

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET

HELD ON 31 JULY, 11 SEPTEMBER, AND 2 OCTOBER 2008

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

This report submitted to Council covers the proceedings of the meetings listed above.

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

- 1.1 **Youth Justice Plan 2008/9** - Cabinet has received a report detailing the Youth Justice Plan, which is prepared annually on behalf of Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council. Cabinet has endorsed the Youth Justice Plan, as prepared in line with deadlines and strict guidance from the Youth Justice Board (YJB), which this year, in partnership with the Youth Offending Services, developed a new outcome-focussed youth justice planning framework. The self-assessment framework identifies risks and associated mitigative actions and would be assessed and validated by the YJB. Cabinet noted the multi agency approach taken to working with vulnerable people and it was proposed that a Member seminar was arranged so that Members, in their role as community leaders and corporate parents, were made more fully aware of the topic and appreciate its impact on performance and priorities.

Cabinet recommends to Council that: the Youth Justice Plan 2008/9 be approved.

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 **Broadband Bandwidth to Schools.** The Cabinet Member, ICT, Education and Achievement made a decision on 16 October 2008 approving the acceptance of funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for £1.1m awarded for the increase of broadband bandwidth to Herefordshire schools.

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE **Chairman of Cabinet – Councillor RJ Phillips**

Report on Decisions Taken

- 4.1 **Review of Service Delivery Partnership.** Cabinet authorised the commencement of formal negotiations with Amey Wye Valley to secure changes to the partnership to reflect a preferred model of service delivery and also addressing anomalies and weaknesses in current contractual arrangements. Cabinet agreed that the Herefordshire Model of service delivery be used as the preferred model and used as

the basis for negotiations as long as it did not restrict the recommendation of a different model should that model prove to be in the Council's best interest. Under the Herefordshire Model staff would be transferred over to Amey under TUPE arrangements once negotiations had been completed successfully. Cabinet approved the exclusion of Asset Management and Property Services from the negotiations until a wider review of the property estate and its management had been carried out. It was expected that the review would be completed by the end of March 2009. Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Strategic Monitoring Committee, which broadly supports Cabinet's proposals.

- 4.2 Herefordshire Public Services.** Cabinet considered a report on the progress made on the development of the public services partnership in Herefordshire and to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Herefordshire Public Services Steering Group. Cabinet approved the report which quantified the current progress and the priority activity for the coming months. Cabinet also approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and that progress reports are to be made to Cabinet on a bi-monthly basis.
- 4.3 Strategic Monitoring Committee** - The Strategic Monitoring Committee report is the subject of a separate report to Council.

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

Report on Decisions Taken

- 5.1 Minster College Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder – Award of Contract.** Cabinet considered the report on the appointment of the preferred contractor for the Minster College Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder Scheme. Cabinet noted that Herefordshire had been successful in bidding for £20,642,037 to deliver the new Minster College, which was being met through the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Following a two stage tendering process three tenders were submitted and evaluated. Cabinet endorsed the approval of Stepnell Limited as the design and build contractors.

6. CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Cabinet Member - Councillor JP French

Report on Decisions Taken

- 6.1 Integrated Performance and Finance Report.** Cabinet received a report outlining the performance for the whole operating year 2007/08 against the Annual Operating Plan 2007/08, Best Value Performance Indicators and the Direction of Travel indicators. Cabinet noted performance for 2007/08 was still improving but the overall rate for improvement was slowing. Consideration was given to setting appropriate and challenging targets and ensuring that delivery met the timescales outlined. Cabinet noted there was a new national indicator for carbon emissions which would be monitored in future. Directors were reminded to ensure issues were addressed within their service area, including updating service improvement plans.

- 6.2 Comprehensive Area Assessment Preparation Programme Progress Report.** Cabinet considered the report and were advised of further guidance that had recently been made available on the Corporate Area Assessment (CAA). Cabinet noted the forthcoming training event and that a joint preparation plan was being worked on for

the Council and its partner organisations. Key issues under consideration in the preparation plan were around capacity and communications.

6.3 Integrated Corporate Performance Report for April to July. Cabinet considered the Council's performance over the first four months of 2008/09 and noted the improved and simplified report format, which showed performance against each of the themes in the new Corporate Plan. Cabinet in particular noted the progress in implementing the action plans produced following the Crookall review and agreed that future reports be made quarterly.

6.4 Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – Joint Inspectorate Proposals and the implications for Herefordshire's preparations. Cabinet approved the development and re-launch of the CAA preparation programme focusing on the delivery of the improvement programmes of the Council's and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the wider Herefordshire Partnership and which have been tested against the proposed CAA key questions and lines of enquiry. Cabinet also agreed a rolling programme of self-evaluations against the key questions for the area assessment and the key lines of enquiry for the Council's organisational assessment. Future reporting will be included as part of the quarterly Integrated Corporate Performance Report. The Council's response to the inspectorates' proposals will be developed and submitted within the County Councils' Network.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES **Cabinet Member - Councillor AJM Blackshaw**

Report on Decisions Taken

7.1 Land at Faraday Road, Hereford. Cabinet received a report seeking approval for preparatory steps to be taken to acquire by agreement or compulsory purchase order land at Faraday Road. Cabinet noted that the land was allocated for employment use within the adopted Unitary Development Plan and should the land be acquired, could provide a site to which businesses from within the Edgar Street Grid Area could be relocated. Cabinet authorised the negotiations with the owners of all interests in the land at Faraday Road in an attempt to acquire the land by agreement. Cabinet also agreed that the Council would in principle consider using its powers of compulsory purchase to promote an order for the compulsory purchase of the land and authorised preparatory steps to be taken as required in tandem with negotiations to acquire by agreement. Cabinet agreed that if the land could not be acquired by agreement a further report outlining the financial implications and options available be presented to Cabinet.

8. ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING **Cabinet Member: Councillor JG Jarvis**

Report on Decisions Taken

8.1 Waste Collection Contract. Cabinet approved the Waste Collection Contract which allows for a weekly kerbside collection service from all households in the county, for which plastic sacks will be provided. Kerbside recycling of mixed materials is to be extended to all homes in the county with a collection made fortnightly. Cabinet approved the provision of wheeled bins for this service and noted there would be a variety of wheeled bins for the public to choose from. Cabinet was pleased to note that assistance would be provided for any elderly or disabled members of the community in the collection of waste or recyclables. Cabinet also approved officers

exploring opportunities of providing added value through providing other services whilst carrying out waste collection such as the collection of library books, the reporting of road defects or the delivery/collection of community equipment.

- 8.2 **ESG Masterplan.** Cabinet received a report seeking its endorsement of the ESG Masterplan and its status as a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications. Cabinet noted that one of the country's leading town planners was an advisor on the project. Cabinet endorsed the ESG Masterplan as a basis for the ongoing development of the ESG area and as a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications both within and outside the ESG area and where such applications are of relevance to the ESG proposals.

9. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
Cabinet Member - Councillor DB Wilcox

Report on Decisions Taken

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

10 ICT, EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT
Cabinet Member – Councillor PD Price

Report on Decisions Taken

- 10.1 **Swimming Provision for Primary Schools in Hereford City.** Cabinet considered the issues relating the LEA Swimming Pool, which had been closed since December 2007. Cabinet agreed not to re-open the LEA Swimming Pool. It was agreed that alternative provision be offered from September 2008 from Hereford Leisure Pool, with the provision by HALO being monitored to ensure the needs of schools and other users continue to be met. Cabinet noted that close collaboration and partnership working was being undertaken between the Council and HALO and with schools, clubs and other users of the LEA pool to ensure a viable and efficient service. A report will be brought back to Cabinet by Easter 2009 outlining the outcome of the process.

- 10.2 **Herefordshire Connects.** At its meeting of 31 July Cabinet agreed that the Herefordshire Connects programme focus on implementing the three updated business cases and further develops these with the PCT as Herefordshire Public Services partners. Cabinet noted the critical risks to service continuity of key ICT system failures, which was due to the large number of inadequately connected systems requiring upgrades. Cabinet approved the Joint Management Team (JMT) and Deloitte's rationalisation of the ICT system application portfolio to achieve the minimum number of integrated applications. Cabinet also approved the Customer Relationship Management System upgrade as it will provide significant increases in system efficiency and customer services standards. The Finance System upgrade will address service continuity risks.

11. RESOURCES
Cabinet Member - Councillor H Bramer

Report on Decisions Taken

11.1 Treasury Management Activities 2007/08. Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Activities for 2007/08 and the outturn of Prudential Indicators. Cabinet examined the Council's performance for 2007/08 through cash flow, banking and money markets and borrowing transactions and found that a significant contribution had been made to the Council through investment.

11.2 Budget Monitoring 2008/09. Cabinet considered a report on the Council's performance against revenue and capital budgets and found that the basis for the current forecast was sound and reliable. Cabinet emphasised that the financial policy was for Directors to ensure that service delivery was managed within or below approved budgets and noted Directors' continued efforts to do so. Cabinet noted that projected expenditure levels were expected to show improvement at the next meeting.

12. SOCIAL CARE ADULTS
Cabinet Member Councillor LO Barnett

Report on Decisions Taken

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

COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL