

**Chief Executive's Office**

Chief Executive: N.M. Pringle

**To: All Members of Cabinet:  
Councillors:  
R.J. Phillips (Leader)  
G.V. Hyde (Deputy Leader)  
Mrs. L.O. Barnett  
P.J. Edwards  
Mrs. J.P. French  
J.C. Mayson  
D.W. Rule MBE  
R.V. Stockton  
R.M. Wilson  
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: NMP/CD

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30th September, 2003

Dear Councillor,

**MEETING OF CABINET  
THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER, 2003 AT 2.15 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD**

**AGENDA (03/15)**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda.

**3. NOTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2003 (03/14)**

To receive the notes of Meeting (03/14) held on 25th September, 2003. *(Notes have been previously circulated to Cabinet Members only)*

**4. LPSA MONITORING REPORT**

To receive a detailed analysis on the half term progress of the Council's LPSA targets. *(Pages 1 - 10)*

**5. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES - REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS**

To receive the revised recommendations of the Boundary Commission for England in respect of the parliamentary constituencies within Herefordshire, and to consider whether to make representations on those recommendations. *(Pages 11 - 12)*

**6. LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

To support working with the Local Government Association and the local Learning and Skills

Council to address the constraints on a small rural-based Adult and Community Learning service in ensuring an equitable access to provision. (Pages 13 - 16)

## **7. FUTURE OF ELMHURST RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

To receive an update on the progress of discussions with HPCT regarding the development of an EMI Resource Centre as authorised by Cabinet on 13th March, 2003 and advise on possible next steps. (Pages 17 - 20)

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the next item will not be, or is likely not to be, open to the public and press at the time it is considered.**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act as indicated below.**

## **8. TUPE CONSIDERATIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO SHAW**

To note the choices available and make recommendations in respect of the protection of terms and conditions of employment (including pension arrangements) of both those Council staff who would transfer to SHAW and new staff employed by SHAW subsequently.  
(Pages 21 - 24)

**This report contains information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office-holders under, the authority.**

Yours sincerely,



**N.M. PRINGLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Copies to: Chairman of the Council  
Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee  
Vice-Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee  
Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees  
Group Leaders  
Directors  
Herefordshire Commercial Services Manager  
County Secretary and Solicitor  
County Treasurer

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- 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.
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If you have any questions about this Agenda, how the Council works or would like more information or wish to exercise your rights to access the information described above, you may do so either by telephoning Mrs Christine Dyer on 01432 260222 or by visiting in person during office hours (8.45 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8.45 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. Friday) at the Council Offices, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.

# **COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

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# LPSA MONITORING REPORT

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

9TH OCTOBER 2003

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### Wards Affected

County-wide.

### Purpose

To receive a detailed analysis on the half term progress of the Council's LPSA targets.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

### Recommendation

**THAT regular reports be provided for consideration for Cabinet detailing progress against the LPSA targets.**

### Considerations

1. In line with the Performance Management Framework launched in May this year our performance against the thirteen LPSA targets will be reported on a quarterly basis to Strategic Monitoring Committee and annually to the Cabinet in April. This report seeks to analyse in greater depth performance at the half term interval in order to influence not only any decisions to be made in the short term but also the new range of targets which will need to be negotiated for the second PSA period starting in April 2005.
2. The Performance Reward Grant (PRG) is payable in two equal instalments in 2005 and 2006. The amount for each target is £272,000 adding up to a total amount available of over £3.5million. Where there are a number of individual indicators within each target the PRG is split equally. No PRG is payable for performance below 60% of the stretch.
3. Local authorities are now being consulted for the next round of LPSAs. The lessons which we are beginning to learn from the first round should inform not only which targets we negotiate but also the targets which we consider to be influential over, and less exposed to, changes in definitions and policy.

### Overview of Current Performance

4. Appendix 1 gives a tabular analysis of the monitoring results. *Overall performance is mixed* and where there are problems these are generally due to:

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Further Information on the subject of this report is available from  
Andrew Tanner, Assistant County Treasurer on 01432 260162

- The original stretched targets being particularly difficult to achieve and
  - Changes in the definitions of individual indicators.
5. The two targets which are perhaps the most difficult to achieve purely because of the element of stretch in the initial agreement are:
- Homeless Households needing repeat housing and
  - Attainment of A to C Grades at GCSE.

Despite the considerable challenges here these are still priority targets within the respective Directorates. Some targets are also sensitive to single, major incidents, so even though we are on track now this may not be the case next year. The risk inherent in these would have been fully understood at negotiation stage.

6. A third target which could fit in this category is reducing domestic burglary which has been adversely affected not only by changing reporting standards but also by a transfer of crimes into this bracket from vehicle theft.
7. The changes in collecting methodology has affected a number of indicators and recent advice provided through the Local PSA.net is rather ambiguous:

*'Where methods for collecting data had changed since the local PSA was signed, for example the introduction of National Crime Recording Standards by the Home Office, it was suggested that government should use the figures on as comparable a basis as possible with those current at the time of the negotiation. Ministers were strongly resistant to any re-negotiation. But where the agreement failed to express the intentions that both the authority and the government had at the time of the negotiations, that could be corrected.'*

8. Where there have been changes in definitions impacting of future performance against the target we have asked managers to contact the relevant Government department for clarification and possible adjustment of future targets due to baseline changes. The original intentions are referred to in the above note and it is only right that these are observed.
9. A lesson learnt for the next LPSA round is that some indicators will require a far tighter definition and a detailed construction of baseline information. Where there are changes or ambiguity these need to be notified to the ODPM immediately.

## **Future Considerations**

10. Commitment to the LPSA targets at a service level on the whole has been good and sub departmental groups have been set up to address delivery of the targets in detail. Regular reporting, on at least a monthly basis by exception, now needs to take place to CXMT as many of the targets are based on performance purely in 2004/05 and any resourcing decisions need to be made at an early stage in order to impact sufficiently on performance.
11. An additional consideration will be the use of the Performance Reward Grant although at this stage it is difficult to forecast how much we will receive. One option for its use could be to include it in the Medium Term Financial Plan and ring fence it for future performance gains either inside or outside an LPSA. Much will depend on the level of central Pump Priming Grant allowed next time round and care would also need to be taken in allocating recurring expenditure against, as it is still essentially a



one off grant.

## **Risk Management**

Failure to meet the agreed PSA targets will directly impact on the amount of Performance Reward Grant receivable in 2005/06 and 2006/07.

## **Consultees**

None.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.



## APPENDIX 1

LPSA Target	Indicator	Latest Performance Data at August 2003	Target for 2004/2005
Enabling older people to live as independently as possible in the community - by providing community services	Intensive home care as a proportion of intensive home and residential care (PSS PAF indicator B11)	12.5 ☹️	20 per 1,000 of the population over 65
	Intensive home care (PSS PAF indicator C28)	4 ☺️	6.5 per 1,000 of the population over 65
	Older People helped to live at home (PSS PAF indicator C32)	78 ☹️	120 per 1,000 of the population over 65
	Avoidable harm for older people (PSS PAF indicator C33)	29.6 ☺️	22 per 1,000 of the population over 65
<p>Comments:</p> <p><i>B11 – Intensive Homecare as a percentage of intensive homecare and residential care.</i> Current trends suggest that we will be close to the target performance although performance has been well short of targets over the last two years.</p> <p><i>C28 – Intensive Homecare.</i> At Qtr 1 we have met Qtr 4 target for 2003/04 and are therefore clearly on track to reach the PSA target for 2004/05.</p> <p><i>C32 – Older people helped to live at home.</i> Serious concern about downward trend in performance but we also need to clarify definitions on not only calculation but also baseline. This indicator is directly resource intensive, ie: performance improvement can only be achieved by allocating more home help etc.</p> <p><i>C33 – Avoidable harm for older people (falls and hypothermia).</i> The baseline figure needs to be confirmed as using over 65's for the population base, if this is right then current performance is well within the target range. It needs to be stated that this indicator in particular is sensitive to severe winters.</p>			

Improving fire safety by reducing fire and fire related deaths in dwellings	BVPI 142iii	14.97 (equating to 448 fires) ☺️	15 per 10,000 dwellings
	BVPI 143 i & BVPI 143 ii combined	4.33 (equating to 29 injuries and 2 fatalities) ☺️	6.95 per 100,000 population
<p>Comments:</p> <p>We are currently within the target, based on performance in 2002-3, and the approach for the remainder of the LPSA period is to hold that position. This indicator more than any other is sensitive to single incidents.</p>			

Improving road safety	The number of killed and seriously injured casualties per annum – STATS 19	150 (as at 31/12/02) ☺️	197 killed and seriously injured casualties per annum
	Coarse visual inspection % of non-principal roads with any threshold condition value exceeded (BVPI 97 (a & b)) as defined in DTLR publication 'Best Value Road Condition Survey for Local Highway Authorities'	To be confirmed ☺️	10% of non-principal roads with any threshold condition value exceeded

LPSA Target	Indicator	Latest Performance Data at August 2003	Target for 2004/2005
<p>Comments:</p> <p>We are currently well within the target based on the information for 2002. The indicator is highly sensitive to serious accidents involving multiple KSIs and in this respect an element of future performance is out of our control despite our speed control and traffic calming policies.</p> <p>There have been a number of difficulties with the Road Condition target due to the changes in methodology of measurement. We have taken a decision therefore to use the old methodology which the LPSA targets were based on. We are still waiting for the results of surveys carried out recently however management are confident that the condition targets will be met in 2004/05.</p>			

Reducing crime	BCU (Basic Command Unit) – vehicle crimes per 1,000 population	7.89 ☺	8.75 vehicle crimes per 1,000 population
	BCU – domestic burglaries per 1,000 households	12.91 ☹	7.4 domestic burglaries per 1,000 households
	Youth Justice Board indicator - Percentage of young people (10-17) who offended in the last quarter of the year, who were re-offending; figures as recorded by the Youth Justice Board	42% ☹	8 percentage point reduction on the 2001 baseline of re-offending by the target group. Baseline of 50.6% agreed for Herefordshire.

Comments:

Vehicle Crime and Burglary

The baseline for the burglary and vehicle crime targets is 2000/01. There are clear trends following this year showing:

- A steady and continuous downward trend in vehicle crimes and a
- A steady upwards trend in burglaries.

Whereas the vehicle crime performance is now below the LPSA target and reducing further, it is highly unlikely that the burglary target will be met and this is due to a number of reasons:

- It is now very difficult to break into modern cars and most car theft now takes place from homes where keys are stolen – this is now counted as a burglary.
- Following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standards in April 2001 attempted burglaries are recorded now and these inflate the figures quite significantly. The WMPA are confirming with the Home Office over whether we can revise the baseline and target.

The fact that there is a transfer of crime recording from vehicle theft to burglaries in relation to cars stolen from houses could form an argument for a revised composite target. This information is being formulated accordingly.

Youth Offending



The figures for the end of 2002 suggest that the target is on course. Because we are only dealing with a cohort of around 130 10 to 17 year olds however the target is sensitive to minor changes. An additional 3 boys re-offending next year for example would take away all of the required stretch and we would lose £90,000 in Reward Grant. This emphasizes the importance to aim as low as possible in achieving the target and look at ways of continually minimizing the risk of not achieving. The Youth Offending Team on behalf of Worcestershire has written to the ODPM to re-negotiate the target and we have been requested to do the same. This matter is currently being looked at.



Improving the life chances for children in care by increasing the adoption rate	Adoptions of looked after children (PSS PAF indicator C23)	6.4% (equating to 11 of 172 children) ☹	21 looked after children adopted during the year
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Comment:

There is a particular complicating factor here which are the fixed numbers used in the PSA target as the number of children available for adoption has gone down. This together with a revised definition means that we are likely to struggle to meet the target. PSS have gone back to the DSS to discuss these matters. The pump priming grant is being used to give pre and post adoptive support to potential adoptive parents.

Improving the life chances for children in care by improving their educational	Employment, education and training for care leavers (PSS PAF indicator A4)	76% ☺	72% of care leavers in education, training and employment at 19
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LPSA Target	Indicator	Latest Performance Data at August 2003	Target for 2004/2005
attainment	The percentage of those children leaving care aged 16 or over who obtained at least 5 GCSE's at Grade A*-C (data source form OC1)	11.9% (2 of 17 children) Summer 2002 	5 looked after children obtaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C
	Children looked after absent from school (PSS PAF Indicator C24)	6% (9 pupils) absent for 25 + days in Spring Term 03) 	11 looked after children absent from school
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The performance achieved in 2002-3, together with the measures in place to manage and improve that performance should ensure that the target s are achieved. Summer 2003 results are currently being analysed.</p>			

Increasing participation in democracy & local decision making	% of Electoral Register voting at district elections in the three postal ballot wards	Achieved 	Ward 1 (Belmont) – 38.6% of Electoral Register voting at district elections in 2003  Ward 2 (Holmer) – 34.5% of Electoral Register voting at district elections in 2003  Ward 3 (Ross) – 44.3% of Electoral Register voting at district elections in 2003
	% of young people (aged between 13 and 19 years) surveyed answering positively to the following question: <i>Do you feel that the Council does enough to give young people the opportunity to influence important decisions?</i>  -strongly agree - agree - neither agree nor disagree - disagree - strongly disagree	Not monitored	The percentage stating "strongly agree or agree" to be agreed after survey in 2002
	% of Citizen Panel respondents answering positively to the following question. <i>Do you feel that the Council does enough to give local people the opportunity to influence important decisions?</i>	24% 	20 percentage points
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The first sub-target, electoral turnout, has been achieved although the figures will not be available for formal reporting until the BVPI figures are calculated.</p> <p>Following lengthy negotiations the survey methodology and baseline information for the "young people" sub-target was only agreed with ODPM in early summer.</p> <p>So far as the third sub-target is concerned, although a Herefordshire Voice survey in 2002-3 indicated that the target had been exceeded, sustaining this level of performance may be difficult given the current uncertainty about the future of LAFs, Herefordshire Matters and Herefordshire Voice – all key tools in enabling people to influence Council decisions.</p>			

Improving resettlement support services to homeless households	The number of homeless households needing repeat housing	56.1% 	1% of homeless households needing repeat housing
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LPSA Target	Indicator	Latest Performance Data at August 2003	Target for 2004/2005
<p>Comments:</p> <p>There are some significant issues around this target and again we will very shortly be in dialogue with the ODPM. The LPSA definition of repeat housing differs from the ODPM and formal representation also needs to be made regarding the legitimacy of the conditions attached to the target. These in particular include no families to be in B&amp;B accommodation in 2004/05 and a 95% satisfaction rating for service provided. The Head of Strategic Housing is well aware of problems here and is addressing potential solutions through an officer working group soon to be set up.</p>			
Improving the attainment levels of pupils in Herefordshire	% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE	58.6% (provisional for 2003) ☹	62% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (summer 2004)
<p>Comments:</p> <p>This target is very challenging although performance continues to improve at 2% per year. Achieving the target is a priority being addressed by the Education Directorate.</p>			

Increasing the proportion of higher ability pupils obtaining 5 or more A*-B grades at GCSE and level 5 and above in English, Maths and Science at the end of Key Stage 2	% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-B grades at GCSE	25% ☹	31% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-B grades at GCSE (summer 2004)
	The percentage of pupils attaining level 5 or above in English, Maths and Science at the end of Key Stage 2	16.9% ☹	18% of pupils attaining level 5 or above in all three subjects at the end of Key Stage 2 (summer 2004)
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Performance towards achieving the 1st sub-target is promising and there is reason to be optimistic that the target will be achieved.</p> <p>Outcome figures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> sub target for the current year will be available in the near future and will give a further indication of progress.</p>			

Improving the care and development of young children	Percentage of settings on 1-2 year outcome	No progress as Ofsted did not inspect any setting in this category prior to March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2003 ☹	2% of settings on 1-2 year outcome ( at 31 March 2004)
	Percentage of settings on 1-2 year outcome for 3 consecutive years	Ofsted did not inspect any setting in this category prior to March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2003 ☹	No settings on 1-2 year outcome for 3 consecutive years (at 31 March 2004)
	Percentage of settings accredited on Quality Assurance Scheme	24 settings (estimated 8%) have joined the Quality Assurance Programme ☹	45% of settings accredited on Quality Assurance Scheme (at 31 March 2004)

LPSA Target	Indicator	Latest Performance Data at August 2003	Target for 2004/2005
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The current indications are that the first two sub-targets will be met, provided Ofsted carry out inspections of the groups in question in 2003/4, and no unexpected outcomes result. For the second sub target 3 of the relevant 8 settings have closed thereby making the target more attainable.</p> <p>The 3rd sub-target is much more challenging as Herefordshire started from a very low base. Although good progress has been made in generating interest in an accreditation scheme, achieving the target will depend on other settings expressing interest in the scheme, and the majority of the 191 registered childminders in the County being persuaded to join a childminders network or join the accreditation scheme. A further 12 settings have asked for information.</p>			

Improving cost effectiveness	Current draft has been sent to the ODPM for agreement following changes made in School absence and Highways condition targets. It is hoped that the final agreement will suggest that we will comfortably achieve the overall stretch of over 2%. 😊		
Achieving 100% delivery of electronic government	BVPI 157	43% 😊	100% of council services capable of electronic delivery delivered electronically at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2004.
	Customer proximity to Contact Points	😊	10 mins drive time or less for any Herefordshire resident to their nearest community access point by 31/3/05.
	E Government within key Partnership initiatives	😊	An additional 40% of Council Services relating to Single Assessment, Supporting people and Community Legal Services delivered in partnership with county agencies and available via the Herefordshire Partnership Portal at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005.

Comments:

We are still confident on reaching the overall e government target by March next year. The main risk involves recruitment and retention in key project management positions. It has been agreed with the auditors that those services which have been externalised, such as HALO, will not be included in the IEG Statement but the former Commercial Services now delivered in Partnership will be.

External Audit has assured us that community access points outside the county boundaries will count in the proximity indicator in order to satisfy the VfM aspects of this indicator.

Meetings are being arranged to clarify the Single Assessment and Supporting People e govt targets, the outcomes of these meetings will then be agreed with auditors. There are no problems envisaged with delivering the target for Community Legal Services.





# PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES - REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

9TH OCTOBER, 2003

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### Wards Affected

County wide

### Purpose

To receive the revised recommendations of the Boundary Commission for England in respect of the parliamentary constituencies within Herefordshire, and to consider whether to make representations on those recommendations.

### Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

### Recommendation

**That Cabinet considers if it wishes to make representations on the revised recommendations of the Commission and, if so, any such representations should state whether it approves of, or objects to, the revised recommendations and give any reasons for approval or objection.**

### Reasons

The Cabinet are requested to consider if it wishes to make representations on the revised recommendations of the Commission.

### Considerations

1. The Boundary Commission for England, having considered the report produced by its Assistant Commissioner, Mr. John Appleby, following the local inquiry held in Hereford on 24 February 2003, has decided to revise its provisional recommendations for the two parliamentary constituencies in Herefordshire.
2. The Commission are recommending that the wards comprising the two revised constituencies will be: (2000 electorates in brackets)

#### **HEREFORD AND SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (69,632).**

18 wards of the County and District of Herefordshire: - Aylestone, Belmont, Central, Golden Valley North, Golden Valley South, Hollington, Kerne Bridge, Llangarron, Penyard, Pontrilas, Ross-on-Wye East, Ross-on-Wye West, St Martins and Hinton, St Nicholas, Stoney Street, Three Elms, Tupsley, Valletts.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Stephen Oram, Public Services Manager on 01432 260110

## **NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (63,418).**

22 wards of the County and District of Herefordshire: - Backbury, Bircher, Bringsty, Bromyard, Burghill, Holmer and Lyde, Castle, Credenhill, Frome, Golden Cross with Weobley, Hagley, Hampton Court, Hope End, Kington Town, Ledbury, Leominster North, Leominster South, Mortimer, Old Gore, Pembridge and Lyonshall with Titley, Sutton Walls, Upton, Wormsley Ridge.

3. The Cabinet is advised that the result of the revised recommendations are:
  - (a) the two parliamentary constituencies have been renamed;
  - (b) the external parliamentary constituency boundaries are now contiguous with the County boundary;
  - (c) the Golden Valley North and South Wards will now remain in the southern constituency;
  - (d) Backbury and Old Gore Wards will now all be wholly in the northern constituency.
  
4. The closing date for receipt of recommendations on the Commission's revised recommendations is 31st October, 2003. Previously the Cabinet had determined that it would not make any representations in relation to the Commission's provisional recommendations. The Commission is not statutorily required to hold second inquiries into representations about its revised recommendations.

### **Risk Management**

No major issues identified.

### **Consultees**

Not applicable.

### **Background Papers**

None identified.

# LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CABINET

9TH OCTOBER, 2003

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To support working with the Local Government Association and the local Learning and Skills Council to address the constraints on a small rural-based Adult and Community Learning service in ensuring an equitable access to provision.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

### Recommendations

**THAT the work with the Local Government Association to ensure equitable access to provision within a small, rural-based service be supported.**

### Reasons

A report was presented to Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee on 4th September, 2003 on the Adult Learning Inspectorate's inspection of the Council's Adult and Community Learning (ACL) provision, and the proposed actions of the Lifelong Learning Development Unit (LLDU) to address issues arising from the inspection report.

Following the meeting it was proposed that a report be presented to Cabinet, giving an overview of the activities of the Unit, the current funding available and proposals to secure a level of funding appropriate to the service.

### Considerations

1. The Council's Lifelong Learning Development Unit was formed following the appointment of the Lifelong Learning Development Officer in April 1999. Since then the unit has developed and its activities broadly fall within three service areas.
  - Provision of adult and community learning courses
  - Supporting the development of organisations within the county to become Adult and Community Learning providers
  - Facilitating and supporting the Herefordshire Learning Partnership and its operational groups (recently merged with the Herefordshire Partnership's Ambition Group)

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Pete Ding, Principal Learning and Recreation Officer on (01432) 260637

2. The scope of the LLDU has recently been a part of a wide-ranging consultation with partner providers and stakeholders. Working with partners to provide a coherent approach to the provision of learning opportunities, the Council's provision is targeted at disadvantaged groups and does not aim to provide a broad based Adult and Community Learning service. It is felt appropriate that the unit does not directly provide courses, but that it should contract through other provider organisations.
3. There is support for the Unit's work in developing and supporting emerging ACL provision. Recent initiatives have seen the Unit supporting the Herefordshire Literacy Project in accessing £99,998 ESF LSC co-financed funding, successfully bidding for £759,800 of LSC Capital funds for the development of the WRVS Community Learning Centre, giving advice and support to a wide range of voluntary organisations, managing a number of delegated grants for learner support, and offering an accreditation route through the Open College Network.
4. A staff restructuring process is currently underway to further underpin the ability to effectively achieve the Unit's objectives. The LSC has been advised, and is supportive of the proposals.
5. Herefordshire Council receives funding (£221,941 August 2003 – July 2004) from the Learning and Skills Council to provide adult and community learning courses (post 16) and for Family Learning. The level of funding received by Herefordshire Council to support adult learning is significantly lower than the National average. This results from current grant allocation levels being based on the previous uptake of available funding by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire LEA.
6. The current LSC regime allocates funds based on the previous year's uptake. The Learning and Skills Council is proposing to move to a formula based funding regime which will directly tie the amount of funding received to the number of students who participate in courses.
7. To augment these funds the LLDU has in the past accessed other funding streams (ESF, GOWM Partnership Funds, LSC LIF). It is currently working in partnership with the LSC and the Herefordshire Partnership in identifying needs and supporting a submission to Advantage West Midlands for funding under the Adult and Community Learning flagship. Should the submission be successful the LLDU will be bidding for funding to increase the number of courses available within its programme.
8. The local LSC is able to make a discretionary payment of up to £61,245 (2003/04) for the support and development of the Herefordshire Learning Partnership. This is currently negotiated on an annual basis, although there is an indication that in future years this may be negotiable for a three-year term.
9. A sum of £38,520 is made available to the LLDU from the Policy and Community budget for the employment of the Principal Learning Officer. The budget for 2003/04 is £271,461. This is funded by: -
 

LSC - £221,941;	Herefordshire Council - £38,520	Other - £11,000
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51.1% (£138,750) will be spent on course provision, of which £78,000 is ring fenced for Family Learning
10. Officers of the Council recently met with the local LSC and the National LSC to voice concerns that the current level of funding is not effective in meeting need and that movement to formula funding could threaten the level of grant received by the authority, undermining further its ability to deliver an appropriate service. The

identified issues were: -

- The lack of any weighting factor within the formula to accommodate the increased costs of provision to a rural county.
  - The disproportionate level of fixed costs required by a small provider as a proportion of total costs.
  - The disproportionate costs associated with developing a curriculum within a local environment of low delivery capacity.
  - The increased costs associated with providing to the LLDU's particular target groups and the limited opportunity to receive fees income.
  - The costs associated with accessing further funding streams.
  - The threat of significant loss to the capacity building support that the LLDU gives to emerging ACL providers within the County.
  - The effect that low level, short term funding has on the development of human resources within the LLDU.
11. Following on from this meeting, the local LSC will be requesting of the National LSC that the funding regime acknowledges the particular issues that apply to Herefordshire Council's ACL service, and will be proposing that a minimum threshold allocation of £250,000 is granted. This will enable the LLDU to develop both its internal capacity to provide and support quality ACL provision, but also to continue and enhance the ability of the unit to develop and support the capacity of other organisations to offer learning opportunities.
12. It is further proposed that the issues raised within this report are brought to the attention of the Local Government Association for consideration.

## **Risk Management**

No major risks identified.

## **Consultees**

Local Learning and Skills Council.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.



# FUTURE OF ELMHURST RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR OLDER PEOPLE

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

**CABINET**

**9TH OCTOBER, 2003**

### Wards Affected

County-wide (Elmhurst is within Aylestone Ward)

### Purpose

To receive an update on the progress of discussions with HPCT regarding the development of an EMI Resource Centre as authorised by Cabinet on 13th March, 2003 and advise on possible next steps.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

### Recommendations/Reasons

If, following the Primary Care Trust (PCT)'s final consideration, the option in 8(c) is not agreed, then Cabinet is asked to review the position and decide on which of the two following options should be pursued:

- (a) The gradual run down of existing services (with service protection for existing residents) to enable the disposal of the property as surplus to requirements; or
- (b) Make all of Elmhurst available to SHAW as part of the transfer in order to achieve intermediate/interim care, day services and carer support for the user group. This would be on a tapering commissioning and contract arrangement. Over time, this would release resources for Older Peoples Services. In the short term, it would contribute to reducing delays in the NHS locally for this user group.

### Considerations

1. Existing services at Elmhurst are EMI Residential and Traditional Residential places, Respite and Day Care.
2. On 13th March, 2003, Cabinet authorised the Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing to work with Herefordshire Primary Care Trust to develop a resource centre for older people with mental health problems at Elmhurst Residential Home, and that Partnership discussions be extended to include an independent sector provider to operate the facilities at Elmhurst Residential Home.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Stephanie Canham on 01432-260320

3. No agreement has so far been reached with HPCT on the development of an EMI resource centre, and although they wish to continue discussions HPCT are primarily interested in Elmhurst as office accommodation which would enable the Department of Mental Health for Older People (DMHOP) to be co-located.
4. Such co-location would further the integration of services under the Health Act Flexibilities arrangements which are in place. However, Elmhurst is not particularly suited to office accommodation, although the disadvantages were originally considered to be offset by the potential community care benefits in incorporating this as part of the EMI resource centre.
5. The long-term residential provision at Elmhurst has been run down in anticipation of the revised services originally considered as likely requirements of the resource centre proposal.
6. The negotiations with SHAW around the remaining 5 care homes already anticipates an increase in EMI capacity in the order of 26 places. Due to enhanced community options for older people in Hereford City, Orchard House will, over time, also have the capacity to absorb the existing reduced services currently provided at Elmhurst including the EMI provision.
7. The transfer of the remaining 5 homes is planned for April 2004. After transfer the Council will not have the support infrastructure to retain Elmhurst within its own management arrangements.

### **Options:**

8. Should agreement not be reached with the PCT within the next four weeks to enter into an arrangement consistent with the decision of this Cabinet on 13 March 2003, that consideration be given to the following options:
  - a) Offer SHAW homes the option to purchase or lease the home as a going concern for independent residential or alternative use. This would secure the current residents placement at the home, however it could require the eventual relocation of some services.
  - b) The Council negotiates a minimum commissioning commitment with SHAW. This would also secure the current residents position but to secure the long term operation of Elmhurst in this manner will present an additional unanticipated financial burden on the Council.
  - c) Make all of Elmhurst available to the PCT and SHAW to provide office accommodation and alternative services for older people with mental health needs. This would lead to a contribution to resources for Older People's Services. This is the current agreed option from Cabinet on 13 March 2003.
  - d) Offer the home for purchase on the open market as a going concern. This would provide the opportunity to secure the current residents' position in the short to medium term.



## **Risk Management**

In relation to recommendation option (b), there will be additional financial risk for the Council, given that the original service shape and economic analysis indicated disposal of some capacity.

## **Consultees**

Herefordshire (NHS) Primary Care Trust

## **Background Papers**

None identified.



Document is Restricted

