

INTRODUCTION

This Cabinet Bulletin covers the meeting held on 12th October, 2006 and reviews the agenda for the forthcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, 26th October, 2006.

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

CABINET MEETING – 12th October, 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
(c)	Revised Communications Strategy	Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources	Strategic Monitoring Committee
(e)	Response to the Scrutiny Committee Review of Learning Disabilities Services	Social Care, Adults and Health	Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing

- (a) **Budget Process** - Cabinet has agreed the approach for establishing the budget process for 2007/08 as set out in the draft Medium Term Financial Management Strategy. The draft strategy sets out the framework for ensuring cash resources are linked to corporate priorities and that corporate and service planning is undertaken within the resources available. The draft Medium Term Financial Strategy has been received by the Strategic Monitoring on 16 October and it will then be presented to Cabinet on 26 October. The Director of Resources and staff were complimented on the quality of the small booklet they had produced, which gives a clear overview of the service.
- (b) **Disability Equality Scheme 2006/09** – Cabinet has noted the Disability Equality Scheme and approved the action plan. It is a requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 that organisations across the public sector be proactive in ensuring that disabled people are treated fairly, not just in relation to access to buildings, but in how written material is presented and in the very culture of an organisation to eliminate discrimination. It has noted that work was also being done with the Council's partner organisations. Cabinet was informed that the Council's progress on the Disability Equality Scheme was considered best practice by other organisations.

- (c) **Revised Communications Strategy** – Cabinet has approved the revised Communications Strategy. It has noted there were some challenging targets in the strategy, which reflected the pace of change and to keep employees informed and engaged with changes. Cabinet has noted the value that employees put on internal communications, and team briefings have been relaunched to enable staff to feed-back their views to the Corporate Management Board. The basis of the strategy is to build an effective communications network of champions who will drive communications improvements.
- (d) **Revised Risk Management Policy** – Cabinet has approved the Revised Risk Management Policy. This has been considered and commented upon by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and the Corporate Management Board. The policy further develops the Council's approach to risk management and has a Member and a senior officer to champion and take responsibility for embedding risk management throughout the Council in compliance with good practice.
- (e) **Response to the Scrutiny Committee Review of Learning Disabilities Services** – Cabinet has received a report in response to the Scrutiny Committee's review of Learning Disabilities. The review was undertaken in order to gain a fuller understanding of the operation of the learning disabilities' services, its demands and the factors behind the budget pressures. The review provided the Cabinet Member (Social Care, Adults and Health) with the current and future service needs, service models and the allocation of resources. Cabinet has welcomed all the recommendations outlined and noted that some of the recommendations were already being undertaken.

FORTHCOMING CABINET MEETING – 26th October, 2006

Key Decisions

The following report contains a key decision. When the decision has been made, Members of the relevant Scrutiny Committee will be sent a copy of the decision notice and given the opportunity to call-in the decision.

Item No	Title	Portfolio Responsibility	Scrutiny Committee	Included in the Forward Plan Yes/No
(d)	Public Service Trust	Corporate Strategy and Finance; and Social Care,	Strategic Monitoring	Yes

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|--|-------------------|--|
| | Adults and Health | |
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- (a) **Audit of the Local Area Agreement** - Cabinet will receive a report on the outcome from the recent Audit of the Herefordshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) undertaken by the Audit Commission.
 - (b) **Medium Term Financial Management Strategy** - Cabinet will be asked to approve the Medium Term Financial Management Strategy (MTFMS), taking into consideration any comments from the Strategic Monitoring Committee meeting on 16th October, 2006.
 - (c) **Three Year Proposals and the Corporate Plan 2007/10** – Cabinet will be seeking the Council’s approval for the draft Corporate Plan 2007/10 and steers for its completion, including in respect of proposals for additional budgets to achieve the Council’s priorities, so as to provide the basis for the initial preparation of Directorate and Service plans for those years and the Annual Operating Plan for 2007/08.
 - (d) **Public Service Trust** – Cabinet will consider further proposals for the establishment in principle of a Public Service Trust for Herefordshire designed to give effect to the Council’s response to the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority (SHA) consultations early in 2006 on the reconfiguration of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in the region. That consultation arose from the Department of Health’s publication “Commissioning a Patient Led NHS”.

N.M. Pringle
Chief Executive

(01432) 260044

*Copies of the agenda are available on the Council's website www.herefordshire.gov.uk,
at the meeting or on request from
Mrs. Sally Cole, Committee Manager (Executive) on (01432) 260249.*