and specifically the Hereford Urban Expansion are dependent on a relief road. *(eg. At paras 4.11 and 4.31 of the Hereford Preferred Option consultation)

What impact will the potential non-deliverability of a relief road have on the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework, and in particular on the amount of housing built around Hereford?

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2011/12
PORTFOLIO AREA:	RESOURCES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To set the Council Tax amounts for each category of dwelling in Herefordshire for 2011/12 and to calculate the Council's budget requirements.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

- (1) In respect of the Council's 2011/12 Budget a council tax of £1,205.09 be levied (at Band D);
and
- (2) in respect of council tax for 2011/12 that the following amounts be approved by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £368,676,300 being the estimated aggregate expenditure of the Council in accordance with Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;
 - (b) £219,804,477 being the estimated aggregate income of the Council for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;
 - (c) £148,871,823 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its total net budget requirement for the year;
 - (d) £60,190,623 being the aggregate of the sums which the

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
David Powell, Director of Resources on (01432) 383519

Council estimated will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant, increased by the transfer from the Collection Fund;

(e) £1,240.89 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above all divided by the amount of the Council Tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

(f) £2,558,423 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;

(g) £1,205.09 being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount of the Council Tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

(h) that the precepting authority details incorporated in Annex 1 (i-v), relating to Special Items, West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority be approved in accordance with Sections 30(2), 34(3), 36(1) and Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(3) Pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibility) (England) Regulations 2000, any decisions on the application of reserves and balances as required from time to time during the financial year be taken by Cabinet.

Alternative Options

1. There are no alternative options.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. Local government legislation requires the Council to set a council tax each financial year and therefore a budget.
3. The Council Tax for 2011/12 requires that certain categories of income and expenditure and other financial information are provided in accordance with Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Introduction and Background

4. The report covers Council Tax for each category dwelling in Herefordshire as well as the Council's budget requirements. The report enables the Council to meet its legislative duty by setting the Council Tax.

5. Following consultation with Overview & Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council, a Council Tax has been set that reflects discussions and previous decisions taken about the level of Council Tax for 2011/12.

Key Considerations

6. Sections 25 to 29 of Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on local authorities designed to ensure they make prudent allowance for risk and uncertainties in their budgets and that they regularly monitor their finances during the course of the year.
7. Section 25 of the Act deals with budget calculations and requires the statutory chief finance officer to report on the robustness of estimates and reserves. This duty was introduced because the Council decides on the Council Tax before the financial year begins and Council Tax cannot be increased during a financial year. It therefore needs to consider the risks and uncertainties that might force them to spend more than planned. The Council has a statutory duty to take the chief finance officer's Section 25 report (contained on page 44 of the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (JMTFS)) into account when it sets the Council Tax.
8. Whilst local authorities have discretion to make their own judgments on a prudent level of budget and reserves, Section 26 of the Act contains reserve powers for the government to set a minimum level of reserves. This means that the government has the right to intervene if it thinks a local authority is acting irresponsibly.
9. Section 27 of the Act requires the statutory chief finance officer to report to Council if reserves have dipped below the minimum agreed level when the next budget is set. That report must include suggestions on how to avoid it happening again. In 2010/11 the Council did not drop below the minimum level of balance set at £4.5m for the general reserve.
10. Sections 28 and 29 of the Act deal with budget monitoring issues and make budget monitoring a statutory duty. If monitoring establishes that the budget position has deteriorated, authorities are required to take appropriate action. This might include reducing spending in the rest of the year, increasing income or funding the shortfall from reserves.
11. Annex 1 (i-v) to this report contains the individual Council Tax amounts for each category of dwelling as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and associated regulations. As a contingency it is also recommended that Cabinet continue to be authorised to draw on reserves and balances from time to time as required during 2011/12.
12. The Parish Precepts for 2011/12 total £2,558,423 amounting to an average Band D Council Tax Charge of £35.80 (an increase of 1.8% over 2010/11). Annex 1 (i) details the Parish Precept requirement and the Band D Council Tax Charge for each Parish. The Parish Precepts are reflected in Section 2 of the recommendations to Council.
13. Details of the West Mercia Police Authority Precept are contained in Annex 1 (iii).
14. Details of the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority Precept are contained in Annex 1 (iv).

Financial Implications

15. The level of Council Tax to be set by Herefordshire Council is at the same level as the previous year. The amount being raised will support the Council's general fund expenditure.

Legal Implications

16. By setting the Council Tax the Council meets the requirements under local government legislation.

Risk Management

17. Setting a nil Council Tax increase eliminates the risk that the council could face government action that would “cap” a level of increase and therefore force the Council to re-bill.

Consultees

18. Overview and Scrutiny Committee was consulted on 14th January 2011 and recommended a number of presentational changes that were incorporated into the final JMTFS for Council.
19. Cabinet approved the JMTFS and budget on 20th January 2011 for recommendation to Council.
20. The draft JMTFS and budget was approved by Council on 4th February 2011.

Appendices

21. Annex 1 – Herefordshire Council requirement by parish, including Band D equivalent.
22. Annex 2 - Council Tax for each valuation band, by parish, without the Police & Fire precepts.
23. Annex 3 – Police Authority precept requirement for each valuation band.
24. Annex 4 – Fire Authority precept requirement for each valuation band.
25. Annex 5 – Council Tax for each valuation band, by parish, including the Police & Fire precepts.

Background Papers

- None identified.

Annex

- i** Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent
- ii** Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts
- iii** Police Authority precept requirement for each valuation band
- iv** Fire Authority precept requirement for each valuation band
- v** Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent				
Parish	Parish Precept	Tax Base	Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,205.09)
	£		£	£
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council	4,750	164.34	28.90	1,233.99
Aconbury Parish Meeting	100	37.91	2.64	1,207.73
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	2,800	176.56	15.86	1,220.95
Allensmore Parish Council	600	251.31	2.39	1,207.48
Almeley Parish Council	6,250	261.82	23.87	1,228.96
Ashperton Parish Council	3,150	120.69	26.10	1,231.19
Aston Ingham Parish Council	1,750	211.06	8.29	1,213.38
Avenbury Parish Council	1,750	111.50	15.70	1,220.79
Aymestrey Parish Council	2,634	163.27	16.13	1,221.22
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	4,000	284.89	14.04	1,219.13
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	21,000	838.81	25.04	1,230.13
Belmont Rural Parish Council	45,000	1,402.33	32.09	1,237.18
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	1,827	137.30	13.31	1,218.40
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	18,000	332.81	54.08	1,259.17
Bishopstone & District Group Parish Council	3,885	209.00	18.59	1,223.68
Bodenham Parish Council	8,150	465.17	17.52	1,222.61
Border Group Parish Council	7,000	312.84	22.38	1,227.47
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	4,750	386.31	12.30	1,217.39
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	1,500	226.92	6.61	1,211.70
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	1,700	165.52	10.27	1,215.36
Breinton Parish Council	6,500	405.12	16.04	1,221.13
Bridstow Parish Council	4,750	410.72	11.57	1,216.66
Brilley Parish Council	2,750	124.66	22.06	1,227.15
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	9,000	518.73	17.35	1,222.44
Brockhampton Parish Council	2,800	86.52	32.36	1,237.45
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	11,385	336.21	33.86	1,238.95
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	141,700	1,556.47	91.04	1,296.13
Burghill Parish Council	10,200	709.54	14.38	1,219.47
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	4,400	214.17	20.54	1,225.63
Cleghonger Parish Council	8,000	534.70	14.96	1,220.05
Clifford Parish Council	4,000	254.80	15.70	1,220.79
Colwall Parish Council	55,758	1,181.31	47.20	1,252.29
Malvern Hills Conservators (Colwall Parish Council)	31,350	"	26.54	26.54
Cradley Parish Council	24,000	795.68	30.16	1,235.25
Credenhill Parish Council	16,800	677.51	24.80	1,229.89
Cusop Parish Council	6,500	177.84	36.55	1,241.64
Dilwyn Parish Council	11,545	311.42	37.07	1,242.16
Dinedor Parish Council	5,600	127.29	43.99	1,249.08
Dinmore Parish Meeting	-	8.76	-	1,205.09
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	9,155	315.59	29.01	1,234.10
Dorstone Parish Council	1,700	180.32	9.43	1,214.52
Eardisland Parish Council	15,000	231.76	64.72	1,269.81
Eardisley Group Parish Council	7,000	499.08	14.03	1,219.12
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	3,500	146.13	23.95	1,229.04
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	5,000	194.52	25.70	1,230.79
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	19,854	453.84	43.75	1,248.84
Fownhope Parish Council	16,000	435.93	36.70	1,241.79
Foxley Group Parish Council	2,500	174.78	14.30	1,219.39
Garway Parish Council	3,938	171.58	22.95	1,228.04
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	5,600	263.93	21.22	1,226.31
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	7,000	198.17	35.32	1,240.41
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	-	20.20	-	1,205.09

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent				
Parish	Parish Precept	Tax Base	Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,205.09)
	£		£	£
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	1,800	214.09	8.41	1,213.50
Hereford City Council	712,340	17,702.32	40.24	1,245.33
Holme Lacy Parish Council	11,400	201.41	56.60	1,261.69
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	6,250	575.34	10.86	1,215.95
Hope Mansell Parish Council	1,800	135.26	13.31	1,218.40
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	3,000	164.36	18.25	1,223.34
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	4,250	155.39	27.35	1,232.44
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	3,500	290.94	12.03	1,217.12
Huntington Parish Council	600	48.80	12.30	1,217.39
Kentchurch Parish Council	5,400	118.47	45.58	1,250.67
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	7,750	210.96	36.74	1,241.83
Kimbolton Parish Council	4,450	208.70	21.32	1,226.41
Kings Caple Parish Council	4,400	152.26	28.90	1,233.99
Kingsland Parish Council	7,000	478.02	14.64	1,219.73
Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council	8,000	445.20	17.97	1,223.06
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	2,200	249.80	8.81	1,213.90
Kington Town Council	58,000	1,017.56	57.00	1,262.09
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	2,800	251.96	11.11	1,216.20
Lea Parish Council	5,600	274.27	20.42	1,225.51
Ledbury Town Council	265,773	3,693.60	71.96	1,277.05
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	14,500	457.31	31.71	1,236.80
Leominster Town Council	218,279	4,116.81	53.02	1,258.11
Linton Parish Council	5,800	462.77	12.53	1,217.62
Little Birch Parish Council	2,300	97.10	23.69	1,228.78
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	6,500	175.73	36.99	1,242.08
Llangarron Parish Council	4,500	474.99	9.47	1,214.56
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	1,400	274.36	5.10	1,210.19
Longtown Group Parish Council	5,531	417.77	13.24	1,218.33
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	10,639	650.50	16.36	1,221.45
Luston Group Parish Council	7,900	372.46	21.21	1,226.30
Lyonshall Parish Council	4,500	289.39	15.55	1,220.64
Madley Parish Council	9,000	434.14	20.73	1,225.82
Marden Parish Council	17,500	551.06	31.76	1,236.85
Marstow Parish Council	4,500	171.16	26.29	1,231.38
Mathon Parish Council	6,279	156.28	40.18	1,245.27
Malvern Hills Conservators (Mathon Parish Council)	4,180	"	26.75	26.75
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	3,000	175.17	17.13	1,222.22
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	2,300	85.84	26.79	1,231.88
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	17,000	299.29	56.80	1,261.89
Much Birch Parish Council	6,000	399.81	15.01	1,220.10
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	3,500	213.64	16.38	1,221.47
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	3,000	278.60	10.77	1,215.86
Much Marcle Parish Council	4,685	304.24	15.40	1,220.49
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	4,000	322.43	12.41	1,217.50
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	2,850	269.56	10.57	1,215.66
Orcop Parish Council	5,000	176.27	28.37	1,233.46
Orleton Parish Council	14,300	360.60	39.66	1,244.75
Pembridge Parish Council	18,000	466.76	38.56	1,243.65
Pencombe Group Parish Council	5,750	200.40	28.69	1,233.78
Peterchurch Parish Council	11,708	421.44	27.78	1,232.87
Peterstow Parish Council	3,000	192.47	15.59	1,220.68
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	1,400	146.26	9.57	1,214.66
Pixley & District Parish Council	4,000	230.04	17.39	1,222.48

Herefordshire Council requirement by Parish, including Band D equivalent				
Parish	Parish Precept	Tax Base	Parish Precept Basic Tax Rate (Band D)	Band D Charge (Parish and Herefordshire Council's Basic Rate - £1,205.09)
	£		£	£
Putley Parish Council	4,300	112.04	38.38	1,243.47
Pyons Group Parish Council	5,895	350.52	16.82	1,221.91
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	3,000	129.23	23.21	1,228.30
Ross-on-Wye Town Council	200,000	3,621.66	55.22	1,260.31
Ross Rural Parish Council	3,000	446.09	6.73	1,211.82
Sellack Parish Council	1,300	115.29	11.28	1,216.37
Shobdon Parish Council	9,950	313.30	31.76	1,236.85
St. Weonards Parish Council	3,300	154.29	21.39	1,226.48
Stapleton Group Parish Council	5,000	149.96	33.34	1,238.43
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	2,500	205.84	12.15	1,217.24
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting	-	45.29	-	1,205.09
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	5,000	162.90	30.69	1,235.78
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	1,750	220.72	7.93	1,213.02
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	3,000	163.38	18.36	1,223.45
Sutton Parish Council	18,500	388.84	47.58	1,252.67
Tarrington Parish Council	10,000	240.04	41.66	1,246.75
Thornbury Group Parish Council	3,000	184.59	16.25	1,221.34
Titely and District Group Parish Council	3,825	227.30	16.83	1,221.92
Upton Bishop Parish Council	8,364	268.72	31.13	1,236.22
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	5,400	323.98	16.67	1,221.76
Walford Parish Council	12,500	669.09	18.68	1,223.77
Wellington Parish Council	13,500	418.09	32.29	1,237.38
Wellington Heath Parish Council	7,300	235.27	31.03	1,236.12
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	6,530	146.00	44.73	1,249.82
Weobley Parish Council	8,139	504.52	16.13	1,221.22
Weston Beggard Parish Council	600	84.80	7.08	1,212.17
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	6,000	489.41	12.26	1,217.35
Whitbourne Parish Council	9,000	333.70	26.97	1,232.06
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	7,000	515.51	13.58	1,218.67
Wigmore Group Parish Council	12,000	371.42	32.31	1,237.40
Withington Group Parish Council	15,000	642.09	23.36	1,228.45
Woolhope Parish Council	5,275	224.74	23.47	1,228.56
Wyeside Group Parish Council	4,200	321.48	13.06	1,218.15
Yarkhill Parish Council	3,000	138.26	21.70	1,226.79
Yarpole Group Parish Council	8,300	336.48	24.67	1,229.76
<p>Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the tax base above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.</p>				

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council	822.66	959.77	1,096.88	1,233.99	1,508.21	1,782.43	2,056.65	2,467.98
Aconbury Parish Meeting	805.15	939.34	1,073.54	1,207.73	1,476.12	1,744.50	2,012.88	2,415.46
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	813.96	949.63	1,085.29	1,220.95	1,492.27	1,763.60	2,034.91	2,441.90
Allensmore Parish Council	804.98	939.15	1,073.31	1,207.48	1,475.81	1,744.14	2,012.46	2,414.96
Almeley Parish Council	819.30	955.86	1,092.41	1,228.96	1,502.06	1,775.17	2,048.26	2,457.92
Ashperton Parish Council	820.79	957.59	1,094.39	1,231.19	1,504.79	1,778.39	2,051.98	2,462.38
Aston Ingham Parish Council	808.92	943.74	1,078.56	1,213.38	1,483.02	1,752.66	2,022.30	2,426.76
Avenbury Parish Council	813.86	949.50	1,085.15	1,220.79	1,492.08	1,763.37	2,034.65	2,441.58
Aymestrey Parish Council	814.14	949.84	1,085.53	1,221.22	1,492.60	1,763.99	2,035.36	2,442.44
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	812.75	948.21	1,083.67	1,219.13	1,490.05	1,760.97	2,031.88	2,438.26
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	820.08	956.77	1,093.45	1,230.13	1,503.49	1,776.86	2,050.21	2,460.26
Belmont Rural Parish Council	824.78	962.25	1,099.71	1,237.18	1,512.11	1,787.04	2,061.96	2,474.36
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	812.26	947.64	1,083.02	1,218.40	1,489.16	1,759.92	2,030.66	2,436.80
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	839.44	979.35	1,119.26	1,259.17	1,538.99	1,818.81	2,098.61	2,518.34
Bishopstone & District Group Parish Council	815.78	951.75	1,087.71	1,223.68	1,495.61	1,767.54	2,039.46	2,447.36
Bodenham Parish Council	815.07	950.92	1,086.76	1,222.61	1,494.30	1,766.00	2,037.68	2,445.22
Border Group Parish Council	818.31	954.70	1,091.08	1,227.47	1,500.24	1,773.02	2,045.78	2,454.94
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	811.59	946.86	1,082.12	1,217.39	1,487.92	1,758.46	2,028.98	2,434.78
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	807.80	942.43	1,077.07	1,211.70	1,480.97	1,750.24	2,019.50	2,423.40
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	810.24	945.28	1,080.32	1,215.36	1,485.44	1,755.52	2,025.60	2,430.72
Breinton Parish Council	814.08	949.77	1,085.45	1,221.13	1,492.49	1,763.86	2,035.21	2,442.26
Bridstow Parish Council	811.10	946.29	1,081.47	1,216.66	1,487.03	1,757.40	2,027.76	2,433.32
Brilley Parish Council	818.10	954.45	1,090.80	1,227.15	1,499.85	1,772.55	2,045.25	2,454.30
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	814.96	950.78	1,086.61	1,222.44	1,494.10	1,765.75	2,037.40	2,444.88
Brockhampton Parish Council	824.96	962.46	1,099.95	1,237.45	1,512.44	1,787.43	2,062.41	2,474.90
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	825.96	963.63	1,101.29	1,238.95	1,514.27	1,789.60	2,064.91	2,477.90
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	864.08	1,008.10	1,152.11	1,296.13	1,584.16	1,872.19	2,160.21	2,592.26
Burghill Parish Council	812.98	948.47	1,083.97	1,219.47	1,490.47	1,761.46	2,032.45	2,438.94
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	817.08	953.27	1,089.45	1,225.63	1,497.99	1,770.36	2,042.71	2,451.26
Cleghonger Parish Council	813.36	948.93	1,084.49	1,220.05	1,491.17	1,762.30	2,033.41	2,440.10
Clifford Parish Council	813.86	949.50	1,085.15	1,220.79	1,492.08	1,763.37	2,034.65	2,441.58
Colwall Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Conservators)	852.55	994.64	1,136.74	1,278.83	1,563.02	1,847.21	2,131.38	2,557.66
Cradley Parish Council	823.50	960.75	1,098.00	1,235.25	1,509.75	1,784.25	2,058.75	2,470.50
Credenhill Parish Council	819.92	956.58	1,093.23	1,229.89	1,503.20	1,776.51	2,049.81	2,459.78
Cusop Parish Council	827.76	965.72	1,103.68	1,241.64	1,517.56	1,793.48	2,069.40	2,483.28
Dilwyn Parish Council	828.10	966.12	1,104.14	1,242.16	1,518.20	1,794.24	2,070.26	2,484.32
Dinedor Parish Council	832.72	971.50	1,110.29	1,249.08	1,526.66	1,804.23	2,081.80	2,498.16
Dinmore Parish Meeting	803.39	937.29	1,071.19	1,205.09	1,472.89	1,740.69	2,008.48	2,410.18
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	822.73	959.85	1,096.98	1,234.10	1,508.35	1,782.59	2,056.83	2,468.20
Dorstone Parish Council	809.68	944.62	1,079.57	1,214.52	1,484.42	1,754.31	2,024.20	2,429.04
Eardisland Parish Council	846.54	987.63	1,128.72	1,269.81	1,551.99	1,834.17	2,116.35	2,539.62
Eardisley Group Parish Council	812.74	948.20	1,083.66	1,219.12	1,490.04	1,760.96	2,031.86	2,438.24
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	819.36	955.92	1,092.48	1,229.04	1,502.16	1,775.28	2,048.40	2,458.08
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	820.52	957.28	1,094.03	1,230.79	1,504.30	1,777.81	2,051.31	2,461.58
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	832.56	971.32	1,110.08	1,248.84	1,526.36	1,803.88	2,081.40	2,497.68
Fownhope Parish Council	827.86	965.83	1,103.81	1,241.79	1,517.75	1,793.70	2,069.65	2,483.58
Foxley Group Parish Council	812.92	948.41	1,083.90	1,219.39	1,490.37	1,761.35	2,032.31	2,438.78
Garway Parish Council	818.69	955.14	1,091.59	1,228.04	1,500.94	1,773.84	2,046.73	2,456.08
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	817.54	953.79	1,090.05	1,226.31	1,498.83	1,771.34	2,043.85	2,452.62
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	826.94	964.76	1,102.59	1,240.41	1,516.06	1,791.71	2,067.35	2,480.82
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	803.39	937.29	1,071.19	1,205.09	1,472.89	1,740.69	2,008.48	2,410.18
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	809.00	943.83	1,078.67	1,213.50	1,483.17	1,752.84	2,022.50	2,427.00
Hereford City Council	830.22	968.59	1,106.96	1,245.33	1,522.07	1,798.81	2,075.55	2,490.66
Holme Lacy Parish Council	841.12	981.31	1,121.50	1,261.69	1,542.07	1,822.45	2,102.81	2,523.38
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	810.63	945.74	1,080.84	1,215.95	1,486.16	1,756.38	2,026.58	2,431.90
Hope Mansell Parish Council	812.26	947.64	1,083.02	1,218.40	1,489.16	1,759.92	2,030.66	2,436.80
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	815.56	951.48	1,087.41	1,223.34	1,495.20	1,767.05	2,038.90	2,446.68
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	821.62	958.56	1,095.50	1,232.44	1,506.32	1,780.20	2,054.06	2,464.88
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	811.41	946.65	1,081.88	1,217.12	1,487.59	1,758.07	2,028.53	2,434.24
Huntington Parish Council	811.59	946.86	1,082.12	1,217.39	1,487.92	1,758.46	2,028.98	2,434.78
Kentchurch Parish Council	833.78	972.74	1,111.71	1,250.67	1,528.60	1,806.53	2,084.45	2,501.34
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	827.88	965.87	1,103.85	1,241.83	1,517.79	1,793.76	2,069.71	2,483.66

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kimbolton Parish Council	817.60	953.87	1,090.14	1,226.41	1,498.95	1,771.49	2,044.01	2,452.82
Kings Capse Parish Council	822.66	959.77	1,096.88	1,233.99	1,508.21	1,782.43	2,056.65	2,467.98
Kingsland Parish Council	813.15	948.68	1,084.20	1,219.73	1,490.78	1,761.84	2,032.88	2,439.46
Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council	815.37	951.27	1,087.16	1,223.06	1,494.85	1,766.65	2,038.43	2,446.12
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	809.26	944.14	1,079.02	1,213.90	1,483.66	1,753.42	2,023.16	2,427.80
Kington Town Council	841.39	981.62	1,121.86	1,262.09	1,542.56	1,823.02	2,103.48	2,524.18
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	810.80	945.93	1,081.07	1,216.20	1,486.47	1,756.74	2,027.00	2,432.40
Lea Parish Council	817.00	953.17	1,089.34	1,225.51	1,497.85	1,770.19	2,042.51	2,451.02
Ledbury Town Council	851.36	993.26	1,135.15	1,277.05	1,560.84	1,844.63	2,128.41	2,554.10
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	824.53	961.95	1,099.38	1,236.80	1,511.65	1,786.49	2,061.33	2,473.60
Leominster Town Council	838.74	978.53	1,118.32	1,258.11	1,537.69	1,817.27	2,096.85	2,516.22
Linton Parish Council	811.74	947.04	1,082.33	1,217.62	1,488.20	1,758.79	2,029.36	2,435.24
Little Birch Parish Council	819.18	955.72	1,092.25	1,228.78	1,501.84	1,774.91	2,047.96	2,457.56
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	828.05	966.06	1,104.07	1,242.08	1,518.10	1,794.12	2,070.13	2,484.16
Llangarron Parish Council	809.70	944.66	1,079.61	1,214.56	1,484.46	1,754.37	2,024.26	2,429.12
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	806.79	941.26	1,075.72	1,210.19	1,479.12	1,748.06	2,016.98	2,420.38
Longtown Group Parish Council	812.22	947.59	1,082.96	1,218.33	1,489.07	1,759.81	2,030.55	2,436.66
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	814.30	950.01	1,085.73	1,221.45	1,492.89	1,764.32	2,035.75	2,442.90
Luston Group Parish Council	817.53	953.79	1,090.04	1,226.30	1,498.81	1,771.33	2,043.83	2,452.60
Lyonshall Parish Council	813.76	949.38	1,085.01	1,220.64	1,491.90	1,763.15	2,034.40	2,441.28
Madley Parish Council	817.21	953.41	1,089.62	1,225.82	1,498.23	1,770.63	2,043.03	2,451.64
Marden Parish Council	824.56	961.99	1,099.42	1,236.85	1,511.71	1,786.57	2,061.41	2,473.70
Marstow Parish Council	820.92	957.74	1,094.56	1,231.38	1,505.02	1,778.66	2,052.30	2,462.76
Mathon Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Conservators)	848.01	989.35	1,130.69	1,272.02	1,554.69	1,837.37	2,120.03	2,544.04
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	814.81	950.61	1,086.42	1,222.22	1,493.83	1,765.43	2,037.03	2,444.44
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	821.25	958.13	1,095.00	1,231.88	1,505.63	1,779.39	2,053.13	2,463.76
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	841.26	981.47	1,121.68	1,261.89	1,542.31	1,822.73	2,103.15	2,523.78
Much Birch Parish Council	813.40	948.96	1,084.53	1,220.10	1,491.24	1,762.37	2,033.50	2,440.20
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	814.31	950.03	1,085.75	1,221.47	1,492.91	1,764.35	2,035.78	2,442.94
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	810.57	945.67	1,080.76	1,215.86	1,486.05	1,756.25	2,026.43	2,431.72
Much Marcle Parish Council	813.66	949.27	1,084.88	1,220.49	1,491.71	1,762.93	2,034.15	2,440.98
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	811.66	946.94	1,082.22	1,217.50	1,488.06	1,758.62	2,029.16	2,435.00
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	810.44	945.51	1,080.59	1,215.66	1,485.81	1,755.96	2,026.10	2,431.32
Orcop Parish Council	822.30	959.36	1,096.41	1,233.46	1,507.56	1,781.67	2,055.76	2,466.92
Orleton Parish Council	829.83	968.14	1,106.44	1,244.75	1,521.36	1,797.98	2,074.58	2,489.50
Pembridge Parish Council	829.10	967.28	1,105.47	1,243.65	1,520.02	1,796.39	2,072.75	2,487.30
Pencombe Group Parish Council	822.52	959.60	1,096.69	1,233.78	1,507.96	1,782.13	2,056.30	2,467.56
Peterchurch Parish Council	821.91	958.90	1,095.88	1,232.87	1,506.84	1,780.82	2,054.78	2,465.74
Peterstow Parish Council	813.78	949.42	1,085.05	1,220.68	1,491.94	1,763.21	2,034.46	2,441.36
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	809.77	944.73	1,079.70	1,214.66	1,484.59	1,754.51	2,024.43	2,429.32
Pixley & District Parish Council	814.98	950.82	1,086.65	1,222.48	1,494.14	1,765.81	2,037.46	2,444.96
Putley Parish Council	828.98	967.14	1,105.31	1,243.47	1,519.80	1,796.13	2,072.45	2,486.94
Pyons Group Parish Council	814.60	950.37	1,086.14	1,221.91	1,493.45	1,764.99	2,036.51	2,443.82
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	818.86	955.34	1,091.82	1,228.30	1,501.26	1,774.22	2,047.16	2,456.60
Ross-on-Wye Town Council	840.20	980.24	1,120.27	1,260.31	1,540.38	1,820.45	2,100.51	2,520.62
Ross Rural Parish Council	807.88	942.52	1,077.17	1,211.82	1,481.12	1,750.41	2,019.70	2,423.64
Sellack Parish Council	810.91	946.06	1,081.22	1,216.37	1,486.68	1,756.98	2,027.28	2,432.74
Shobdon Parish Council	824.56	961.99	1,099.42	1,236.85	1,511.71	1,786.57	2,061.41	2,473.70
St. Weonards Parish Council	817.65	953.93	1,090.20	1,226.48	1,499.03	1,771.59	2,044.13	2,452.96
Stapleton Group Parish Council	825.62	963.22	1,100.83	1,238.43	1,513.64	1,788.85	2,064.05	2,476.86
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	811.49	946.74	1,081.99	1,217.24	1,487.74	1,758.24	2,028.73	2,434.48
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting	803.39	937.29	1,071.19	1,205.09	1,472.89	1,740.69	2,008.48	2,410.18
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	823.85	961.16	1,098.47	1,235.78	1,510.40	1,785.02	2,059.63	2,471.56
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	808.68	943.46	1,078.24	1,213.02	1,482.58	1,752.14	2,021.70	2,426.04
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	815.63	951.57	1,087.51	1,223.45	1,495.33	1,767.21	2,039.08	2,446.90
Sutton Parish Council	835.11	974.30	1,113.48	1,252.67	1,531.04	1,809.42	2,087.78	2,505.34
Tarrington Parish Council	831.16	969.69	1,108.22	1,246.75	1,523.81	1,800.87	2,077.91	2,493.50
Thornbury Group Parish Council	814.22	949.93	1,085.63	1,221.34	1,492.75	1,764.16	2,035.56	2,442.68
Titley and District Group Parish Council	814.61	950.38	1,086.15	1,221.92	1,493.46	1,765.00	2,036.53	2,443.84
Upton Bishop Parish Council	824.14	961.50	1,098.86	1,236.22	1,510.94	1,785.66	2,060.36	2,472.44
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	814.50	950.26	1,086.01	1,221.76	1,493.26	1,764.77	2,036.26	2,443.52
Walford Parish Council	815.84	951.82	1,087.79	1,223.77	1,495.72	1,767.67	2,039.61	2,447.54

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, without the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wellington Parish Council	824.92	962.40	1,099.89	1,237.38	1,512.36	1,787.33	2,062.30	2,474.76
Wellington Heath Parish Council	824.08	961.42	1,098.77	1,236.12	1,510.82	1,785.51	2,060.20	2,472.24
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	833.21	972.08	1,110.95	1,249.82	1,527.56	1,805.30	2,083.03	2,499.64
Weobley Parish Council	814.14	949.84	1,085.53	1,221.22	1,492.60	1,763.99	2,035.36	2,442.44
Weston Beggard Parish Council	808.11	942.80	1,077.48	1,212.17	1,481.54	1,750.92	2,020.28	2,424.34
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	811.56	946.83	1,082.09	1,217.35	1,487.87	1,758.40	2,028.91	2,434.70
Whitbourne Parish Council	821.37	958.27	1,095.16	1,232.06	1,505.85	1,779.65	2,053.43	2,464.12
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	812.44	947.85	1,083.26	1,218.67	1,489.49	1,760.31	2,031.11	2,437.34
Wigmore Group Parish Council	824.93	962.42	1,099.91	1,237.40	1,512.38	1,787.36	2,062.33	2,474.80
Withington Group Parish Council	818.96	955.46	1,091.95	1,228.45	1,501.44	1,774.43	2,047.41	2,456.90
Woolhope Parish Council	819.04	955.54	1,092.05	1,228.56	1,501.58	1,774.59	2,047.60	2,457.12
Wyeside Group Parish Council	812.10	947.45	1,082.80	1,218.15	1,488.85	1,759.55	2,030.25	2,436.30
Yarkhill Parish Council	817.86	954.17	1,090.48	1,226.79	1,499.41	1,772.03	2,044.65	2,453.58
Yarpole Group Parish Council	819.84	956.48	1,093.12	1,229.76	1,503.04	1,776.32	2,049.60	2,459.52
<p>Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and Annex 1(i) - (Special Items) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.</p>								

Police Authority precept requirement for each valuation band

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
West Mercia Police Authority	119.15	139.00	158.86	178.72	218.44	258.15	297.87	357.44

On 15th February 2011 West Mercia Police Authority set a Budget Requirement of £205,556,104, requiring a precept from Herefordshire Council of £12,772,375 for 2011/2012. The Band D Council Tax Charge for West Mercia Police Authority amounts to £178.72 (the same as for 2010/2011).

That it be noted for the year 2011/2012 West Mercia Police Authority have stated the above amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown above.

Fire Authority precept requirement for each valuation band

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority	49.10	57.28	65.46	73.64	90.01	106.38	122.74	147.28

On 16th February 2011 Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority set a Budget Requirement of £31,195,400, requiring a precept from Herefordshire Council of £5,263,060.75 for 2011/2012. The Band D Council Tax Charge for Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority amounts to £73.64 (the same as for 2010/2011).

That it be noted for the year 2011/2012 Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the above amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown above.

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbeystead & Bacton Group Parish Council	990.91	1,156.05	1,321.20	1,486.35	1,816.66	2,146.96	2,477.26	2,972.70
Aconbury Parish Meeting	973.40	1,135.62	1,297.86	1,460.09	1,784.57	2,109.03	2,433.49	2,920.18
Acton Beauchamp Group Parish Council	982.21	1,145.91	1,309.61	1,473.31	1,800.72	2,128.13	2,455.52	2,946.62
Allensmore Parish Council	973.23	1,135.43	1,297.63	1,459.84	1,784.26	2,108.67	2,433.07	2,919.68
Almeley Parish Council	987.55	1,152.14	1,316.73	1,481.32	1,810.51	2,139.70	2,468.87	2,962.64
Ashperton Parish Council	989.04	1,153.87	1,318.71	1,483.55	1,813.24	2,142.92	2,472.59	2,967.10
Aston Ingham Parish Council	977.17	1,140.02	1,302.88	1,465.74	1,791.47	2,117.19	2,442.91	2,931.48
Avenbury Parish Council	982.11	1,145.78	1,309.47	1,473.15	1,800.53	2,127.90	2,455.26	2,946.30
Aymestrey Parish Council	982.39	1,146.12	1,309.85	1,473.58	1,801.05	2,128.52	2,455.97	2,947.16
Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland Group	981.00	1,144.49	1,307.99	1,471.49	1,798.50	2,125.50	2,452.49	2,942.98
Bartestree & Lugwardine Group Parish Council	988.33	1,153.05	1,317.77	1,482.49	1,811.94	2,141.39	2,470.82	2,964.98
Belmont Rural Parish Council	993.03	1,158.53	1,324.03	1,489.54	1,820.56	2,151.57	2,482.57	2,979.08
Birley with Upper Hill Parish Council	980.51	1,143.92	1,307.34	1,470.76	1,797.61	2,124.45	2,451.27	2,941.52
Bishop's Frome Parish Council	1,007.69	1,175.63	1,343.58	1,511.53	1,847.44	2,183.34	2,519.22	3,023.06
Bishopstone & District Group Parish Council	984.03	1,148.03	1,312.03	1,476.04	1,804.06	2,132.07	2,460.07	2,952.08
Bodenham Parish Council	983.32	1,147.20	1,311.08	1,474.97	1,802.75	2,130.53	2,458.29	2,949.94
Border Group Parish Council	986.56	1,150.98	1,315.40	1,479.83	1,808.69	2,137.55	2,466.39	2,959.66
Bosbury and Coddington Parish Council	979.84	1,143.14	1,306.44	1,469.75	1,796.37	2,122.99	2,449.59	2,939.50
Brampton Abbots & Foy Group Parish Council	976.05	1,138.71	1,301.39	1,464.06	1,789.42	2,114.77	2,440.11	2,928.12
Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council	978.49	1,141.56	1,304.64	1,467.72	1,793.89	2,120.05	2,446.21	2,935.44
Breinton Parish Council	982.33	1,146.05	1,309.77	1,473.49	1,800.94	2,128.39	2,455.82	2,946.98
Bridstow Parish Council	979.35	1,142.57	1,305.79	1,469.02	1,795.48	2,121.93	2,448.37	2,938.04
Brilley Parish Council	986.35	1,150.73	1,315.12	1,479.51	1,808.30	2,137.08	2,465.86	2,959.02
Brimfield and Little Hereford Group Parish Council	983.21	1,147.06	1,310.93	1,474.80	1,802.55	2,130.28	2,458.01	2,949.60
Brockhampton Parish Council	993.21	1,158.74	1,324.27	1,489.81	1,820.89	2,151.96	2,483.02	2,979.62
Brockhampton Group Parish Council	994.21	1,159.91	1,325.61	1,491.31	1,822.72	2,154.13	2,485.52	2,982.62
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	1,032.33	1,204.38	1,376.43	1,548.49	1,892.61	2,236.72	2,580.82	3,096.98
Burghill Parish Council	981.23	1,144.75	1,308.29	1,471.83	1,798.92	2,125.99	2,453.06	2,943.66
Callow & Haywood Group Parish Council	985.33	1,149.55	1,313.77	1,477.99	1,806.44	2,134.89	2,463.32	2,955.98
Clethonger Parish Council	981.61	1,145.21	1,308.81	1,472.41	1,799.62	2,126.83	2,454.02	2,944.82
Clifford Parish Council	982.11	1,145.78	1,309.47	1,473.15	1,800.53	2,127.90	2,455.26	2,946.30
Colwall Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Conservators)	1,020.80	1,190.92	1,361.06	1,531.19	1,871.47	2,211.74	2,551.99	3,062.38
Cradley Parish Council	991.75	1,157.03	1,322.32	1,487.61	1,818.20	2,148.78	2,479.36	2,975.22
Credenhill Parish Council	988.17	1,152.86	1,317.55	1,482.25	1,811.65	2,141.04	2,470.42	2,964.50
Cusop Parish Council	996.01	1,162.00	1,328.00	1,494.00	1,826.01	2,158.01	2,490.01	2,988.00
Dilwyn Parish Council	996.35	1,162.40	1,328.46	1,494.52	1,826.65	2,158.77	2,490.87	2,989.04
Dinedor Parish Council	1,000.97	1,167.78	1,334.61	1,501.44	1,835.11	2,168.76	2,502.41	3,002.88
Dinmore Parish Meeting	971.64	1,133.57	1,295.51	1,457.45	1,781.34	2,105.22	2,429.09	2,914.90
Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	990.98	1,156.13	1,321.30	1,486.46	1,816.80	2,147.12	2,477.44	2,972.92
Dorstone Parish Council	977.93	1,140.90	1,303.89	1,466.88	1,792.87	2,118.84	2,444.81	2,933.76
Eardisland Parish Council	1,014.79	1,183.91	1,353.04	1,522.17	1,860.44	2,198.70	2,536.96	3,044.34
Eardisley Group Parish Council	980.99	1,144.48	1,307.98	1,471.48	1,798.49	2,125.49	2,452.47	2,942.96
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	987.61	1,152.20	1,316.80	1,481.40	1,810.61	2,139.81	2,469.01	2,962.80
Eaton Bishop Parish Council	988.77	1,153.56	1,318.35	1,483.15	1,812.75	2,142.34	2,471.92	2,966.30
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council	1,000.81	1,167.60	1,334.40	1,501.20	1,834.81	2,168.41	2,502.01	3,002.40
Fownhope Parish Council	996.11	1,162.11	1,328.13	1,494.15	1,826.20	2,158.23	2,490.26	2,988.30
Foxley Group Parish Council	981.17	1,144.69	1,308.22	1,471.75	1,798.82	2,125.88	2,452.92	2,943.50
Garway Parish Council	986.94	1,151.42	1,315.91	1,480.40	1,809.39	2,138.37	2,467.34	2,960.80
Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council	985.79	1,150.07	1,314.37	1,478.67	1,807.28	2,135.87	2,464.46	2,957.34
Hampton Bishop Parish Council	995.19	1,161.04	1,326.91	1,492.77	1,824.51	2,156.24	2,487.96	2,985.54
Hampton Charles Parish Meeting	971.64	1,133.57	1,295.51	1,457.45	1,781.34	2,105.22	2,429.09	2,914.90

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hatfield and District Group Parish Council	977.25	1,140.11	1,302.99	1,465.86	1,791.62	2,117.37	2,443.11	2,931.72
Hereford City Council	998.47	1,164.87	1,331.28	1,497.69	1,830.52	2,163.34	2,496.16	2,995.38
Holme Lacy Parish Council	1,009.37	1,177.59	1,345.82	1,514.05	1,850.52	2,186.98	2,523.42	3,028.10
Holmer & Shelwick Parish Council	978.88	1,142.02	1,305.16	1,468.31	1,794.61	2,120.91	2,447.19	2,936.62
Hope Mansell Parish Council	980.51	1,143.92	1,307.34	1,470.76	1,797.61	2,124.45	2,451.27	2,941.52
Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council	983.81	1,147.76	1,311.73	1,475.70	1,803.65	2,131.58	2,459.51	2,951.40
How Caple, Sollershope & Yatton Group Parish Council	989.87	1,154.84	1,319.82	1,484.80	1,814.77	2,144.73	2,474.67	2,969.60
Humber, Stoke Prior & Ford Group Parish Council	979.66	1,142.93	1,306.20	1,469.48	1,796.04	2,122.60	2,449.14	2,938.96
Huntington Parish Council	979.84	1,143.14	1,306.44	1,469.75	1,796.37	2,122.99	2,449.59	2,939.50
Kentchurch Parish Council	1,002.03	1,169.02	1,336.03	1,503.03	1,837.05	2,171.06	2,505.06	3,006.06
Kilpeck Group Parish Council	996.13	1,162.15	1,328.17	1,494.19	1,826.24	2,158.29	2,490.32	2,988.38
Kimbolton Parish Council	985.85	1,150.15	1,314.46	1,478.77	1,807.40	2,136.02	2,464.62	2,957.54
Kings Caple Parish Council	990.91	1,156.05	1,321.20	1,486.35	1,816.66	2,146.96	2,477.26	2,972.70
Kingsland Parish Council	981.40	1,144.96	1,308.52	1,472.09	1,799.23	2,126.37	2,453.49	2,944.18
Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council	983.62	1,147.55	1,311.48	1,475.42	1,803.30	2,131.18	2,459.04	2,950.84
Kington Rural and Lower Harpton Group Parish Council	977.51	1,140.42	1,303.34	1,466.26	1,792.11	2,117.95	2,443.77	2,932.52
Kington Town Council	1,009.64	1,177.90	1,346.18	1,514.45	1,851.01	2,187.55	2,524.09	3,028.90
Kinnersley and District Group Parish Council	979.05	1,142.21	1,305.39	1,468.56	1,794.92	2,121.27	2,447.61	2,937.12
Lea Parish Council	985.25	1,149.45	1,313.66	1,477.87	1,806.30	2,134.72	2,463.12	2,955.74
Ledbury Town Council	1,019.61	1,189.54	1,359.47	1,529.41	1,869.29	2,209.16	2,549.02	3,058.82
Leintwardine Group Parish Council	992.78	1,158.23	1,323.70	1,489.16	1,820.10	2,151.02	2,481.94	2,978.32
Leominster Town Council	1,006.99	1,174.81	1,342.64	1,510.47	1,846.14	2,181.80	2,517.46	3,020.94
Linton Parish Council	979.99	1,143.32	1,306.65	1,469.98	1,796.65	2,123.32	2,449.97	2,939.96
Little Birch Parish Council	987.43	1,152.00	1,316.57	1,481.14	1,810.29	2,139.44	2,468.57	2,962.28
Little Dewchurch Parish Council	996.30	1,162.34	1,328.39	1,494.44	1,826.55	2,158.65	2,490.74	2,988.88
Llangarron Parish Council	977.95	1,140.94	1,303.93	1,466.92	1,792.91	2,118.90	2,444.87	2,933.84
Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council	975.04	1,137.54	1,300.04	1,462.55	1,787.57	2,112.59	2,437.59	2,925.10
Longtown Group Parish Council	980.47	1,143.87	1,307.28	1,470.69	1,797.52	2,124.34	2,451.16	2,941.38
Lower Bullingham Parish Council	982.55	1,146.29	1,310.05	1,473.81	1,801.34	2,128.85	2,456.36	2,947.62
Luston Group Parish Council	985.78	1,150.07	1,314.36	1,478.66	1,807.26	2,135.86	2,464.44	2,957.32
Lyonshall Parish Council	982.01	1,145.66	1,309.33	1,473.00	1,800.35	2,127.68	2,455.01	2,946.00
Madley Parish Council	985.46	1,149.69	1,313.94	1,478.18	1,806.68	2,135.16	2,463.64	2,956.36
Marden Parish Council	992.81	1,158.27	1,323.74	1,489.21	1,820.16	2,151.10	2,482.02	2,978.42
Marstow Parish Council	989.17	1,154.02	1,318.88	1,483.74	1,813.47	2,143.19	2,472.91	2,967.48
Mathon Parish Council (inc Malvern Hills Conservators)	1,016.26	1,185.63	1,355.01	1,524.38	1,863.14	2,201.90	2,540.64	3,048.76
Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council	983.06	1,146.89	1,310.74	1,474.58	1,802.28	2,129.96	2,457.64	2,949.16
Monkland and Stretford Parish Council	989.50	1,154.41	1,319.32	1,484.24	1,814.08	2,143.92	2,473.74	2,968.48
Moreton on Lugg Parish Council	1,009.51	1,177.75	1,346.00	1,514.25	1,850.76	2,187.26	2,523.76	3,028.50
Much Birch Parish Council	981.65	1,145.24	1,308.85	1,472.46	1,799.69	2,126.90	2,454.11	2,944.92
Much Cowarne Group Parish Council	982.56	1,146.31	1,310.07	1,473.83	1,801.36	2,128.88	2,456.39	2,947.66
Much Dewchurch Parish Council	978.82	1,141.95	1,305.08	1,468.22	1,794.50	2,120.78	2,447.04	2,936.44
Much Marcle Parish Council	981.91	1,145.55	1,309.20	1,472.85	1,800.16	2,127.46	2,454.76	2,945.70
North Bromyard Group Parish Council	979.91	1,143.22	1,306.54	1,469.86	1,796.51	2,123.15	2,449.77	2,939.72
Ocle Pychard Parish Council	978.69	1,141.79	1,304.91	1,468.02	1,794.26	2,120.49	2,446.71	2,936.04
Orcop Parish Council	990.55	1,155.64	1,320.73	1,485.82	1,816.01	2,146.20	2,476.37	2,971.64
Orleton Parish Council	998.08	1,164.42	1,330.76	1,497.11	1,829.81	2,162.51	2,495.19	2,994.22
Pembridge Parish Council	997.35	1,163.56	1,329.79	1,496.01	1,828.47	2,160.92	2,493.36	2,992.02
Pencombe Group Parish Council	990.77	1,155.88	1,321.01	1,486.14	1,816.41	2,146.66	2,476.91	2,972.28
Peterchurch Parish Council	990.16	1,155.18	1,320.20	1,485.23	1,815.29	2,145.35	2,475.39	2,970.46
Peterstow Parish Council	982.03	1,145.70	1,309.37	1,473.04	1,800.39	2,127.74	2,455.07	2,946.08
Pipe and Lyde Parish Council	978.02	1,141.01	1,304.02	1,467.02	1,793.04	2,119.04	2,445.04	2,934.04

ANNEX 1 (v)

Council Tax for each valuation band, by Parish, including the Police & Fire precepts								
PARISH	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pixley & District Parish Council	983.23	1,147.10	1,310.97	1,474.84	1,802.59	2,130.34	2,458.07	2,949.68
Putley Parish Council	997.23	1,163.42	1,329.63	1,495.83	1,828.25	2,160.66	2,493.06	2,991.66
Pyons Group Parish Council	982.85	1,146.65	1,310.46	1,474.27	1,801.90	2,129.52	2,457.12	2,948.54
Richard's Castle (Herefordshire) Parish Council	987.11	1,151.62	1,316.14	1,480.66	1,809.71	2,138.75	2,467.77	2,961.32
Ross-on-Wye Town Council	1,008.45	1,176.52	1,344.59	1,512.67	1,848.83	2,184.98	2,521.12	3,025.34
Ross Rural Parish Council	976.13	1,138.80	1,301.49	1,464.18	1,789.57	2,114.94	2,440.31	2,928.36
Sellack Parish Council	979.16	1,142.34	1,305.54	1,468.73	1,795.13	2,121.51	2,447.89	2,937.46
Shobdon Parish Council	992.81	1,158.27	1,323.74	1,489.21	1,820.16	2,151.10	2,482.02	2,978.42
St. Weonards Parish Council	985.90	1,150.21	1,314.52	1,478.84	1,807.48	2,136.12	2,464.74	2,957.68
Stapleton Group Parish Council	993.87	1,159.50	1,325.15	1,490.79	1,822.09	2,153.38	2,484.66	2,981.58
Staunton-on-Wye and District Group Parish Council	979.74	1,143.02	1,306.31	1,469.60	1,796.19	2,122.77	2,449.34	2,939.20
Stoke Edith Parish Meeting	971.64	1,133.57	1,295.51	1,457.45	1,781.34	2,105.22	2,429.09	2,914.90
Stoke Lacy Parish Council	992.10	1,157.44	1,322.79	1,488.14	1,818.85	2,149.55	2,480.24	2,976.28
Stretton Grandison Group Parish Council	976.93	1,139.74	1,302.56	1,465.38	1,791.03	2,116.67	2,442.31	2,930.76
Stretton Sugwas Parish Council	983.88	1,147.85	1,311.83	1,475.81	1,803.78	2,131.74	2,459.69	2,951.62
Sutton Parish Council	1,003.36	1,170.58	1,337.80	1,505.03	1,839.49	2,173.95	2,508.39	3,010.06
Tarrington Parish Council	999.41	1,165.97	1,332.54	1,499.11	1,832.26	2,165.40	2,498.52	2,998.22
Thornbury Group Parish Council	982.47	1,146.21	1,309.95	1,473.70	1,801.20	2,128.69	2,456.17	2,947.40
Titley and District Group Parish Council	982.86	1,146.66	1,310.47	1,474.28	1,801.91	2,129.53	2,457.14	2,948.56
Upton Bishop Parish Council	992.39	1,157.78	1,323.18	1,488.58	1,819.39	2,150.19	2,480.97	2,977.16
Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council	982.75	1,146.54	1,310.33	1,474.12	1,801.71	2,129.30	2,456.87	2,948.24
Walford Parish Council	984.09	1,148.10	1,312.11	1,476.13	1,804.17	2,132.20	2,460.22	2,952.26
Wellington Parish Council	993.17	1,158.68	1,324.21	1,489.74	1,820.81	2,151.86	2,482.91	2,979.48
Wellington Heath Parish Council	992.33	1,157.70	1,323.09	1,488.48	1,819.27	2,150.04	2,480.81	2,976.96
Welsh Newton & Llanrothal Group Parish Council	1,001.46	1,168.36	1,335.27	1,502.18	1,836.01	2,169.83	2,503.64	3,004.36
Weobley Parish Council	982.39	1,146.12	1,309.85	1,473.58	1,801.05	2,128.52	2,455.97	2,947.16
Weston Beggard Parish Council	976.36	1,139.08	1,301.80	1,464.53	1,789.99	2,115.45	2,440.89	2,929.06
Weston-under-Penyard Parish Council	979.81	1,143.11	1,306.41	1,469.71	1,796.32	2,122.93	2,449.52	2,939.42
Whitbourne Parish Council	989.62	1,154.55	1,319.48	1,484.42	1,814.30	2,144.18	2,474.04	2,968.84
Whitchurch & Ganarew Group Parish Council	980.69	1,144.13	1,307.58	1,471.03	1,797.94	2,124.84	2,451.72	2,942.06
Wigmore Group Parish Council	993.18	1,158.70	1,324.23	1,489.76	1,820.83	2,151.89	2,482.94	2,979.52
Withington Group Parish Council	987.21	1,151.74	1,316.27	1,480.81	1,809.89	2,138.96	2,468.02	2,961.62
Woolhope Parish Council	987.29	1,151.82	1,316.37	1,480.92	1,810.03	2,139.12	2,468.21	2,961.84
Wyeside Group Parish Council	980.35	1,143.73	1,307.12	1,470.51	1,797.30	2,124.08	2,450.86	2,941.02
Yarkhill Parish Council	986.11	1,150.45	1,314.80	1,479.15	1,807.86	2,136.56	2,465.26	2,958.30
Yarpole Group Parish Council	988.09	1,152.76	1,317.44	1,482.12	1,811.49	2,140.85	2,470.21	2,964.24
That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at Annex 1(ii), Annex 1(iii) and Annex 1(iv), the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of council tax for the year 2011/2012 for each of the categories of dwellings shown above.								

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ENVIRONMENT & STRATEGIC HOUSING AND HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

CLASSIFICATION Open

Wards affected

County-wide

Purpose

To agree revisions to the timetable for preparation of the Local Development Framework; and agree interim arrangements in respect of the Local Transport Plan.

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) the Local Development Framework timetable be revised as set out in the table at paragraph 11 below;
- (b) the linkage between the Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan, and the consequent impact on the Local Transport Plan timetable be noted; and
- (c) the existing Local Transport Plan 2 be adopted as the Council's interim Local Transport Plan 3 pending finalisation of the Local Development Framework submission;

Key Points Summary

- This report provides an update on progress in preparing the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Local Transport Plan (LTP). Both are part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- The legislative basis for preparing the LDF is changing as a consequence of the Localism Bill, which proposes the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and new roles and responsibilities for local groups undertaking neighbourhood planning.
- The arrangements for both the public and private funding of new infrastructure linked to development are also under review.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Peter Yates, Planning Policy Manager on (01432) 261952

- The recent LDF consultation on the Hereford preferred option produced particular comments and objections to the proposed housing sites in general and the proposed choice of a western relief road corridor in particular. These views contrasted with the outcomes of earlier consultations, which produced generally favourable results. Following the debate at Council on 19 November, the Executive were asked to consider the practicalities of undertaking a poll to assist in clarifying the situation.
- The current published timetable for the LDF preparation made provision for the Core Strategy to be reported to Council at its meeting on 4 February 2011 with a recommendation that the policies be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination and subsequent adoption later in 2011. It is now clear that this timetable cannot be met and a revised Local Development Scheme timetable will be necessary.
- Having regard to the changing legislative context and the new issues raised in the recent round of consultation, it is prudent to afford an opportunity for the implications for the emerging Core Strategy to be further considered prior to the document being finalised.
- The Council is required to adopt an LTP from 1 April 2011. However the LTP needs to be aligned with the Council's planning strategy. Whilst the latter is being confirmed, the requirement to have a LTP in place can be achieved by extending the life of the present document by adopting it as the 2011 interim LTP3, and reviewing it when the strategic planning position becomes clearer.

Alternative Options

1. The current planning policies of the Council are set out in the 2007 Unitary Development Plan, which runs to 2011. Whilst these policies have been "saved" and will continue in force until replaced, new planning policies are required to influence and control development for the next plan period – currently to 2026. The LDF will set out these new policies and is a statutory requirement, with no alternative to its preparation.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To afford an opportunity for the implications of the changing legislative context to be fully considered, and to enable further consultation, including a community poll, to be undertaken. Linked to the changes in the LDF timetable, to provide for the continuation of the existing LTP2 to be adopted as an interim LTP3 in the meantime.

Introduction and Background

3. Progress is being made on the LDF to replace and roll forward the Council's planning policies set out in the Unitary Development Plan. A comprehensive programme of consultations has taken place throughout 2010, along with briefings for individual and groups of Members. However, the latest round of consultation raised some new issues. Further consideration of these matters is needed and Council, at its meeting on 19 November 2010, overwhelmingly carried a motion agreeing "...in principle to carrying out a poll with the people of Herefordshire to ask a question relating to construction of a road around Hereford City and that the Executive be asked to consider the practicality of such action."
4. In addition, the legislative background is now changing significantly it would be prudent to extend the current LDF timetable to enable the implications of those legislative changes to be fully considered. Because of the close links between the Council's planning and transport policies, changes in the LDF timetable have implications for the LTP.

5. Both LDF and LTP are part of the Council's Budget & Policy Framework.

Key Considerations

6. The Localism Bill, published in December 2010, introduces a number of significant reforms to the planning system, notably the revocation of RSS. Hitherto the West Midlands RSS has provided a regional context for the preparation of the LDF, particularly in respect of future housing provision. The Bill is expected to pass into law later this year. Thus, whilst at present compliance with the RSS is required, it would be prudent to progress on the basis that it will, in due course, cease to exist. This will allow a degree of flexibility and local choice which has not been available to date in the preparation of the LDF. The Bill also introduces new arrangements for neighbourhood planning within the existing (and continuing) framework of statutory planning control.
7. The Localism Bill also confirms the government's intention to continue with a revised form of the Community Infrastructure Levy to replace Section 106 agreements for collecting developer infrastructure contributions, other than those concerned with affordable housing or the mitigation of site specific impacts. Other new and emerging financial measures include the New Homes Bonus, Regional Growth Fund and Tax Increment Financing. Future sources of finance are therefore not, at present, entirely clear – nor are the investment plans of service providers. These issues impact directly upon the financial viability of development and the ability to pay for new infrastructure. This will require more work to finalise the Economic Viability Study, identify any funding gaps, develop a Charging Schedule to raise contributions under the Levy, and to finalise an Infrastructure Delivery Plan with service providers.
8. The Council's planning policies are currently set out in the Unitary Development Plan. Although the Plan had a nominal end-date of 2011, the policies have been through a formal process of being "saved" and most continue in force by virtue of a direction of the Secretary of State made in February 2010. However, the planning strategy for the future development of the County in the longer term needs to be formulated, and planning policies prepared to deliver it. The vehicle for this is the LDF, a portfolio of documents led by the Core Strategy. This looks ahead to 2026, balancing development needs with protection of the environment, and ensuring alignment of the planning strategy with the Sustainable Community Strategy and other Council priorities such as the Localities agenda.
9. The emerging LDF is founded on a significant evidence base and has been the subject of a comprehensive programme of consultations throughout 2010 including public meetings, presentations, "road shows", coverage in the media and both Parish Council and Member briefings. The consultations in the earlier part of 2010 showed widespread support for the emerging policies. At the time of the detailed consultation on the Hereford package particular comments/objections were raised to both proposed housing sites and the western relief road corridor. The most recent round of consultations has also revealed new issues concerning water quality and infrastructure funding which will need to be resolved before the Core Strategy is finalised.
10. At its meeting on 19 November, Council requested that the practicality of holding a Community Poll on the topic of a relief road for Hereford be explored by the executive. Legal advice has indicated that such an approach would be possible as part of a wider consultation exercise. However, such a poll could not be carried out during the pre-election period, as it would breach the Government's publicity guidance; nor can the facilities used by the Returning Officer on election day be used. At their meeting on 17 February, Cabinet resolved that a community poll be undertaken, as part of the overall consultation process, as early as possible after the election, and that a further report on the detail of the further consultation be brought to Cabinet in June.

11. The current published timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy is set out in the Local Development Scheme. This envisaged the Core Strategy being reported to Council at its meeting on 4 February 2011 with a recommendation that the document be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination and adoption later that year. Taking into account both the impact of national policy and legislative changes, and Council's expressed desire to undertake a community poll, it is therefore proposed that the indicative LDF timetable be revised as in the table below. It should be noted that, subject to the outcome of the additional consultation, further revisions to the timetable may be required.

Activity	Date
Cabinet approve detail of further consultation, including community poll	June 2011
Consultation	July – October 2011
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	December 2011
Cabinet	January 2012
Council approve submission of draft Core Strategy	February 2012
Pre-submission publicity	March/April 2012
Submission to Secretary of State	May 2012

12. The Council is required to have a LTP in place for the period commencing on the 1 April 2011. This follows on from the five year period covered by the current LTP (1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011). However, unlike the previous LTPs which had to be submitted to Government by the date when they were due to come into effect, the form and content of the LTP will be for local consideration only and will not need to be submitted to Government.
13. Development of the next Local Transport Plan (LTP3), including the adoption of a 15 year time horizon, taking the strategy to 2026 as per the LDF, has been carried out in parallel with development of the LDF strategy, building on the opportunity to ensure that the long term land use strategy for Herefordshire is underpinned by complementary policies in respect of transport infrastructure. A draft LTP3 was issued for consultation in October 2010 and this was also co-ordinated with consultation on the Core Strategy preferred option for Hereford. An update on the development of the LTP strategy was provided to Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 26 November. It was noted in that report that the draft LTP had been written to reflect the LDF Hereford preferred option (as consulted on in September-November 2010). The report also stated that the final review of LTP would need to reflect any decisions regarding the LDF Strategy when it is considered by Council.
14. A coherent new LTP3 can only be determined when the key infrastructure requirements for the County up to 2026 have been agreed through the LDF process. As an interim measure, pending finalisation of the LDF strategy, it is proposed to roll forward the current LTP (LTP2) and that it be adopted as an interim LTP3. The current LTP2 remains fit for purpose at the current time and provides an ongoing strategy which is consistent with the current Unitary Development Plan and provides a sound basis to guide transport provision in the County in the intervening period.

Community Impact

15. The emerging LDF policies have been drafted to align as closely as possible with the Council's wider policies which impact on community matters and fall within planning influence. The involvement of the Local Strategic Partnership is maintained through the Local Development

Framework Task Group which, apart from LSP membership, also includes representative Members from minority political groups on the Council. The impact of the Localism Bill will be very significant in redefining how the Council's policies relate to local communities.

Financial Implications

16. The costs of undertaking a community poll, using postal voting, are estimated at £50k.
17. Preparation of the LDF is being carried out from within existing budgets which are reviewed annually. More work is needed with an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to establish viability of any capital projects associated with the development envisaged by the LDF and to assess the potential for Community Infrastructure Levy and New Homes Bonus to provide capital funding.
18. A current LTP3 will be a key supporting document for any bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Legal Implications

19. Advice has been received that an advisory community poll may be undertaken as part of the consultation within overall LDF process.
20. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a LDF and LTP. The Localism Bill does not change that principle. However when enacted it is expected to enable new roles and responsibilities, especially as regards the role of Parish Councils and other community groups at the neighbourhood level.

Risk Management

21. The principal risks to progression of the Core Strategy are set out above and centre on the legislative changes underway, the emergence of new funding streams and delivery mechanisms, and the outcome of the recent round of consultation. Managing these risks requires further opportunity to consider the implications for the emerging Core Strategy and is the subject of this report.
22. This needs to be balanced against continuing to use the policies of the Unitary Development Plan as a basis for planning control, notably in respect of housing land supply. This can be managed by ongoing monitoring. On a strategic level, the opportunities offered by the LDF and Core Strategy to guide development to meet the Council's broader priorities as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and other strategies and programmes will not be able to be realised. However, the impact of the localism agenda is likely to be felt across the range of Council services and further consideration of the emerging Core Strategy can take place within this overall context.

Consultees

23. Extensive community consultations have been carried out as outlined above. All consultations on the LDF have to comply with the Council's own Statement of Community Involvement which was adopted in 2007 and is itself part of the Local Development Framework. Consultation reports are published on the Council's website to cover every stage of the process from 2007 onwards.
24. Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals to amend the LDF framework timetable and to adopt the existing LTP as LTP3 as an interim measure. The Committee has supported both proposals. It has also recommended that the whole Local Development

process be scrutinised and reviewed by the scrutiny function at the appropriate time having regard to the Local Development Framework timetable as approved by Cabinet. The Committee has also requested that the questions from the public submitted to the Committee be referred to Cabinet to be taken into consideration as part of Cabinet's deliberations on the Local Development Framework.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Local Transport Plan 2.

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

To advise Members of the proposed requirement to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and to progress the Council's status as an Early Implementer for the Department of Health (DoH) by creating a shadow board.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendations

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:

- (a) **a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board be created and chaired by a Cabinet Member;**
- (b) **the powers and duties of the Shadow Board shall be:**
 - (i) **for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in Herefordshire, to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in that area to work in an integrated manner; and**
 - (ii) **to provide such advice, assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purpose of encouraging the making of arrangements under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 in connection with the provision of such services; and**
 - (iii) **to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health-related services in Herefordshire to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board; and**
 - (iv) **to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in Herefordshire and persons who arrange**

for the provision of any health-related services in Herefordshire to work closely together; and

- (v) to advise on how the functions of the Council and its partner commissioning consortia under sections 116 and 116A of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the 2007 Act”) are to be exercised; and
 - (vi) to give to the Council its opinion on whether the Council is discharging its duty under section 116B of the 2007 Act;
- (c) the membership of the Shadow Board shall include:
- those executive members of the Cabinet whose current areas of responsibility are encompassed by the powers and duties of the Shadow Board
 - the Chief Executive
 - those officers whose jobs include the roles of Director of Adult Social Services, Director of Children’s Services and Director of Public Health (as defined in clause 26 of the Health and Social Care Bill of 2011).
 - a representative of LINK (Local Improvement Network)
 - a representative of the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
 - a representative of Hereford Hospitals Trust or (from 1st April 2011) the new Integrated Care Organisation for Herefordshire
 - a representative of the Herefordshire GP Consortium
 - a representative of the voluntary and community sector in Herefordshire
 - a representative of the business community in Herefordshire
- PROVIDED THAT** the Shadow Board may at its discretion include such further representatives as it shall determine;
- (d) the Shadow Board shall comply with the Standing Orders of Herefordshire Council in so far as executive members may make decisions at its meetings; and
- (e) the Monitoring Officer report further on appropriate delegations and other constitutional requirements for a formal Health and Wellbeing Board once the Health and Social Care Bill has been enacted and the relevant implementation date is known.

Key Points Summary

- The Council’s status as an Early Implementer of HWBBs requires a shadow board if we are to meet our aspirations of early implementation and the DoH’s timetable
- The Bill envisages that the HWBB will be set up by the Council and have certain statutory

functions. The Bill specifies the membership that will be required. Currently these functions lie elsewhere – notably with the Cabinet and PCT – and the membership of the shadow board reflects this. It also reflects the fact that the proposed HealthWatch, which will have statutory membership of any formal HWBB in future has not yet been created: LINK will have membership of the shadow board instead at this stage.

- No new powers or delegations can be given to the shadow board at this stage. However, its terms of reference mirror those in the Bill and it has been structured in a way that allows executive members, directors, GP consortia and the PCT to act in concert to achieve similar outcomes.
- The Monitoring Officer will report back once the legal framework is more clear and a permanent board with appropriate powers can be created.

Alternative Options

1. The purpose of the shadow board is to explore alternative ways of working to inform the creation of formal boards to be created in due course.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To fulfil the Council's aspirations for early implementation and obligations as an Early Implementer working with the DoH and as a statement of this Council's commitment to joint working to achieve outcomes in public health.

Introduction and Background

Proposed Role of Health and Wellbeing Boards

3. In December 2010, the Government published a document entitled "Legislative Framework and Next Steps", which sets out the response to the consultation responses to the July 2010 Health White Paper (including "Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health").
4. The key points relating to HWBBs are as follows:

(1) Statutory Basis:

- (a) The requirement for a HWBB has been included in the Health and Social Care Bill; the HWBB will be a statutory Committee of the Local Authority
- (b) Local Authorities (LAs) will be able to delegate other functions to the HWBB
- (c) GP Consortia (CPC) will be able to delegate inherited PCT functions to the LA or HWBB
- (d) There will be flexibility about geographical scope for HWBB, allowing cross border or more local variants
- (e) The HWBB will not be the commissioning body – LA and GPC will be responsible for commissioning

(2) Membership:

- (a) The core membership requirements (in the Bill) will be:

- Elected Councillors
- Relevant GP Consortia
- Directors for Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health
- Representative of HealthWatch

(b) Other members will be for local determination

(3) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):

- (a) Local Authority and GP Consortia (GPC) will be jointly responsible for the JSNA (and the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment), working through the HWBB
- (b) There will be a legal obligation on the LA/GPC to have regard to the JSNA in exercising commissioning functions

(4) Joint Health and Well Being Strategy:

- (a) There will be a requirement for the LA/GPC (working through the HWBB) to develop a high level Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy having regard to the National Commissioning Board mandate (but no central approval will be required)
- (b) There will be a legal obligation on the LA/GPC to have regard to the Strategy in exercising commissioning functions

(5) Joint Working:

- (a) HWBB will be able to look at the totality of resources in the local area for health and well being and how to achieve better value
- (b) There will be a statutory duty on GPC and LA to consider how best to use flexibilities (e.g. pooled budgets)

(6) Scrutiny:

- (a) The Bill will confer health Overview and Scrutiny functions on the local authority itself – with greater flexibility to decide how these are exercised
- (b) Scrutiny powers will be extended to any provider (NHS funded) and to GPC functions

Early Implementers

5. The DoH has established a network of Early Implementers for HWBBs, to work on a number of related policy issues. Early implementers will not have a special status, but will receive DoH support in return for co-producing guidance on HWBBs. The Early Implementer network will be informal and largely web based.
6. Herefordshire Council is an Early Implementer for HWBBs. This will provide the opportunity for both influencing the eventual Government guidance about HWBBs and to operate this element of the White Paper reforms in parallel with the development of the Herefordshire GP Consortium. The PCT Board and GPC will clearly be closely involved in this work as part of the partnership between NHS and Herefordshire Council.
7. The DoH has run two workshops for Early Implementers and a further workshop is planned on 10 February 2011. In practice most of the learning and cross sector discussion will be virtual

and will focus on particular areas of geographical or thematic interest.

8. Key points for the development of HWBBs from these sessions so far are as follows:
 - (1) Localities start from different points – HWBBs will need to be different in different areas
 - (2) National guidance should be advisory, not prescriptive
 - (3) HWBBs should focus on trying to achieve transformation, not simply fulfilling a requirement to have one
 - (4) How do we balance achieving change and at the same time keeping the best of the current system eg: knowledge and people?
 - (5) How do we build new relationships between local authorities and GPs?
 - (6) How can we ensure accountability and transparency under the new arrangements?
 - (7) How will HWBB and local partners manage cross boundary issues and locality working?

Developing Health and Wellbeing in Herefordshire

9. It is clearly vital that we develop an approach to the HWBB which reflects the needs of Herefordshire, within the prescribed national framework. Establishing a shadow board will enable us to work through key questions such as:
 - (1) **Role of the HWBB:** in addition to the statutory requirements, what expectations should we have for the Herefordshire HWBB; what are the priorities and what are the challenges?
 - (2) **The JSNA:** will be the key planning document for the HWBB, leading to the development of the HWB Strategy. What should be the scope and purpose of the JSNA and how will it be different from now?
 - (3) **The HWB Strategy:** what will a HWB Strategy look like and what will it achieve?
 - (4) **Links with the Herefordshire Partnership:** the HWBB will be different from the Herefordshire Partnership Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, but there will be a transitional aspect and the need for close links
 - (5) **Cross Border and Locality Working**
 - (6) **Pooling Budgets:** there are clear potential benefits to pooling commissioning budgets (alongside place based budgets) across the Council and the GPC:
 - (7) **Delivery:** there is little point in joining up needs analysis and planning if commissioning and delivery are not also joined up.
 - (8) **Public Accountability and Engagement:** there is a real opportunity to raise the profile of health and well being with Herefordshire residents, community groups, parish councils, local businesses etc and to get genuine engagement:

(A diagram setting out a high level view of a HWBB for Herefordshire is appended).
- 10 Stakeholder workshops will take place in February to work through these and other questions,

linked to the reforms proposed in the Public Health White Paper.

Key Considerations

11. Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBB) will be established by local authorities as part of the Health White Paper proposals. The consultation document "*Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health*" proposed statutory responsibilities for HWBBs to lead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and support joint commissioning and integration.
12. The proposal for HWBBs is closely linked to the transfer of public health responsibilities from 2013, which are set out in the Public Health White Paper published on 30 November 2010.

Community Impact

13. The Health and Wellbeing agenda impacts on the entire community.

Financial Implications

14. None specific to this proposal. Allocation of budgets to a formal board may be considered in due course. Existing budgets will be used in the work of the shadow HWBB.

Legal Implications

15. The requirements for a Health and Wellbeing Board are contained in the recently published Health and Social Care Bill. The Shadow Board will draw on existing powers to explore ways of working which will inform the implementation of such boards nationally.

Risk Management

16. Failure to set up a Shadow HWBB and fulfil the Council's ambitions as an Early Implementer could result in solutions being imposed which are not suited to Herefordshire.

Consultees

17. There has been no specific consultation on this proposal. However, Early Implementers are developing the HWBB option as part of the Government's wider health proposals, which are subject to extensive consultation nationally. Stakeholder workshops will take place in February to develop thinking about the role of the HWBB. The PCT Board and GP Consortium will be central to this process.

Appendices

- Diagrammatic representation of how a Health and Wellbeing Board might work.

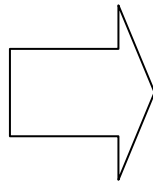
Background Papers

- Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS
- Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health
- Equity and Excellence – Legislative Framework and Next Steps

**HEREFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD
ILLUSTRATIVE OUTLINE MODEL**

PURPOSE

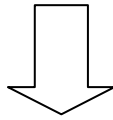
- Agree the JSNA
- Approve a Joint HWB Strategy
- Set Joint Commissioning
- Outcomes
- Align/pool budgets
- Hold partners to account
- Focus on wider determinants of health



OUTCOMES

- Joined Up Services and Solutions
- Local health being improvement
- Better quality of care
- Improved local well being
- Prevention
- Better value for money/use of resources
- Collaborative Leadership

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD FOR
HEREFORDSHIRE**

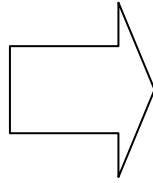


**JOINT HEALTH AND WELL BEING
COMMISSIONING TEAM**

GP	Social Care	Public Health	Housing etc
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MEMBERSHIP

- Councillors
- GPs
- NEDs
- DPH
- DASS
- DCS
- HealthWatch
- Voluntary Sector
- HHT
- Others



LINKS

- Cabinet
- GP Consortium
- Health OSC
- Locality Forums
- Cross Border
- Herefordshire Partnership
- Local Children Safeguarding Board

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Purpose

To seek approval for and present matters relating to the Council Constitution.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Council :

a) Approves the following changes to the Constitution:

- i. That wording within the Procedure Rules which deals with substitute members be revised and replaced with the wording at paragraph 5 of this report to comply with the law contained in the relevant Act and Regulations.

Key Points Summary

- As part of its ongoing work, the Constitutional Review Working Group (CRWG) considered the need to amend the Procedure Rule which deals with substitute members as outlined in the constitution at 4.1.23.
- To ensure compliance with the law as required by the by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act) and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (the Regulations), it is necessary for Council to amend the substitution scheme.
- The proposed revised wording for Procedure Rule 4.1.23 is as outlined in paragraph 5 of this report.

Alternative Options

- 1 To ensure compliance with the law as contained within the Act and Regulations there is a need to amend the current substitution scheme, therefore no change is not an option

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Council is being asked to adopt a new substitution scheme in order to comply with the law

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Chapman, Assistant Director Law and Governance on (01432) 260200

contained in the Act and Regulations.

Key Considerations

3 Within the current constitution, Procedure Rule 4.1.23 deals with substitute members in these terms:-

4.1.23 **Substitution**

4.1.23.1 *A member of a committee who is unable to attend a meeting of that committee may propose a substitute to take their place at that meeting. Subject to the separation of Cabinet and Scrutiny functions as provided for in the Local Government Act 2000, the substitute may be a member of any political group*

4.1.23.2 *There are no substitutes permitted at Cabinet or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any Scrutiny Review Group, or on the Standards Committee except as provided in Part 2 Article 7 (2.7.1.6).*

4.1.23.3 *On receiving written notice of a substitution, the Monitoring Officer or their representative at the meeting, shall include the substitute member for that meeting and shall inform the Chairman and the meeting.*

4.1.23.4 *The substitute member shall remain a member of the committee for the duration of the meeting and shall be entitled to vote and assume all of the responsibilities of the member for whom they are substituting at that meeting only.*

4 The above provisions are unlawful because

- For grouped members they may destroy the political balance required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act) and the Local Authorities (Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (the Regulations)
- Only a group leader or authorised nominee may change the nomination of a grouped member to a committee place under the Act and the Regulations (the member has no such rights)
- Council Procedure Rules cannot override a group's right to nominate substitute members for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee [although it is noted that the composition of the Committee is outlined at 4.5.2.2].
- The Regulations do not require notice of substitution to be in writing
- An ungrouped member cannot individually name a substitute because delegation to a single non executive member of a Council function is not permitted by law (such a delegation would have to be to an officer) and the allocation of committee places to ungrouped members remains a council function

5 It is recommended that the present Procedure Rule 4.1.23 should be replaced by the following wording:-

4.1.23 **Substitution**

4.1.23.1 *The Monitoring Officer on behalf of the Chief Executive may receive notice from*

a group leader or authorised nominee on behalf of that group that a different member of their group shall be substituted for the member previously allocated to a place on a committee, sub-committee or other body to which the proportionality rules apply. The giving of notice in writing no later than 3.00p.m. on the last working day prior to the date of the meeting is encouraged.

4.1.23.2 *The Monitoring Officer (in consultation with the ungrouped members concerned) may substitute another ungrouped member for an ungrouped member who has notified him in writing that he is unable to attend a meeting. Such notification must be given no later than 3.00p.m. on the last working day prior to the date of the meeting.*

- 6 Previous constitutions of the Council have outlined the rule that the substitute member shall be the substitute member for the duration of the meeting and not for individual items. It is anticipated that this custom and practice would continue.

Community Impact

- 7 There is no direct community impact on the amendment to the Procedure Rule dealing with substitute members.

Financial Implications

- 8 There are no additional costs anticipated which arise from the amendment to the Procedure Rule dealing with substitute members

Legal Implications

- 9 A change to the constitution is required to ensure that the Procedure Rules which deal with substitute members comply with the law contained in the Act and the Regulations.

Risk Management

- 10 Not complying with the law contained in the Act and Regulations could give rise to legal challenge. To mitigate this risk it is necessary to ensure appropriate compliance with the law.

Consultees

- 11 The CRWG has been consulted on the proposals and has endorsed the recommendation for consideration by Council.

Appendices

- 12 There are none.

Background Papers

The report draws on the following:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act)

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (the Regulations)



MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	LEADER'S REPORT

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards affected

County wide

Purpose

To provide an overview of the Executive's activity since the last meeting of Council and over the period of the administration

Recommendation

THAT:

The report be noted.

Report

Meeting the Financial Challenge

1. From the debate at the February meeting of Council, all members will be aware of the scale of the financial challenge we face, and of the plans we have put in place to ensure that, as far as possible, costs are taken out of the system in such a way that the impact on front line services is minimised. We have not increased council tax in 2011/12, a move mirrored by a majority of our parishes in the county, and have, over the course of this administration, delivered in the region of £15m cashable efficiency savings.
2. We have been working in close partnership with NHS Herefordshire since September 2007, and the benefits of this more integrated approach can now be seen. Not only are we better placed than many to manage our way through these leaner times, we are beginning to see the implementation of significant changes that will deliver real improvements to the health & wellbeing outcomes for the people of Herefordshire. Provision of hospital, community health and adult social care services across the county are being brought together within a single integrated care organisation. This will enable the delivery of targeted services through improved care pathways by integrated locality-based teams – in other words, ensuring that the right people get the right care, in the right place, and at the right time.
3. A further element of change has been the selection of 2gether NHS Foundation Trust to modernise and deliver mental health and learning disability services for the people of Herefordshire.
4. We have, again with our health partners, agreed an overarching shared services programme to deliver shared back office support services, including the establishment of a joint venture

company. Once fully implemented, we expect the shared services programme to be capable of delivering £4.3m savings per annum, and approximately £1.02m of these savings have already been delivered.

National Policy Developments

5. The changing landscape for children's services, and in particular for education, will lead to significant change. Already Herefordshire has four schools with academy status and a further six are considering applying. Whilst academy status affords schools greater freedoms, we continue to work in partnership with the county's school community to facilitate a 'Herefordshire family of schools' approach to enable a range of differing schools models to operate collectively to ensure strategic planning and quality assurance of education provision in the county.
6. Undoubtedly the changes to the funding formula for schools, largely brought about by the top-slicing of our dedicated schools grant (DSG) by over £1.1m in the coming two years to fund academy schools, will impact on the county's schools. We are working with the schools community, through the Schools Forum, to assess the impact and to identify options for moving forward.
7. We continue to prepare for full implementation of the health reforms set out in the Health Bill. I have already mentioned our partnership with NHS Herefordshire, and the benefits we are seeing from having adopted such an integrated approach. The partnership in Herefordshire is recognised nationally as a model of public service integration focussed on place and, I am proud to say, contributed to the development of the government's agenda. Council has, elsewhere on its agenda, a report on the establishment of a shadow Health & Wellbeing Board, for which Herefordshire is acting as an early implementer. Similarly, our county's GP Consortium is a national pathfinder, and we are working with NHS Herefordshire to secure locally response transitional arrangements to the overall health system changes.
8. The government has now published its Localism Bill which has a focus on restoration of power and responsibility to a local level. As well as providing local authorities with a general power of competence, the Bill makes provision for greater empowerment of communities both to take on provision of services and to exercise local accountability. Amongst its other provisions, proposes reforms of the planning system, changes to facilitate the social housing sector to meet demand and changes to the standards regime.
9. We have for some time been progressing in the direction set out in the Bill. We have agreed a structure for locality working and Cabinet will, during March, be considering strategies to delivery both a locality approach and a framework for engagement with our communities. We are already discussing with the Herefordshire Partnership Board how this approach can be expanded to encompass not just local authority and health services but the broader public service community in our county. A new charter between Herefordshire Council and the town and parish councils in the county is currently being developed and will provide the framework for future discussions about devolution of local services.
10. Already we have positive examples of how local services or assets can be managed effectively by the community. The Tudorville youth service building in Ross on Wye, which had hardly been used for a number of years and was declared surplus, has been transferred to a local community group and is now the focus for community activity in the area. Similarly Grange Court, the iconic black and white house in Leominster, is undergoing a £2.8m refurbishment, with financial support from a range of sources including Community Assets Programme, AWM, Community Builders Fund, Leominster Town Council and Herefordshire Council. When complete, the building will be transferred to the Leominster Area Regeneration Committee to manage for the benefit of the community. We also have a model, at Peterchurch, for community involvement in the provision of library services, with volunteers

providing library services from a multi-use building in the village.

Supporting the community and local economy

11. I must place on record my thanks to all those who contributed to the delivery of services during some of the worst winter weather the county has seen in years. Amey's gritting teams gritted 44,000 miles of road in the 2010/11 winter season to the end of 2010 compared with 23,000 miles in the equivalent period of the 2009/10 season; FOCSA, our waste collection partners missed only two days of collection during the whole period; and tribute must be paid to the many other workers, in the council and in the wider county who managed not only to get into work, but to reach vulnerable residents in often inaccessible areas, to ensure they were not left without access to services. Once again the extreme weather conditions have taken their toll not only in terms of the costs of the additional gritting runs needed, but in the aftermath of potholes that will require attention. Although clearly a challenge, given the national recognition Herefordshire received in relation to our response to the winter weather the previous winter, I am confident we will manage these impacts to the best of our abilities aided by last week's announcement of some further funding by the Government.
12. Having mentioned waste collection, it is pleasing to see that, following the introduction of the wheelie bin recycling facility in the current year we expect to collect an estimated 16,800 tones of waste for recycling from households through the fortnightly collection; some 97% of the county's households have this service.
13. Securing future economic growth and prosperity for our county has remained a constant priority throughout the period of our administration. The linkages a prosperous local economy and the health and wellbeing of a community cannot be underestimated. We have enjoyed a strong working relationship with the former Regional Development Agency and have been active in working with Shropshire and Telford Councils in setting up a Local Enterprise Partnership in response to the new coalition Government's economic agenda. To this end we have been progressing a number of key projects in the county. As well as agreeing a Broadband Strategy setting out a blueprint for rolling out broadband across the county, we are a pilot area for the delivery of superfast broadband to benefit rural and remote parts of the county.
14. With Hereford Futures we continue to deliver improvements focussed on the city but which will have benefits for the whole of the county. The new £7m Livestock Market is scheduled to open in June; we are about to commence the £4.2m Yazor Brook flood alleviation scheme, and the agreement completed with Stanhope is already proving fruitful. Hereford will host a new multiplex cinema, a new food store and a new department store are scheduled to be built in 2012. The retail development, together with the housing development being progressed with Sanctuary housing, will be the vehicle by which the essential infrastructure for the city will be improved. Electricity and drainage systems are already at capacity and improvements in the resilience and capacity of both will be secured. Transport improvements will also be delivered.
15. The historic city centre continues to receive similar focus. The future of the city can only be secured by delivery of an integrated package of improvements, which cannot and must not be seen as competing. As well as the upgrading of High Town, Eign Gate and most recently Widemarsh Street, we continue to progress the development of the Buttermarket site. The masterplan for the Edgar Street area has been significant in ensuring the continued protection of the city centre as it is used in the consideration of planning applications for out-of town retail provision.
16. The past year has seen the opening of a new school building for Earl Mortimer (formerly Minster) College in Leominster. This is in addition to new primary schools at Sutton St Nicholas and Riverside, and a further new school is in development for Leominster primary age children.

17. The number of vulnerable older people requiring care support continues to rise, as evidenced by the rise in adult safeguarding referrals to 680 in 2009/10 - a 45% increase since 08/09. I have already mentioned the development of an integrated care organisation in the county, and the associated plans to improve the range of care options available and reform the way in which care is provided. This is not a challenge that we can meet alone and the support of individuals, third and private sector providers, partners and the community as a whole will be essential in ensuring that vulnerable people throughout the county can receive high quality care when and where they need it.

Other Issues

18. In addition, Cabinet has considered the following issues:
- a) *Budget and Performance Monitoring Reports* – Cabinet considered quarterly reports on performance and revenue and capital outturn and noted actions being taken to address areas of underperformance.
 - b) *Scrutiny Reviews* – the Executive has agreed its response to three reviews completed by the scrutiny committees: those of home care services in the county, pupil achievement at swimming in key stage 2, and communications with the public about services and access. I would like to place on record my thanks to all those who have been active in the scrutiny process. The challenge provided by the overview and scrutiny function, whether in informing the development of future policy direction, reviewing a particular service we provide, or exploring an issue of concern raised by the public, is always welcome and is a visible demonstration of democracy in action.
 - c) *Local Development Framework/Local Transport Plan* – Following the resolution passed by Council in November 2010, and taking account of the subsequent publication of the Localism Bill, Cabinet has agreed the principle of conducting a community poll within the context of wider consultation on the framework. Cabinet has also proposed a revised timetable for the development of the framework and, as an interim measure, the re-adoption of the current Local Transport Plan; a report on this matter appears elsewhere on Council's agenda.
 - d) *Third Sector Support* - Cabinet considered the outcome of a review of the support and development services provided to the voluntary and community sector and agreed the principles for future delivery of these services. The third sector in the county has always been active and highly valued; as we embrace the principles of the Big Society, the role of the third sector will increase and it is essential that, whilst recognising the financial constraints we are all operating in, we work together to ensure that voluntary and community groups across the county receive efficient and effective support and development services to enable them to thrive in the future.
 - e) *Capital & Asset Management* – Cabinet, alongside our NHS Herefordshire partners, approved a joint capital & asset management strategy setting out our approach to capital investment & disposal to deliver core priorities.
19. This is the last Council meeting of this current administration and I should like to place on record my thanks to all the officers and members of this authority, partners and community organisations who have supported me in delivering a wide and comprehensive programme of services and activities to our County. We have seen a considerable amount of capital investment particularly in our schools and roads, the overwhelming majority backed by supportive borrowing from Government together with our own prudential investments which I believe strengthens Herefordshire's economic and community wellbeing.

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	04 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2010 – 2011
MEMBERSHIP:	R ROGERS (CHAIRMAN) (INDEPENDENT MEMBER), J BHARIER (INDEPENDENT MEMBER), I FOX (INDEPENDENT MEMBER), R GETHING (PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE), J HARDWICK (PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE), D STEVENS (INDEPENDENT MEMBER), J STONE (LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE), B WILLIAMS (LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE).

CLASSIFICATION: Open.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the Council of the main activities of the Committee during the period from January 2010 to February 2011.

The work of the Committee

1. The past year has proved to be another extremely busy time for the Committee. To assist with the workload, consideration sub-committees and hearing sub-committees have been established in addition to the existing assessment and review sub-committees. This arrangement affords the committee greater flexibility and fewer opportunities for conflicts of interest at the various complaint stages. Every sub-committee comprises a minimum of three members, with an independent member in the Chair, and for parish and town council matters, at least one parish and town council representative.
2. As a further response to the Committee's increased level of activity, on 28 May 2010, Council appointed David Stevens as Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

3. I have said when presenting previous reports to Council that the Committee warmly welcomed the introduction of the local filter and so the local ownership of the complaints process. However, the Committee has remained uneasy about the complexity and cost of the process, especially when cases go to appeal. As I note below, this present system is to be abolished through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill at present before Parliament. The successor arrangements are at present in outline with details to be settled, but the Committee has some concerns about the prospects. I return to this point below.
4. During the period under review, the administrative handling of cases has greatly improved and the delays which concerned us greatly during the previous year have been dealt with. We have maintained our excellent relationship and close co-operation with the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, collaborating on training and on other matters affecting the County's Town and Parish Councils.
5. We also welcomed Chris Chapman as the new Assistant Director - Law and Governance, and so as Monitoring Officer our principal adviser.

How complaints are being dealt with – January 2010 to February 2011

Assessment Sub-Committee

6. Complaints cases continue to be determined locally, and we dealt with 47 complaints between January 2010 and February 2011. Out of these:
 - 33 required no further action;
 - 10 were referred to the Monitoring Officer for training;
 - 1 was referred to the Monitoring Officer for written guidance; and
 - 3 were referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.
 - Of the 47 complaints, 36 were made about parish/town councillors; and 11 were about Herefordshire Councillors
7. Just over half of all allegations were about bullying, failing to treat others with respect, or breaching the Equality Act 2006 (Paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct). There were also a significant number of allegations relating to members bringing their office into disrepute (Paragraph 5 of the Code). Other allegations were about aspects of members failing to declare interests (Paragraphs 8-12 of the Code), and members using their positions to secure an advantage for themselves (Paragraph 6 of the Code).
8. Of the 36 complaints against parish or town councillors, 30 related to members of the same council. The Monitoring Officer undertook training with all members for 14 of those complaints; 16 required no further action. Of the remaining 6 parish/town council complaints, 4 were referred for training, 1 required no further action, and 1 was incorporated into an ongoing investigation.
9. In respect of Herefordshire Councillors, no action was required in 6 cases, 3 cases were referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action, such as training or written guidance, and 2 were referred for investigation.

Review Sub-Committee

10. In cases when the Assessment Sub-Committee decides that no further action is required, complainants are entitled to ask for a review of the complaint, which is looked at by an entirely different panel of members. The Review Sub-Committee dealt with 6 cases during the period, re-examined each case from scratch, but in no instance reversed the decision of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

Consideration Sub-Committee

11. The Consideration Sub-Committee looks at investigation reports, and can either decide to hold a hearing, or in cases where the Investigating Officer has not found a breach of the Code, to accept the report and take no further action. The Sub-Committee dealt with 8 cases during the period, and decided that hearings were required in respect of 5 of these. The Sub-Committee decided that there had been no breach of the Code in 3 cases, and these are now closed.

Hearing Sub-Committee

12. We held one hearing in 2010, and a breach of the Code was found in this case, with sanctions being imposed on the parish councillor concerned. In relation to an earlier hearing involving a different parish councillor, there is a continuing appeal process in which the Standards Committee's decision was upheld by the First-Tier Tribunal. However, the councillor concerned has since appealed to the Upper Tribunal.

Governance Issues

13. The Monitoring Officer's team is close to concluding a significant piece of work in relation to a Direction from Standards for England. This relates to a case of multiple complaints brought against members of one town council. Standards for England had directed the Monitoring Officer to take action locally, requiring conciliation, training and governance. A programme of ongoing support and mentoring has also been provided. Standards for England have been complimentary about the way that this difficult situation has been handled.
14. One common emerging theme, particularly in instances when multiple complaints are made about parish or town councils, is that many complaints are related to governance issues. We continue to encourage ethical governance, and feel there is merit in developing training for parish and town councils on this aspect.

Outlook: The Future of the Local Government Standards Framework

15. The Decentralisation and Localism Bill was introduced to the House of Commons on 13 December 2010, and it will bring significant changes to the way that complaints about councillors are handled. The Bill gives some guidance about the arrangements that could be put in place locally to deal with matters when the Standards regime ceases. The Bill includes the following provisions:
 - (a) **Code of conduct** - local authorities can make their own decisions about how to regulate the conduct of their members. However, new criminal offences will be introduced regarding members who fail to register or disclose interests when participating in local authority business.

- (b) **Standards for England** - this is to be abolished, and the statutory provisions requiring reports to be submitted to it, together with certain complaints being referred to it, are to be repealed.
 - (c) **Codes of Conduct** - there is a duty for local authorities to ensure that members and co-opted members maintain a high standard of conduct. Unlike the Local Government Act 2000 which requires local authorities to have adopted a code of conduct. However, the Bill proposes that local authorities may adopt codes of conduct but it does not oblige them to do so. The present codes of conduct will cease to have effect and a local authority will be able to revise its code of conduct, adopt a replacement code, or simply withdraw its code without replacing it.
 - (d) **Alleged breaches of codes of conduct** - under the proposals, if a local authority receives an allegation that a member has acted in breach of the code, it must consider whether it is appropriate to investigate it and, if it decides that an investigation is appropriate, it must investigate in the manner it thinks fit. If an authority finds that a member or co-opted member has failed to comply with its code of conduct, the Bill says that it may have regard to the failure in deciding what if any action to take. For example, a local authority might decide that it is necessary to censure a member or to restrict his or her access to the local authority's officers, premises and facilities.
 - (e) **Members' interests** - In order to maintain high standards of behaviour by councillors, the existing requirement for councillors to register certain personal interests on a publicly available register will be retained. This requirement ensures that councillors do not put their personal interests above the public interest when dealing with items of council business to which those interests may relate. It provides transparency and will help the electorate to hold councillors to account. A deliberate failure to register and disclose interests will become a new criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £5,000, and an order for disqualification.
 - (f) **Standards Committees** - the requirement for local authorities in England to establish standards committees will be abolished. The functions of standards committees in England to consider applications for posts to be exempt from political restriction will become the responsibility of the head of paid service.
 - (g) **Predetermination** - a decision maker is not to be regarded as having approached a decision with a closed mind if they have given a previous indication of their view on a matter. This applies when there is an issue of allegation of bias or predetermination which affects the validity of a decision. This is intended to ensure that councillors do not feel unable or uncertain about what they may do in terms of championing local issues.
16. Until the new legislation is passed, the statutory framework remains in place and complaints are still being dealt with in the same way. We have concerns about the conduct regulation becoming entirely voluntary, and about how practical the new arrangements will be to administer.

17. There are in addition broader questions to be addressed. The current arrangements, and the more bureaucratic regime which preceded them, were designed to give the public confidence in local governance and government. So what will be the best way of demonstrating and maintaining high standards of conduct, and will it meet the expectation of our citizens and council tax payers?
18. In the first instance we are asking the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils to ensure that these issues are raised in this year's Annual Meetings of Town and Parish Councils, so that we have some initial views. It may also be that the forthcoming Council elections will give a further indication. Thereafter, assuming that the present statutory framework is still in place until a little while into the new mandate, this will be something on which our successor Committee will want both to consult the new Council and to take wider soundings in the County, perhaps with the assistance of our local media. I hope that Councillors find the report helpful. I welcome any comments upon it, and especially on the issues raised in the final section.

**ROBERT ROGERS
CHAIRMAN
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Agendas for the meetings of the Standards Committee held during 2010-2011.



MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011
MEMBERSHIP:	TW HUNT (CHAIRMAN), RV STOCKTON (VICE-CHAIRMAN), ACR CHAPPELL, PGH CUTTER, H DAVIES, GFM DAWE, DW GREENOW, KS GUTHRIE, JW HOPE, B HUNT, G LUCAS, RI MATTHEWS, MRS PM MORGAN, MRS JE PEMBERTON, AP TAYLOR, DC TAYLOR, WJ WALLING, PJ WATTS AND JD WOODWARD.

CLASSIFICATION: This is an open report.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the Council of the activities of the Committee during the previous year.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW COMMITTEE SYSTEM

1. The new arrangements for the Planning Committee came into force in January last year within phase one of the revised constitution, and new way of delivering planning services. The aim was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning system and to give greater clarity to the public about the way in which planning applications are dealt with.
2. The new approach has allowed a re-modelling of the whole service to reflect best practice and includes a revised scheme of delegation to officers. A major factor in the process is a much greater recognition of the important role of local ward members and that they should have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the application process for their area. Case officers notify ward members about applications arising in their wards and ward members have a role as advocates and are able to debate, discuss and have an involvement in applications. Local views can be made known to officers to help decide if application are referred to the Committee or dealt with it under delegated powers. Potential Section 106 agreements can be

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Pete Martens, Democratic Services (01432) 260248

discussed with local parish and town councils and liaison with the section 106 officer and case officer take place. At meetings of the Committee, ward members are able to open and close a debate and the Chairman has discretion to permit their further involvement in the discussion.

3. Initially the Committee met on a monthly basis but it soon became apparent that due to the type of applications being considered and greater and time needed for ward members to give their views in addition to public speakers, additional meetings were needed. The cycle was therefore changed so that the committee now meets every three weeks. This has overcome the problem of some meetings proving to be fairly lengthy and sometimes having to be split into morning and afternoon sessions to help with accommodating public speakers.
4. The Committee has been consulted by the Cabinet Member, Environment and Strategic Housing, about a new enforcement policy and dealt with the applications referred to it as follows:

approved as recommended – 27

approved contrary to recommendation – 9

refused contrary to recommendation - 12

**T.W. HUNT
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agendas for the meetings of the Planning Committee held between June 2010 & February 2011.



MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011
MEMBERSHIP:	JW HOPE MBE (CHAIRMAN), PGH CUTTER, CM BARTRUM, SPA DANIELS, JHR GOODWIN, RC HUNT, P JONES CBE, PJ MCCAULL, GS POWELL, A SELDON AND JD WOODWARD.

CLASSIFICATION: Open.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To note the main activities of the Committee during the period June 2010 – February 2011.

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTIONS 118 & 119 – PUBLIC FOOTPATH DIVERSION ORDERS

1. The Committee has granted 14 applications for Public Path Diversion Orders for which there has been agreement with interested parties, user groups, the local parish councils and the local Ward Councillors.

REVIEW OF THE LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY - LICENSING ACT 2003

- 2 The Committee has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Licensing Policy, and the Cumulative Impact Policy for the Commercial Road area of Hereford. The policies were introduced in early 2005 under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and relate to the control of public entertainment, alcohol sales and consumption, and the prevention of associated anti-social behaviour in designated areas. There is a requirement under the legislation for the Council to review the policies every three years. Section 4 of the Licensing Act requires Local Licensing Authorities to promote the following objectives within their policies:-
 - a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - b) public safety;
 - c) the prevention of public nuisance
 - d) the protection of children from harm.

- 3 Part 3 of the functions Scheme of the Constitution adopted by Council in November 2010 stipulates that the policies should be approved by Council. The Committee is in favour of the Licensing Policy and the cumulative Impact Policy being adopted but notes that a further review might be necessary during forthcoming months due to pending changes to the legislation regarding licensed premises.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:

the Licensing Policy and the Cumulative Impact Policy, Licensing Act 2003, as submitted to the Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 1st February 2011 be adopted, subject to any subsequent review which may be required.

ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE 3 TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISC PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

4. The Committee has considered matters regarding the adoption of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the amendments created by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. The legislation empowers local authorities to licence “sex establishments” and the introduction of the amendment under the Policing and Crime Act also includes ‘sexual entertainment venues”. This new category covers venues that provide entertainment which is defined as “*any live performance or display of nudity which is of such a nature that, it must be reasonably assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience*”. Under the legislation, local authorities are allowed to set a limit on the number of such establishments they consider appropriate for a particular locality. It also requires that Council be responsible for adopting Schedule 3 and the Committee commends that it be adopted to enable the regulation of such establishments in Herefordshire

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:

Schedule 3 and the amendments of Section 27 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982) which gives power to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues be adopted by the Council.

EVENING VISIT TO TOWN CENTRE VENUES IN HEREFORD BY MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND POLICE

5. In the early summer, Members of the Committee were been escorted throughout the city centre by the Police in order to monitor issues dealt with by them in respect of licensing matters.

2 % UPLIFT ON THE TAXI LICENCE FEES AND CHARGES - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

6. The Committee has approved a 2% increase on taxi licence fees and charges for the current financial year. The fees had not been increased since April 2007 and the uplift was part of an overall requirement by the Council that fees and charges should be reviewed. The increase was in line with Central Government and Audit Commission guidance at the time and also part of the Council’s charging policy which was being developed for its services. The Committee noted that the increase might need subsequent revision to ensure full cost accounting and cost recovery and the Officers will be undertaking a more detailed review of this matter.
7. A request was subsequently received from the hackney carriage/private hire trade for a reduction in the licence fee for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. A new supplier for the on-vehicle licence plates had been found who could provide them at a

more competitive price and also met the latest safety requirements. The Committee agreed to a pro-rata decrease in the vehicle licence fee in the sum of £23 to reflect the cost of a new plate.

APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AT ARGYLL RISE, BELMONT, HEREFORD AS A TOWN GREEN

8. An application from a local residents group to register land at Argyll Rise Belmont as a Town Green has been considered. The land is part of a larger area which had been purchased for housing purposes in 1959 by the former Hereford City Council under the powers of the Housing Act 1957 and was subsequently laid out as open space as part of the surrounding housing development during the 1970s. In November 2002 the land was one of a number of open spaces included in a transfer of the Council's housing stock to Herefordshire Housing Ltd.
9. The application was to determine whether the land had been used as open space 'as of right', in which case it could be registered as a Town Green and prevented from being developed for housing. The Committee received a detailed presentation by the applicants and the Housing Association, and was advised by a QC. Having considered the matter in some considerable detail, the Committee felt that on the balance of probabilities from the evidence provided, it could not be determined that the open space had been enjoyed 'as of right' and accordingly, the application was rejected.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR REGULATORY COMMITTEE

10. At its meeting on 19th November, 2010 Council had approved changes to the Constitution and these came into effect from 1st February, following consultation with key stakeholders. This involved the Committee and officers from the legal team together with those concerned with safeguarding, licensing and footpath diversions. Another part of the process was the creation officer review panel to deal with certain taxi licensing matters. Applications for taxi driver licences and school contract drivers were subject to different legislation. The officer panel would help the Council to fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities by introducing consistency in between the two service areas regarding the granting of driver licences.
11. The Committee has decided that the Regulatory Sub-Committee, in addition to its existing duties, will hear appeals arising from the refusal of taxi driver applications and officer panel recommendations for the revocation of existing licences. The Sub-Committee will also deal with footpath/bridleway diversion applications with major issues to be resolved. The Committee feel that the changes will give greater flexibility to it by removing the need to deal with relatively routine matters and free it up for the more strategic matters, policy issues and the performance of those departments which are involved with regulatory matters.

REVIEW OF THREE YEAR ROLLING PROGRAMME FOR DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCES

12. Investigation has been made into problems arising from a number of drivers who had failed to renew their driver's licences; or provide the necessary evidence of a CRB check; or medical renewal when necessary. The three-year rolling programme for dual hackney carriage/private hire driver's licences was introduced in April, 2007 and includes a requirement that drivers needed to provide an annual self-declaration regarding the status of their medical and their CRB. The Council's budgeting arrangements also required drivers to pay an annual fee, rather than a single payment to cover each three-year period. The Committee decided that the rolling programme

should continue for the time being but that those drivers who fail to make the necessary payment or provide the required information within a prescribed timescale should be given an automatic suspension.

APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

13. Applications for the reinstatement, renewal or grant of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licences have been referred to the Committee in accordance with the Council's terms and conditions and the advice on the interpretation of spent convictions and medical requirements. Incidents involving the conduct of drivers have also been heard. Applications for the renewal or transfer of vehicle licenses have also been submitted to the Committee in cases where applicants were late with their applications and were in breach of the Council's licensing conditions, or they wished to transfer a licence to a vehicle that does not comply with those conditions.
14. The applicants, licence holders and their representatives gave details of the grounds for their applications and provided the Committee with their personal circumstances. In the case of the applications for vehicle licences, the applicants explained the circumstances which had prevented them from renewing their licences within the Council's prescribed timescale or why they wanted to transfer their licenses.
15. The applications were dealt with as follows:
 - a. two applicants were allowed to renew their vehicle licences outside the prescribed timeframe because of particular problems they had encountered or the Committee felt that the timeframe between expiry and the application for renewal was small enough to be acceptable;
 - b. an application for a 'Tuk Tuk' (a motorcycle powered rickshaw) was approved to operate in certain areas of Hereford City because it will assist with the promotion of tourism;
 - c. eleven applications for the grant or reinstatement of drivers licenses were permitted because the Committee is satisfied that evidence has been given by the applicants, licence holders and officers that they are fit and proper persons to be licensed;
 - d. eight applications for drivers licenses were refused because the Committee is not satisfied that evidence has been given by the applicants that they are fit and proper persons to be licensed;
 - e. two drivers licences were been revoked because of incidents which no longer rendered them fit and proper persons to be licensed; and
 - f. two drivers licences which had been suspended were reinstated because they had provided evidence which satisfied the Committee that they were fit and proper persons.

**JW HOPE MBE
CHAIRMAN, REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers from meetings of the Committee held between June 2010 & February 2011.



MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011
MEMBERSHIP	ACR CHAPPELL (CHAIRMAN), MJ FISHLEY, JHR GOODWIN, AW JOHNSON, PJ MCCAULL, RH SMITH AND AM TOON

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the council of the activities of the above Committee between May 2010 and January 2011 and to note the report, which is for information.

AUDIT FEE LETTER 2010/11 AND AUDIT OPINION PLAN

- 1 The committee received a report of the work undertaken for the 2010/11 financial year by the Audit Commission and the Commission's total indicative fee for 2010/11. The committee noted the major areas of specific risks and the Commission's response on how each risk area would be addressed. The committee noted the content of the Annual Audit Fee Letter and the content of the Audit Opinion Plan.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009/10

- 2 The committee received a report which requested the committee's approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement. The report brought together all the council's controls into one document and demonstrated the effectiveness of those controls. The committee approved the Annual Governance Statement 2009-10 for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts for 2009-10.

AUDIT PLAN 2010/11

- 3 The committee received the 2010/11 Audit Plan and resolved that the Plan be adopted.

AUDIT SERVICES ASSURANCE REPORT 2009/10

- 4 The committee received a report which updated members on the status of various items of work and drew the committee's attention to key control issues. This was an end of year report and closed down three previous interim reports. The committee noted that the overall system of internal control environment had been given a satisfactory audit opinion, and resolved that the report be noted.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tony Ford, Chief Internal Auditor (01432) 260425

- 5 The committee received the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts, and noted that that on 23 June 2010 a workshop was held that covered in detail the Statement of Accounts. The committee resolved that the Statement of Accounts for 2009/10 be approved.

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

- 6 The committee received a progress report on the risk recommendations implementation. The committee was reminded that a partnership approach had been adopted for the council and NHS Herefordshire and this was reflected in the report and recommendations. The review had been extensive and had raised the profile of risk management as an important part of the day to day work of directorates. Risk management was also embedded within systems at the PCT and seen as a useful tool. The committee noted the progress to date.

WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

- 7 The committee received a report about the committee's Work Programme for 2010/11. The committee noted that after 17 January 2011 there would be no Use of Resources Inspection. The committee resolved to approve the current work programme as a basis for future agenda items, with the addition of a review of Internal Audit for the September meeting, and deletion of Use of Resources (Audit Commission) from the January meeting.

INTERIM AUDIT SERVICES ASSURANCE REPORT 2010/11 (NO.1)

- 8 The committee received the Interim Audit Services Assurance Report 2010/11 and noted, in particular, Appendix 1 of the report, which drew attention to the status of the Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 significant governance issues. The committee noted that the audits on car park income were rated unsatisfactory, and that there was no evidence of fraud.

STATEMENT ON MAJOR PROJECTS

- 9 The committee received a report on Major Projects. The committee noted that spending, at £77.7m, was substantial, although much had been funded through government capital grants. The committee noted that the aim of the report was to provide visibility on the programme and the direction the authority was taking.

CREDITOR PAYMENT AUTHORISATION

- 10 The committee received a report outlining the present position with creditor payments with particular reference to the last quarter. The committee noted that due to a change in personnel there had been some creditor vouchers returned, but that this was being dealt with through training. The committee agreed that due to increases in the returns for the Children and Young People Directorate and the Sustainable Communities Directorate, a report should be tabled at the next meeting of the committee.

REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

- 11 The committee received a report on the internal audit review. The committee noted that, of the 107 CIPFA standards, Audit had met 100 completely and seven in part. The committee was reassured that the Chief Internal Auditor was in regular contact with the Chairman regarding any audit issues. The committee noted the report.

DATA QUALITY UPDATE

- 12 The committee received a report giving an update on data quality. This was the final data quality report as it was part of the Use of Resources Assessment that had now ceased. The committee noted that seven tasks were still 'amber' with two still requiring a response from data sharing partners for completion. It was noted that considerable chasing for responses had been carried out, but it was unlikely that any

response would now be received. The committee resolved that the final position against the data quality action plan be noted.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

- 13 The committee received a report from the Technical Accounting Manager on International Financial Reporting Standards and noted that, although there had been some slippage with the work programme because officers had been working on the Local Government Finance Settlement, it was expected that the programme would be back on track and key elements achieved by the end of March.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2009/10

- 14 The committee received a report from the District Auditor, who advised that the council had received unqualified approval of the accounts. The committee resolved that the content of the Annual Governance Report for 2009/10 was to be discussed with the external auditor; that the action plan in the Annual Governance Report in response to the recommendations contained in the report for 2009/10 be approved; and that the draft Letter of Representation be approved for signature by the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Director of Resources (Council).

NOTE ON THE ABOLITION OF AUDIT COMMISSION

- 15 The District Auditor referred the Committee to the government announcement that the Audit Commission would be abolished. She advised that a new regime had not been decided by government and that the Commission would carry on providing an audit for 2010/11 and 2011/12. However, there would be a change in the areas relating to value for money and financial resilience; and there would, therefore, be some rebate in the fees. By 2012/13, councils would be able to appoint their own auditor and it was expected that private companies would be expected to tender.

MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

- 16 The committee received the monitoring officer's report, which covered the activities throughout the year, and the council's performance for 2009/10 relating to complaints to the Ombudsman and the standards framework. The committee resolved that the report be noted and comments fed back to the monitoring officer.

INTERIM AUDIT ASSURANCE REPORT 2010/11 (NO2)

- 17 The committee was updated on progress on committee resolutions and progress on the Audit Plan. The committee was also informed of the unsatisfactory audit opinion given to Earl Mortimer College.

RE-PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

- 18 The committee was informed of the pending market testing of the internal audit service, with a view to an external supplier providing internal audit services from 1 April 2011.

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

- 19 The committee received a report which captured the key points to the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter, and noted the unqualified opinion on the council's financial statement and also the unqualified value for money conclusion stating that the council had satisfactory arrangements. The District Auditor stated that the council had sound financial accounts and welcomed the changes to the planning service and committee as a good example of the council acting quickly following the comments of the previous audit report. The committee resolved that the Annual Audit Letter and action plan be noted.

INTERIUM AUDIT SERVICES ASSURANCE REPORT 2010/11 (NO3)

- 20 The committee was updated on progress on committee resolutions and progress on the Audit Plan. The committee was also update on progress regarding the market testing of the audit service

REVISED AUDIT STRATEGY AND AUDIT CHARTER 2010

- 21 The committee noted amendments which had been made to the Revised Audit Strategy and Audit Charter 2010. Members noted there had been input from directors individually and from the joint management team. The committee resolved that the revised 2010/11 Audit Strategy and Audit Charter be approved.

AGRESSO PROJECT UPDATE

- 22 The committee received an update on the Agresso project, which would come into force on the 1 April. The committee noted that the system would manage internal and external resources and would be used across the three organisations of Herefordshire Council, NHS Herefordshire and Herefordshire Hospitals Trust. The committee noted that as part of the audit plan the controls for Agresso would be examined and reported on.

ACR CHAPPELL CHAIRMAN

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Agenda for meetings of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee held on 29 June 2010, 17 September 2010, 12 November 2010 and 17 January 2011.

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010-2011
MEMBERSHIP	COUNCILLORS: PA ANDREWS, WLS BOWEN, ME COOPER, PJ EDWARDS, AE GRAY, KG GRUMBLEY, TM JAMES, RI MATTHEWS, PM MORGAN, AT OLIVER, PJ WATTS.

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny function from May 2010 to February 2011.

Introduction and Background

- 1 This report summarises the work undertaken by the six Scrutiny Committees from May 2010 to February 2011. This summary will form the basis of a fuller Herefordshire Council Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2010/11 which will be published and made available on the website.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE SCRUTINY FUNCTION IN 2010-11

2. **The following scrutiny reviews have been completed this year:**
- A review of Volunteering in Herefordshire - the Executive's response to the review was accepted, noting that the Executive had agreed the review's recommendations
 - A review of Home Care in Herefordshire – the Executive's response is currently under consideration because of need to assess implications of Comprehensive Spending Review and changes within the health and social care system.
 - A review of the effects of the Winter Weather in late 2009 and early 2010 and the response to it. The Executive's response to the review was accepted, noting that the Executive had agreed the review's recommendations, with their implementation to be within existing resources.
 - A review of Communication with the Public about Services and Access to those Services – Executive's response to the review was accepted noting that the Executive had accepted the majority of the recommendations.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on (01432) 262039

- Review of Pupil Achievement in Swimming at Key Stage 2 – the Executive has accepted the recommendations.
- Review of the strategic direction of the Edgar Street Grid – submitted to the Executive for consideration and awaiting a response.

3 **The following scrutiny reviews were previously completed but have received a response, or update from the Executive this year:**

- Review of the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-25.
- Review of Community Engagement in the Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership.
- Review of the support to Carers in Herefordshire
- Review of Transition from leaving care to adult life
- Review of on-street parking
- Review of GP Services.

4 **Scrutiny Reviews in Progress**

There are no reviews in progress at the moment recognising that the work to be undertaken by the scrutiny function will need to be given consideration following the Council elections.

Scrutiny Meetings

5. The scrutiny committees have considered a range of other matters at their meetings.

6. The **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee** has

- Considered the work of the Adult Safeguarding Board. The Committee noted progress on adult safeguarding in Herefordshire and suggested consideration should be given to the inclusion of an Elected Member on the Adult Safeguarding Board; and recommended that safeguarding should be adequately and appropriately funded.
- Monitored the adult social care budget and highlighted that despite regular assurances that the suitable accounting mechanisms for the Frameworki package would be available, its implementation was still awaited. Given the extreme pressures on the Adult Social Care budget the Committee considered it was imperative that the Directorate should have this tool available so that immediate budgetary management was made possible. The Committee also welcomed the realignment of budgets, on the assumption that they would now be sufficient to cope with the number of clients with acute needs that the Service had to deal with.

The Committee also expressed concern about the pressures on the adult social care budget, noting the efforts being made by the Service to stay within budget, but considering that the basic budget for this demand led service remained inadequate and it was unlikely that the deficit would be reduced significantly by the end of the financial year.

Noted with disappointment the length of time that discussions over the contract with Shaw Healthcare had taken.

- Considered progress with the mental health procurement project.
- Considered progress against Putting People First – the Government’s agenda for transforming the Adult Social Care Service.
- Received a report on the 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Reviewed the outcome of the Audit Commission’s inspection of Strategic Housing Services.
- Noted with concern the lack of suitable affordable housing in the County for vulnerable children and young adults.

7. The **Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee** has

- Invited Halo Leisure to explain how swimming tuition for schools had developed over the preceding 6 months. The Committee recommended that Halo continue to compile a database on pupil/ school swimming attainment; and continue to expand the training of teachers to assist in giving swimming lessons. The discussion with Halo informed a short scrutiny review of swimming provision at Key stage 2.
- Monitored the budget and in doing so recommended the Cabinet Member(s) take steps to ensure that all grant funding obtained is fully utilised and that it is done in an efficient, effective and timely way to ensure there is minimal repayment to the grant making body. The Committee also asked that the Cabinet Member(s) to give consideration to whether it would be more cost effective for additional provision to be made locally for looked after children and children with complex needs.
- Considered the capital budget and in doing so recommended that a full report on how major school building projects had been administered e.g. Riverside Primary School, be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that learning and good practice was being incorporated into future projects.
- Considered performance and recommended that Cabinet Member(s) consider an earlier implementation date for the 24/7 emergency telephone response required to meet National Indicator 51; and that closer working arrangements be brought about between the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and child psychology service.
- Considered the outcome of a seminar on activity to support and enable children and young people’s economic wellbeing in Herefordshire.
- Found good progress has been made since the establishment of the Herefordshire Traveller Achievement Service in September 2009. The Service was designed to establish effective integrated Children and Young People’s service provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and families. The Committee requested a further report monitoring the sustained year-on-year impact of the Children and Young Peoples’ Plan in relation to benchmarking existing outcomes for GRT children; setting targets that narrow achievement gaps for GRT children; and the targeting of resources towards improving outcomes for GRT Children. The Committee also requested that the Cabinet Member bring to the attention of all Members of the Council their responsibility towards GRT Children.
- Considered an overview of government initiatives affecting Children’s Services. Amongst other things the Committee recommended that the Cabinet Member(s) consider whether the Youth Service could provide any support towards those Playbuilder schemes ready to proceed so that the impetus at community level isn’t lost; and that the Cabinet Member(s) ensure that there are clear, fully coordinated, joined up links in the 16-19 area to ensure that young people have clear information and assistance during their transition to adult life.

- Considered work on sustainable school provision in the County given the decline in overall pupil numbers in the County.
- Considered standards in the Early Years Foundation Stage and in the primary school phase and attainment and progress of pupils in the secondary phase of maintained schools in the County.
- Been advised of the outcome of the OFSTED inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services.
- Called in Cabinet's decision that Dilwyn Church of England Primary school be discontinued, concluding by accepting Cabinet's decision.
- Considered the partnership priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014.
- Considered the position in respect of mobile working for children's social workers and support workers within the County. Amongst other things the Committee supported the proposal for ICT technical options to be identified between the Children and Young People's Directorate and ICT Services to find a suitable and cost effective way for staff to work in a more mobile way; and for all Herefordshire children's workplaces, including children's centres and the proposed locality "hubs" to have capacity and connectivity for staff to connect to the network when in the locality.

8. The **Community Services Scrutiny Committee** has:

- Scrutinised the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership focusing on performance against national indicators within the joint corporate plan: NI 21 dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police; NI30 to reduce the reoffending rate of prolific and other priority offenders; NI39 to reduce alcohol harm related hospital admission rates and NI40 to increase the number of people in effective drug treatment.

The Committee appointed a Review Group to carry out this scrutiny work. The Group reported back to the Committee with recommendations for the Committee to consider. The Committee has recommended that this approach to the scrutiny of crime and disorder matters should be continued.

- Considered the findings of the independent review of the Destination Management Partnership responsible for the operation of Herefordshire's Tourism promotion. The Committee has also considered a report on the future of tourism and tourist information centres in the County. The Committee expressed concern regarding the potential loss of skills as a result of the closure of Tourist Information Centres in the County, and urged the Cabinet Member Economic Development and Community Services to take urgent note of this in any redeployment of staff.
- In addition to carrying out a review of the strategic direction of the Edgar Street Grid project the Committee has received regular updates on the project.
- Received an update on the relocation of the open retail market from the former cattle market site to Commercial Street, Hereford.
- Considered and commented on the proposals contained within a report on third sector support and development services on the future provision of support services to front line voluntary and community organisations.

9. The **Environment Scrutiny Committee** has:

- Received the annual presentation of the Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation. The Committee requested him to take up in the strongest terms the matters concerning the lack of local train capacity and station facilities with the train companies. The Committee also requested that local Member(s) be informed when any serious incident or accident occur on roads in their ward;
- Received the annual presentation of the Cabinet Member – Environment and Strategic Housing. The Committee requested him to note the concern of the Committee that the enforcement of planning conditions was far from satisfactory and the Committee wished to see continued improvements in this area. The Committee also requested the Cabinet Member to press Welsh Water and other bodies concerned to deal with the issue of unadopted sewers as soon as possible.
- Received an update on the Council's plans to reduce carbon emissions. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the Herefordshire Environment Partnership. It encouraged all Directorates to make every effort to establish accurate baseline data to ensure that true carbon savings are achieved. The Committee also supported the work on how financial savings could be made through the carbon reduction plan.
- Considered an overview of progress on Herefordshire Schools Travel Plans and the contribution that reducing travel to school by car makes to reducing carbon emissions. The Committee requested that new build school schemes incorporate lessons learned from previous schemes e.g. Riverside, on designing in the best and safest routes to school for pupils thereby encouraging walking and cycling.

The Committee also requested an investigation into whether the school mini bus fleet is fully utilised be investigated; and that Chairs of school governing bodies be reminded of the importance school travel plans have in contributing to carbon reductions in the County.

- Considered a report outlining the results of the Council vehicle fleet review undertaken in response to concerns expressed by the Committee about the management of the vehicle fleet. The Committee supported the aim to rationalise the vehicle fleet and ensure that vehicles used are the best for the job, energy efficient, produce low CO2 emissions and present a good example to members of the public.
- Received an update on the operation of the single Planning Committee and the planning enforcement function following on from an earlier scrutiny review of the service.
- Received a presentation by the Local Access Forum on the Forum's work.
- Considered the operation of the public rights of way service, including the respective responsibility of Amey and the Council, current performance and progress towards achieving desired outcomes. Amongst other things the Committee agreed that the possibility of obtaining funding from other 'partners' who benefit from the public using the rights of way network e.g. NHS, tourism should be investigated; further consideration be given to how the public are informed about route closures, particularly major tourist routes, on the PROW network; and consideration be given to approaching the National Farmers Union to urge them to remind their members of their responsibilities concerning any Public Right of Way over their property.
- Received an update on progress in developing the Local Development Framework.

- Received an update on progress in developing the Local Transport Plan and subsequently commented on the emerging Strategy. The Committee recommended that the Executive take particular account of the higher range of traffic volume estimates when formulating the Local Transport Plan; and ensured that the Council maximises any funding opportunities for transport issues.
- Received an update on the work of the West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership and recommended that an awareness campaign be initiated to highlight to the agricultural community the contribution they can make to improving road safety.
- Received an update to see whether any issues had arisen following the opening of the Colwall railway bridge and in doing so requested that a report be presented on the number and condition of road bridges over railway lines for which the Council has any liability for maintenance.
- Considered the Council's performance on environmental issues in 2009/10 in relation to commitments made, in particular in the environmental policy and corporate plan.
- Received an update on planned improvements for rail services and facilities in Herefordshire and agreed to invite the key providers of rail services and facilities in the County to a future meeting to discuss issues of concern.
- Received an update on the Connect 2 Greenway scheme prior to submission of a planning application for the scheme.

10. The **Health Scrutiny Committee** has

- Received regular updates from the Chief Executives of Health Trusts responsible for health care in the County providing assurance to the Committee about health services.
- Received the annual report of the Director of Public Health
- Revised its work programme to include a particular focus on population health issues. This has included what Herefordshire Public Services are doing to address alcohol misuse and smoking.

improve people's diet and take up of exercise, suggesting all Councillors should be encouraged to champion this work in schools and in the Community.

improve access to health services with a particular focus on dental services.
- Considered the mental health procurement project seeking clarification on how the new arrangements will improve services and benefit service users and their carers and deliver value for money. The Committee has also requested that any significant proposals to vary the range and location of service are referred to it for consideration. It has also registered concerns at the length of time taken to conduct the procurement exercise and requested that officers undertake a review to see what lessons can be learned from this exercise with the outcome of the review to be reported to the Committee.
- Considered the Herefordshire Service Integration programme designed to deliver a new integrated model of health and social care provision in Herefordshire through an integrated care organisation under one management structure composed of an integrated NHS Trust combining community and acute health services. The Committee welcomed the aspiration underpinning the proposals but emphasised the importance of both the NHS Herefordshire

Board, the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust Board and the Cabinet satisfying themselves that the proposals are sustainable in terms of cost.

- Welcomed the assurance provided to it that the response in Herefordshire to the Swine Flu Pandemic between April 2009 and August 2010 was appropriate, timely and proportionate.
- Considered progress in response to a number of reviews of the West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- Considered an outline of quality assurance systems in place to assure the Primary Care Trust (PCT) Board that services commissioned are high quality services.
- Sought clarification on initiatives being taken to discourage inappropriate attendance at A&E and how Councillors could support these initiatives as community leaders.
- Noted the key points and recommendations of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010
- Received a presentation on plans for the West Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust to become an NHS Foundation Trust and submitted a response to the Trust's consultation exercise on its proposals

11. The **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** has:

- Considered a number of reports on the Shared Services programme and submitted comments to Cabinet upon it.
- Supported the joint working to develop a joint Herefordshire Public Services feedback policy and the Customer Insight Unit.
- Hosted a partnership consultation event on the Health White Paper "Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS" and associated consultation documents and contributed to the proposed response.
- Considered a report on the project management and financial controls in place for Capital Schemes managed by Asset Management and Property Services, as requested by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.
- Considered an update on progress with the proposed joint office accommodation strategy for the Council and NHS Herefordshire.
- Considered progress reports on Information Communication and Technology Service issues following a scrutiny review of the service.
- Considered arrangements for the preparation of the 2011/12 budget including proposals for engaging the community and submitted views to Cabinet on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2011/14.
- Commented on the joint NHS Herefordshire Corporate Plan.
- Considered Cabinet's recommendations to Council on the preparation of the Local Development Framework and arrangements for the Local Transport Plan.

12 All the scrutiny committees have:

- Scrutinised performance across the Council and asked Cabinet Members and officers to account for performance and explain future plans.
- Considered capital and revenue budgets, highlighting to the executive areas of concern.

Future Work

13 Whilst the Work Programme for 2011/12 will need to be given consideration by Members following the Council elections the following issues have currently been identified for consideration:

- A review of festivals in the County
- Further work on population health and the delivery of effective preventive interventions.
- Local Development Plan Process

Background Papers

Agenda papers and Minutes of the meetings of the scrutiny committees.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2010

Chief Constable

1. Chief Constable Paul West's term of office finishes in July 2011 and members of the Police Authority have paid tribute to his work in West Mercia since his appointment in 2003. Mr West has also during that time helped shape the national policing picture, having chaired the Association of Chief Police Officers' Professional Standards Committee and held the portfolio for the Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders. Arrangements for the appointment of his successor will commence in the New Year.

Appointment of Members

2. Worcestershire County Councillor Andrew Roberts has been appointed to the Police Authority following the sad death of Edward Sheldon, MBE.

3. The four year term of office of five of the independent members of the Police Authority comes to an end on 31 March 2011. The Police Authority would normally have commenced a selection process for new appointments with effect from April 2011 but, because of the Government's proposals to abolish Police Authorities in May 2012, the Home Secretary has announced that she will extend the term of office of all existing Independent Members of the Police Authorities in England and Wales, where appropriate, to May 2012.

Consultation on Priorities for the Policing Plan 2011/12

4. The Police Authority and Chief Constable have commenced the process of preparing the Policing Plan for 2011/12. Further details of the draft Plan and the Police Authority's consultation arrangements are available on the website (www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk).

5. A consultation document has been produced and 2000 copies circulated to local authorities, parish and town councils, partnerships and community organisations. Public consultation evenings for partners, business and community representatives on the Policing Plan and Budget would take place during January 2011 in Hereford, Shrewsbury, Telford and Worcester and a Webcast, using Worcestershire County Council's facilities, had also been arranged and could be viewed on the Authority's website.

6. The draft policing priorities are shown below and as part of the process of developing them a Partnership Consultation Day was held in November 2010:

Strategic Aims	Suggested Priorities 2011/2012
Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour remain low	Protect people from crime & disorder according to their needs and vulnerabilities Work with partners to bring offenders to account, acting in

<p>The public have confidence in us and express satisfaction with our policing service</p> <p>Our communities feel safe</p>	<p>the best interest of victims and the public</p> <p>Ensure we are accessible in our communities</p> <p>Provide a supportive and effective response to victims of sexual offences, domestic abuse and child abuse</p> <p>Protect road users by working with partners to reduce casualties</p> <p>Have the capability and resilience to respond to major crime investigations and serious incidents while delivering a resilient local policing service</p> <p>Provide an efficient and effective policing service which delivers value for money through our Making the Difference Programme.</p> <p>Actively pursue collaboration opportunities with other forces and partner organisations to achieve economies and efficiencies.</p>
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Comprehensive Spending Review

7. West Mercia’s budget is funded by a combination of government grant and council tax with the former contributing approximately 65% of overall funding. Following the Comprehensive Spending Review the Authority will face a reduction in Government funding of around 20% over the next four years.

8. The funding gap for 2011/12 was £16m and this will be partly addressed through savings made as part of the major review of the force undertaken in 2009/10 (Planning for the Future), non pay reductions and vacancy management. The balance will be funded by use of the Authority’s Sustaining Service Delivery Fund, which was established for this very purpose.

9. With 80% of the budget spent on pay it was inevitable that there will be a reduction in the overall workforce of 4,100. The Authority and Chief Constable will endeavour to minimise the reduction in police officers and staff by prudent management of resources and by streamlining processes so that the savings required can be achieved without reducing the effectiveness of the police service, particularly in the period 2011- 2013. Unidentified further savings of some £24m are expected to be required by 2014/15 and work has begun to identify the necessary reductions.

10. The Police Authority is also reviewing its own activities to reduce the business load it generates on the force, thereby allowing financial economies to be realised. As part of this process the Community Engagement Strategy is being streamlined and focused on what is the most cost effective.

Collaboration

11. West Mercia Police has well established formal arrangements for collaborative working with the three other forces within the West Midlands Region and work in

developing these is continuing. In particular options are being explored for strategic collaboration with Warwickshire Police, where it is recognised that due to the close cultural and operational similarities between the two forces, there were likely to be real operational and efficiency gains in establishing a strategic alliance with Warwickshire.

Policing in the 21st Century

12. The Government has published the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which includes proposals to -

- *Replace police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners to be introduced from May 2012.*
- *Change the Licensing Act to give more powers to local authorities and police to tackle any premises that are causing problems, doubling the maximum fine for persistent underage sales and permitting local authorities to charge more for late-night licenses to contribute towards the cost of policing the late-night economy.*

13. The Police Authority has expressed concern at the proposals to introduce directly elected police and crime commissioners given the extent of the powers afforded to a single individual. In particular the Authority is anxious to see the involvement of local councilors is retained in the new structures.

14. Under the proposals local councillors will be members of a single Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the whole of West Mercia, with provision for a couple of co-opted 'independent' members. The PCP will have a scrutiny role and some veto powers in relation to the new commissioners.

15. The Chairman of the Police Authority has written to Leaders of all Councils in West Mercia urging them to press for greater powers to be afforded to the PCP so as to preserve an important and influential role for local authorities under the new structure.

Monitoring Policing Plan Aims 2010/2011

16. The Authority monitors the performance of the force against the Policing Plan and overall performance against the targets set for 2010/2011 is on course with particularly good results in relation to lower numbers of burglaries of households and road casualties. The Authority noted that the Domestic Burglary Detection rate of 21% was below target by 3.5% and this was to be addressed by the Force Performance Group.

Audit of Accounts 2009/10

17. The Audit Commission has congratulated West Mercia Police Authority, together with ten Councils and local government bodies in the country, including Worcestershire County Council, on the quality and timeliness of its financial reporting. The Commission commented that at a time of great interest in the transparency of public bodies' finances, early publication of audited accounts was an important contribution to openness and accountability.

18. The Police Authority was the first body to publish its accounts for 2009/2010 and this was the second year in a row that it had been recognised by the Audit Commission in its Annual Report.

Domestic Violence Prevention Orders

19. West Mercia Police is one of three forces who will be given the power to use Domestic Violence Prevention Orders as part of a twelve month pilot programme which will run from the summer of 2011.

20. The Orders will stop alleged abusers from contacting the victim, or from returning to the victim's home. Where there were reasonable grounds to believe a case of domestic violence had taken place, the police could issue a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) that lasted for 48 hours. During those 48 hours the police must apply to a court for a Domestic Violence Protection Order. If the court ruled that the victim needed continued protection, it could issue a Domestic Violence Protection Order lasting from 14 to 28 days.

Review of Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs)

21. A review is in progress of West Mercia Police's three Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs), which were established to provide independent advice to West Mercia Police to enable the delivery of fair and equitable policing services to its diverse communities.

22. The three groups - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT), Disability and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) – indicated that they wished to remain as separate groups and work was ongoing to broaden the groups and involve other community networks and work in a smarter way. IAGs would be involved in all critical incidents unless it would be counter productive. Consideration was also being given to enhancing engagement with Children and Young People and a report would be prepared.

Review of Pay and Conditions of Service for Police Officers and Staff

23. The first comprehensive review of police officer and staff pay and conditions of service since 1978 has begun with three objectives:

- to look at how to use pay and conditions to get more officers and staff to the frontline
- to ensure pay and conditions are fair for both the taxpayer and police officers and staff
- to bring modern management practices into the police

24. A report on short term improvements to the service will be given to the Home Secretary by February 2011 and the second, on matters of longer-term reform, will be completed by June 2011.

Commendations and Honours

25. Chief Constable Commendations have recently been awarded to officers involved in a variety of cases including violent offenders and robbery, sexual offences, child abuse and family support. DC Simon Davies was also awarded a commendation for promoting awareness of policing and personal safety to thousands of young people and their families through the West Mercia Police School Engagement Events held in 2009 and 2010.

Significant Cases and Court Results

26. The Police Authority has been updated on significant cases and court results in each of the five Policing Divisions, where successful convictions were secured for a variety of offences including sexual assault on young girls, rape, arson, robbery, murder and burglary.

Signed on behalf of the
West Mercia Police Authority

Sheila Blagg
Chairman

Further Information

Any person wishing to seek further information on the subject matter of this report should contact David Brierley or Ian Payne on Shrewsbury (01743) 264690.

Further information on the West Mercia Police Authority can also be found on the Internet at www.westmerciapoliceauthority.gov.uk.

Questions on the functions of the Police Authority

The Authority has nominated the following members to answer questions on the discharge of the functions of the Police Authority at meetings of the relevant councils:

<i>Herefordshire Council</i>	<i>Mr B Hunt</i>
<i>Shropshire Council</i>	<i>Mr M Kenny</i>
<i>Telford and Wrekin Council</i>	<i>Mr K Sahota</i>
<i>Worcestershire County Council</i>	<i>Mrs S Blagg</i>

List of Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Executive of the Police Authority) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: Agenda papers for the meeting of the West Mercia Police Authority held on 14 December 2010.

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY TO THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

1 THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER'S SERVICE REPORT

Performance Report

The performance data for quarter 3 2010/11 reflected the exceptionally cold weather experienced in December 2010. The Chief Fire Officer told the Authority that during the period 19 – 31 December the Service responded to 463 incidents compared with 275 and 264 during the same period in 2009 and 2008 respectively. The Service instigated the Severe Weather Protocol on 19 December as attendances at incidents were effected by the dangerous conditions. The Authority agreed to record its thanks to the firefighters for their work on behalf of the community during the spell of severe weather conditions

There was a 3% decrease in the total number of fires in the Quarter compared with Q3 last year (516 this quarter, compared to 532), despite a 28% increase in the number of chimney fires, which was thought to be weather-related and arising from the type of burners, the materials being burnt and the rural nature of the area covered by the Service.

There was a 24% drop in the number of Road Traffic Collisions attended by the Service compared to Q3 09/10, down to 178 incidents from 234.

Major Fire in Hereford City Centre

In the early hours of Thursday 21 October 2010, fire crews from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire attended a serious fire in Hereford City Centre. The fire was particularly difficult and resource intensive to deal with due to it being fully developed on arrival and also the tightly packed and complicated building structures encountered by the initial crews attending.

The fire, although serious, was contained within a relatively small section of the City Centre and was resolved without injury to firefighters or members of the public.

Following the initial firefighting actions and the fire being brought under control, the focus of the incident moved towards returning the City Centre to normality and mitigating the already extensive structural and potentially economic damage.

In this phase of the incident Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service crews worked extensively with partners, including Herefordshire Council Building Control Officers, to ensure public safety whilst parts of buildings were demolished and/or made safe.

The fire is being described in the media as: 'the largest fire in Hereford in a generation' and was resolved in safety by all responding agencies having appropriate plans and training in place.

The Chief Fire Officer, who at the height of the fire was in charge of the incident, believes a safe resolution was brought about because of the professionalism and skills of all concerned, both firefighting staff and partner agencies including the Police, Ambulance, Herefordshire Council and voluntary organisations. Fire and Rescue Service crews finally left the scene on the afternoon of Sunday 24 October, some three and a half days after the Service's initial attendance.

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	<p>The Service had been complimented on the manner in which it had responded to the fire and following this incident there had been an intensive fire safety campaign aimed at other business premises in the area.</p> <p>Christmas Fire Safety Campaign</p> <p>The Service launched its annual Christmas Safety campaign last November at a number of key events in Herefordshire and Worcestershire</p>
2	<p>Awards Ceremonies</p> <p>Firefighters and staff were honoured at an Awards Ceremony held at Hereford Town Hall on Friday 15 October. Lady Susan Darnley, the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, joined Chief Fire Officer Mark Yates and Councillor Brigadier Peter Jones CBE, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority, to present the awards</p>
3	<p>Herefordshire Volunteer Launch</p> <p>Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service celebrated the launch of its new Community Safety Volunteer Team for Herefordshire on Wednesday 16 February. The volunteers, 11 men and three women, all joined H&WFRS as Community Safety Volunteers in November last year following a targeted recruitment campaign in the Herefordshire area.</p> <p>They have recently completed their volunteer training programme with the Service and join firefighters and members of the Community Safety department in a variety of roles in the organisation. This will include helping with fire station open days, home fire safety referral visits and a range of community safety events.</p> <p>Councillor Brigadier Peter Jones CBE, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority and Chief Fire Officer Yates presented each volunteer with a framed certificate in recognition of the completion of their training. Alex Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Community Development team at Herefordshire Council, and Councillors Polly Andrews and David Taylor also attended.</p> <p>Anyone interested in volunteering with H&WFRS can find out more online at www.hwfire.org.uk.</p>
4	<p>Charges for Special Services</p> <p>When preparing the Service's budget for 2011/12 the Authority considered introducing charges for some of the special functions provided by the Service, including large animal rescues, lift rescues and costs associated with work for the Environment Agency.</p>
	<p>The Authority resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to introduce charges for large animal rescues, • To put in place protocols for recovery of FRA costs when assisting the Environment Agency to be invoiced for onward recovery and • To continue to attend all calls for lift rescues and introduces charges for

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
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	repeat calls to the same premises.
5	<p>The 2011/12 Integrated Risk Management Action Plan</p> <p>Following 3 months of consultation, the December meeting of the Authority approved the Integrated Risk Management Action Plan 2011/12. The Plan approved the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To review the impact of the recent changes in Technical Fire Safety arrangements</i> 2. <i>To review the allocation of our community safety resources to further reduce risk in our communities.</i> 3. <i>To reduce attendances at false alarms caused by AFAs (Automatic Fire Alarms) after a review of our policies and procedures.</i> 4. <i>To review fire cover and response arrangements with a focus on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The requirement for a third appliance at Hereford, Worcester and Redditch;</i> • <i>The current crewing arrangements at Bromsgrove; and</i> • <i>The appropriate number of personnel on each watch at wholetime and day crewed stations.</i> 5. <i>To ensure our Property Strategy is fully aligned to our Risk Management Plan proposals Recommendation No.4 and other aspects of Service Delivery, such as the provision of effective operational training.</i> 6. <i>To identify any potential for improvement in both effectiveness and efficiency of the current operational training strategy</i> 7. <i>To review our approach to environmental issues to ensure that we are maximising the potential partnership working in this area, reducing our energy usage and identifying further opportunities for cost efficiency</i>
6	<p>Appointment of Interim Clerk/ Monitoring Officer</p> <p>The Authority approved the appointment of Mrs Anne Brown as interim Clerk to the Authority until 30 September 2011 or until the completion of the review and finalisation of permanent arrangements, whichever is the earlier.</p>

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY TO THE HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

7. Budget and Precept 2011/12	<p>The Authority approved the 2011/2012 budget for the Fire and Rescue Service in the two counties at £31.195m - a budget that requires no increase in council tax. This means that in the 12 months from April, Band D council taxpayers will once again pay £73.64 a year (or £1.42 a week) as their share of the total cost of the Service.</p> <p>Councillor Brigadier Peter Jones CBE, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "In this challenging financial climate, the Authority is more committed than ever to providing value for money, and local people can be reassured that Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service continues to be a low spending yet high performing Service."</p>
8. Fire Control Update	<p>A formal update on the Fire Control project and the way forward for Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service was given at the Fire Authority meeting on Wednesday 16 February. Members were informed that the national Fire Control project, which started in 2004, had been subject to significant difficulties and delays and was finally terminated by the Government on 20 December, 2010, on the grounds that the requirements of the project could not be delivered in an acceptable time frame.</p> <p>This decision left Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (H&WFRS) with an urgent requirement for a replacement Fire Control system. An urgent decision was then taken in late December to progress to tender for a new Command and Control system, and Members of the Authority approved the budget allocation to support the urgent procurement of a replacement system at the February meeting.</p> <p>Initial work to progress the provision of resilient control room arrangements identified that significant benefits could be gained by developing local, collaborative arrangements with our neighbouring Service and Local Resilience Forum partner, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (Shropshire FRS). This was based on the shared boundaries between the two Services, the emergency planning and response arrangements already in place and the fact that Shropshire has only recently completed a procurement of a replacement control system for their Service area. The Authority gave its support for the formation of a shared resilient control room infrastructure with Shropshire FRS and authorised H&WFRS's Chief Fire Officer and the Authority Chairman to sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding to record this commitment.</p> <p>Brigadier Jones, the Authority Chairman, said "While it's unfortunate that the national project has not been able to deliver as originally hoped, the Authority has recognised the risks and taken early action to address these. We firmly believe that the planned collaboration with</p>

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	<p>Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service will deliver a state-of-the-art control room facility, which will improve efficiency and effectiveness, and enhance the resilience of Hereford and Worcester's call handling function.</p> <p>"Furthermore we believe we can deliver this in a fraction of the timescale already taken by the national project, at a significantly lower cost while at the same time, maintaining the local knowledge that we recognise as being so vital."</p>
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MARK YATES

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

BRIGADIER PETER JONES, CBE

CHAIRMAN

HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

22 February 2011.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact: Corporate Support on 01905 368331. Further information on the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service can also be found on the Internet at (www.hwfire.org.uk).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda and papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 17 December 2010 and 16 February 2011.

