COUNCIL 27TH APRIL, 2007

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMETEE

Meetings Held on 30th March, 2007

Membership:

Councillors: T.M. James (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. P.A. Andrews hairman B.F. Ashton,

W.L.S. Bowen, H. Bramer, A.C.R. Chappell, J.H.R. Mrs M.D. oyd-Hayes,

J.P. Thomas, and W.J.S. Thomas.

COUNCIL RESERVES

1. In considering the Budget Strategy of its meeting on 12th February, 2007 the Committee requested a report on the Council's reserves. The sammittee was informed that the Comprehensive Perturnance Assessment process and the Use of Resources as a key element of the original assessment. The overall assessment for 2006 was 3: "consistently above mirror requirement performing well". Further development of the Council's policies for solding recover and balances was needed to improve this score in this notec has the policy of reserves and balances had been reviewed in the performing the language of the language of the serves and setting aside specific reserves to meet these reas. The level of general fund balance remained a key mea for further scruttry.

INTERESTED FERFORM CE REPORT

- 2. Conmittee has considered be interested reformance Report setting out performance to the extra January 2007 against the Annual Operating Plan 2006-07, ogether with performance against revenue and capital budgets and corporate risks, and remedial adding to address areas of maler performance. It has also noted progress the grade against the council's Operall Improvement Programme.
- 3. In relation to capital experience the Committee was informed by the Chairman of the Children's Services Scrutified Committee of his concerns about how a funding gap of C2.28m between the lowest tenters for the two capital projects at Riverside Primary School and Sutter County Figure 7 School and the resources available had arisen.
- 4. The Committee extended the action taken by the Children's Services Committee to try to ascertain the reasons for the shortfall. It has been advised that work is underway by officers and the Executive to address the issues identified and avoid a similar situation of again. The Committee has also identified this as an example of the newson of the second of the se

ARD LOOKING ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2007/08

5. The Committee has noted the Council's draft strategy for the 2007/08 Annual Efficiency process, progress to date on procurement issues and an update on future prospects for the Government's efficiency agenda.

HEREFORDSHIRE SATISFACTION SURVEY

6. The Committee has considered the results of the recently completed survey and how

it should be used to inform future work programmes. It has agreed to consider a further report in three months time to assist in developing its work programme. The other scrutiny committees are be requested to consider the data relevant to their areas of responsibility and to take appropriate action.

GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

7. The Committee has considered the Gender Equality Scheme and that the action plan forming part of the Strategy is to be reviewed annually

ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SCRUTINY COMMETER

8. The work of the Committees is analysed below as practically under the following five roles for overview and scrutiny: holding the recutive to account, best value reviews, policy development and review, extensions scrutiny, and improvement (performance management and review), the first form of which are identified as key roles in the report on "The Development of Ordinary and Scruttey in Local Government published by the Office of the Development of Ordinary Prime Minister". Issues considered by the Strategic Monitoring Committee and listed for complete ess.

Summary

9. The Adult Social Care and the tegic Housing Scruting S

Theme	Repas
Holding the Executive to	
Best Value Reviews	
	Hometessness James Care Review: Transition from Review: Transition from Review: Transition from Review: Transition from Review: Transition from
Externa Crutiny	
Improvement (Permane Manageme and Revery)	Budget 2006/07 Perform ce Monitoring
Other	Work Pagramme Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations

- 10. The Committee has given considerable consideration to the issue of homelessness part of work programme. The Committee held a second homelessness consultation even in December 2006 following on from the initial homelessness each the held in October 2005. The event included representatives from relevant acceptancies accepts the County. It focussed on lessons learned in the last year in terms tackling the main causes of homelessness in Herefordshire and explored coordinates for closer working arrangements in the future. A number of response dations have been made to the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and
- 11. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met on 19th March, 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	14-19 Strategy

		Scrutiny Review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Herefordshire Schools Joint Scrutiny Review: Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life
External Scrutiny		
Improvement (Performance I	Management	Progress on Improvement
and Review)		Current School issues
Other		Work Programme
		Summary of Action in response to
		Committee recommendations

- 12. The Committee has completed the scrutiny review of Behavior and Committee Management in Herefordshire Schools. The recommendations appended. The Committee agreed the recommendations for referral to Committee and added ourther recommendation to bring to Cabinet's attention the Council and the Counc
- The Committee also considered an urgent is an concerning the significant pap in capital funding for projects at Riverside Primes School and Sutton County Frimary School, which is referred to earlier in this paper. The Committee requested an urgent informal meeting with officers to discuss how the situation had committee to the relevant Cabinet Members.
- 14. The Community Service Specime Community met of 26th March, 2017 and considered the following states:

Theme	▛──█	Reserts
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Holding the Executive Accou	≝≣ _	
Best Value Revie		
Policy Develor		Scarring Eview of the Hereford City
		P nine ship
		Santiny Reserve (Left) How to Retain 18-35 year
		ons in Here and Street them to it.
		and Attract them to it.
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External Scruttry	7 =	gress Following the Scrutiny
		■view of the Courtyard Centre for the Arts
Improvement (Performate	/lanager t	erefordshire Community and Safety Drugs
and Review)		artnership
and Hoview)		Performance Monitoring
	ऻ ─── ॗ	
Other		Work Programme
		Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny
		Committee recommendations
		Committee recommendations

- 15. Representative of Herefordshire and Community Drugs Partnership addressed and answered commons from Members on the important work it carries out in the County. The Common of 18-35 year olds in Herefordshire and how to attract them to the County ne recommendations from these reviews to Cabinet are appended.
- 16. The Énvironment Scrutiny Committee met on 12th March 2007 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	-
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Review of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Use of Polytunnels in Herefordshire. Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire.
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Monitoring of 2006/07 Service Play Performance Indicators – April to December 2006 Environment Directorate Service Play Waste Management Service Capital Budget Revenue Budget
Other	Work Programme Summary of Action Committee recommendations

- 17. The Committee received the findings of two statiny reviews. The findings of the Polytunnel Review Working Group, which attract the approximately 40 members of the public, are appended to this report. The Committee considered the findings of the Group which had been reached on the base of the legislation high court tase. The Committee agreed that the meaning endations is preferred to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for consideration.
- In relation to the Review of Housefold Value Becycling in Herefordshire the Committee were advised that the result of the Governments review of the National Waste Strategy has still awaited and agrand that the import on the review be circulated to Parish Courses for comment. At its next meaning the Committee will consider the outcome of the Scruttey Review of the National Waste Strategy and any comments from Parish Councils.
- 19. The Health Scrutiny Committee and on 2nd and 15th March and is due to meet again on 30th March 2007 and committee and the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Exemptive to Acmount	17
Best Value Revers	
Policy Development and Review	Update on Emergency Planning
	Arrangements
	Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan
	Response to Scrutiny Review of GP out of
	hours service.
	Response to Scrutiny Review of
	Communication in the Local Health Service
	Access to Health
	Delivery of Ear Nose and Throat Services
7	Access to Health
F	Public Service Trust

External Scrutiny		Performance of the West Midlands
		Ambulance service Trust
		Annual Healthcheck declaration
		Staffing Issues at Hereford Hospital
Improvement (Performance N	Management	
and Review)		
Other		Work Programme
		Summary of Action in response to Scrutiny
		Committee recommendations

- 20. The Committee has received progress reports in response to work it has carried on Communication in the local Health Service, the GP Out of hours Service, Nose and Throat Service and on emergency planning arrangements in the sphere.
- 21. The Committee has also received detailed briefings from the Header Fire Primary Care Trust, the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and the West Ambulatee Service Trust to enable it to respond to the requirement the Healthcare Commission for health scrutiny committees to produce commentaries on health bodies for the Commission's Annual Health Check.
- 22. The business conducted by the **Strategic Monitoring Committee** at its meeting an 30th March, 2007 is summarised below.

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Review of CT Savier - Cabin s
	sponse
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	rward Laking Annual Efficie
	ateme 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 20
	ender quali Sche
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External Scrutiny	
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and Review)	Hereform Survey
Other	Scruting inprovement an
	Work gogramm
	Sumnery of Act ir response to Scrutiny
	Comretee recommendations

Summary Recommendations

23. Each of the Scrutty symmittees as received a report summarising recommendations make sires June 2053 and action taken in response to those recommendations.

T.M. JAMES CHAIRMAN STRATEGIC MOIL COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND PA

• Agenda Papers the Meeting of the Strategic Monitoring Committee held on 30th March, 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS

- (a) The results from the staff questionnaire be used to form the baseline for similar studies to be undertaken in the future; (see para. 3.1)
- (b) That an audit be undertaken of the positive parenting courses currently available across Children's Services (multi agency), and if necessary, the provision and information about such courses be increased. (see para. 3.6)
- (c) A Directory of information be compiled of services available to both parameters and professionals to support and improve pupil behaviour in schools para. 3.8)
- (d) Leaflets informing parents and professionals of key services iewed and updated where necessary; (see para. 3.8)
- (e) The Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) confider the merit is discussing with appropriate schools the further discussion of earning Support Units (LSUs) in the county; (see para. 3.10)
- (f) The Cabinet Member (Children are Young I some) satisfies the procedure for the early identification of modern learning difficulties is rigorously implemented; (see
- (g) When the expected legislation is brought into force the correspondence to parents of excluded pupils in revised in reflect the new legal responsibilities and the penaltic force the penaltic force the new legal responsibilities and the penaltic force the new legal responsibilities.
- (h) a review be indertaken into the leave of support for leading initiatives from both the Council and the Primary Care Trust (CT) in particular to applaud those schools that have actioned the National thealthy Schools Status and to encourage the rese to the so; (see para 3.13)
- (i) The Executive is response to the Review of the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response see para 1)
- A further report on progress response to the Review then be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE HEREFORD CITY PARTNERSHIP

- (a) That Herefordshire Council reinstates the Cabinet Member Portfolio with responsibility for Economic Development This Cabinet Member should take the lead on a strategic vision for Hereford City with support from partner organisations such as HCP and ESG, and ensure links with the wider County. (10.30)
- (b) That Herefordshire Council representation on the HCP Board is revisited and a member representative with potentially more time to support the work of HCP is appointed. If the recommendation for the reinstatement of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development is accepted then that Portfolio Holder should assume this appointment. (10.2)
- (c) 17. 3 That reporting mechanisms are put in place to enable the Here and Pry Partnership manager to report to the Cabinet Member (Economic December) on a regular basis. (10.1)
- (d) 17.4 Herefordshire Council relocates the Hereford City Manager to one of its City Centre Office spaces, rather than being based at Plough Lage. (9.5)
- (e) 17.5 That the Hereford City Manager's job patternal specification prepared to go with the job description. (a) 17.5 That the Hereford City Manager's job patternal specification prepared to go with the job description.
- (f) 17.6 The Hereford City Manager be provided with a strative (9.1)
- (g) 17.7 The Membership of Hereford The Partnership be Prviewed to ensure that all areas of the City are represented fictions the addition of region retailers as Members. (11.3)
- (h) 17.8 That additional funding put into HCP support the Hereford City Manager and admirative support be provided in the short form prior to the emergence of a whole on vision and the evelopment of SG. 20.6)
- (i) 17.9 That the annual funding of 16,000 which is not into ECP by Hereford City Council is makined by the eforestate Founcil over the light time years, plus HCP maintains its existing funding and infrastructure support Formitments to continue and develop its activities and evelop.
- (j) 17.10 That Har-ford City Council in the tigate the possibility of increased support for HC through the least of present least in the city. (8.13).
- (k) 17.11 That Here ord City Fringship contact regular budgeting procedures and produce income and ground iture accounts. (8.15).
- (I) 17.12 That He ford City artrus ship concentrate their main activities on the City Centre's concentrate wellbeing. (5.11).
- (m) 17.13 That Heaford Car Part ership liaise with other key partners with an interest in the City, and Hereford City Council, Herefordshire Council, Edgar Street and Wye Development Trust, and Rotherwas Futures. (10.4).
- (n) 17.14 That me isms are put in place by Herefordshire Council enable the Hereford City anager to report to Officers at Head of Service level. (10.7).

- (o) 17.15 That the Street Trading Panel procedures are reviewed to enable direct reporting to the Cabinet Member (Economic Development). (8.11).
- (p) 17.16 That Hereford City Partnership fully instigates the proposed retail membership scheme with varying levels of membership to generate income. (8.14).
- (q) subject to the Review being approved, the Executive's response to the Review including an action plan be reported to the first available meeting of the Committee after the Executive has approved its response;

and;

(r) a further report on progress with respect to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further report to be made.

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOW TO RETAIN 18-35 YEAR OLDS IN HEREFORDS AND ATTRACT THEM TO IT

- (a) That young people are involved in the shaping of major regeneration schemes and developments, specifically looking at how the can incorporate their recreational, cultural, and employment needs. This should include detailed and targeted inward investment promotion and world with property shents and developers to influence private investors and branch many companies.
- (b) Due to the over provision of University places german within the country, avenues exploring other methods of the analysis and a graduates and young people to Herefordshire pursued.
- (c) Given that the figures demonstrate that there is an outline of poung people aged between 18 and 24, yet a set influx people aged 25 to 35, available resources are concentrated on improving the County's social and Economic offer to this age grown.
- (d) That the Business start programmes promoted to support entrepressurship variables are supported to supported to supporte entrepressured to support entrepressured to supporte entrepressured to supported to supported to supporte entrepressured to supporte entrepressured to su
- (e) That the Council continues coronage of affortable housing linked to major developments.
- (f) subject to the Remew being approved, the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the Review including an action plan lie reported to the second ve's response to the second ve's response

and;

(g) a further report n programs will respect to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLYTUNNEL REVIEW WORKING GROUP

- (a) all new polytunnel developments within the county (be they for soil grown crops or table top growing or otherwise howsoever) be treated as development requiring planning consent. The usual application form will need to be completed in those circumstances;
- (b) that enforcement proceedings be continued and/or initiated in accordance with the priorities below:
 - 1. Enforcement proceedings to be continued in respect of those sites where notices have already been served and/or are in preparation
 - 2. Enforcement proceedings to be initiated during the growing season of 2007 in all cases where polytunnels are already known, or are suspected, to be outside the Code of Practice, there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests, and are approaching four years in situ
 - 3. Enforcement proceedings to be initiated after the end of growing second 2007 in all other cases where planning applications have not, by the submitted and there is a threat to acknowledged planning interests.
- (c) that the Executive's response be reported to the Committee in due ourse.

