



AGENDA ITEM: 8

Leader's Report to Council

Icelandic Banking – Interim Dividend

I am pleased to report to Council that the Administrators of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander have this week paid an interim dividend of £1,031,275.62 which represents a 20p dividend payment for the £5,000,000 (principal) and £156,378.08 (interest).

I am also pleased to report that the Administrators of Heritable Bank plc have indicated that they will be paying a 15p interim dividend on or around the time of Council meeting.

For the Administrators to be able to make this interim payment at such a significant level and indeed at an early stage is a very good indication of the quality of the organisations that suffered from circumstances beyond their control which now confirms Council's belief that it will receive most if not all of the investments it has with the Icelandic banks back.

Further reports will be made at Cabinet and Council in the future as we continue to recoup the Council's investments.

Special Planning Committee to Consider Tesco Application for Former Carpets of Worth Site, Stourport on Severn

A special Planning Meeting has been called for Thursday 6th August 2009 at 6.00pm in the Earl Baldwin Suite, Kidderminster to consider the application from Tesco in relation to the Carpets of Worth Site in Stourport on Severn.

Vacant District Council Seat in Lickhill, Stourport on Severn

Following the very sad loss of Councillor Jill Fairbrother-Millis, the by-election has now been called to fill the vacant seat. The by-election will take place on Thursday 10th September 2009 when the polling stations will be open from 7.00am until 10.00pm.

Paddling Pool Investment

The summer is apparently here and I am pleased to announce that the Paddling Pools are opening up ready for a busy summer season when we get some sunshine.

There is already water in the paddling pools in Brinton Park and at Stourport Riverside. They have now been fitted with new automated systems to chlorinate and filter the pools. The pool at Northwood Lane play area in Bewdley also has the new system.

Our paddling pools are a great free facility for children of all ages and they always attract a lot of families looking for a fun day out. The new automated systems give us a more efficient way of monitoring them and ensuring the water is safe. The paddling pools at Northwood Land, Bewdley and St Georges Park are due to reopen at the start of the school holidays. They will be filled with water from 10am – 6pm.

In Summary

I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to all Group Leaders who have been exceptionally supportive over recent times, working together as we face the challenges that are inevitably presenting themselves.

**Councillor John-Paul Campion
Leader of the Council**