

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET HELD ON:

29 May, 12 June and 10 July 2008

Cabinet Members: RJ Phillips (Leader of the Council),
JP French (Deputy Leader),
LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer,
JA Hyde, JG Jarvis, PD Price, DB Wilcox.

1. DECISIONS RESERVED TO COUNCIL UNDER PART 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION:

- 1.1 No decisions reserved for Council approval were considered by Cabinet at meetings covered by this report.

2. NOTICES OF MOTION

- 2.1 Cabinet considered no motions to Council at the meetings covered by this report.

3. KEY DECISIONS BY INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN

- 3.1 There were no key decisions made by individual Executive Members which were not included in the forward plan.

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE (Chairman of Cabinet – Cllr RJ Phillips)

Report on Decisions Taken

4.1 Development of the Local Area Agreement

- 4.1.1 The Cabinet agreed the final version of the Local Area Agreement for submission to Government Office for the West Midlands, for Ministerial sign off.

5. CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Cabinet Member: Councillor JA Hyde)

Report on Decisions Taken

5.1 Wyebriidge Academy

- 5.1.1 Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to the closure of Wyebriidge Sports College by way of a public notice, in order to enable the opening of the new Wyebriidge Academy. The Cabinet approved the closure of Wyebriidge College (which would take effect on 31 August 2008).

5.2 Primary Strategy for Change

- 5.2.1 Cabinet considered a report in respect of the Primary Strategy for Change, which outlined the programme of capital investment in Primary Schools in Herefordshire over the next 14 years. The report additionally outlined the priorities over the next

two years. The Primary Strategy for Change document was approved by Cabinet for submission to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It was also agreed that further work would take place in consultation with Leominster Infant and Junior Schools on the siting, design and future organisation prior to a final decision from the DCSF, and that a match funding budget of £250,000 in 2009/10 and in 2010/11 be established.

5.3 Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement

- 5.3.1 Following his appointment to the position of Cabinet Member ICT, Education and Achievement, Councillor PD Price was welcomed to Cabinet meetings

6 CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES (Cabinet Member: Councillor JP French)

Report on Decisions Taken

- 6.1. There were no decisions by Cabinet relating to this portfolio during the reporting period.

7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (Cabinet Member – Councillor AJM Blackshaw)

Report on Decisions Taken

7.1 Action Plan to Meet the Challenge of the Government's Post Office Closure Programme - Update

- 7.1.1 Cabinet considered an update report on the Government's Post Office Closure programme and were advised that the proposed closures in Herefordshire were due to be announced publicly on 27 August 2008. Members were informed of the progress being made on an initiative to develop sustainable options for the delivery of post office services to rural communities in Herefordshire. The report also provided an outline evaluation of how Essex County Council's intervention may be applicable to a rural county.

- 7.1.2 The views of Members were strongly expressed and it was acknowledged that Post Offices provided a vital community facility. It was resolved that the Cabinet Member and officers would work actively with the Rural Shops Alliance, Business Link, Post Office Ltd and other parties in delivering the action plan proposed.

7.2 Edgar Street Grid Development – Selection of Preferred Urban Village Strategic Partner.

- 7.2.1 The Cabinet approved the selection of the preferred strategic partner for the Edgar Street Grid Urban Village and authorised detailed negotiations with that supplier prior to consideration of a full Development Agreements.

8 ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING (Cabinet Member: Councillor JG Jarvis)

Report on Decisions Taken

8.1 West Midlands Spatial Strategy

- 8.1.1 The Cabinet considered a report which outlined the Council's proposed response to the West Midlands Regional Assembly consultation on the current review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase Two, which looked ahead to 2026 and which focussed on housing, employment, the role of centres, and waste.
- 8.1.2 Cabinet agreed to submit representation to the Panel Secretary generally supporting the Phase Two Revisions and that the response be based on the recommendations as outlined in the report and which would additionally reflect the Council's approach to climate change.

8.2 Herefordshire Local Development Framework: Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper

- 8.2.1 Cabinet approved, for consultation, the publication of the Herefordshire Core Strategy : Developing Options Paper, together with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Reports. The publication outlined a series of options for how the County could develop up to 2026 and was based on the new levels of growth contained in the revised RSS (see 8.2). Cabinet was informed that the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment which accompanied the report were a requirement of both national and European legislation.

8.3 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

- 8.3.1 Cabinet considered a report which advised of the ongoing Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment which was an important part of the emerging evidence base for the Local Development Framework (see 8.3). The report presented the factual position of the assessment of potential as required by the national planning policy to demonstrate the requirements of regional housing provision. Cabinet noted that the maps originally circulated had been amended to reflect the appropriate status of protected open spaces and amenity areas and that the new versions would be made available on the web.
- 8.3.2 Cabinet approved the work to date as a basis for ongoing work and agreed for the preparation of a more detailed survey report on the identified land. Approval was also given by Cabinet for the technical consultation on the study to be signed off by the Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing.

8.4 Redevelopment of Defective Concrete Homes at Woodedge, Ross-on-Wye and Archenfield Madley

- 8.4.1 Cabinet considered and approved the recommendations of a confidential report on the redevelopment of defective concrete homes at Woodedge, Ross on Wye and Archenfield, Madley.

8.5 Polytunnels Supplementary Planning Document

- 8.5.1 Cabinet received and agreed for consultation, a draft supplementary planning document (SPD) which set out further planning guidelines on polytunnel development. The document is included within the Council's Local Development

Scheme (January 2008) and was produced in line with the regulations of the new planning system introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

8.6 Strategic Housing Capital Programme 2008/09

8.6.1 Cabinet's approval was sought and given to the approval of the Strategic Housing Capital Programme (as outlined in Table 2 of the report), which incorporated the Affordable Housing Development Programme and the Private Sector Programme for 2008/09. Members were additionally informed of external funding contributions, including National Affordable Housing Programme and Specified Capital Grant contributions. This item was presented as a joint report from both the Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing and the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care.

9 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION (Cabinet Member – Councillor DB Wilcox)

Report on Decisions Taken

9.1 Highways Network Management Plan 2008 to 2017

9.1.1 Cabinet considered the Highways Network Management Plan 2008 - 2017, a statutory requirement, which would form the basis for operation and development of the highways network to deliver the Local Transport Plan network management targets. The Cabinet agreed to adopt the Highway Network Management Plan as Council policy.

10 RESOURCES (Cabinet Member – Councillor H Bramer)

Report on Decisions Taken

10.1 Final Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2007/08

10.1.1 The Cabinet considered and approved the Final Revenue and Capital Outturn for 2007/08. Approval was also sought and given for the use of unspent budget as outlined in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the report, and approval given of new specific reserves as outlined in paragraph 59 of the report.

10.2 Minimum Revenue Position (MRP) Statement

10.2.1 Cabinet approved the statutory Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (MRP), as required to comply with the Local Authority (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) (Amendments) Regulations.

10.3 Procurement Strategy

10.3.1 Cabinet considered and approved the updated Procurement Strategy, subject to the inclusion of reference to the Council's fair-trade policy. The Strategy defined the approach to be followed by officers and encompassed the corporate policies that needed to be taken into consideration before, during and after the procurement process.

11 SOCIAL CARE
(Cabinet Member - Councillor LO Barnett)

Report on Decisions Taken

11.1 Strategic Housing Capital Programme 2008/09

11.1.1 A decision was made by Cabinet relating to a joint report on Strategic Housing Capital Programme 2008/09 from this portfolio and the Cabinet Member Environment and Strategic Housing (see 8.7).

11.2 Herefordshire Homelessness Strategy 2008-13

11.2.1 The Cabinet endorsed the Homelessness Strategy 2008 – 2013, including the associated Action Plan, for publication in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Cabinet agreed that annual update reports be presented to Cabinet on progress against the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Background Papers

- Agenda papers of the Cabinet meetings held on 29 May, 12 June and 10 July 2008