

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	24 JULY 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF CABINET HELD ON 4 AND 25 JUNE 2009
MEMBERSHIP:	Councillors 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.

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

This report submitted to Council covers the proceedings of the meetings held on 4 and 25 June 2009.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted.

Key Considerations

1 Decisions Reserved to Council Under Part 4 of the Constitution

1.1.1 Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan 'Saved' Policies: Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council the approval of policies and proposals within the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan that the Council would wish to be saved (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) and those not to be saved (set out in Appendix 2 of the report) beyond the expiry of the three year saved period. It was further agreed by Cabinet that Council be recommended that the Secretary of State's agreement be sought to issue a direction to this effect. A report on this issue is subject to a separate item on the Council meeting's agenda (at agenda item 11).

2 Notices of Motion

2.1 No motions to Council were considered by Cabinet during the reporting period covered by this report.

3 Key Decisions by Individual Executive Members which were not Included in the Forward Plan

- 3.1 No key decisions were made by individual Executive Members which were not included in the Forward Plan.

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

Report on Decisions Taken

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

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

5.1 Report on Decisions Taken

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

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

Report on Decisions Taken

6.1 Data Quality Annual Report

- 6.1.1 Cabinet considered and approved a data quality action plan for 2009/10 and noted the progress made against the 2008/09 data quality action plan. Cabinet was advised that the authority was aiming to achieve a good and ultimately excellent performance rating from the auditor (which was currently adequate) and noted that procedures on data quality were continuing to be embedded within the authority. The Cabinet agreed an additional recommendation to the report requiring a review of the implementation of the action plan be undertaken to ensure timely delivery of actions.

6.2.1 Integrated Corporate Performance Report

- 6.2.1 Cabinet received a report on the end-year performance for 2008/09 against the Council's key indicators from the Corporate Plan 2008-11, the Local Area Agreement and the Herefordshire Community Strategy, together with other indicators where available data could be assessed against a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating or where a direction of travel judgement could be made. Cabinet noted that whilst further validated information as regards social care for both children and adults had become available from Frameworki, which replaced the forecast outturn of earlier data used for judgements in the circulated report, the overall picture had not been much altered. Members acknowledged that where performance had improved significantly on the previous year's, this would provide a good basis for higher levels of achievement in the future. The report was noted and Cabinet agreed that Directors should ensure that the performance issues arising be addressed within their respective areas.

6.3 Smallholding Policy and Management Principles

- 6.3.1 Cabinet considered and agreed; a Smallholdings Policy Framework and accompanying action plan, the creation of a £25,000 allocation (from existing rental income) to create a match funded enterprise development fund, and for Cabinet to

receive an annual update on progress in delivery against the action plan. The valued contribution to the local economy of the Council's smallholdings estate was acknowledged and it was clarified that the policy recommendations would pertain to the Council's smallholdings estate, with the exception of those managed on behalf of the Buchanan Trust.

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

Report on Decisions Taken

7.1 Higher Education Facility for Herefordshire

7.1.1 Cabinet considered and approved the allocation of the Council owned Blackfriars site in Hereford for possible use as a Higher Education Centre and reserved it for that purpose. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to finalise arrangements subject to the development of a robust business plan.

7.2 ESG Retail Quarter Development Agreement

7.2.1 Cabinet's approval was sought to proceed to conclude negotiations and enter into the Edgar Street Grid (ESG) Retail Quarter Development Agreement between Herefordshire Council, ESG Herefordshire Ltd, and Stanhope following an initial European procurement process and subsequent detailed financial and programming negotiations. Cabinet approved the substantive terms of the Development Agreement so far negotiated (as described in the report) and further approved for negotiations to be finalised on the basis of those substantive terms and for the finalised Development Agreement to be signed under the authority of the Director of Regeneration.

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

Report on Decisions Taken

8.1 Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan 'Saved' Policies – as outlined in paragraph 1.1.

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

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

11 RESOURCES (Cabinet Member - Councillor H Bramer)

Report on Decisions Taken

- 11.1 Higher Education Facility for Herefordshire – as outlined in paragraph 7.1
- 11.2 Final Revenue and Capital Outturn 2008/09
 - 11.2.1 Cabinet considered a report on the final revenue and capital outturn for 2008/09 which provided the Council's overall performance for the financial year and which outlined the creation of new reserves in the accounts. Members were advised of the positive overall summary for the Directorate budgets with a net underspend on the revenue account of £42,000 on a net budget of £132 million. Cabinet gave approval to the final outturn 2008/09 and for movements to new reserves as outlined in the report.
- 11.3 Procurement Strategy 2009
 - 11.3.1 Cabinet considered an updated Procurement Strategy which was a departure from the previous year's approach as it reflected the importance of sustainable procurement and of local sourcing of goods and services where possible. Members noted the Strategy's emphasis on sustainability. Cabinet approved the updated Procurement Strategy subject to an additional emphasis within the document of the need for schools to deliver value for money opportunities which would arise from the new procurement strategy.
- 11.4 Review of Asset Management and Property Services
 - 11.4.1 Cabinet received and noted an update report on the review of Asset Management and Property Services (AMPS) and agreed that, pending the outcome of the work on Shared Services that the AMPS Division continued to explore service improvements.

12 SOCIAL CARE ADULTS (Cabinet Member Councillor LO Barnett)

Report on Decisions Taken

- 12.1 Re-commissioning Day Services for Older People
 - 12.1.1 Cabinet considered detailed changes proposed in the provision of day opportunities which would assist in delivering service improvements and greater value for money as outlined in the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review which had been approved in principle by Cabinet on 22 January 2009. Cabinet approved the closure of the in-house day services for local people at Norfolk House and the redeployment of two part-time day centre staff and the transfer the day service provision to Waverly House. The closure of some under utilised mobile day centres for older people and the re-provision of services to appropriate alternative centres, with consequential extensions and variations to a number of existing provider contracts were additionally noted by Cabinet.

**COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Background Papers

Agenda papers for Cabinet meetings held on 4 and 25 June 2009.