

Summary of Action in response to Strategic Monitoring Committee recommendations – June 2003 – March 2007

Date	Issue and Decision	Resultant Action or Outcome
7 July 2003	<p>Review of the Constitution</p> <p>Agreed that the proposed changes, be recommended to Cabinet and Council for approval, but the three points in relation to Cabinet Procedure Rule 6 (the rights of Ward members to attend and speak at Cabinet when decisions are taken affecting individual wards) and Scrutiny Rule 6 the mechanism for dealing with the response by Cabinet to Cabinet decisions which have been called in. and the operation of the Smallholdings Selection Panel as issues warranting further reflection.</p>	<p>Reported to Council 25 July. Consideration given to issues raised. Cabinet Procedure Rule 6 and Scrutiny Rule 6 retained. Cabinet proposal from the Smallholdings Selection Panel approved.</p>
	<p>Payment of undisputed supplier invoices within 30 days - best value indicator bv8</p> <p>Agreed that payment of invoices performance data be reported to the Committee on an exception basis as part of the corporate health performance report, with reports to individual Scrutiny Committees if necessary.</p>	<p>Performance reported by exception in the Corporate Performance Report if warranted.</p>
9 February 2004	<p>Revenue Budget 2004/05</p> <p>Cabinet asked to consider the following observations on the Revenue Budget 2004/2005 before making final recommendations to Council: the Committee's concern over the levels of investment in Social Care (Adults), notwithstanding the proposed investment of £1 million and Cabinet be invited to reassess the risks of that approach; the impact of levying Council Tax at the proposed Band D level of £972.50 and the hardship that could be created for some sections of the community; support offered for the concept of fulfilling the commitment to replenish reserves by accumulating the</p>	<p>Reported to Cabinet 19 February 2004.</p>

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	<p>additional revenues raised from second homes as detailed in the report.</p>	
<p>26th April 2004</p>	<p>Best Value Review of Inspection, Advice And School Performance Service</p> <p>Recommendations of Best Value Review endorsed. The Cabinet Member (Education) was asked to consider how best to ensure that the Council's and Executive's authority over the running of the Inspection Advice and School Performance Service and the Service's independence was maintained, with consideration also to be given to the Gershon efficiency review of Government Services.</p>	<p>Progress untracked.</p>
<p>4 November 2004</p>	<p>Property Management Review</p> <p>Recommendations agreed for submission to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Considered by Cabinet December 2004. A wider reference group established to approve the terms of reference of the groups referred to below to drive forward the wider review of policies and strategies and management arrangements and to examine targets for performance and finance. The following further groups be formed as detailed in the report below in line with the Audit Commission's publication "Hot Property": Service Property Group, Administrative Property Group (Accommodation Board), Non Operational Property with consideration being given to the potential division of consideration of the smallholdings estate and the balance of non-operational property. Ongoing.</p>
<p>12 January</p>	<p>Review of Support to the Voluntary Sector</p>	<p>Cabinet agreed on 17th February 2005</p>

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2005	<p>Agreed that the recommendations be approved, forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and also made available to the Budget Panel with the exception of recommendations relating to the withdrawal of funding for Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District on which Cabinet was asked to gather further evidence and with a request to give careful consideration to the role of Local Members and ways consideration in which the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman could be involved in the consideration of grant applications; that tarrangements should be made to ensure that service level agreements should be proportionate and as simple and flexible as possible taking care to avoid overburdening and hindering voluntary organisations; and that periods of notice referred to in recommendations set out in the review would require adjustment if it was decided to proceed in issuing such notices; and that if consideration was to be given to reducing funding to the Community and Voluntary Sector in preparing the Council's 2005/2006 budget regard be had to the recommendation that this be done in stages as set out in the review report.</p>	<p>that the review recommendations be progressed (subject to the amendments proposed by the Strategic Monitoring Committee being taken into consideration)</p> <p>An action plan has been drawn up to address the recommendations made within the Review of Support to the Voluntary Sector. The majority of the recommendations from the 2004 Review relating to Voluntary Sector Grants (VSG) were implemented in 2005/06 whilst the Scheme remained in existence. However, following an overall recommendation in the Review to replace grants of more than one year with Service Level Agreements, a decision was taken to discontinue the Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme with effect from 31st March 2006. In addition to SLAs being developed for some organisations which had benefited from VSG, a new grant scheme has been introduced for one off projects that fit within the Council's Corporate Strategy. SLAs have been developed to ensure that they are more robust, but also to take into account the level of funding provided and the size of the organisation receiving the funding.</p> <p>Cabinet on 17th November 2005 noted the</p>

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		<p>development of a Council Strategy for Voluntary & Community Sector Support and approved a draft Strategic Framework be approved for consultation. The principle of maintaining existing funding arrangements to Age Concern, Community First, Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District and Herefordshire Voluntary Action, pending final adoption of the Strategic Framework and agreement of the Infrastructure Consortium Business Plan be approved.</p> <p>On 13th July 2006 Cabinet agreed to adopt the Strategy Framework , agreed a more detailed Action Plan be adopted and the Strategy Framework implemented across the Council; and endorsed the principles set out as a basis for negotiations with the members of the Herefordshire Infrastructure Consortium (HIC) on service level agreements for future years.</p> <p>In January 2007, the Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer started in post and will be responsible for developing the Action Plan for the Strategy Framework and negotiating a single service level agreement with the HIC.</p>

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8 February 2005	<p>Revenue Budget 2005/06</p> <p>Agreed the approach to preparing the 2005/06 revenue budget, subject to the caveat that the assumptions made about the savings which it was expected could be achieved by efficiencies and other means needed to be viewed with caution; and whilst recognising that Cabinet and Council needed to consider the budget in strategic terms it was important that all Members were provided with the detail of the proposed budget reductions summarised in appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.</p>	<p>Reported to Cabinet. Further detail provided in an expanded appendix 1.</p>
15 April 2005	<p>Work Programmes</p> <p>Agreed that a workshop be held in June to give further consideration to the development of Work Programmes.</p>	<p>Event held in July 2005.</p>
28th April 2005	<p>Annual Operating Plan 2005/06</p> <p>Agreed that the Annual Operating Plan be noted and Cabinet advised of the Committee's concerns as to whether the targets in the Plan could be delivered; regard be had to the Annual Operating Plan in determining the future scrutiny programme.</p>	<p>Progress untracked.</p>
28th April 2005	<p>Review of The Constitution</p> <p>Recommended that the right of the Local Member to speak at the Planning Committee on planning applications submitted by the Council for its own schemes should be explicitly set out in the Constitution.</p>	<p>Reported to Cabinet and then to Council in May 2005. Provision made in the Constitution.</p>

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9 June 2005	<p>Call-in of Cabinet Decision on Office Accommodation</p> <p>Cabinet's proposed course of action acknowledged whilst requesting that it kept the Council's options under review.</p>	Ongoing
1 July 2005	<p>Integrated Annual Performance Report</p> <p>Performance in relation to homelessness, the social care budget and performance in determining planning applications should be subject to more detailed scrutiny.</p>	Actioned.
1 July 2005	<p>Public Participation at Scrutiny Committees</p> <p>That each Scrutiny Committee take responsibility for seeking to encourage public participation in its work.</p>	Arrangements for Public participation introduced.
26 September 2005	<p>Call-in of Cabinet Decision to Relocate the Livestock Market</p> <p>Cabinet recommended to start again, as the Cabinet Member (Rural Regeneration and Strategy) had indicated that he proposed to do, and consider alternative sites, with full public consultation; and in considering alternative sites Cabinet needed to be mindful of environmental issues such as flooding and terrain, consider carefully whether it was realistic to seek to link a livestock market to a rural business park and ensure that the report to Cabinet on options would be detailed and robust including a clear assessment of the costs of each of the options and in particular the cost to the Council of developing a site outside its ownership.</p>	New Site approved by Cabinet in January 2007 following extensive consultation and further call-in by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

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14 October 2005	Staff Opinion Survey Suggested that consideration be given to some form of survey of school based staff.	Still under consideration
14 October 2005	Budget Consideration 2006/07 Agreed that the Director of Resources be asked to undertake a prompt review of the budget process and make recommendations to both the Committee and Cabinet on the process for the preparation of the 2007/08 budget; that it would be helpful if provision could be made in the budget preparation timetable for a slightly longer period between the executive making a firm proposal and the recommendation of the budget to Council for adoption.	Revised arrangements included in the Draft medium Term Financial Strategy reported first in September 2006.
14th October 2005	Review of the Herefordshire Plan Agreed future reports on the work of the Partnership should be standardised and provide clear evidence of progress against the Herefordshire Plan's objectives.	Herefordshire Plan now replaced by the Herefordshire Community Strategy. Monitoring now carried out through the Integrated Performance Report. The Local Area Agreement is refreshed on an annual basis, and if significant alterations are made, will be brought to Cabinet and Strategic Monitoring Committee at the appropriate time
26 January, 2006	Review of the Constitution Amendments agreed as set out in the Cabinet report subject to Cabinet clarifying the proposed wording in relation to arrangements for the circulation of reports containing a key decision and for giving notification that a key decision was not included in the Forward Plan to ensure that these provisions were consistent with one another.	Clarification made.

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13th February, 2006	<p>Revenue Budget Strategy and Capital Programme 2006/07</p> <p>Agreed to support the proposal for a Council Tax increase of 4.7% for 2006/07 noting that despite uncertainty over the pressures on Adults and Children's Services this was likely to be close to the maximum level of increase which the Government would be likely to consider acceptable, whilst recording that this support was subject to monitoring developments between now and the Council meeting at which the budget would be set to confirm that there was no change to the Government's advice on what it would regard as excessive increases in council tax; that the transfer of the unspent Invest to Save budget in 2005/06 into 2006/0 be supported; confirmation be provided that the provision for adults social care services was prudent; confirmation be provided that the provision for Children's Services was sufficient to deliver the Improvement Plan prepared in response to the Joint Area Review.</p>	Reported to Cabinet and Council.
10 April 2006	<p>Review of Strategic Service Delivery Partnership</p> <p>Findings Submitted to Cabinet for consideration.</p>	Reported to Cabinet on 15 June 2006. Cabinet's response reported back to the Committee on 26 June with an action plan. Further update provided 16 October 2006.
10 April 2006	<p>Annual Operating Plan</p> <p>Agreed regard be had to the Annual Operating Plan in determining the future scrutiny programme.</p>	Ongoing

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20th July 2006	<p>Review of the Constitution</p> <p>Wording changes requested for clarification and also requested that provision being made in the Constitution that, if at some point it were to be decided to appoint an Independent Chairman of the Audit Committee that appointment and the term of office should be approved by the Council as a whole.</p>	Agreed by Council 28th July 2006.
15 September 2006	<p>Draft Medium Term Financial Management Strategy</p> <p>Supported a robust, reasoned approach to making representations to securing fairer funding for the County based on clear statistical evidence be supported and agreed To recommend that further consideration be given to the Council's communication strategy at a local level to ensure that the Council's financial position is effectively communicated to the Public.</p>	Progress untracked.
22 December 2006	<p>Review of Information and Communication Technology Services</p> <p>Findings of Review approved.</p>	Executive's response reported to the Committee – 30th March 2007
12 February 2007	<p>Understanding and Responding to the Public</p> <p>Agreed reports be made to individual service Committees on the user satisfaction data available inviting them to consider whether the information is sufficient and action in response to it; and when considering the Directorate Service Plans the Scrutiny Committees consider how these are being informed by the views of the public and what actions are proposed to improve satisfaction.</p>	Ongoing.