

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY ISSUES CONSULTATION

## PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

12TH JULY, 2007

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To report upon the meeting of the LDF Task Group on the 25th June, 2007 and to endorse the suggested approach to the Core Strategy Issues public consultation to be undertaken in September and October.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

### Recommendation(s)

- THAT (a) The approach to the consultation upon the Core Strategy Issues Consultation as suggested in paragraphs 4 and 5 below be agreed; and**
- (b) The Cabinet Members covering the portfolio areas of Environment and Strategic housing, Highways and Transportation and Economic Development and Community Services be given delegated authority to approve the list of issues and scope of a questionnaire to be published as part of the public consultation upon Core Strategy.**

### Reasons

To ensure that a comprehensive consultation exercise is undertaken upon the identification of issues and the development of a vision for the Core Strategy in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme.

### Considerations

1. At its meeting on 22nd March 2007 Cabinet resolved to establish a LDF Task Group with Herefordshire Council and Partnership representatives as a first step in developing a collaborative approach to guiding work on the Core Strategy. The Local Development Framework is required to be aligned clearly to the Community Strategy. The LDF Task Group was identified as a mechanism to enable this relationship to be established.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Kevin Singleton, Team Leader: Strategic Planning (01432) 260137

2. The LDF Task Group comprises Herefordshire Council Cabinet Members covering the portfolio areas of Environment and Strategic Housing, Highways and Transportation, and Economic Development and Community Services together with Herefordshire Partnership Board representatives for community, economy and environment.
3. The first meeting of the Task Group took place on 25th June. In addition to considering the links between the Community Strategy and the LDF, the discussions at the meeting began to focus upon the key issues for developing the vision for Herefordshire in the Core Strategy. The identification of the issues will be important in establishing the content of the documents produced for the period of public consultation planned to be undertaken in September and October.
4. The suggested approach for the Issues consultation intended to take place in the autumn is for the preparation of a short leaflet outlining some of the main issues identified for the County. Accompanying the leaflet will be a questionnaire designed to explore the main issues further, ensure that the public and other stakeholders are able to identify other issues which have been missed, and provide some guidance regarding how the issues can be used to develop a vision for the County and subsequently inform the preparation of options for the Core Strategy.
5. In addition to the publication of a leaflet and questionnaire the issues consultation arrangements will include:
  - a visioning event – involving a variety of stakeholders to provide a steer on the strategic vision to be included within the Core Strategy;
  - media releases – to inform the general public of the consultation and how they may get involved;
  - mail outs to stakeholders;
  - meetings with interest groups; and
  - local exhibitions.
6. A list of 14 potential issues were identified to the group which had been identified through a range of processes by stakeholders, other groups and the general public; these are reproduced in Appendix 1. These include issues which have been identified in public response to the current Herefordshire Matters article on this matter, as well as those arising in the Community Strategy for Herefordshire. The Task Group were unable to complete the process of identifying a comprehensive set of issues and a further meeting has been arranged on 19<sup>th</sup> July to complete this exercise.
7. In order to enable the content of the consultation documents to be finalised and printed for publication in September it is recommended that delegated authority be given to the three Cabinet Members on the LDF Task Group to agree the list of issues and scope of the proposed questionnaire.

## **Financial Implications**

None identified.

## **Risk Management**

The identification of a comprehensive set of issues for the Core Strategy in collaboration with stakeholders is a key stage in preparing the document. Not to engage with the

community at this stage in the process risks the Core Strategy being found unsound at Examination.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options to undertaking consultation as part of community engagement upon the Core Strategy.

## **Consultees**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Provisional list of Core Strategy issues.

## **Background Papers**

Local Development Task Group, Cabinet Report 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007