

## INTRODUCTION

This Cabinet Bulletin covers the meeting held on 28th September, 2006 and reviews the agenda for the forthcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, 12th October, 2006.

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

## CABINET MEETING – 28th September, 2006

### Key Decisions

The following reports contain key decisions. Members of the relevant Scrutiny Committees have been sent a copy of the decision notice and given the opportunity to call-in the decision.

Item No	Title	Portfolio Responsibility	Scrutiny Committee
5	Building Schools for the Future	Children and Young People	Children's Services
9	Rotherwas Futures	Economic Development and Highways and Transportation	Strategic Monitoring
11	Land at Belmont	Environment	Environment

- (a) **Treasury Management Activities 2005/06** - Cabinet has noted the Treasury Management activities for the 1st April, 2005 to 31st March, 2006 and the outturn of Prudential Indicators for the year 2005/06. Cabinet noted that the cost of borrowing was below budget, with the income from investment was above. Additionally internally managed investments exceeded the index benchmark, while externally managed funds were marginally below.
- (b) **Direction of Travel Statement 2006: Self-Assessment** – Cabinet received the report on the Direction of Travel Statement and were reminded that it was still a draft document. Officers will be submitting the document to the Audit Commission by 30th September after incorporating some evidence that is not yet available, such as the Director of Public Health's annual report. Cabinet were advised that with regards to the arrangements for the safeguarding and assessment of children, several new permanent staff appointments had been made.

- (c) **Building Schools for the Future**– Cabinet received a report on Building Schools for the Future and approved the recommendation for Minster College to be selected under this initiative as the College, as it is, is in need of a lot of improvement to its facilities. The Principal for Minster College, Mr Richard North, spoke to Cabinet supporting the proposals for the College and for the relocation of Westfield Special School on to the campus.

Cabinet also approved the application for Wyebridge Sports College to become a City Academy, with the principle sponsor being the Diocese of Hereford and stated that it was good news for post 16 education in the area. Cabinet were informed that Government Office had expressed their support for the application for Wyebridge Sports College.

- (d) **Employee Opinion Survey 2006** – Cabinet received the report on the Employee Opinion Survey and were pleased to noted that nearly half the workforce had taken part in the survey with a 48% response rate, which meets national standards. Cabinet also noted that 94% of Staff Review and Developments (SRD) were being carried out annually, with the local government average being 88%. Morale in the workforce is up from 41% to 55%. Recruitment links with schools and colleges along with the Council's newly formed central recruitment centre have also improved the speed and efficiency of recruitment to Council posts.
- (e) **Health and Safety Annual Report** – Cabinet received a report summarising the key activities of the Health and Safety Service over the last twelve months, which includes Occupational Health. Cabinet were informed that considerable work had been carried over the last 12 months. Changes have also been made to the structure of the service allowing more flexible working across Directorates and provision of specialist support and advice. As a result of a recent audit of the service systems were found to be sound and the recommendations of the audit have been taken to the Health and Safety Committee and the Senior Management Team. Action plans to address any short and long term issues are to be put in place.
- (f) **Local Government Pension Scheme – Response to Initial Consultation on Four Options** - Cabinet endorsed the proposed response to the initial consultation exercise being undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Cabinet supports Option A of the DCLG report, which is very similar to the current pension scheme, that is a final salary scheme based on an accrual rate of final salary per year of membership, with a tax free lump sum payment.
- (g) **Rotherwas Futures** – Cabinet approved the report on entering into a funding agreement with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) in order to progress the Rotherwas Futures Project. Cabinet noted that as part of the agreement AWM will be committed to a contribution of up to £9.5 million, which is to be secured through a co-operative agreement with the Council and to which the Council will contribute the £8 million balance through developer contributions, recycling of capital receipts and the use of the Capital Programme.
- (h) **Ombudsman and Complaints and Compliments Monitoring 2005/06** – Cabinet received the report on the Ombudsman's Annual Letter 2005/06 and the figures for complaints and compliments recorded including complaints determined by the Local Government Ombudsman and the Complaints Panel for

the year ended 31st March, 2006. Cabinet noted that there were no reports of maladministration against the Council by the Ombudsman.

### EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

**This item discloses information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

- (i) **Land at Belmont** – Cabinet received a report on the acquisition of land off Dorchester Way, Belmont, known as “The Pond Area” and to agree a way forward to resolve the longstanding issues concerning the adoption of the former landfill site area at Belmont.

### FORTHCOMING CABINET MEETING – 12th October, 2006

#### Key Decisions

The following reports contain key decisions. When the decisions have been made, Members of the relevant Scrutiny Committees will be sent a copy of the decision notice and given the opportunity to call-in the decisions.

Item No	Title	Portfolio Responsibility	Scrutiny Committee	Included in the Forward Plan Yes/No
5	Revised Communications Strategy	Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources	Strategic Monitoring	Yes
7	Response to the Scrutiny Committee Review of Learning Disabilities Services	Social Care, Adults and Health	Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing	No

- (a) **Budge Process** - Cabinet will be asked to note the Council's approach to budget setting for 2007/08.
- (b) **Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09** - Cabinet will be asked to consider the proposed Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09.
- (c) **Revised Communications Strategy** – Cabinet will be asked to approve a substantial revision of the Council's Communications Strategy for 2006/07 as a result of new communications channels and programmes being launched, new

- objectives and targets being set and the production of a wide range of communications plans to support new programmes aimed at achieving the transformation of the authority and the way it delivers services to local people.
- (d) **Revised Risk Management Policy** – Cabinet will be asked to approve the revised Risk Management Policy and to decide on Cabinet’s Risk Management role within the Council.
  - (e) **Response to the Scrutiny Committee Review of Learning Disabilities Services** – Cabinet will be asked to respond to the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee’s review of Learning Disabilities Services in Herefordshire Council.

**N.M. Pringle**  
**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. Sally Cole, Committee Manager (Executive) on (01432) 260249.*