



**WYRE FOREST
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

THE CABINET

A G E N D A

Date: Thursday 14th April 2005

Time: 6.00 p.m.

**Venue: Areley Kings Village Hall
Areley Common
Stourport on Severn**

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CABINET

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities:-

Councillor S J M Clee	Leader, Strategic Overview & Direction
Councillor M J Hart	Deputy Leader, Commercial Services
Councillor Mrs M B Aston	Housing, Health and Rural Affairs
Councillor J-P Campion	Finance and Corporate Affairs
Councillor J W Dudley	Environment & Economic Regeneration
Councillor N J Desmond	Community & Leisure Services

SCRUTINY OF DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

The Council has one Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and five Policy and Scrutiny Panels, that have power to investigate policy issues and question members of the Cabinet who have special responsibility for a particular area of the Council's activities. The Cabinet also considers recommendations from the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and five Policy and Scrutiny Panels.

In accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Standing Order B4 any item on this agenda may be scrutinised by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee if it is "called in" by any three non-Cabinet Members and the Chairman of the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Panel or by three members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and any member of the relevant Policy and Scrutiny Panel.

The deadline for "calling in" Cabinet decisions is Tuesday 26th April 2005.

Councillors wishing to "call in" a decision on this agenda should contact Mrs Diana Glendenning, Committee Officer, Telephone 01562-732763 or e-mail: diana.glendenning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Urgent Key Decisions

If the Cabinet needs to take an urgent key decision, the consent of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Chairman must be obtained. If the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Chairman is unable to act the Chairman of the Council or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council, must give consent. Such decisions will not be the subject to the call in procedure.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - GUIDANCE NOTE

Code of Conduct - Members are reminded that under the Code of Conduct it is the responsibility of individual Members to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any item on this agenda. A Member who declares a personal interest may take part in the meeting and vote, unless the interest is also prejudicial. If the interest is prejudicial, as defined in the Code, the Member must leave the room. However, Members with a prejudicial interest can still participate if a prescribed exception applies or a dispensation has been granted.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - If any Member is two months or more in arrears with a Council Tax payment, they may not vote on any matter which might affect the calculation of the Council Tax, any limitation of it, its administration or related penalties or enforcement.

For further information: -

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Diana Glendenning, Committee Officer. Telephone : 01562-732763, e-mail diana.glendenning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

**Wyre Forest District Council
CABINET
Thursday 14th April 2005**

PART 1

Open to the Press and Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any personal or personal and prejudicial interests in the following agenda items. Members should indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered.

Members are also invited to make any declaration in relation to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(See guidance note on cover.)

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Cabinet held on the 17th March 2005. (Pages 1 - 7)

4. CALL INS - a verbal update will be given on any decisions which have been "called in" since the last meeting of the cabinet.

5. ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

Any item which, in the opinion of the Chairman requires consideration at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

6. LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

Stephen Clee

6.1 LEADERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.2. DELIVERING EFFICIENCY SAVINGS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT - ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENTS

To consider a report from the Chief Executive and Head of Financial Services that outlines the Council's approach for delivering annual 'efficiency' savings as required by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and in particular the need to submit the 2005/2006 forward-looking part of the Council's first Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) by the 15th April 2005. (Pages 8 - 14)

7.1. IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005-2008 AND DIVISIONAL SERVICE BUSINESS PLANS 2005/2006

To consider a report from the Chief Executive that:-

1. Seeks Cabinet approval of the Council's Improvement Plan for the period 2005 - 2008
2. Seeks Cabinet approval of the Council's Divisional Service Business Plans for 2005/06 (Pages 15 - 16)

Copies of the Improvement Plan and the Business Plans have been placed in Party Group Rooms and public inspection copies are available on request. (See front cover for details).

8.1. SUPPORTING PEOPLE - PROGRESS REPORT AND FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

To consider a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that provides a progress report on the implementation of the Supporting People regime and seeks approval from Council to the draft 5 year strategy prior to it going out to countywide consultation. (Pages 17 - 22(e))

A copy of the full Draft Strategy has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).

9.1. KIDDERMINSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION STRATEGY

To consider a report from the Chief Executive that seeks Council's approval of the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy (Pages 23 - 32)

A copy of the Consultant's Reality Check and Economic Impact Assessment of the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).

9.2. WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 (LTP2) 2006/2011 CONSULTATION DRAFT FEBRUARY 2005

To consider a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that

1. Informs Members of the content of the Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) Draft Consultation Document and the key issues relating to the Wyre Forest District.
2. Sets out comments and representations for submission to Worcestershire County Council by 29th April 2005. (Pages 33 - 44)

A copy of the Local Transport Plan 2 2006/2011 Consultation Draft from Worcestershire County Council has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).

9.3. PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2005/2006

To consider a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that:-

1. Advises Cabinet of the Planning Delivery Grant award for 2005/06 of £378,805 plus an additional anticipated £52,000 to be announced later in 2005 and to agree its expenditure.
2. Reviews the expenditure of years one and two Planning Delivery Grant 2003/04 and 2004/05. (Pages 45 - 51)

9.4. WYRE FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK : STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

To consider a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that:-

1. Informs Members of the background to the development of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), its content and the proposals to take it forward for a 6 week consultation period commencing on Thursday 28th April 2005.
2. Seeks approval of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for public consultation. (Pages 52 - 55)

A copy of the Draft Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework - Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).

9.5. ANNUAL EXTERNAL FUNDING REPORT

To consider a report from the Chief Executive that advises the Cabinet of the funding that has been brought to the District in the financial year 2004/05. (Pages 56 - 79)

10. COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES *Nathan Desmond*

10.1. DRAFT WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (2005 - 2008)

To consider a report from the Chief Executive that seeks Cabinet's approval of the Wyre Forest Community Safety partnership's (WFCSP) draft Community Strategy for the period 2005 - 2008). (Pages 80 - 82)

A copy of the Draft Wyre Forest District Community Safety Strategy (2005 - 2008) has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANELS (if any)

11.1. Recommendations from the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel - 16th March 2005

To consider recommendations on the Evening Economy. (Pages 83 - 84)

11.2. Recommendations from the Commercial Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel - 30th March 2005

To consider recommendations on Street Cleansing. (Page 85)

12. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERS TO BE OF SO URGENT A NATURE THAT IT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:

To consider passing the following resolution:

"That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs 7 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

PART 2

Not open to the Press and Public

14. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Exempt minutes of the Cabinet held on the 17th March 2005. (Pages 86 - 87)

15. FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS *John-Paul Campion*

15.1. FUTURE OF RUSHOCK TRADING ESTATE

1. To consider the recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 15th March 2005. (Page 88(a) and 88(b))
2. To consider a report from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that seeks a decision on the future of the Council's interest in Rushock Trading Estate. (Pages 88 - 100)

15.2. COUNCIL TAX WRITE OFF OF AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING

To consider a report from the Head of Financial Services that asks the Cabinet to consider writing off sums in respect of Council Tax. (Pages 101 - 103)

15.3. REDEVELOPMENT SITE WORCESTER STREET, KIDDERMINSTER - KTC3

To consider a report from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that considers the options for a design brief and marketing of the Worcester Street development site known in the Local Plan as KTC3. (Pages 104 - 109)

**16.1. LAND AND PREMISES AT BRIDGE STREET, STOURPORT ON SEVERN
WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN POLICY SITE
STC4**

To consider a report from the Chief Executive and Head of Planning Health and Environment that:

1. Advises the Cabinet of Development Appraisal advice received in respect of land and premises at Bridge Street, Stourport on Severn.
2. Seeks Cabinet approval to opening negotiations for the acquisition of the relevant interest in the site.
3. Seeks the formation of a District Council Internal Officer Working Group to work up and oversee the implementation of proposals for the development of the site and its acquisition.
4. Seeks Cabinet approval to appoint external property agents, if required, to work on the District Council's behalf in negotiating the acquisition of the relevant interest and, if required, the development of the site.
(Pages 110 - 119)

17.1. SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRES - REQUEST TO SPEND CONTINGENCY

To consider a report from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that requests authority to spend money from the contingency for the Sport and Leisure Centres management contract. (Pages 120 - 122)

- 18. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSIDERS TO BE OF SO URGENT A NATURE THAT IT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**

Wyre Forest District Council
THE CABINET
17th March 2005
Earl Baldwin Suite, Duke House, Kidderminster

PRESENT:

Councillors: M J Hart (Vice-Chairman), J-P Campion, J W Dudley, N J Desmond.

OBSERVERS:

Councillors: G W Ballinger, C D Nicholls, Mrs F M Oborski, and J C Simmonds

CM.843 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M B Aston and S J M Clee.

CM.844 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J-P Campion declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.3., regarding Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre, as he is a tenant of a building owned by Wyre Forest District Council in close proximity to these units.

Councillor N J Desmond declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.3., regarding Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre as he is a tenant of a building owned by Wyre Forest District Council in close proximity to these units. He also declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.1. regarding Wyre Forest Community Housing - Homelessness Contract as he is a member of the Board of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

CM.845 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 17th February and the 22nd February 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

CM.846 CALL INS

No decisions had been called in since the last Cabinet meeting.

CM.847 ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

The Deputy Leader informed the meeting that he had been notified of an urgent report entitled 'Wyre Forest Community Housing - Pension Admission Agreement and Novation Warranties - Sheltered Housing.' In accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant Government Legislation he had agreed that this could be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances, these were that the decision could not wait until the next meeting of the Cabinet in April 2005. (Item 7.4. refers).

An Observer also asked that an item be considered under item 13 Urgent Business.

CM.848 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Leader commented that Members may have read about proposed industrial action by Council staff on Wednesday 23rd March 2005. Unison had balloted members over proposed strike action in response to changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme and a strike had been called for the 23rd March 2005. A press briefing note had been sent out and hard copies of it were available for Members. At this stage it was not known what impact the proposed industrial action would have on services provided by the authority. An article had been placed in the Kidderminster Shuttle to advise members of the public of the proposed industrial action.

CM.849 INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL PLAN - 2005/2006

A report was considered from the Head of Financial Services that informed Members of the Internal Audit - Annual Audit Plan 2005-2006.

DECISION : the Internal Audit - Annual Audit Plan 2005 - 2006 attached as an appendix to the report be approved.

CM.850 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that reviewed the Council's Governance Framework and outlined the action to be taken during 2005/2006.

DECISION:

- 1. The action taken to implement the Corporate Governance Framework since the last report to the (then) Executive on 18th March 2004, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.**
 - 2. The proposed action to implement the Corporate Government Framework in 2005/2006 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.**
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CM.851 UNITS 8, 9 AND 21 HOOBROOK ENTERPRISE CENTRE

A report was considered from the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services that sought approval to accept surrenders of the tenancies of Units 8, 9 and 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre. The report also proposed that the Scheme of Delegation be widened to allow the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services to accept surrenders of leases and tenancies where advantageous to the Council.

It was noted that the tenant of Unit 21, EMP Static Guarding, intended to move to larger premises off the Estate. However the tenant of Units 8 and 9, Contract Auto Engineering Limited wished also to move to larger premises and had agreed to take a lease on Unit 21. The tenancy would start on the date that their existing tenancy of Units 8 and 9 was surrendered.

DECISION:

- 1. The surrender of Contract Auto Engineering Limited's tenancy of Unit 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre be accepted.**
- 2. The surrender of EMP Static Guarding's tenancy of Units 8 and 9 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre upon their completing a tenancy of Unit 21 Hoobrook Enterprise Centre be accepted.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to give the Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services authority to accept surrenders of leases and tenancies where advantageous to the Council.

CM.852 WYRE FOREST COMMUNITY HOUSING - PENSION ADMISSION AGREEMENT AND NOVATION OF WARRANTIES - SHELTERED HOUSING

A report was considered from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that asked the Cabinet to approve the admission of the Community Housing Group Limited and Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited to enable pensionable employees within the Companies to participate or continue to participate in the Pension Scheme. The report also asked to give consideration to agreeing that the warranties given by the District Council to Wyre Forest Community Housing in respect of the condition of the sheltered housing transferred to them benefit Wyre Forest Sheltered Housing Limited.

DECISION:

- 1. The existing Admission Agreement to Pensions be amended so that the Community Housing Group Limited and Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited be admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to enter into any documentation necessary to give effect to this.**
- 2. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to conclude agreements so that the warranties given in respect of the condition of the sheltered housing transferred by the District Council in 2000 to Wyre Forest Community Housing Limited benefit Wyre Forest Sheltered Housing Limited in place of Wyre Forest Community Housing.**

CM.853 BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2005-2008

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to agree the Building Control Business Plan 2005 - 2008.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration stressed the importance of the Building Control Section having an up to date and discreet Business Plan to ensure that the service remained competitive in the market place against approved inspectors.

DECISION: The Building Control Business Plan 2005-2008, as set out in the separate appendix to the report be agreed.

CM.854 HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE 'SOCIAL ENTERPRISE' SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that informed the Cabinet of the development of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire 'Social Enterprise' Support Partnership.

Social Enterprises were legally constituted businesses whose primary objectives were socially based, as opposed to the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners. Any financial surpluses were principally reinvested for social purposes in the business or in the community.

Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council had been working with 'Community First' to develop an individual Partnership in response to the need for a more effective and co-ordinated approach to developing and supporting social enterprises in the two counties.

DECISION:

The development of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire 'Social Enterprise' Support Partnership, as detailed in the report, be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That the Council sign up to the principles set out in the draft 'Memorandum of Understanding', as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

CM.855 WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTERNAL FUNDING STRATEGY

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that advised the Cabinet of the completion of the Council's External Funding Strategy.

Due to the Council's increasing dependence on securing funding from sources other than its own budgets to meet priorities, a Strategy was required that would establish protocol. The Strategy would also allow officers, stakeholders and partner organisations that work with the District Council on externally funded projects to be aware of their roles and responsibilities.

DECISION : the District Council's External Funding Strategy be approved.

CM.856 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANELS

No recommendations had been received from the Policy and Scrutiny Panels.

CM.857 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

"That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CM.858 SUMMARY OF MINUTES

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items have been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

Minutes

The Exempt Minutes of the Cabinet held on the 17th February were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Wyre Forest Community Housing - Homelessness Contract

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that asked the Cabinet to give agreement to the final Service Level Agreements relating to the provision of the Council's homelessness waiting list and housing advice functions by Wyre Forest Community Housing and to agree the final contract value.

The meeting closed at 6.14 pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
THURSDAY 14TH APRIL, 2005

DELIVERING EFFICIENCY SAVINGS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENTS

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	OPEN (Internal Theme)
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Improving Corporacy & Performance
KEY PRIORITY:	Financial & Asset Management
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllrs. Stephen Clee/John Campion
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive/Head of Financial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Head of Financial Services
APPENDIX	Key Resource Areas & Analysis of Savings

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the Council's approach for delivering annual efficiency savings as required by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and in particular the need to submit the 2005/06 forward-looking part of the Council's first Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) by 15th April 2005.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** to :

- 2.1 **Note the requirements and timetable for submission of the AES**
- 2.2 **Endorse the approach for delivering efficiency gains and approves the 2005/06 forward looking AES for submission to the ODPM; and**
- 2.3 **Delegate authority to submit future AESs to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Affairs, the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Services.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report on the Efficiency Savings regime (also known as the "Gershon" requirements) was provided to December's Cabinet meeting. All local authorities are required to submit to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the years 2005/06 to 2007/08 a series of efficiency statements about targets and achievements, following the expenditure review by Sir Peter Gershon – "*Releasing Resources to the Frontline*".

- 3.2 Efficiency means providing the same service for lower cost or a better service for the same cost. It does not include making cuts in services or increasing fees and charges. The aim is to identify resources that can be reinvested in frontline services or used to hold down council tax.
- 3.3 The Council's approach to efficiency gains, which is consistent with ODPM guidelines, has always recognised that it will be achieved by:
- Doing more with the same amount of money;
 - Improving the quality of service within existing resources;
 - Extending the reach of services within budget;
 - Investment in ICT;
 - Effective HR Strategies;
 - Smarter procurement of goods and services;
 - Asset maximisation including the disposal of surplus or redundant assets;
 - Promoting cost and performance management throughout the Council;
 - Discontinuing administrative and clerical procedures that are no longer relevant, necessary or fit for purpose;
 - Developing opportunities for shared services; and
 - A combination of the above.

4. KEY ISSUES

What we need to achieve

- 4.1 In brief, the Council has to find 2.5% efficiency savings each year for the next three years, which do not have an adverse effect on service performance. A minimum of half of these savings are to be in cash for reinvestment in services elsewhere, whilst the rest can take the form of more outputs for the same level of inputs. By 2007/08, efficiency gains equivalent to 7.5% of the 2004/05 baseline budget should be achieved.

Baseline Calculation

- 4.2 The 2004/05 baseline for calculating the 2.5% target for 2005/06 will be the original 2004/05 budget, but for 2006/07 and 2007/08 this is likely to be adjusted to reflect 2004/05 out-turn. The baseline is mainly net **revenue** expenditure, excluding transfer payments such as gross expenditure on rent allowances or rebates. Also excluded from the baseline are interest paid and received, provision for debt repayment and reserves movements. In addition to revenue expenditure, the baseline includes **capital** expenditure net of in-year capital receipts.
- 4.3 The 2004/05 baseline figure for this Council is **£14,321,000** revenue and **£6,763,000** capital. The combined annual savings target is approximately **£530,000**, of which a minimum of **£265,000** must be "cashable" as shown below.

2004/05 Base (£14,321,000)	Target Efficiency Improvement (Year on year)	Total Target (Cumulative)	Cashable Target (Year on year)	Cashable Target (Cumulative)
	£	£	£	£
2005/06	530,000	530,000	265,000	265,000
2006/07	520,000	1,050,000	260,000	525,000
2007/08	530,000	1,580,000	265,000	790,000

- 4.4 Achievements from initiatives in 2004/05 that continue through to 2007/08 count towards the target. Non-recurring achievements in any year count only towards the individual year's target and not the overall cumulative target. Achievements must be measured in real terms, discounted by the GDP deflator, which the Treasury has forecast at 2.5% for 2005/06, rising to 2.7% for 2007/08. For example, if output in a service area is maintained in 2005/06 for the same cost as in 2004/05 this represents a 2.5% efficiency saving equivalent to the Treasury's forecast for inflation.

What we need to do

- 4.5 By 15th April 2005, the Council must prepare and submit a brief "forward-looking statement" for 2005/06 identifying the baseline and 2.5% target for 2005/06, together with the strategy and key actions intended to achieve the target for the year. The AES has to be signed off by the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Services.
- 4.6 By 16th June 2005, the Council must produce an auditable "backward-look" at the achievements during 2004/05 that will count towards the target for 2005/06.
- 4.7 By 17th November 2005 Single Tier and County Councils that do not have Excellent CPA status are required to provide a mid-year update to the ODPM. District Councils are encouraged to submit an update.
- 4.8 The AES must be submitted online using an electronic template made available through the ODPMs 'Electronic Service Delivery Toolkit'.

What we have done

- 4.9 By focusing on five key resource areas: money, people, property, information and knowledge, the Corporate Management Team (CMT) have initiated a process of identifying and quantifying eligible items for efficiency savings which comply with ODPM guidelines (see **Appendix**). For the first AES, this is largely about identifying efficiencies already made in the 2004/05 revised budget and 2005/06 base budget.
- 4.10 While the process of planning changes to business processes and service delivery arrangements in 2006/07 and 2007/08 will be ongoing, for the time being we need to focus on the immediate deadline for the first AES.
- 4.11 In view of the fact that further guidance is awaited from ODPM on quantifying non-cashable efficiency savings for 2005/06, the AES has been met primarily by identifying cashable savings as follows:

Revenue Budget	£
• Expenditure in 2005/06 with no provision for inflation where practicable	61,000
• Reduction in expenditure between 2004/05 and 2005/06 Base Budgets	105,000
• Reduced overtime through improved absence management	28,000
• Effective management of employee vacancies	50,000
• Exceeding Council Tax collection targets	50,000
• Renegotiation of the Wyre Forest Community Housing Agency Contract	104,000
• Improved economy in procuring goods and services	<u>50,000</u>
Revenue Savings	<u>£448,000</u>
Capital Programme	
• Allowance within the Capital Programme for improved procurement and project management	50,000
• Improved outcomes in expenditure of Affordable Housing Grant	<u>32,000</u>
Capital Savings	<u>£82,000</u>
Total Efficiency Savings: Revenue Budget and Capital Programme	<u>£530,000</u>

4.12 . For future years, areas to be examined for efficiencies include the County-wide Shared Services initiative and other business process re-engineering opportunities, for example, partnership working, e-government, single site operations and centralised printing.

4.13 CMT believe that the 2005/06 efficiency targets can be met on the basis of decisions already made and performance improvements currently planned for this year. If the Government maintains this framework for the next three years, it will be necessary to maintain arrangements for identifying and quantifying eligible items throughout this period.

4.14 On the basis of current information and the experience relating to 2005/06, it is expected that the requirements will be met by high-level collation of evidence, gathered from the implementation of the Council's policies. Accordingly, it would be appropriate to delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Affairs Chief Executive, and the Head of Financial Services to submit the AES as required from time to time.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Savings are intended to be available for improvements to front line-services. They will also help deliver low council tax rises. Some of the annual cashable savings due to accrue from the Gershon requirements in each of the next three years have already been built into the assumptions for the Council's Medium Term Finance Strategy. However, the Council will need to address the efficiency targets for

2006/07 and 2007/08 as part of this year's budget process and the Finance Strategy.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Although there is no statutory requirement to achieve these efficiencies there may be implications for future Government grant settlements. It is also likely that the Audit Commission will include an assessment of the efficiency gains achieved in the Use of Resources element of the new Comprehensive Performance Assessment model (details of which are expected to be published by ODPM in May 2005). Reference to efficiency gains will also feature in the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The potential impact of not meeting Government requirements for efficiency and improvement already feature in our corporate Risk Register of key risks. If the Council was unable to fulfil the annual efficiency savings targets, this would have a negative impact on the Council's reputation amongst residents and other key stakeholders.
- 7.2 Whilst ODPM are currently stating all cashable efficiency savings will be available for reinvestment, it can never be ruled out that a future Government may take into account a certain proportion of savings in determining future finance settlements.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The Chief Executive and Head of Financial Services conclude that the Council has in place the necessary plans, skills and resources to comply with the ODPM requirements.
- 8.2 Continual success in the achievement of efficiency savings will benefit the people of Wyre Forest. The Council's efficiency statement will form a significant part of our Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 CMT; Trade Unions

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Delivering Efficiency in Local Services – Government policy publication January 2005.
- Efficiency Technical Note (ETN) for Local Government issued by ODPM January 2005.
- Statement of 2004/05 baseline in ODPM letter dated 10th March 2005.
- Report to Cabinet 16th December 2004

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT – KEY RESOURCE AREAS**1. Money** (includes:)

- Revenue and capital budgets, including capital grants
- Investment
- Collection Fund
- Procurement
 - services
 - equipment
 - vehicles
 - goods

2. People (includes:)

- Recruitment
- Absence management
- Use of agencies
- Flexible working practices
- Overtime

3. Property (includes:)

- Kidderminster
- Stourport
- Bewdley
- Single Site
- Trading Estates: Rushock; Hoobrook; Firs; Coppice
- Disposals
- Asset Management Plan

4. Information (includes:)

- Website
- Consultation
- Communication
- FOI / DPA

5. Knowledge (includes)

- Project management
- Consultancies
- Capacity
- Training

Areas where efficiency gains may be realised include the following (not exhaustive):

- New activities and approaches, e.g. Consultation Strategy; Communications Strategy; centralised printing; shared services; partnerships
- Worcs Hub, e.g. improved customer services; shared services
- Other e-Government, e.g. website; see IEG 4
- Single site
- Inflation
- Spend-to-save
- Improved data management (accessing, storing, etc data) and data quality
- Better informed / quicker decision-making
- Reduced duplication
- Reduced paperwork, including photocopying
- Streamlined procedures, e.g. DIP/Workflow
- Acquisition of (relevant) new skills
- Outsourcing

ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT (FORWARD-LOOKING)**ANALYSIS OF SAVINGS & IMPROVEMENTS**

Division: SUMMARY - ALL

	Category (A or B) *	Initial Costs / Outputs £	Final Costs / Outputs £	% Saving / Increased Outputs £	2005/06 Saving / Increased Outputs £	2006/07 Saving / Increased Outputs £	2007/08 Saving / Increased Outputs £	2005-08 Total Saving / Increased Outputs £
1	Money A				420,000			420,000
	Money B				32,000			32,000
2	People A				78,000			78,000
3	Property				-			-
4	Information				-			-
5	Knowledge				-			-
Totals					530,000			530,000

Total Cost Reduction (A) – <i>cashable</i>	£ 498,000
Total Increase in Outputs / Service Improvement (B) – <i>non-cashable</i>	£ 32,000
Total Overall Saving / Increase in Outputs - Year 1:	£ 530,000

*** Savings Categories**

A. Cashable: cost reduction, cost avoidance or process improvements (e.g. lower price paid for goods and services; rebates; early payment discounts; lower price paid through negotiation; delays in price increases; sponsorship by suppliers; freed-up staff time; bulk discounts; using competition to drive down costs)

B. Service improvement / increase in outputs (quantifiable)

Note

For the purposes of this return, project management has been included in money service improvement/increase in outputs.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
14 APRIL 2005

Improvement Plan 2005-2008 and
Divisional Service Business Plans 2005/06

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational theme
CORPORATE PLAN THEME	Improving Corporacy and Performance
KEY PRIORITY	Organisational Performance
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor John-Paul Campion (Finance & Corporate Affairs)
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Walter Delin, Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER	Peter Jones, Corporate Performance advisor (Ext 2723) Email: peter.jones@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	Copies of the Improvement Plan and Business Plans have been placed in Party Group Rooms and an inspection copy is available on request.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve:

- 1.1 The Council's Improvement Plan for the period 2005-2008, and
- 1.2 Divisional Service Business Plans for 2005/06.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 The Council's Improvement Plan for the period 2005-2008 be approved; and
- 2.2 The Divisional Service Business Plans for 2005/06 be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each year, Members are asked to approve Service Business Plans for each of the Council's six Divisions. These set out business targets across all service areas for the year ahead and link them back to Corporate Themes and Key Priorities contained in the Council's Corporate Plan *Building a Better Future 2003-2008*.
- 3.2 This year, the process has been widened to include the post-Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Improvement Plan. This draws together issues from

a variety of sources – internal and external – and links them to the Divisional Service Business Plans as the means of delivering the improvements identified.

4. KEY ISSUES

Improvement Plan

- 4.1 The Improvement Plan contains a wide range of issues, grouped together under the following five 'Improvement Themes':
- Social Inclusion
 - Performance Management
 - Capacity
 - Value for Money, and
 - Communication
- 4.2 These are broken down into a number of improvement projects to be undertaken over the next three years (2005-2008), although the Plan currently focuses on work to be carried out in 2005/06. Proposals for 2006/07 and 2007/08 will be reported to Members next year.
- 4.3 Cabinet Members have been supplied with the Improvement Plan. Copies have also been placed in Members' group rooms

Divisional Service Business Plans

- 4.4 Business Plans are produced annually and provide an overview of each Division's role, structure and targets for service delivery.
- 4.5 Cabinet Members have been supplied with the Business Plans for 2005/06. Copies have also been placed in Members' group rooms.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The contents of this report are within the Council's existing policy framework.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. CONSULTEES

- Cabinet Members
- Corporate Management Team

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Wyre Forest District Council Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report (*Audit Commission, December 2004*)

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

14TH APRIL 2005

Supporting People – Progress Report and Five Year Strategy

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	OPEN Improved Health and Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Housing and Independent Living
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Maureen Aston
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Tim Rice Ext. 2560
APPENDICES	Executive Summary of the Draft 5 Year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010. (A copy of the full Draft Report has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request).

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the implementation of the Supporting People regime and to seek approval to the draft 5 Year Strategy prior to it going out to Countywide consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council

- 2.1 **To note the latest position regarding service reviews and the financial position of the Supporting People Service and**
- 2.2 **Approve the Draft 5 Year Strategy prior to the three month consultation process.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report is based on a standard template which the County Council and its Supporting People partners, including the six District Councils are currently reporting to Members, to ensure that the relevant information is accurate and consistent.
- 3.2 The Supporting People programme is committed to providing a better quality of life for vulnerable people to live more independently and maintain their tenancies . The Supporting People programme in Worcestershire currently provides low level support

for approximately 10,000 people. This includes older people, people with mental health issues, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, homeless, offenders, teenage parents, travellers, people with alcohol problems, people who have suffered from domestic violence, young people at risk and young people leaving care.

- 3.3 The Supporting People programme was launched in April 2003 and comprises a funding, quality monitoring and needs assessment programme for housing related support services. Prior to Supporting People, housing related support was funded in a number of different ways and was not strategically planned and co-ordinated. One of the Supporting People responsibilities is to review all these services. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) require all services to be reviewed for strategic relevance, eligibility, value for money and quality of provision by 31st March 2006. The intention is that this review programme will allow authorities to reshape the Supporting People market to meet local needs and priorities.
- 3.4 The Supporting People programme is administered by the County Council on behalf of the Worcestershire Supporting People partnership which consists of representatives of the 6 District Councils, the 3 Primary Care Trusts and West Mercia Probation Service as well as the County Council. **The County Council in its role of administering authority, issues contracts to providers, makes payments and has responsibility for ensuring that the programme is effectively administered and delivered.** The County Council has a key responsibility for the finances of Supporting People and the responsibility to work with our partners to deliver the best possible services within the resources available. Part of this responsibility is to ensure a robust 5-year Supporting People strategy covering the period April 2005 – March 2010 setting out the direction in which services will change and develop to meet the needs of the local area.
- 3.5 This report outlines the current Supporting People position in Worcestershire in particular highlighting the financial situation and then presents the 5 year Supporting People strategy which is proposed for consultation.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 Financial background

4.1.1 In April 2003 the Supporting People programme began with significant additional resources. All organisations were encouraged to increase investment in housing related support through a transitional housing benefit scheme which ran for 3 years from April 2000. It is estimated that housing related support in Worcestershire increased by approximately £5 million over this period to create an initial Supporting People budget for 2003-04 of £16.2 million.

4.1.2 Central Government judged that the increase in expenditure nationally over this period was too high. Supporting People funding has consequently been reduced in cash terms from a peak of £1.81 billion nationally in 2003-04, to £1.72 billion in 2005-06 and a planned further reduction to £1.7 billion in 2006-07. This represents a cash reduction of 6% allowing for inflation it represents real terms reductions of 12%.

4.2 2004-05 financial position in Worcestershire

4.2.1 The Worcestershire Supporting People programme for 2004-05 is funded by a £15.961 million grant direct from the ODPM. This represented a real terms reduction

of £770,000 compared to 2003-04. This expenditure reduction has been achieved by a cash freeze on all prices reducing real terms expenditure by £360,000 and service reductions of £310,000.

4.2.2 The latest projections indicate that the Supporting People service is on target to achieve the necessary cash reductions to balance the budget in 2004-05. The Supporting People programme is also likely to build up a reserve of £350,000 from underspends in the first two years which Supporting People can use as a "margin of safety" to fund "slippage" on demanding savings targets in 2005-2006 and future years.

4.3 2005-06 financial position in Worcestershire

4.3.1 The 2005-06 Supporting People grant for Worcestershire is £15.248 million. In real terms this is a 7.4% cut from the 2005 grant equivalent to a reduction of £1.175 million. In 2005-06, some new investment of up to £300,000 is also essential which means that the required savings on existing expenditure is actually £1.475 million. Withholding inflation for a second year is not a viable option, as it would destabilise the supported housing sector in Worcestershire. The reductions will need to be achieved by the large programme of service reviews already underway and planned.

4.3.2 The Supporting People Commissioning Body are confident that the savings required can be achieved. It was always the intention to change the range of services inherited in April 2003 to reach a position of sustainable, cost effective high quality services. However the imposed cuts have forced a quicker pace of change. There is a need for a faster and more proactive approach to the monitoring and review programme to allow for faster review outcomes. It is also important to emphasise that there will be difficult decisions to be made regarding the services provided to a range of vulnerable people. These decisions will need a significant level of partnership working in order to manage rapid and far reaching change in the local supported housing sector.

4.4 Supporting People Funding; 2006-07 and future years

4.4.1 The Supporting People grant for Worcestershire for 2006-07 and beyond has not yet been announced. However further cuts are anticipated.

4.4.2 The ODPM are considering further changes to the way grant is distributed; effectively moving money away from county areas like Worcestershire into metropolitan areas. Some exemplifications of possible distribution formula indicate Worcestershire's share of the Supporting People pot could fall to as little as £11.8 million i.e. a further reduction over the next few years of £3.4 million. This would be very damaging for Supporting People services in Worcestershire.

4.4.3 The possible distribution formula is complex and it is the view of the Supporting People team and the County Council's network (CCN) that it is based on flawed methodology, e.g. inappropriate use of the deprivation index, ethnicity levels, density of population etc. The ODPM have not yet released this distribution formula for formal consultation. When this happens, it is essential that Worcestershire makes its views known. The Supporting People partnership intends to work closely with other authorities affected and the County Council network to achieve this.

4.5 Draft five year strategy process

4.5.1 The ODPM states that the purpose of the 5-year strategy is to examine critically the services inherited from the previous funding streams and focus them on local need and strategic priorities. The expectation is that the document should not be lengthy but should be clear, concise and able to articulate realistic priorities. The strategy should provide a framework for how the Worcestershire Supporting People partnership will meet identified needs and priorities. It will consider how to fill gaps in service provision and how to fill gaps in knowledge and understanding of needs. Worcestershire's draft 5 year strategy (for the Executive Summary see Appendix 1, the full Draft Report is in the Party Group Rooms) follows the guidelines produced by the ODPM and includes the following sections:

- (i) Executive Summary
- (ii) Strategy development
- (iii) Supply analysis
- (iv) Strategic relevance and needs analysis
- (v) Value for money
- (vi) Statement of local charging policy
- (vii) Proposals for a 5 year strategy
- (viii) Annual plan 2005-06

4.6 Developing the 5 year strategy

4.6.1 The Supporting People 5 year strategy has been developed by a range of stakeholders and service users in the Supporting People partnership. The Supporting People Strategy Group consisting of senior representatives of the 6 District Councils, County Council, Primary Care Trust and Probation service and supported by the Supporting People manager has taken responsibility for overseeing and contributing to the development of the strategy. The Chief Executive of Wyre Forest District Council represents the Council on the Supporting People Commissioning Body and the Housing Services Manager represents the Council on the Supporting People Strategy Group. In addition there are a range of service provider and user forums that have contributed to strategic development. During the summer of 2004 the authority engaged Peter Fletcher Associates to carry out detailed analysis of Supporting People needs. This work consisted of a mix of primary and secondary research. The primary research focused on a range of "hard to reach groups" to receive direct input about the types of services needed. This work focused specifically on women fleeing domestic violence, people from black and minority ethnic groups and young people. The secondary research consisted of desktop analysis and stakeholder discussion in relation to a range of existing needs information across all Supporting People service user groups. This approach was designed to ensure that Supporting People fulfils its primary objective of supporting the strategic objectives of existing public service commissioners throughout the county.

4.6.2 Peter Fletcher Associates needs analysis and input from local stakeholders has been fed into the strategy as developed by Matrix Consultants and the Supporting People manager. The Strategy also takes account of the financial context highlighted above.

4.7 Five year strategy approval and next steps

4.7.1 The document has been submitted in draft form to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with outline proposals for formal approval and formal consultation. The 11 public authorities represented on the Supporting People Commissioning Body will be discussing and approving the draft strategy at meetings during April 2005. Following this approval the strategy will be issued for 3 months formal consultation specifically focusing on the development of a first year action plan to achieve changes and developments required within the programme. It is proposed that the Housing Health and Rural Affairs Panel will be involved in this consultation process to enable a more detailed consideration of the issues to take place. The Final Strategy should therefore come back to the Council during the summer for final approval.

4.7.2 It should be noted that the ODPM have stated that stand alone Supporting People strategies will not be required in the future. Supporting People priorities should be set out through community strategies. Corporate CPA processes will in future pick up the administration of the Supporting People programme and outcomes from its delivery locally. The ODPM have also indicated that it expects the administration of the Supporting People programme to be absorbed into the mainstream local authority function already existing within the administering authority. As Worcestershire is a two-tier authority the issues are increasingly complex and will need consideration about the most appropriate structures to ensure that Supporting People is effectively led and driven forward.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are currently no direct financial implications for this Council's budgets due to the proposed Draft Supporting People Strategy as the County Council as Administering Authority have responsibility for operating the relevant budgets. However there may be indirect implications where the Council financially supports through capital or revenue, services such as homelessness, private sector housing initiatives which in part are funded by Supporting People grant.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As a member of the Supporting People Partnership the Council is involved in shaping strategy and policy which will in particular have an impact upon the Council's strategic and statutory housing responsibilities. In particular the role of Supporting People will influence the delivery of the Council's Housing Strategy, its Homelessness Strategy, and influence aspects of other partnership arrangements such as the Community Strategy and Community Safety Partnership.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The risk of reducing Supporting People Grant may impact on the provision of support services to vulnerable people in the Wyre Forest and across Worcestershire and lead to some of the Council's Strategic priorities in relation to Housing, Health and Community Safety being more difficult to deliver.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Supporting People programme faces a range of challenges over the next few years and it is important that the Council continues to use its influence to shape its strategic direction for the benefit of people in Wyre Forest.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Head of Financial Services

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Draft 5 year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010.

1.0 Executive summary

1.1 Worcestershire's vision for Supporting People

Within Worcestershire, the key strategic partners from the District Councils, the County Council, the National Offender Management Service and the Primary Care Trusts have formed the Worcestershire Supporting People Partnership. This partnership has taken responsibility for developing and implementing a countywide vision for the Supporting People programme in the county. The County Council will continue to act as the legal entity for the programme, with responsibility for administering all of the Supporting People funding.

In Worcestershire, the Supporting People programme funds housing related support services for 10,000 people, which contribute towards meeting the strategic priorities of the Worcestershire Supporting People Partnership and its key aims in relation to health, social care and criminal justice. The partnership have identified a number of strategic priorities, which link to regional and national priorities and aims, where the Supporting People programme can aid and complement local ambitions:

- making our neighbourhoods safer (addressing crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour);
- addressing homelessness (preventing homelessness, in particular repeat homelessness and supporting women at risk of domestic violence),
- tackling substance misuse (alcohol and drugs);
- providing support to people who are vulnerable through age, disability or life experience to maintain independence.

Worcestershire is committed to ensuring the Supporting People programme targets its activities on the most appropriate housing related support services for the whole county to maximise the benefit yielded. The partners in the Worcestershire Supporting people programme believe that the five-year strategy presents an excellent opportunity to consider the local supported-housing market as a whole, in order to deliver the following vision:

- are accessible, high quality, effective and culturally sensitive;
- contribute to the strategic objectives of the county and its partners;
- enable vulnerable people to develop and sustain independent living;
- housing related support is provided regardless of type of housing
- making best use of complimentary resources;
- prevent or delay the need for more intensive, higher cost health and social care interventions; and
- contribute to successful outcomes of wider housing, health and social care interventions.

1.2 Realising this vision

The findings set out in this strategy imply that a significant level of well-managed change is required to realise this vision. Against a backdrop of expected cuts in funding over the next

five years, the key to moving towards this vision is acting strategically across the programme in our commissioning, our service reviews and our needs analysis to direct and improve the package of services we deliver.

In order to achieve the significant level of change outlined in this strategy, the Worcestershire Supporting People Partnership intends to consider the strategic implications of commissioning and delivering services across Local Authority boundaries. The partnership believes that this is an increasingly important factor in achieving best value from a capped budget.

The Partnership will continue to adopt a rigorous anti-discriminatory approach to the commissioning and delivery of new and existing services, aiming to offer supported housing that meets the highest standards of equality and diversity for all, regardless of race gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. However, the Partnership also recognises that this inclusive may not be possible or appropriate in all circumstances and that some groups or needs may require more individual or specialised services.

1.2.1 Commissioning

Scrutiny of current needs analysis¹ and evaluation of the current supply profile has led us to select, within the context of the changing needs and available resources, the following commissioning priorities for each client group:

Client group	Commissioning priorities
Older persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early intervention services for older people with mental health needs • low level preventative housing related intervention as provided by home improvement agencies, community alarms and assistive technology. • move from sheltered to floating support services; and • to provide low level support where appropriate within existing and new extra care provision
Learning disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving choices, including enabling people to live independently through the provision of floating support; and • short-term transitional services to help make the move from high dependency living to independence.
Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • floating support; and • short-term transitional services to help make the move from high dependency living to independence.
Teenage parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short-term transitional services to make the move to independent living • floating support and coordinating services.

¹ Needs analysis was conducted by Peter Fletcher Associates (2004). Some limitations to this work are set out in section 5.0.

<p>Homeless (homeless families; single homeless people; rough sleepers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking a strategic approach to homelessness across Worcestershire, which builds on local services; • intensive support to enable individuals to access temporary accommodation; • floating support; • innovative services for the prevention of initial repeat homelessness such as support for rent deposit guarantee schemes; improving access to quality temporary supported accommodation; • complementing housing strategies countywide; • working to commission and deliver services across Local Authority boundaries.
<p>Substance misuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low level support and floating support for individuals with drugs problems; • complementing the low-level community interventions such as the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) to enable the inclusion of floating support in the DIP team; and • low level support for people with alcohol misuse problems.
<p>Offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low level support to prevent/reduce re-offending; • transitional housing models and floating support; • support to enable people to access good quality affordable housing and; • services that ensure the programme links in with the National Offenders Management Service (NOMS) to develop a seamless package of support.
<p>Travellers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive and integrated needs analysis for this group is proposed to inform actions within future annual plans.
<p>Young people (young people leaving care; young people at risk of homelessness, offending or sexual exploitation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services to prevent and reduce homelessness such as mediation and support for rent deposit guarantee schemes; • homelessness prevention for care leavers and young people at risk (e.g. homelessness, offending, sexual exploitation) and; • cross authority provision or local satellite services
<p>Domestic violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services that aid the sustainability and development of safe short-term transitional services and floating services to remain in their homes or quality temporary housing. • access to housing related support services in all areas of the county. • To review the service provision across the county.

People with sensory impairments and physical disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to enable people to access supported housing and housing related support • to assist commissioners in developing specific development plans
People with HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive and integrated needs analysis for this group is proposed to inform actions within future annual plans.
Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive and integrated needs analysis for this group is proposed to inform actions within future annual plans.

To ensure a more strategic service profile develops, Worcestershire's Supporting People programme will seek to commission services that:

- deliver the vision;
- meet the needs of vulnerable people in the county;
- are flexible;
- are sustainable;
- are cost effective, providing value for money;
- fit with the strategic priorities of the Worcestershire Supporting People Partnership;
- are high quality; and
- are eligible for Supporting People funding.

Eligibility is a challenge to local Supporting People programmes due to the absence of government guidance. The Worcestershire SP partnership is setting out specific eligibility framework, with the aim of ensuring:

1. fair and equitable access based on need through the introduction of common standards to assess housing related support needs.
2. the services are focused on providing low level housing related support services that compliment preventative health, social care, substance misuse or criminal justice interventions;
3. Supporting People services are complementary to the work of the wider Worcestershire SP partnership and not separate from, wider social care and health services; and
4. funding is used to support services in line with the grant conditions that apply to Worcestershire.

1.2.2 Service reviews

The Supporting People team are currently reviewing all services commissioned by the programme. This process can play a crucial role in altering the service profile if guided by a structure that is underpinned by the overall vision. The process has itself been reviewed and it has been agreed that future reviews will follow a framework, outlined in table 7.0 (section 7.0), that prioritises reviews to maximise efficiency. Each review will be prioritised depending on the extent to which the service is:

- strategically relevant;
- providing value for money; and
- posing a risk to the Supporting People programme.

1.2.3 Developing a needs driven programme

To accomplish our vision and deliver services strategically, it is vital that the programme is needs driven. It is widely accepted that the current evidence base of need for housing-related support in the county is low.

It is the intention of the Supporting People programme to continue to generate an accurate picture of need across the county, in order for services to be appropriately targeted. The Supporting People Partnership will seek to work with other organisations, to ensure that strategic needs analyses are coordinated, jointly commissioned and incorporate user and provider perspectives.

1.3 Annual plan

The five-year strategy is a live document that will need to be reviewed in light of the evolving over-arching Supporting People agenda outcomes of consultation, as well as external factors, such as alterations to funding, PSAs or the regional agenda. To preserve the relevance of the strategy and ensure progress is timetabled and monitored, the five-year strategy will be used to inform a new annual plan each year.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

14th April 2005

Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy

	OPEN
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Shared Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Promoting Economic Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN KEY PRIORITY:	Regeneration
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor James Dudley
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Steve Singleton Ext. 2752 steve.singleton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDIX:	Appendix 1 – Summary of Strategy attached to this report. A copy of the Consultant’s Reality Check and Economic Impact Assessment of the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To obtain approval to the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy

2. Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council:

- 1.2 To approve the Kidderminster Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Kidderminster has been identified as a “Local Regeneration Area” in the West Midlands Regional Planning Guidance, a potential “Shire Town” by the Regional Development Agency - Advantage West

Midlands (AWM) and a Regeneration 'Hot Spot' by Worcestershire County Council.

- 3.2 In addition, the Oldington & Foley Park Ward of Kidderminster is a Government designated "Enterprise Area" and a Government designated "Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Area".
- 3.3 Wyre Forest District and Worcestershire County Councils, in partnership with Advantage West Midlands and the Government Office for the West Midlands, have been considering ways of bringing sustainable economic growth and development to the town.
- 3.4 In response, a Kidderminster Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy has been drafted which "furthers a case for Kidderminster" at a Regional level.
- 3.5 Birmingham based external consultants, W M Enterprise, have assisted in drawing up the Strategy, a summary of which is attached to this report. (Appendix 1)
- 3.6 The Cabinet is advised that the proposals set out within the draft Strategy have been endorsed by both the Wyre Forest Business Forum and the Shared Prosperity Theme Group of the Local Strategic Partnership

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 A major element in the town's economic sustainability is the rejuvenated town centre (Crossley Park, Green Street and Weavers Wharf) and the redevelopment opportunities at Worcester Street and on the Stourport Road. The relevant Agencies recognise the importance of increasing the amount of local income spent not only in the town centre, but also throughout Kidderminster in order to create and maintain a successful and vibrant economy and increase business and employment.
- 4.2 The Strategy is a framework to create:-
 - 4.2.1 increased skill levels and thereby sustainable economic benefit, to raise average household incomes and generate extra revenue for the town.
 - 4.2.2 an environment that will attract and increase modern and high growth businesses.
 - 4.2.3 a range of well paid and high quality job opportunities.
- 4.3 The ten year Strategy:-
 - 4.3.1 evaluates the town's current economic position within the sub-region;
 - 4.3.2 identifies the potential for and barriers to economic development and regeneration;

- 4.3.3 provides the framework for strategic partnership working with both the public and private sectors and
- 4.3.4 aims to improve and maintain the towns long term local economic wellbeing by developing the local and evidence based needs of stakeholders.

4.4 Key to the Strategy's success will be to address skill shortages and target high growth manufacturing and service sector companies to the allocated employment areas in the town and in particularly the opportunities within the "Stourport Road Employment Corridor".

4.5 The Strategy has regard to the emerging Local Development Framework and in particular to the potential for developing Action Area Plans or the Stourport Road Employment Corridor and the Kidderminster Central Area.

4.6 It is proposed to invite the Consultants to formally present the Strategy to representatives from Advantage West Midlands and Government Office for the West Midlands.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The approval of this report and the Strategy should not, in itself, make the Council liable for any financial commitments other than approved within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The adoption of the Strategy accords with the priorities of the Wyre Forest Community Strategy and of the District Council.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1.1 There are no immediate risk management issues arising from this report. In the longer term, there may be capacity issues to address regarding project managing the delivery of the Strategy and its component parts.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Kidderminster Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy will enable the District Council to seek support from key regional agencies in order to bring forward the Vision and Strategic Objectives. In addition it will enable required regeneration projects to have a strategic focus endorsed by WFDC.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 CMT

9.2 Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration

- 9.3 Shared Prosperity Theme Group of Local Strategic Partnership
- 9.4 Wyre Forest Business Forum

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None

24th March 2005

**SUMMARY OF KIDDERMINSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
REGENERATION STRATEGY**

1. Economic SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy
- WFDC Corporate Plan
- Diversifying economic/business base
- Private sector investment into the Weavers Wharf and Crossley Park
- Headquarter location to several leading companies and agencies
- Geographically centrally located within the country
- Good quality environment in which to live and work
- Relatively affordable house prices;
- Established tourist and day visitor attractions;
- Well developed training, business support and education infrastructure;
- Town centre F.E. College
- High quality sports and leisure facilities

Weaknesses

- Educational attainment and skill levels area below average
- Lower than average household incomes
- Geographical 'hot spots' of deprivation with higher than average unemployment
- Localised areas with a poor built environment
- Traditional and manufacturing industry is in decline
- No established 'hi-tech' areas or science parks
- Shortage of readily available "fully serviced" industrial and commercial development sites
- Road and transport infrastructure is relatively poor
- Shortage of multi-modal connections (e.g. rail and bus);
- Key corridors/gateways are uninviting
- Shortage of quality overnight accommodation and "big name" hotels for business and tourist visitors
- Evening economy underdeveloped
- Shortage of strategic external funding

Threats

- Competition from other regions and areas for grant aid, resources and jobs
- Current image has a negative effect on the town's ability to attract inward investment;

- Growing level of international competition and weak domestic market forcing the decline of the town's carpet industry;
- Prolonged shortage of public sector finance in the town.

Opportunities

- WFDC Local Planning Authority - New Local Development Scheme (Core Strategy and Kidderminster Central (Area Action Plan)) proposals
- Oldington and Foley Park ward - 'Enterprise Area' status
- Neighbourhood Renewal funding awarded to Oldington and Foley Park ward
- Local Strategic Partnership support for Horsefair/Broadwaters area
- Former British Sugar site and the Stourport Road Employment Corridor
- 'KTC 3' site in Worcester Street
- Weavers Wharf development and town centre enhancements
- Green Street Business Centre
- Capitalise on visitors going to and coming from Kidderminster's (and the Wyre Forest District's) established tourist attractions
- Capitalise on reputation and history of carpet industry
- Peak time direct rail link to (am) & from (pm) London
- Chiltern Railways to obtain Birmingham/ Worcester rail line franchise
- Expansion of New Road Kidderminster car park
- Potential for Business Improvement District

2. Future Economic Trends

- **Population**

0 and 19 expected to decline between 2004 and 2015
over 60 likely to increase.

- **Economic activity rates**

expected to increase between 2004 and 2015

- **total number of employees in employment**

expected to increase by 6% from 2004-2015:-

- retail, hotels and catering, education and health and business services
sectors experiencing increases

- manufacturing of textiles, clothing and leather, rubber and plastic products,
basic metals and metal products, and motor vehicles to decrease .

- **GVA* (Gross Value Added)**

expected to increase by 28.7% between 2004 & 2014

GVA is a contributory measure of how much local production/income contributes to industry and sectors as part of the estimation of Gross Domestic Product.

- **Share of manufacturing employment**

expected to decline between 2004 and 2014

-share of employment for the distribution, hotels and catering and 'other services' sectors is likely to increase.

- **Share of GVA of manufacturing sector**

likely to decrease between 2004 and 2014

share of GVA for the transport and communications and 'other services' sectors is likely to increase

- **Self employment levels**

expected to increase by 1.8% between 2004 and 2014-

increases in self employment forecasted in the distribution and catering, transport and communications and 'other services' sectors.

levels in manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying, and banking, finance and insurance are expected to decrease

- **Net rate of out-commuting**

likely to decrease between 2004 and 2014

- **Rate of unemployment**

likely to increase significantly between 2004 and 2006 but then decrease once again between 2006 and 2014

3. Vision

'By 2014, for Kidderminster to have a strong, diverse and sustainable economy, where household incomes at the regional average and where people can fulfil their potential and can develop throughout their lives in a safe, attractive and healthy environment.

This will have been achieved through the physical regeneration of both the town centre and other identified areas, developing underused and vacant sites into high quality employment areas, attracting new companies to locate in Kidderminster, encouraging people to visit and stay in the area and improving educational attainment and skill levels to enable local people to take advantage of the new employment opportunities'

4. Key Strategic Objectives (SO) & Actions

SO1: TO PROMOTE AND MARKET THE AREA'S DIVERSE ECONOMY

1.1) Promote the town as a high quality business & commercial/retail location and visitor destination.

- (i) Town Centre / Weavers Wharf/Crossley Park
 - (a) KTC3 Site
 - (b) Proposals to redevelop Kidderminster Town Hall
 - (c) Regeneration of Under Used/Derelict Sites in the Town Centre
- (ii) Developing the Visitor Economy in the Kidderminster Area
 - (a) WFDC Integrated Economic Development and Tourism Plan
- (i) Promotion of town as part of wider District
- (ii) Feasibility of attracting hotel developer
- (iii) Improve local tourism infrastructure to improve visitor experience

1.2) Attract companies to available quality employment sites and commercial properties ensuring these are linked to the needs of all including start up and high technology businesses.

- (i) Development of Key Employment Sites
 - (a) Former British Sugar Site
 - (b) Former Folkes Forging Site
 - (c) Former Romwire Site
 - (d) Walter Nash Road Site
- ii) Promotion of commercial and industrial property and other development sites

S02: TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

2.1) Create a skilled, trained and motivated workforce to meet the demands of current and future businesses, ensuring that appropriate courses are provided.

- (i) The Creation of an Education Business Partnership in Kidderminster
- (ii) Improving Local Vocational Training Provision

2.2) Support excluded people and local communities by addressing neighbourhood renewal, equal opportunities, financial empowerment and work/life balance.

- (i) Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder
- (ii) Oldington and Foley Park Enterprise Area

2.3) Identify economic activities that may be at risk with a view to developing them and/or promoting alternatives to the workforce.

- (i) Increasing Adult Participation in Education and Work-based Learning in partnership with Learning and Skills Council, Advantage West Midlands and Learning providers.

2.4) Assess quantitatively and qualitatively the potential of projects and activities to maximise the provision and use of all sources of available economic regeneration funding.

- i) WFDC External Funding Strategy
- ii) Worcestershire Partnership Funding Co-ordinator

SO3: TO SUPPORT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

3.1) Establish, enhance and maintain Kidderminster as a recognised area of business growth that attracts inward investment and generates high quality jobs.

- (i) Inward Investment Strategy for the Kidderminster Area

3.2) Establish, enhance and maintain accessible, attractive and safe business areas, facilities and centres in which to live, work and visit.

- i) Restructure Kidderminster Town centre Partnership
- ii) Work up proposal to create a Business Improvement District
- iii) Appoint a Town Centre Manager
- iv) Establishment of a Business Crime Reduction Partnership
- v) Gateway Improvement Project

3.3) Research, develop, provide and promote appropriate business support and opportunities.

- (i) Outreach Business Support for Kidderminster's Less Affluent Neighbourhoods
- (ii) Business Link and Advantage West Midlands to provide business support in partnership with WFDC as appropriate

3.4) Support the provision of and access to all elements of technology and ICT infrastructure to all businesses

- (i) Support to Local Businesses in ICT through Advantage West Midlands, Learning & Skills Council, Business Link

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategic Objective 1 - Promote and Market the District's diverse Economy

- Number of promotional campaigns per annum
- Number of business enquiries about the district/town
- Number and value of commercial investments, relocations and re-investments annually as a result of 'inward investment'
- % of allocated land, including brownfield, brought forward for development
- % increases in the number of people visiting and staying in Kidderminster/District
- % increases in the level of satisfaction with business premises within the town.

Strategic Objective 2 - Connecting people to Economic Opportunity

- % of adults participating in employment training and/ or qualifications
- % decrease of people claiming benefit who have been out of work for more than a year
- Leverage of external funding secured for regeneration and renewal projects
- Position of district and wards/ SOAs within Index of Multiple Deprivation
- % Decreases in overall unemployment rates in Kidderminster's "deprived areas"
- % Increases in the number of people achieving NVQ Level 3 qualifications (or higher)
- % Reductions in the number of residents with no qualifications.

Strategic Objective 3 - Support Business Development and Investment

- % Increase in user satisfaction with the town as a business location and visitor destination
- increases in the level of visitor spending within Kidderminster
- % Increase in employment
- % Increases in average household incomes
- % Increase in VAT registered businesses in the area over the last year
- Number of jobs created or safeguarded
- Number of businesses supported
- Number of business start ups supported or started per annum
- % increase in business start up survival rate per annum
- Number of business support enquiries and completions of 'business start up courses'
- Number of Wyre Forest District Council start up business grants
- % increase in customer satisfaction with the quality of the business support offered
- % increases in level of satisfaction with physical appearance of Kidderminster town centre
- % increases in satisfaction with the availability of business support within Kidderminster.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
14TH APRIL 2005

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) 2006/2011
Consultation Draft February 2005

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Transport Infrastructure
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J. Dudley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Mayman – Ext. 2554
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1: LTP2 Key Issues in relation to Wyre Forest District. A copy of the Local Transport Plan 2 (LPT2) Draft Consultation Document has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the content of the LTP2 Draft Consultation Document and the key issues relating to the Wyre Forest District.
- 1.2 To set out comments and representations for submission to Worcestershire County Council by 29th April 2005.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council :

- That the comments set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Cabinet on 14th April 2005, together with any other comments Cabinet wish to make, be approved as the District Council's response to the Draft Local Transport Plan 2, for submission to Worcestershire County Council.
- That the Head of Planning, Health & Environment be authorised to submit Wyre Forest District Council's representations on the Consultation Draft Local Transport Plan 2 to Worcestershire County Council by 29th April 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall the presentation outlining the 2nd Local Transport Plan (LTP2) covering the period 2006-11, which was received from County Council Officers at the E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 9th February 2005. LTP2 is currently in its consultation stage and the presentation outlined the shared priorities agreed by the Government and Local Government Associations, which are accessibility, air quality, road safety and congestion. Asset management was also highlighted as a priority for the County.
- 3.2 County Council Officers also stressed that there had been a reduction in the overall LTP funding allocation for the 2006-11 period and as such there are clear budget limits within which LTP2 must deliver. For example, the LTP spend programme for 2003/04 was £4.250 million for integrated transport and £9.272 million for roads and bridge maintenance. The proposed spend programme for 2006/07 stands at £4.097 million for integrated transport and £7.836 million for maintenance. In addition, LTP2 Guidance issued by the Government indicates that funding will not be available for major schemes (i.e. over £5 million), over and above those already provisionally accepted (of which there are none in Worcestershire).
- 3.3 An initial summary of the main issues, key strategy areas and comments was presented to the E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel on 6th April 2005, for their consideration. Any recommendations from the Panel will be reported verbally.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 As an “excellent” authority, WCC has elected to produce a full LTP but will streamline the process to focus on the core requirements relating to LTP2 targets and indicators. LTP2 will be submitted to Government in March 2006. However, a provisional LTP2 is required by July 2005. The consultation draft is intended to initiate debate on transport issues affecting the County and is very much a working document. The County Council welcomes views relating to local priorities for transport.
- 4.2 The key points and strategy areas arising from LTP2 relating to the Wyre Forest District are set out in detail in the schedule attached at Appendix 1 to this report. However in brief these include:
- Measures to address the Air Quality Management Areas within the District.
 - The implementation of transportation strategies in Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn town centres as part of the Market Towns Initiative.
 - To undertake a study to identify the appropriate transportation strategy to promote sustainable access to the employment sites along the Stourport Road Employment Corridor (SREC).

- To implement public transport infrastructure improvements as identified by the Wyre Forest Bus Quality Partnership.
- To promote better integration between Kidderminster Rail Station and the town centre.
- To review school transport provision within the District to ensure that an appropriate strategy is in place to promote sustainable travel to school following the Wyre Forest Schools Review.

4.3 The attached Appendix sets out the Head of Planning Health & Environment's comments on the key points and strategy areas contained within the LTP2 consultation draft. These address areas of support for the LTP2 strategy, the omission of important strategies and transport policies for the District from LTP2 and proposals, which should be amended or expanded at the provisional LTP2 stage.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The District Council may be asked to contribute towards the development of the LTP2 strategy through partnership working and officer and Member representation at meetings and forums. In addition, it is likely that the District Council will need to contribute some match funding towards feasibility studies and the implementation of proposals within the District. Any such funding would be met from existing budgets or from Section 106 Contributions.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The recommended policy responses are in accordance with the Council's established priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. Risks may arise through the failure to implement proposals outlined in the LTP2 e.g. the elimination of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The LTP2 Consultation Draft sets out WCC's proposed transport strategy for the County, including a five-year plan for implementation covering 2006-11. It has been developed against a backdrop of reduced funding allocations and has therefore been streamlined to focus on core requirements.

8.2 A number of proposals have been included for the Wyre Forest District and officers set out their initial responses to the proposals in a report, which was considered by the E&ER Scrutiny Panel on 6th April 2005. These are now attached at Appendix 1 for consideration by the Cabinet, who may also wish to add further representations for submission to WCC by the 29th April 2005.

9. CONSULTEES

E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel (6th April 2005)
Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager
Economic Development & Tourism Manager
Head of Cultural Leisure & Commercial Services

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Local Transport Plan 2 2006/2011 Consultation Draft (February 2005)

E & ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel Briefing Paper 6th April 2005.

Agenda Item 5: E & ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel Agenda (16th March 2005)

Appendix 1: LTP2 Key Issues in relation to Wyre Forest District

LTP2 Strategy Area	Page & Par. No	Summary	Head of Planning Health and Environment's Comment
2.1.1 Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	P.9 Par. 4	Acknowledges the need to improve access to economic opportunity in Kidderminster by bringing forward local regeneration policies and programmes, transport will clearly be a key element in meeting this aspiration. Kidderminster will form the focus for major retail, leisure & office developments and LTP2 will need to support this role where necessary by the application of appropriate policy.	Support for LTP2's recognition of the need to improve the local transport network to support the local economy and RSS policies.
	P.10 Par. 9	RSS recognises that the strategic tourist attractions within Worcestershire are the Severn Valley Railway and the West Midlands Safari Park, as well as the Region's canal network. LTP2 will seek to promote accessibility to all these attractions.	Support for LTP2's recognition of the need to promote accessibility to the District's strategic tourist attractions. LTP2 needs to emphasise sustainable modes of transport to tourist attractions.
2.1.2 Community Strategies	P.11 Par. 3	Recognises the role of the Local Strategic Partnerships within Worcestershire and the identification of transport as a key issue for all of them.	The section on Community Strategies needs to be expanded in the Provisional LTP2 to recognise each individual LSP and its priorities for transport. The 10 year Community Strategy for the Wyre Forest District contains the following key priorities in relation to sustainable transport: Improve public transport provision for both the district's urban and rural communities. Improve facilities for cyclists and pedestrians in order to reduce reliance on the private motor car. Education of more sustainable modes of travel in such a way that people consider these options first. Reducing the need to travel through land use planning.
2.1.3 Worcestershire Economic Strategy 2004-14	P.12 Par. 6	Recognises the Stourport Road Employment Corridor (SREC) and support for the rural economy as key economic regeneration initiatives that will have major transport needs and will require significant investment in transport.	Support for LTP2's recognition of the SREC and for the rural economy and the need for significant investment in transport measures to support them. Reference should also be included to supporting the Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy for Kidderminster.
	P.12 2.1.3.3	States the need for a transport strategy for the SREC that will minimise car use and address congestion issues to make the site an attractive location for inward investment.	Support for an integrated transport strategy for SREC that should be produced in partnership with WFDC PH&E Division.

LTP2 Strategy Area	Page & Par. No	Summary	Head of Planning Health and Environment's Comment
2.1.7 Education	P.16 Par.6	States that a key issue to be addressed within LTP2 is the potential school travel changes that are likely to arise from the ongoing Wyre Forest Schools Review. Highlights the potential for a major review of school travel within the Wyre Forest area to be linked with the schools review.	Support for measures to improve transport choice for pupils within Wyre Forest. However, the transport implications of the schools review will need to be looked at very carefully and discussions will need to be held with the District Council.
2.1.9 Rail Network	P.17 Par.6 P.18 Par. 2	Refers to the disbanding of the Central Trains Franchise in March 2006. The issue of who will operate these services during the LTP2 period is a crucial one. Refers to the Strategic Rail Authority's West Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS).	LTP2 will need to include a reference to a programme for improvement works at Kidderminster Station and negotiations with the new franchise holder will form an important element of this. In addition it should refer to and support Wyre Forest District Local Plan Policy TR.2 Interchange Improvements at Kidderminster Railway Station The West Midlands RUS highlights Kidderminster Rail Station as one of only 3 principal stations in Worcestershire. It is ranked as the 17th busiest station in the West Midlands (2003/04) and only Worcester Foregate Street is busier in Worcestershire. However, facilities at the station are inadequate and therefore LTP2 should include reference to supporting proposals to improve station facilities in conjunction with the Train Operating Companies, Network Rail and the SRA, in order to reflect the importance of the station.
2.1.10 Bus Network	P.22 Par.5	States that there is a comprehensive bus network within the Wyre Forest District. First Group has introduced "Overground" networks involving high frequency services on core networks.	Do not concur with the view that Wyre Forest District has a comprehensive bus network. Currently there are no evening bus services throughout the District and people cannot therefore travel between the three towns during the evenings. This does little to support the District's evening economy. In addition, service coverage in the daytime to outlying housing estates is poor following recent service reductions by First.
2.2 Congestion	P.22 Par. 5	States that congestion hotspots at Kidderminster coincide with locations at which air quality is a problem. Increases in traffic due to economic regeneration at sites such as British Sugar will exacerbate congestion and air quality problems within both the town centre and in Stourport-on-Severn. Key tourist attractions at Kidderminster will also be affected by increasing congestion and this may reduce their attractiveness.	Support for the acknowledgement of these problems arising from future development proposals. It is important that the LTP2 recognises areas of marginal air quality and the need to take these into account when planning land use changes. Ongoing discussions will need to be held with the District Council's PH&E Division.

LTP2 Strategy Area	Page & Par. No	Summary	Head of Planning Health and Environment's Comment
2.3 Travel to Work Patterns	P.23 Par.3	Includes map depicting key travel to work movements within and out of the County.	Data source for map not provided. Question the validity of the major movement corridor identified between Kidderminster & Droitwich Spa.
2.4 Air Quality	P.27	Identifies the declared AQMA's at Welch Gate, Bewdley and A451 Horsefair, Kidderminster. Refers to strategies to be implemented as part of the LTP2 programme. Also refers to borderline air quality levels sensitive to any significant traffic increases including Kidderminster Town Centre and Stourport Town Centre. It is clear that these areas could develop future problems in the next round of air quality assessments should traffic levels continue to increase during the LTP2 period.	<p>Support for the implementation of LTP2 strategies for the AQMA's. However, it is of concern that there is a likelihood of another two AQMA's developing within the Wyre Forest District.</p> <p>In view of the potential Air Quality issues in Kidderminster & Stourport town centres, LTP2 should include measures to reduce traffic movements in these areas and promote improved pedestrian facilities. LTP2 should also refer to the measures set out in the Air Quality Management Action Plan agreed by DEFRA.</p>
3.6 Area Strategies 6. Wyre Forest	Pages 60-66	<p>The LTP2 strategy for the Wyre Forest District is summarised as:</p> <p>Construction of junction improvements on the A456/A451 in north Kidderminster as part of the measures to address the designated Air Quality Management Area at the Horsefair</p> <p>Work in partnership to implement transportation strategies in Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn town centres to improve traffic conditions, reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists as part of the Market Towns Initiative</p>	<p>Strong support for a partnership approach to the consideration of options for all of these proposals. We would welcome more detail on these proposals in the Provisional LTP2.</p> <p>The Wyre Forest District Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the requirement to produce a Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (AAP) from 2006. The AAP will have a key role to play in clarifying the regeneration potential of sites in the Horsefair and Broadwaters areas of Kidderminster. It will also consider accessibility, the evening economy, city living, enhanced public realm and improved synergy between the town centre and nearby communities. As part of these measures consideration will need to be given to improving pedestrian access to the town centre from the Horsefair and to provide an alternative to the subway.</p> <p>Under the Market Towns Transport Strategy for Stourport, a pedestrian crossing at Vale Road is urgently required. This was originally identified in the Halcrow transportation study. WFDC has the funding to support this proposal.</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
14th APRIL 2005

Planning Delivery Grant 2005/06

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME OPEN PLAN	Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Managing the Local Environment
KEY PRIORITY:	Development Assessment and Building Control
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor J. Dudley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER	Mike Parker at Ext. 2500 Mike.parker@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the Planning Delivery Grant award for 2005/06 of £378,805 plus an additional anticipated £52,000 to be announced later in 2005 and to agree its expenditure.
- 1.2 To review the expenditure of years one and two Planning Delivery Grant, 2003/4 and 2004/5.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to decide:

- 2.1 That the 2005/06 Planning Delivery Grant award be noted and to agree its use within the Planning, Health and Environment Division within the following areas:
- Forward Planning Resources
 - Electronic Service Delivery
 - Support Services Resources
 - Funding new posts for Housing and Conservation
 - Consultants Work
 - Training
 - Housing Needs Survey
 - Support for work by external partners
- 2.2 That the expenditure for years one and two of the Planning Delivery Grant be noted.
- 2.3 That the Head of Planning, Health and Environment in conjunction

with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Economic Regeneration be given delegated authority to vire monies between the areas of expenditure if necessary.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In July 2002 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) announced the introduction of investment in Local Authorities planning resources through the new Planning Delivery Grant which originally intended to make £350 million available to Local Authorities between 2003 and 2006 to improve the delivery and performance of planning services. In 2004 the ODPM announced that an additional two years Planning Delivery Grant was to be resourced up to 2008.
- 3.2 Although PDG is not ring-fenced the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Keith Hill, has made it clear in the past that the monies have been allocated on the basis that they will drive up performance in the delivery of planning functions both in respect of Development Control and Plan Making. Since the introduction of PDG there has been a noticeable increase in the informal auditing of where Local Authorities are spending the money and action has been taken to claw back monies from those Authorities whose decisions have been deemed to be perverse and tailored simply to meeting the criteria to obtain increased levels of PDG rather than in delivering improved quality services. In making this year's award Keith Hill indicated that it is hoped that the award of the grant will be an incentive for authorities to meet or exceed key performance targets for planning.
- 3.3 This year's award of PDG has been split into two tranches. The first tranche which was announced before Easter comprised £378,805 broadly based on Development Control Performance at year ending 30th September 2004 (this is based on the measure of performance against BVPI 109 a – c on determining applications within the 8 and 13 week target periods). A further award in the region of £50,000 is expected to be announced in May 2005 for all those Authorities who submitted their Local Development Scheme (LDS) before the end of March 2005, thereby meeting the statutory requirement to submit an LDS within a 6 month period from the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in September 2004. Wyre Forest District Council's LDS was submitted in February and we will therefore qualify for this further award.
- 3.4 It is a requirement of the 2005/06 award that a quarter of the grant must be spent or carried forward for capital only expenditure. The remaining three quarters may be used or carried forward for capital and revenue expenditure.
- 3.5 In the first year of PDG in 2003/04 Wyre Forest District Council was awarded £108,105 which has now been accounted for and moved forward to service improvements including the purchase of a new plan printer, digital cameras and Global Positioning System, the commissioning of consultants to prepare the design and quality Supplementary Planning

Guidance, the commissioning of a consultant to advise on improved affordable housing delivery, scanning of files to CD, the purchase of a GIS Aerial Photography Update, officer and Member training and supporting maternity cover in Development Control.

3.6 The second year PDG in 2004/05 is still currently being used to support improved service delivery in the following areas:

- ◆ Local Development Framework
- ◆ Technical Studies (Urban Capacity Study and Retail Needs Assessment)
- ◆ Work commission for Taylor Young Architect to undertake a design concept study to support the Bewdley Community Facility Project
- ◆ A Buildings at Risk Review
- ◆ The Implementation of Replacement Planning and Building Control Computer Database
- ◆ Officer and Member Training
- ◆ Additional Consultants' Work as required
- ◆ Support for Additional Human Resources in Forward Planning Section and Support Services

The award for 2004/05 to the Council was £158,086.

3.7 Proposed areas of expenditure for the 2005/06 award are as follows:

- Continued resourcing to Forward Planning Section – following the mini restructuring of the Forward Planning Section in readiness for the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act an additional £100,000 was required from this year's PDG to meet the full costs of this for 5 year period before falling back on establishment. £100,000
(inc. on costs)
- Electronic Service Delivery – tenders have now been opened for the replacement Building Control/Development Control software database. This will cover the implementation of the replacement system including continued consultants' costs to project manage the implementation. £120,000
(may need to be part funded through IEG depending on capital/revenue split)

Work continues through the Corporate Dip and Workflow Group and it is anticipated that Workflow will be introduced to the Division after the implementation of the new software database in 2006; costs have not yet been finalised and will be met in part by IEG monies, but an earmarked sum needs to be set aside.

£30,000

- Additional resourcing to Support Services – Cabinet agreed in September 2004 to fund an additional 18 ½ hours secretarial support at a projected cost of £35,000 for a three year period. So far this money has been held in abeyance pending a review of the Support Services Section in the light of the Worcestershire Hub. A sum of money is to be earmarked to fund additional Support Service resources which may be necessary as part of any restructuring prior to the introduction of the Worcestershire Hub or resulting from the introduction of Dip and Workflow to the Division.

£15,000

- Part-funding Private Sector Initiatives Officer – Council agreed a Service Option as part of the 2005/06 budget to part-fund a Private Sector Initiatives Officer in the Housing Team. It is proposed to provide PDG match funding to support this post with a requirement that part of the duty of the post focus bringing empty properties back into positive use and developing the wider use of Section 215 powers “Tidy Up” under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

£20,000

- Additional support for Conservation Officer – The full

time Conservation Officer has now been in post for over 2 years and, as anticipated, is focusing more on proactive conservation matters has generated additional work such that technical support is required. New Best Value Performance Indicators require Authorities to focus resources more on the production of Conservation Area Character Appraisals (for which the Council has an ongoing replacement programme) and on the production of management plans for the enhancement of Conservation Areas (for which the Council currently has no plans for the production). Additional technical resources would enable the Conservation Officer to free up time spent on administrative/technical work and devote more time to developing this proactive area.

£56,500
(including on costs)

- Consultants' Work – a small sum of money to enable the commissioning of one-off projects is necessary to support the work of the Division. £10,000
- Additional Training – to provide additional top-up training to enable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and special Member training £7,500
- Housing Needs Survey – during 2006 the Council will be required to update its Housing Needs Survey to ensure that information is up to date and to inform the Local Development Framework. £30,000
- External Support – two proposals have been put to the Council which are worthy of support:
 - i) joint funding (with the other

Worcestershire Districts) of a County Council Ecological/Biodiversity post for a two year trial period dedicated to the work of the districts;

- ii) support for the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to complete the updating of the survey of Special Wildlife Sites. £17,000
- Miscellaneous – the remaining sum of carry forward money to be used for minor service improvements to be agreed between the Cabinet Member and Head of Planning, Health and Environment has identified or carried forward for future works. £24,805

Total **£430,805**
(including the anticipated £52,000 later in 2005)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All of the above expenditure will be met entirely from the Planning Delivery Grant 2005/06.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Legal and Policy Implications arising from this report.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Failure to bring forward the above expenditure will impact on the level of service delivery available through the Planning, Health and Environment Division. The impact of the introduction of new posts and those which have already been introduced will not fall immediately on establishment budgets. Some posts are only of a temporary nature whilst PDG exists and those will cease at the end of the funding.

7. CONSULTEES

Head of Financial Services
Head of Human Resources and IT
Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Affairs

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Report September 2004
Executive Reports 22nd April 2004, 1st October 2003, 12th June 2003, 20th
March 2003

01.04.05

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
14TH APRIL 2005

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework:
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Managing the Local Environment
KEY PRIORITY:	Forward Planning
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J. Dudley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Mayman – Ext. 2554
APPENDICES	Appendix 1: Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Copies of the Appendix (Pages 1-24), have been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the background to the development of the Draft SCI, its content and the proposals to take it forward for a 6 week consultation period commencing on Thursday 28th April 2005.
- 1.2 To seek the approval of the Draft SCI for public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council:

- That the Draft Statement of Community Involvement, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for the purposes of pre-submission public participation in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
- That the Head of Planning Health & Environment be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to publish the Draft Statement of Community Involvement for a 6-week consultation period commencing on 28th April 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall the Cabinet report of the 17th February, which outlined details of the Local Development Scheme, including the timetable for the preparation of the SCI.
- 3.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires the Council to produce an SCI which will set out our policy for involving the community in the planning process through the preparation and revision of LDDs and for consulting on planning applications.
- 3.3 Guidance on developing SCI's can be found in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Local Development Frameworks (Chapter 3) and Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (Paragraphs 40-44).
- 3.4 Regulations 25 and 26 of The Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 set out the minimum requirements for community involvement in the formulation of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Regulation 17 sets out the minimum requirements for involvement in Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Draft SCI is a clear public statement, which will help the community to understand how and when they will be involved in the preparation of LDD's and also how they will be consulted on planning applications.
- 4.2 The Draft SCI clearly sets out the District Council's main principles for community involvement in the planning framework as follows:
 - How people will have the chance to contribute their ideas and the process for considering and responding to these views.
 - How people will get the chance to participate in developing proposals and options.
 - How people can submit representations on formal planning proposals.
 - How the District Council will provide feedback and keep the community informed of progress and outcomes.
- 4.3 A pre-submission informal consultation period; as required for the SCI by Regulation 25 of The Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, has been undertaken with Parish Councils within and directly adjoining the District; all local authorities adjoining the District; the West Midlands Regional Assembly and the Highways Agency.
- 4.4 Consultees had until 14th March to submit their initial comments to the Forward Planning Section. These have been considered and incorporated into the Draft SCI where applicable.
- 4.5 The Council's E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel considered the draft SCI at their meeting on 6th April; any suggested amendments will be reported verbally. In view of the potential District wide community interest in the SCI and its policy implications, it is suggested that Council be recommended to approve the draft document.

5. TIMETABLE FOR SCI DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The stages for the development of the SCI as included in the LDS are outlined below:

- Initial Scoping and Informal Pre-Submission Consultation Period – February-March 2005.
- Pre-Submission Participation on the Draft SCI –April-June 2005
- Consideration of responses to the Draft SCI – July 2005
- Submission of SCI to Secretary of State and 6-week period for public representations: August-September 2005.
- Independent Examination – November 2005
- Adoption – February 2006

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The costs of preparing and publishing the SCI can be met from within the existing budget. Section 10 of the Draft SCI sets out how methods of community involvement in the planning process could be resourced.

7. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Draft SCI has been prepared to accord with the necessary legal requirements.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 Failure to adhere to the key milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme for the preparation of the SCI could have adverse financial implications for the future level of Planning Delivery Grant received. This would indicate less than satisfactory performance when the related BVPI is reported.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Draft SCI reflects the importance that the District Council places on involving the community in local planning issues. It complies with the Council's Consultation Strategy 2005-08 and will help to foster community commitment to the future development of an area.

9.2 This represents the Pre-Submission Participation stage in the preparation of the SCI and will incorporate a 6-week public participation, which is intended to commence on 28th April 2005.

10. **CONSULTEES**

E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel (6th April 2005)

CMT

Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager

Economic Development & Tourism Manager

Development Control Manager

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Development Scheme February 2005

Cabinet Report 17th February 2005 – Draft Local Development Scheme

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Local Development Frameworks (Chapter 3)

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (Paras 40-44)

Planning Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPS12.

The Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations (Sept 2004)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.5.

CABINET MEETING WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL 14TH APRIL 2005

Annual External Funding Report

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Shared Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Promoting Economic Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN KEY PRIORITY:	Regeneration
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor James Dudley
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Delia Yapp Ext. 2724 Delia.yapp@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDIX	WFDC External Funding Record 2004/ 2005

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise cabinet of the funding that has been brought into the district in the financial year 2004/05.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

2.1 To note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Cabinet approved the Wyre Forest District Council External Funding Strategy at its meeting on 17th March 2005.

3.2 Part of the Strategy included the reporting of funding brought into the District during each financial year. With a total of £5,714,336 for 2004/05.

3.3 The 2004/ 05 External Funding record is attached at Appendix 1.

4.KEY ISSUES

4.1 The levels of funding attracted across all divisions of WFDC is instrumental in delivering Council objectives.

4.2 Support given to external partners/ projects through WFDC external funding procedures is also key to delivering economic, social and environmental well being.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional financial implications to the Council arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The introduction of the External Funding Strategy and associated forms, ensures that funding compliments Council themes and policies such as the Community Strategy and WF Matters Shared Prosperity theme.

6.2 Legal consultation on individual funding schemes is recommended to ensure that WFDC does not undertake any unnecessary risk.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Risks involved in individual projects are evaluated at the time of submission of projects ensuring a minimal risk is passed onto WFDC.

7.2 Exit and Forward strategies evaluate levels of risk involved with projects before future decisions are made.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The External Funding brought into the District is of significant benefit to the area.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 WFDC Internal Officer External Funding Working Group

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 WFDC External Funding Strategy

March 2005

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004/05

Position Statement March 2005

Delia Yapp
Strategy and Performance Unit

EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004/05 – Position Statement April 2004

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Cultural Leisure and Commercial Services Division	3.
Planning, Health and Environment Division	8.
Strategy and Performance Unit	9.
Financial Services Division	11.
Human Resources	11.
Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Community Safety Projects	22.

Wyre Forest District Council

EXTERNAL FUNDING - GUARANTEED FOR 2004/05 (or has been applied for)

Guidance notes for completing template

- Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer
- Corporate Theme and Key Priority

- Name of funding pot and funding provider
- Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)
- Total funding required for project / service
- Other monies provided and by whom
- Use of Funding
- Geographical Area
- Sustainability

State name of project or service and who the contact officer is
State the Corporate Theme and Key Priority which addresses the policy area of the project / service
State the name of the funding pot and the body responsible for providing these monies
State the amount of funding that has been secured for 2004/05 and beyond if appropriate
State the total amount of money required for the project / service to run
State the amount of funding provided by other bodies e.g. WFDC
State what the funding will be used for
State the geographical area that is going to benefit from the project / service
State what plans are in place for the sustainability of the project / service when funding ceases.

Position Statement March 2005

DIVISION - CULTURAL, LEISURE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Diversionsary Activities for the summer '04 Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	BSC BCU PAYP PoliceTasking Group	£8600 £6000 £7000 £1500	Further funding is being sought to run the planned programme		To organise and deliver a range of activities in the summer holidays inc. sports, arts, ranger	Hotspot areas	Forward Strategy under consideration
Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	WFCH Bromford BSC Play on steering group	£10,000 £8,000 £2950 £10,000	Final design and quotes are being developed by WFCH		To develop a MUGA which is used by Birchen Coppice MS during curriculum time and is available for community use evenings/weekends	O & FP ward	WFCH are intending to share the maintenance
Skateboarding Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Police District Tasking group	£3,000	£3,000 for 12 sessions – more could be provided with more funding	WFCH are likely to require some further sessions through their TCC's	To set up and run the mobile skateboarding equipment – The Funbox over the 6 weeks of the summer	To be run in conjunction with diversionsary activities	Forward Strategy under consideration

DIVISION - CULTURAL, LEISURE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Active Communities Project Funding Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	ACDF	£25,000	£125,000	WFDC, WFCH, Bromford Housing, KYT, O & FPN, WFPCT	To employ a Community Sports Officer to increase sports and physical activity participation in target wards	O & FP, Sutton Park, Broadwaters	Service Option Sept '04 Full funding for '04/05, 50%/25% for years '05-'07
Street Football	Enhancing Cultural Life	O & FPN (Children's Fund)	£1300		Active Communities project/ development budget	To launch football activities in local areas providing equipment and coaches		Forward Strategy under consideration
WASP Core Funding April '05 Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Exchequer Funding	To be determined			Core funding for WASP of which WFDC gets equal share of services with other districts in Worcestershire	County/District	Longer term funding
Active Sports Claire McLean	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Sport England Lottery funding	£7,500 +	WFDC Officer time	100% funding from Lottery	To deliver Active Sport Plans in 9 sports	District wide	Some sustainability working with local sports clubs on club development coach development and schools

DIVISION - CULTURAL, LEISURE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Community Sports Coach Scheme Lesley Fox	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Sport England Exchequer Funding	£24,000 P/T Rugby Coach £2,000 P/T Rowing Coach £4,000	£48,000 £2,000 RFU £8,000	WFDC, O&FPN (BSC), Police, Wyre Forest School Sports Programme, PAYP, WFCH	To employ a full time sports coach to work on new and existing projects	District wide	2 Year Project 2 year project
Sculpture for the Network Worcestershire	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	O&FPN (Children's Fund)	£2,600			Working with local people through O&FPN this artist led installation will be displayed at the warehouse	O & FPN	One off
Art works for Broadwaters Mill	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	O&FPN (Children's Fund)	£2,000	£2,500	WFDC £500	To create a new piece of art to be displayed in the Mill	Broadwaters	One off

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Photography Project Julie Mayor/ Paul Allen	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	O&FPN	£2,000			To engage young people living in O&FP to investigate and photograph their local natural environment. To use the process as part of the consultation for Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder	O&FPN	One off
Kidderminster Arts Festival Julie Mayor	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Arts Council Of England	£7,000	@£11,000 In kind	WFDC, Arts & Play Development Splinters	To stage an extensive programme of artists and arts based activities including performances and workshops	Kidderminster Town Centre	Forward Strategy under consideration
Far Out Club Paul Allen	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Wyre Forest Community Housing	£10,000		WFDC Officer time and resources Connexions Youth Service	To run the young peoples Far Out Club	Disadvantaged communities	Forward Strategy under consideration

DIVISION - CULTURAL, LEISURE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Community Event for WFCH Paul Allen	Enhancing Cultural Life Community Development	Wyre forest Community Housing	£1,000			Special event	Target ward	One off
Raising Awareness Paul Allen	Managing the Local Environment Sustainable Environment	THH	£8,000			Produce leaflets for all households neighbouring a nature reserves	District wide near to NR	One off
Nature Woodland grant Paul Allen	Managing the Local Environment Sustainable Environment		To be determined			Produce leaflets		One off
Stewardships Rifle Range Paul Allen	Managing the Local Environment Sustainable Environment		£2,000	£20,000 (over 10 years)		For the management of health	Rifle Range	One off over 10 years

DIVISION - CULTURAL, LEISURE & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Brinton Park Refurbishment's & Queen Elizabeth II, Jubilee Gardens, Development and Expansion Project. Tim Johnson Spencer Harcombe	Delivering Quality Services Providing Community Leadership Improving Corporacy and Performance.	Liveability Fund Provided by ODPM	£169,000 (2004) £227,000 (2005)	£396,000	N/A	Improvements in the infrastructure, repairs to monuments, the development & refurbishment of Brinton Park & Q.E.II Gardens	Kidderminster & Bewdley	Existing budgets
Kerbside Recycling Scheme Steve Brant	Managing the Local Environment Waste Management	DEFRA Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	£17,115 (2004) £216,410 (2004) £22,500 – funded from WRAP (Waste Recycling Action Programme as part of Bid to DEFRA)	3873,400 (2003) from DEFRA		Kerbside Recycling	Wyre Forest District	Wyre Forest District Council
Bewdley Museum	Enhancing Cultural Life Local Heritage	Bewdley Town Council	£2,000					

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Disability theatre Project at The Rose	Enhancing Community Life	Awards for all WF Arts Forum With support from Arts Development	£5,000			Drama workshops for two age groups weekday/weekend sessions	Disability groups- Odell Centre and Cath Rounds group of YP	It would be hoped to continue this work subject to funding
Holiday Activity Programme	Enhancing Cultural Life	Childrens Fund	?			Offering a range of free activities for YP on PAYP/PSA programmes	Target Group 13-16 in target areas: O & FP, Broadwaters, Offmore	External funding is an ongoing issue. Recognised that occupying this target group gives YP different outlets.
Childrens Fund	Enhancing Cultural Life	Childrens Fund (Underspend Pot)	?			Delivery of sports diversionary/ physical activity sessions in target areas		One off
TOTAL			£814,475					

DIVISION - PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Homelessness Funding (Julia Jennison)	Enabling Community Wellbeing – Housing and Independent Living	ODPM – Priority Needs Order	£67,000 + £27,000. £67,000 confirmed for '05/06'	-	-	Appoint 1 year contract for Private Sector Housing Initiatives Officer Support Local advice/ provider agencies	District	Depends on future bids for external funding
North Worcestershire Home Improvement Agency (Zena Lynch)	Enabling Community Wellbeing – Housing and Independent Living	ODPM - HIA	Match funding bid £24,000 per year for 2 years	£100,000	WFDC in kind/ secondment + Redditch & Bromsgrove	Support for private sector housing improvements	Redditch/ Bromsgrove/ Wyre Forest	2 year guarantee, will need further ODPM support via Supporting People thereafter
Planning Delivery Grant (MP)	Delivering Quality Services – Improving Customer Services	ODPM – Planning Delivery Grant	£158,000 (will be an unknown award in 05/06)	-	-	Improvements to Planning Service	District	Well end after 05/06 – maintenance of improvements will fall to WFDC
Conservation Officer (Noel Holdstock)	Quality Services – Improving Customer Services	English Heritage	04/05 approx £17,700	Grade I Salary	Wyre Forest District Council	To provide a full time Conservation Officer	District	A contribution guaranteed for 05/06, after this it will fall entirely on establishment

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Adaptations Top Up (Zena Lynch)	Enabling Community Wellbeing – Housing and Independent Living	SSAFFA	£10,000 approx	-	Wyre Forest District Council	Top up funding for forces employees adaptations	District	Year on Year top up
Affordable Housing (Julia Jennison)	Enabling Community Wellbeing – Housing and Independent Living	Housing Corporation LASHG inc. transitional LASHG	£287,000 confirmed spend for 04/05. No further LASHG funding available in the future.			To provide new affordable housing in the district in partnership with partner RSLs	District	Ongoing management by RSL's.
Affordable Housing (Julia Jennison)	Enabling Community Wellbeing – Housing and Independent Living	Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme	£711,887 with an additional £313 765 for the Homebuy scheme.			To provide new affordable housing in the district in partnership with partner RSLs	District	Ongoing management by RSL's.
Total:			£1,498,352					

DIVISION – STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE UNIT

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Peer Challenge Peter Jones	Improving Corporacy & Performance Organisational Performance	Audit Commission	£5,000	N/A	Internal	Peer Challenge by SOLACE Enterprises – March 2004	District-wide	One-off
Projects Funded by Government Monies for Community Safety are attached in Appendix A. Kathryn Washington	Enabling Community Wellbeing Community Safety	Drugs BSC (Home Office) Non Drugs BSC (Home Office) ASB (Home Office) Worcestershire County Council	£84,600 £36,719 £25,000 £20,000	See Appendix A	See Appendix A	See Appendix A	See Appendix A	See Project Bid Plans

DIVISION - STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE UNIT

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme – Round 2 Mike Parker supported by Alison Braithwaite c/o Wyre Forest Matters	Managing the Local Environment Promoting Economic Prosperity Enabling Community Wellbeing Enhancing Cultural Life	ODPM Neighbourhood Renewal Unit	£2.5 million over 7 years £350,000 per year	See Pathfinder Business Plan	See Pathfinder Business Plan	Pump Priming for the remodelling of services	Oldington and Foley Park	Through the remodelling of services – bending the mainstream
Stourport Market Towns Initiative Steve Singleton	Promoting Economic Prosperity Regeneration	Market Towns Initiative AWM	£520,000 (05-08)	N/A	To be advised	Projects to enhance the economic well being of Stourport, and appointment of a Programme Manager	Regeneration of Stourport and rural hinterland	To be advised

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Stourport Canal Basin Heritage Lottery Project Steve Singleton	Promoting Economic Prosperity Regeneration Tourism	Heritage Lottery Fund British Waterways	£1.678 million	£3 million	To be confirmed	Enhancement of Canal Basins	Stourport Canal Basins	To be advised
Bewdley Business Premises Grant Steve Singleton/ Simon Roper-Pressdee	Promoting Economic Prosperity Town Centres	Rural Regeneration Zone AWM	£43,000 (04/05) plus 50% match funding from individual businesses	50% Match funding from businesses.	Private Sector £35,000 RRZ funding (03/04)	Business Premises Improvement- re-instatement of historic features and re-decoration. Whole frontage included not just shop front.	Bewdley Town Centre.	To be advised
Total:			£2,762,319					

DIVISION – FINANCIAL SERVICES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Benefits Service Verification Framework Joan Hill	Improving Corporacy and Performance Financial and Asset Management	Benefits Department of Work and Pensions	£164,000	£164,000	N/A	Meet the requirements of the Department of Work and Pensions' Benefits Service Verification Framework including initial recruitment and employee training costs.	All District	£97,280 per annum funding ongoing from the Department of Works and Pensions. Balance of funding received via subsidy.
Benefits Service Replacement Document Joan Hill	Financial and Asset Management	Department of Work and Pensions	£113,190	113,190	N/A	Replacement document imaging processing and workflow system	All district	Used for replacement purposes- single payment.

Benefits Service	Improving Corporacy and Performance	Benefits Department of Work and Pensions	£12,000	£17,600	Match Funding of £5,600 provided by WFDC	Develop the use of wireless technology and work towards IEG Priority Outcome g15.	All district	Hardware and software set up funding only.
Hardware and software for Benefit visiting officers- Wireless Technolgy	Financial and Asset Management							
Joan Hill								
Total:			£ 289,190					

DIVISION: HUMAN RESOURCES

Name of Project or Service and Contact Officer	Corporate Theme and Key Priority	Name of Funding Pot and Funding Provider	Amount of funding for 2004/05 and beyond (if applicable)	Total funding required for project / service	Other monies provided and by whom	Use of Funding	Geographical Area	Sustainability of project / service once funding ceases
Implementing Electronic Government return (IEG) Nick Lewis	Improving Corporacy and Performance Organisational Performance	IEG ODPM	£350,000		£200,000 2002/3 £200,000 2003/4 ODPM	To be determined in accordance with IEG Priority services	District	To be determined as part of the budget process
Total:			£350,000					

Total Funding for 2004/05:

CLACS	£814,475
PHE	£1,498,352
SPU	£2,762,319
FINANCIAL SERVICES	£289,190
HR	£350,000

Total Funding	<u>£5,714,336</u>
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Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Funding available 2004/05:

Drugs BSC	£	(Home Office funding: administered through GOWM)
	84,600.00	
Non Drugs BSC	£	(Home Office funding: administered through GOWM)
	36,719.00	
ASB	£	(Home Office funding: administered through GOWM)
	25,000.00	
County Council	£	
	20,000.00	
TOTAL:	£	
	166,319.00	

	<u>CAPITAL</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	
<u>Drugs BSC:</u>			
OFP Children & Young People's Manager		£	
		17,819.00	
Therapeutic Groups for Vulnerable Young People	£	£	
	100.00	3,100.00	
Summer Hotspots		£	
		8,335.02	
Youth Service Diversionary Activities		£	
		4,000.00	
Life Education Centre	£	£	
	3,100.00	11,900.00	
Stonham Outreach Service	£	£	
	372.00	16,926.00	
Drugs Analyst		£	
		7,840.00	
Health & Lifestyle Survey		£	
		5,000.00	
SMAT/WFCSP Communications strategy		£	
		6,107.98	
Total:	£	£	£
	3,572.00	81,028.00	<u>84,600.00</u>

ASB / CC / Non Drugs BSC:

Town Centre Wardens

Consultancy/WFCSP capacity

Beacon/PAYP: Prolific Young Offenders activity programme

Taxi CCTV*

Bewdley Skate Park

Lifestyle Project

West Mercia Police Youth Crime Forum

	<u>CAPITAL</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	
		£	£
		22,283.93	216.07
			£
			5,374.80
			£
			10,000.00
	£		£
	11,250.00		13,094.20
	£		
	7,000.00		
		£	
		5,000.00	
		£	£
		7,500.00	4,783.93
			£
			2,716.07
Total:	£	£	£
	18,250.00	76,563.20	94,813.20

* Indicates project still subject to final agreement with GOWM

<u>ASB/ CC/ Non Drugs BSC:</u>	<u>CAPITAL (£)</u>	<u>REVENUE (£)</u>	
Consultancy/ WFCSP capacity		5,590.87	
Beacon / PAYP- Prolific Young Offenders Activity Programme		23,094.20	
Lifestyle Project		5,000	
West Mercia Police Youth Crime Forum		7,500	
Taxi CCTV	11,250		
Bewdley Skate Park	7,000		
Town Centre Wardens		22,283.93	
	£18,250	£63,469	<u>£81,719</u>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

14th April 2005

Draft Wyre Forest District Community Safety Strategy (2005 to 2008)

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	CSPEN Communities
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Community Safety
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr. Nathan Desmond
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alison Braithwaite Ext.2781 alison.braithwaite@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Draft Wyre Forest District Community Safety Strategy (2005 to 2008) – available in Members' Group Rooms.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's (WFCSP) draft Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 That the WFCSP's draft Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008 be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Every three years the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA98) places a statutory responsibility on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to produce a local Strategy to tackle crime and disorder. A new Community Safety Strategy for the District is to be published by the WFCSP during April 2005.
- 3.2 In order to meet Government guidance, the WFCSP has undertaken a range of in depth qualitative and quantitative consultation and review exercises. The findings from these exercises and the strategic priorities for the draft Strategy, as listed below, were reported and endorsed by the Council's Cabinet in July and December 2004 respectively:
- a) Anti-Social Behaviour;
 - b) Drugs and Alcohol;
 - c) Public Perception of Crime; and
 - d) Violent Crime.

continued..

3.3 Three year targets for each of the above priorities have recently been negotiated with Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM).

3.4 The final draft Strategy was reported to the Council's Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 10th March 2005 and the North Worcestershire Chief Officers Responsible Authorities Group for Community Safety on 14th March 2005.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 In conjunction with the other statutory partners of the WFCSP, the Council will be responsible for supporting the delivery of the Strategy and shall lead on the Public Perception of Crime strategic priority.

4.2 Performance in meeting the partnership's targets will be reviewed by GOWM on a quarterly basis. The WFCSP's Steering Group will instigate appropriate action where targets are not being met and address any barriers or blockages to delivery.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Strategy seeks to redirect and pool resources from the mainstream budgets of partner organisations rather than relying on time limited funds from central government. This approach should support crime and disorder reductions that are sustained into the future.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council is responsible under Section 5 of the CDA98 for the production of a local Strategy to tackle crime and disorder. This duty is shared with West Mercia Constabulary, Worcestershire County Council, the Police Authority, Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust and the Fire Authority who are also defined as Responsible Authorities by the Act.

6.2 Divisional Business Plans should identify how services are supporting the Council in its Section 17 duty and the delivery of this Strategy.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The WFCSP will be responsible for assessing and responding to any risk management implications.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This third Community Safety Strategy for the district should help to support the continued reduction in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and work towards achieving the WFCSP's Vision of '*Wyre Forest – an even safer place to live, work, visit or do business in.*'

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Corporate Management Team

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Police Reform Act 2002
- Report to Council's Cabinet – 22nd July 2004 - *Wyre Forest Community Safety Audit and Strategy Development 2005-08*
- Report to Council's Cabinet – 16th December 2004 – *Wyre Forest Community Safety Audit and Strategy Development 2005-08*
- Report to the Council's Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel – 10th March 2004 – *Draft Wyre Forest District Community Safety Strategy 2005-08*

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.1

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC
REGENERATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL ON PROMOTING
THE EVENING ECONOMY**

Recommended to the Cabinet:

1. Regular meetings be held between the Council's Strategic Community Safety Officer, appropriate operational Council Officers and the relevant Police representatives to develop even closer working relationships.
2. The Primary Care Trust's action on promoting sensible drinking guidelines be endorsed and it be established which schools are included in its promotion.
3. Consideration be given to the appropriateness of designating areas within the District suitable for a drinking ban, and to the promotion of them as alcohol restriction zones, if applicable.
4. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager work with licensees of premises who hold Public Entertainment Licenses, relevant Police officers, the Licensed Victuallers' Association and the locally based representative from the British Beer and Pub Association to:-
 - a) Ask Wyre Forest Licensing Forum to monitor standards of behaviour for people using licensed premises particularly with regard to alcohol related problems and to agree common policies on dealing with people who ignore those standards of behaviour.
 - b) Monitor local compliance with the Private Security Act 2000, under which door staff are registered, and request West Mercia Police to encourage the employment of properly qualified door supervisors at late night opening establishments.
 - c) Whilst not a requirement of the 2003 Licensing Act, ask night clubs to consider serving hot food/sandwiches.
5. The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager report back to the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel on a quarterly basis, on matters detailed in 4. above.
6. Non-alcohol and family orientated activities within the District, including the Warehouse Cinema, be commended and encouraged.
7. The development of a major cinema within the Kidderminster Town Centre development (KTC3) be actively encouraged by the Council and the Cabinet be urged to take relevant steps to ensure its completion.

8. The Bus Quality Partnership be recommended to work with local bus and taxi companies to try and establish late night transport provision to help develop the night culture.
9. The Bus Quality Partnership be recommended to work with relevant local transport companies to undertake a survey into the District's evening transport services and its potential requirements.
10. Consideration be given to the incorporation of 24-hour accessible toilets within any proposed development of car park in New Road, Kidderminster.
11. The Highways Authority at Worcestershire County Council be requested to consider provision of pavement barriers in New Road, Kidderminster (above Tesco's, by the mini-island at the Corporation Street junction).
12. The Highways Authority at Worcestershire County Council be requested to consider provision of an additional Taxi Rank in New Road, Kidderminster (above the junction with Corporation Street).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.2.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL ON STREET CLEANSING

At the meeting of the Commercial Services Panel on 28th July 2004, it was agreed to include a review of aspects of the Cleansing service as part of the Panel's work programme.

At the Panel's meeting on 24th November 2004, the Panel carried out a scoping exercise and agreed terms of reference for the review.

It was agreed by the Panel that the review of the Street Cleansing service be undertaken over a period of two Panel meetings. The first of the review meetings was on 12th January 2005 where the Committee considered a number of areas of Street Cleansing and, in particular, the concept of 'Zoning' within the District. The Zoning plan approach to delivering the cleansing service essentially moves the service delivery from a 'frequency based response' to a 'needs based response', with cleansing resources tackling and being directed to litter problems where most needed.

At the Panel's meeting on 30th March 2005, the following recommendations were considered and agreed.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

1. The Council adopt a Zoning Plan for the delivery of the Street Cleansing service in accordance with cleansing best practice.
2. The Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services be authorised to revise the details of the Zoning Plan in consultation with the Cabinet member for Commercial Services.
3. The Council continue to treat litter and the general cleansing services as high priority services, that performance standards/public satisfaction are monitored and a log of litter hotspots maintained.
4. The Zoning Plan for the District be included on the Council's Internet site.
5. The outcome of the Zoning approach to service delivery be scrutinised by the Panel at their October, 2005 meeting or at a suitable meeting thereafter.