

## LEADER'S REPORT TO STRATEGIC MONITORING COMMITTEE 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2006

### **SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE – 2005/06**

The CPA/JAR inspection in 2005 presented a challenge to the authority both in terms of resourcing the inspection process, and in stepping up to address the issues raised within the reports. During the past year we have also squared up to the financial challenges facing the authority and demonstrated our commitment to ongoing improvement. It has also been of notable influence that many of our partners in the public sector have been facing significant structural change.

Whilst Cabinet colleagues have taken the lead for improvement within their portfolio areas, the development of an Overall Improvement Plan and a revised Integrated Performance Reporting system have been significant achievements. Additional examples of activity and achievement include:

#### *Corporate Policies & Strategies/Performance*

- Initiation of the Herefordshire Connects Programme
- Development of an integrated planning process

#### *Finance/resources*

- Setting a budget for 2006/07 that substantially addresses base budget issues
- Establishment of an Audit Committee

#### *Internal support*

- With the Chief Executive, implementation of regular 'Talking Points' sessions with staff
- Talking to all new staff during their induction sessions
- Staff achievement award ceremony
- Attending staff briefing sessions throughout the year, as requested

#### *Partnership Issues*

Activities and successes during the year have included:

- Negotiation of the Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Completion of a review of the Herefordshire Partnership governance structures
- Consultation on and development of a new 'sustainable' Community Strategy
- Moved forward with implementation of the Community Involvement Strategy and Action Plan
- Lobbying – shaping policy
- Police Consultation
- Ambulance Consultation
- PCT Consultation
- Young People's Youth Council

#### *Promotion of the Council/external liaison*

It isn't possible to list all the events and activities undertaken during the year, but the following examples give a flavour of the range of interaction:

- Addressing the Voluntary Sector Assembly
- Liaison with Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- Herefordshire Young Farmers
- Business Community meetings

- Community Forums Review

*European, national and regional matters*

- Regional Assembly
- Chair Regional Transport Partnership
- Attendance at Shire Leaders/Chief Executives' meetings
- Attendance at County Council Network
- New Local Government Network
- Local Government Association Human Resources Panel

*Diversity*

- Achievement of Level 1 of the Equalities Standard
- Corporate Diversity Team established
- Migrant Workers Website launched
- Member Training in equalities developed

*Local Government Issues*

- 'Future of Local Government' debate

## **CHALLENGES – 2006/07**

The process of working closely with Cabinet colleagues to deliver improved services will continue. Particular areas of focus include:

### *Corporate Policies & Strategies/Performance*

- Corporate oversight of the Overall Improvement Plan
- Next stage of development of the Corporate Plan using the Integrated Planning Cycle
- Working with the Chief Executive in delivering the transformation programme

### *Finance/resources*

- Corporate oversight of the Accommodation Strategy
- Corporate oversight of the overall budget

### *Internal support*

- Continued focus on internal communications

### *Partnership Issues*

Challenges include:

- Delivery of LAA and achievement of LPSA targets
- Ensuring effectiveness of Herefordshire Partnership Governance Structures
- Launch of new Community Strategy
- Public Service Trust

### *Promotion of the Council/external liaison*

- Revised Communications Strategy
- Continued ambassadorial/representational role

### *European, national and regional matters*

- City Regions
- Police reorganisation

### *Diversity*

- Achievement of Level 2 of the Equalities Standard
- Changing demographics
- Cultural change within the organisation

### *Local Government Issues*

- Local elections