

## INTRODUCTION

This Cabinet Bulletin covers the meeting held on Thursday, 17th November, 2005 and reviews the agenda for the forthcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, 15th December, 2005.

**Please note that all meetings of Cabinet will start at 2.00 p.m. until further notice**

## CABINET MEETING - 17th November, 2005

- (a) **Integrated Performance Report** - The Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Council's objectives, priorities and targets for the three year period 2005-2008. The Annual Operating Plan is the detailed action plan for the first of these years 2005-2006. Cabinet has received a progress report on the first six months of the current year and has noted the arrangements in place to integrate the performance and other management activity necessary to successfully implement the Council's Corporate Plan.
- (b) **Corporate Plan 2006-09** - Cabinet has approved the first draft of the Corporate Plan 2006-09. The Plan sets out the Council's intentions for its contribution to The Herefordshire Plan and its own organisational improvement. It includes performance measures and targets for three years, actions to achieve them, associated risks and their mitigation and the resources to be allocated. It is the top level plan in the corporate planning process that provides the framework for the Annual Operating Plan and directorate and service plans. Cabinet has noted that it is important for the Council's Performance Indicators and those contained in the Herefordshire Plan to be rationalised.
- (c) **Local Area Agreements: Outline Proposals** - On 19th May, 2005 Cabinet gave consent for interest to be registered with the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) in obtaining a Local Area Agreement (LAA). Since then the Council has been successful in securing an LAA and is one of only 13 areas to have a Single Pot LAA. Cabinet subsequently approved outline LAA proposals and has now approved a first draft Local Area Agreement (LAA) for submission to the Government Office for the West Midlands. A second draft LAA needs to be submitted by 3rd February, 2006 and the final LAA signed off by 24th March, 2006.
- (d) **Hereford City Council Service Level Agreement with Herefordshire Council** - Cabinet has received a report on potential changes in the Service Level Agreement with Hereford City Council. It was confirmed that the City Council would reduce, by £85,000 the sum it contributed via a Service Level Agreement to a figure of £133,000. Cabinet has asked that a full assessment be made on the impact any changes to the SLA will have on the services provided in the City. The Budget Panel will be requested to address this as part of its deliberations on the 2006/07 revenue budget. Cabinet has also noted that Hereford City Council has confirmed its long term interest in acquiring the Town Hall.

- (e) **Police Restructuring in England and Wales** - Cabinet has considered the Council's response to the West Mercia Police Authority following the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report "Closing the Gap" and the subsequent letter issued to Police Authorities by the Home Secretary. Despite reservations about the effect any restructure would have on policing in Herefordshire, it has supported the establishment of a West Mercia Strategic Police Service. It has also expressed concern about the speed of the consultation exercise which it felt was not in the best public interest.
- (f) **Youth Matters - Green Paper** - Cabinet has noted the Council's response to the Youth Matters Green Paper. It has recommended that the Council's Constitution be amended to facilitate the transfer of the Youth Service to the Children and Young People's Directorate with accountability resting with the Cabinet Member in line with Every Child Matters and Youth Matters. It has also noted that the three highest issues identified by young people as needing the most improvement are: young people's involvement in decision-making and democracy, leisure facilities and access to transport.
- (g) **Voluntary and Community Sector Support Strategy** - Cabinet has received a progress report on the development of a Voluntary and Community Sector Support Strategy for the Council and its relationship to the Local Area Agreement. It has approved a draft Strategic Framework for consultation and approved the principle of maintaining existing funding arrangements to Age Concern, Community First, Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District and Herefordshire Voluntary Action, pending final adoption of the Strategic Framework and agreement of the Infrastructure Consortium Business Plan.
- (h) **Concessionary Fares Scheme** - Cabinet has approved a revision of the Concessionary Travel Scheme for elderly and disabled person following an anticipated change in the regulations governing the operation of such schemes. It has agreed that the Concessionary Fares Scheme be revised to increase the level of discount to pass holders from 50% to 100% of the adult fare and that no other changes be made to the scheme. This means that those over the age of 60 and the disabled, will be entitled to free bus travel from 1st April, 2006. Any additional costs associated with the changes to the scheme will need to be addressed when preparing future budgets.
- (i) **West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy** - Cabinet has received a report on the West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy 2005 and Strategy for Allocating the Regional Housing Pot for 2006-08 which form the basis of regional housing policy and investment priorities across the West Midlands Region. It has endorsed the development of increased partnership working between the Council and the Shropshire local housing authorities identified within the West Housing Market Area, as proposed by the Regional Housing Strategy. It has noted that there may be additional revenue and staffing costs associated with supporting the development of co-operative working across the West Housing Market Area and expects to receive a further report once these costs have been identified.
- (j) **Adult Social Care Budget 2005/06** - Cabinet has received a confidential report on the current budget position in relation to the Adult Social Care budget in 2005/06. It has noted the management actions being taken and the implications this may have on service delivery. It has authorised officers to explore "invest to save" options (showing quantified investments and quantified savings); and approved the use of £714,000 from reserves to meet the carry forward overspend from 2004/05.

## FORTHCOMING CABINET MEETING – 15th December, 2005

- (a) **Local Public Service Agreement Update** – Cabinet will receive the report on the allocation of funding for the second generation Local Public Service Agreement (PLSA2).
- (b) **Implementing Electronic Government 5 Return** – Cabinet will receive the report on the Implementing Electronic Government Return (IEG5).
- (c) **Update on the Operation of the Herefordshire Code of Practice for the Temporary Agricultural use of Polytunnels** – Cabinet will consider the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee in response to the updated report of the Head of Planning Services.
- (d) **Local Development Scheme** – Cabinet will receive a report on the revised Local Development Scheme.
- (e) **Annual Monitoring Report 2004-2005** – Cabinet will receive the first Annual Monitoring Report 2004-2005.
- (f) **Herefordshire Housing Post Transfer Improvement Programme** – Cabinet will note the progress made on the delivery of improvements to housing stock transferred to Herefordshire Housing Ltd.
- (g) **Community Equipment/Independent Living** – Cabinet will receive a report on the Integrated Community Equipment Service.

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Chief Executive

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*Copies of the agenda are available on the Council's website [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk),  
at the meeting or on request from  
Mrs. Christine Dyer, Members' Services Manager and Executive Officer on (01432) 260222.*