

INTRODUCTION

This Cabinet Bulletin covers the meeting held on Thursday, 15th September, 2005 and reviews the agenda for the forthcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, 29th September, 2005.

Please note that meetings of Cabinet will start at 2.15 p.m. until further notice.

Before commencing the meeting Cabinet stood for two minutes silence in remembrance of Councillor George Hyde.

CABINET MEETING – 15th September, 2005

- (a) **Treasury Management Activities 2004/05** - Cabinet has received the annual report on the Council's treasury activities for the period 1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005 and the outturn of prudential indicators for 2004/05. Cabinet noted that regarding transactions for the financial year 2004/05 the cost of borrowing was below budget and the investment income was above budget. The return on internally managed investments exceeded the index benchmark for 2004/05. The net return on externally managed funds was in line with the index benchmark for 2004/05 and the treasury limits and prudential indicators were complied with during 2004/05. Cabinet congratulated staff on all their hard work.
- (b) **Asset Management Plan** - Cabinet has received a report on the Council's Asset Management Plan (AMP) for 2005. The AMP gives details of the property portfolio of the Council and outlines property issues and action to be taken in the short-term and details the results of actions taken over the last twelve months. Contained within the AMP are fifteen performance indicators that cover property issues such as energy, maintenance, rates of return and costs. These performance indicators are submitted to the Institute of Public Finance to enable comparison with other Councils. Cabinet were advised that the performance indicator trends were positive. Cabinet noted the importance of this corporate document covering key areas for the Authority.
- (c) **Small Business Friendly Concordat** - Cabinet has received a report on the principles set out in the Small Business Friendly Concordat, which is a voluntary, non-statutory code of practice, and the Small Business Event in Shrewsbury on 5th October 2005. The Concordat sets out what organisations supplying local government can expect when tendering for Local Authority contracts. The purpose of the Concordat is not to intentionally give smaller suppliers an advantage when tendering for contracts, but to ensure that all suppliers are treated equally. The Concordat also sets out the standards that public sector buyers should expect from their suppliers. The National Procurement Strategy for Local Government sets a target for all local authorities to have adopted the Concordat by the end of 2005.
- (d) **Herefordshire Older People's Strategy** – Cabinet has received a report on the County-wide strategy for older people in Herefordshire. Members noted the importance of the strategy especially as the profile within the County is for an aging population. The work is to be carried out in partnership with strategic organisations and will touch upon all areas across the Council.
- (e) **National Health Service Organisational Change** – Cabinet has received a report on National Health Service Organisational Change. In July 2005 the Department of Health

published "Commissioning a Patient Led NHS" which sets out a framework for improving commissioning of services alongside improvements in health and service. Cabinet strongly supported the case for the retention of a sovereign NHS body commissioning service for the residents of Herefordshire. Members were advised of the potential impact for service delivery should a combined PCT come into being. A three month public consultation period would commence in November.

FORTHCOMING CABINET MEETING – 29th September, 2005

- (a) Herefordshire Thinks Rural – Action Plan** - Cabinet will be asked to agree the actions set out in the Herefordshire Thinks Rural Action Plan, which were previously considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 1st September, 2005.
- (b) Customer Services Strategy** - Cabinet will be asked to note the Strategy in particular the implications for change management and to endorse the proposed way forward.
- (c) Communication Strategy** - Cabinet will be asked to approve the Council's Communications Strategy for 2005/06, the key messages and action plans.
- (d) Staff Opinion Survey 2005** - Cabinet will receive a report on the key findings of the Staff Opinion Survey 2005.
- (e) Local Area Agreement Framework** – Cabinet will be asked to agree a submission for an outline Local Area Agreement (LAA) proposal by 30th September, 2005.
- (f) Change for Children – Safeguarding** – Cabinet will receive a report advising on the progress on "Moving towards a Children's Trust", Integrated Services and the position locally on Safeguarding Children.
- (g) Review of Community Involvement Strategy** – Cabinet will be asked to agree the updated Community Involvement Strategy and related long term action plan.
- (h) Capital Strategy** – Cabinet will be asked to approve a report on the revised Capital Strategy to be adopted by Council.
- (i) Report back on Call-in on Relocation of Livestock Market -**

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*Copies of the agenda are available at the meeting or on request from:
Mrs. C. Dyer, Members' Services Manager and Executive Officer on (01432) 260222.*