COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2008

MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET 24th APRIL 2008

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the report and related documents have not been included in the Council Book as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda and copies have been included in the electronic circulation of the Council agenda. Copies of the report and documents have been posted on the Council's website under the following web link: http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/meetings/com60.htm#mt6133

Public inspection copies are available on request. Please see front cover for contact details).

ITEM	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
1. Shared Services Strategy	The Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive that recommended the adoption of a final Shared Services Strategy. The strategy provides a framework and guidance to ensure that the Council is clear about the purpose of new and existing shared services. It will also ensure that new initiatives are based on sound principles. RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: The final Shared Services Strategy, as contained in Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 24 th April 2008, be adopted The report is at Item 7.5 of the Cabinet Agenda of 24 th April 2008.	

2. Environmental Health and Licensing Enforcement Policies

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that recommended the updating of Environmental Health and Licensing Enforcement Policies to take account of a new "Regulators Compliance Code " which came into force in April 2008. The adoption of these policies will help the Council to meet its obligations and work more efficiently.

The Cabinet also considered a recommendation from the Licensing and Environmental Committee at its meeting on 7th April 2008 before making the recommendation below.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The Enforcement Policies attached as appendices to the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008 be adopted.

The report is at Item 9.1 (i) of the Cabinet Agenda of 24th April 2008.

3. Amendment to Pro-Active Enforcement Policy and Scheme of Delegation

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that recommended amendments to the Pro-active Enforcement Policy and Scheme of Delegation.

The proposed changes to the way in which enforcement cases may be closed will allow officers to concentrate resources on those cases where the unauthorised development is causing serious harm. The proposed change to the Scheme of Delegation will provide greater clarity for Councillors and Members of the public.

The Cabinet also considered recommendations from the Planning (Enforcement) and Planning (Development Control) Committees at their meetings on 3rd and 8th April 2008, respectively, before making the recommendations below.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 1. The following be adopted:
 - a) The amendments to the Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Appendix
 1 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008.
 - b) The amendments to the Pro-Active Enforcement Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008.
- 2 Authority be given to the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to amend Development Control Practice Note 13 – Public Speaking at Development Control Committee in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008

The report is at Item 10.1 (i) of the Cabinet Agenda of 24th April 2008.

4. Revision to
Conformity
Protocol
Operating in the
West Midlands

The Cabinet considered a report from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment, regarding changes to the Conformity Protocol operating in the West Midlands.

The Conformity Protocol is primarily a technical document which the West Midlands Regional Assembly is required to produce and which became operational on 1st February 2008.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The West Midlands Conformity Protocol, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008, be endorsed for use in the Local Development Framework and Development Control processes.

The report is at Item 10.5 of the Cabinet Agenda of 24th April 2008.

5. Single Equality Scheme

The Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008, which sought approval for a draft Single Equality Scheme. The scheme incorporates all six of the current equality issues, namely, disability, race, gender, age, religion/belief, and sexual orientation.

It has been drawn up as the basis for consultation, both internally and externally, with a view to a final scheme being ready for adoption by September 2008.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The draft Single Equality Scheme, as circulated to the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008, be approved.

The report is at Item 11.2 (iii) of the Cabinet Agenda of 24th April 2008.

6. Corporate Plan

The Cabinet considered a recommendation from the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008, regarding the draft of a new Corporate Plan.

The Committee had focussed on the contents as issues relating to design and publication would be determined when the contents had been finalised.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

The contents of the draft Corporate Plan, as circulated to the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008, be approved.

The report is at Item 11.2 (v) of the Cabinet Agenda of 24th April 2008.