

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	WYEBRIDGE SPORTS COLLEGE : ACADEMY PROJECT
Members Present:	Councillors: RJ Phillips (Leader), LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JP French (Deputy Leader), JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, DB Wilcox.
Date of Decision:	6th September 2007
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000. It is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000</p>	
Urgent Decision:	No
Purpose:	To confirm the size of the school as an academy, and to agree in principle to the Council's role in delivering the academy, namely the grant of 125-year lease to the sponsors, the formal closure of Wyebridge Sports College as a Community High School, and the procurement of the new academy capital project.
Decision:	<p>That Cabinet approve in principle:</p> <p>(a) Wyebridge Sports College becoming an academy to serve 900 11-16 students with up to an additional 200 post -16 places.</p> <p>(b) Granting a 125 year lease to the sponsors on terms to be agreed, if the current feasibility stage concludes with an outcome satisfactory to DCSF, Sponsors and Local Authority, and</p> <p>(c) Issuing the necessary public notices to close Wyebridge Sports College and create an Academy at the appropriate time, if the feasibility study concludes with an outcome satisfactorily to DCSF, Sponsors and Local Authority.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>1. At a time of falling rolls, significant investment is needed to ensure the long-term success of Wyebridge Sports College. In the absence of other funding sources the Academy initiative offers the means to achieve this. For the school to serve its community, a capacity of 900 is</p>

	<p>sought to provide sufficient space, allowing for the continued operation of parental preference. Post 16 provision is needed to achieve greater participation in education and training, and its provision, on which DCSF is insisting, as part of the National Academy Programme.</p> <p>2. DCSF require at this feasibility stage, an 'in-principle' commitment from the Local Authority, the Local Authority will play its part, and take the necessary steps to transfer land, issue notices and manage the procurement of new accommodation for the academy.</p>
Options Considered:	<p>The Academy proposal could be abandoned but the need to invest in new buildings would remain.</p> <p>The size of the Academy could change, but a smaller school is unlikely to be able to serve its community, and a larger one would be more difficult to manage.</p>
Declaration of Interest:	Cllr ACR Chappell declared a personal and prejudicial interest.
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	13th September 2007

<p>COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS.....</p> <p>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Date: 6th September 2007</p>
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