

**RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FOLLOWING ITS REVIEW OF THE OUTBREAK OF LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE IN
HEREFODSHIRE – NOVEMBER 2003**

- a) **That first and foremost the consensus of the agencies involved that the outbreak had essentially been well handled be welcomed and those involved be congratulated on their professionalism;**
- b) **That the agencies involved give further consideration to identifying appropriate accommodation for an Outbreak Team;**
- c) **That a protocol for managing outbreaks clearly defining the respective roles of agencies involved be developed and implemented;**
- d) **That the Health Protection Agency be requested to confirm that mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the changes to a number of systems and practices identified by Dr Kirrage are implemented;**
- e) **That Cabinet be recommended to make arrangements to ensure that, as recommended in the report by the Environmental Health Service: current emergency plans are revisited to establish whether one or more cover adequately the actions to be followed, roles to be adopted etc, in the case of another such outbreak or incident;**
- f) **That Cabinet be recommended to make representations to Government to address concerns in the report by the Environmental Health Service that changes relating to certain industrial processes will remove some powers from the Service, hampering future responses;**
- g) **That Cabinet be recommended to make representations to Government requesting that the disease be made notifiable and brought into the scope of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act and make available powers contained therein;**
- h) **That Cabinet be recommended to make arrangements and set milestones to ensure that, as recommended in the report by the Environmental Health Service: the learning points that emerged from review of actions etc carried out by EHTS along with other learning points produced by the HPA be carefully considered, prioritised, resource need identified, action plan developed and actioned;**
- i) **That the appropriateness or otherwise of issuing joint press releases should be borne in mind in any future incident;**
- j) **That Dr Kirrage's comments that systems are now in place to detect and respond to a slowly emerging threat and funding earmarked to enhance early warning surveillance systems be welcomed;**
- k) **That the need for regular training sessions with local emergency services including Herefordshire Council be noted;**

- l) That the Primary Care Trust and the NHS Hospitals Trust note the scope for collaborative working in communicating with Health staff;**
- m) That the Council's Environmental Health Service should review its registers of wet cooling systems at least every three years; and**
- n) That representations be made resisting any reduction in the Environmental Health Service's powers suggesting that if these prove unsuccessful a request be made for a protocol to be put in place with the Environment Agency to enable any response to an incident to draw on local knowledge**