



Herefordshire Council

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Third Review · **January 2008**

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1. Introduction

The Local Development Scheme

This is the Council's Local Development Scheme - an accessible guide to the documents setting out the Council's planning policies.

The Scheme lists existing planning policy documents and explains how the Council will organise and manage its forward planning work over the next three years as it continues to establish a Local Development Framework for Herefordshire.

This edition of the Scheme replaces that published in January 2007. As well as recording the adoption of the Unitary Development Plan in March 2007, the new Scheme reflects the need to respond at the local level to proposals for housing and other growth in the County arising through the Regional Spatial Strategy. These emerging proposals also reflect the Council's continuing participation in the New Growth Point programme, comprising a partnership with Government to ensure the delivery of sustainable growth.

The Scheme will be kept up to date through regular reviews as these are required and to maintain a three year forward programme.

What's in the Scheme

In the Scheme you'll find:

- A section explaining some of the terms used in the Local Development Framework system (section 2);
- A section setting out all the documents which form or will form part of the Local Development Framework in the period covered by this Scheme (section 3). With completion of the Unitary Development Plan, work is focussing on proposals for new local development documents. For these, the Scheme includes a schedule and profiles setting out the main stages in their preparation, including the arrangements for community involvement;
- A section dealing with Supplementary Planning Guidance, explaining how this will be treated in the transition to the Local Development Framework (section 4); and
- A supporting statement, which explains how all these documents work together and how the Council will manage their preparation (section 5).

National, regional and local contexts

The Council's planning policies have been developed within a well-established context at national, regional and local levels.

At national level, the Government's Planning Policy Statements set out policies on key land use matters.

At regional level, the Regional Spatial Strategy was published as Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands (RPG11) in June 2004. The Regional Spatial Strategy forms part of the statutory 'development plan' and runs to 2021. The Strategy is undergoing a phased series of reviews. Phase 2 of the review, which includes housing, employment, centres, transport and waste aspects and looks ahead to 2026, is timetabled to run from November 2005 to 2009.

Other regional policy documents, such as the Regional Housing and Economic Strategies, have spatial dimensions and will need to be taken into account. The Regional Economic Strategy is also under review. The Regional Sustainable Development Framework provides an overall context for the consideration of sustainability issues in plan making.

At local level, the Council's spatial planning policies in the Local Development Framework are being aligned with the priorities set out in the Community Strategy. Joint working through a task group comprising senior Council members and Partnership representatives ensures an integrated approach. The Local Area Agreement provides the delivery plan for these strategies, and the Local Development Framework has an important role to play in achieving desired outcomes defined in the Agreement.

The Framework must also reflect and integrate with other local plans and strategies including the Local Transport Plan and the Economic Development and Housing Strategies.

2. The Local Development Framework

This section is a brief guide to some of the main terms used in this Scheme.

The Local Development Framework (LDF) provides for the Council to prepare a series of Local Development Documents (LDDs).

There are several types of LDDs. The most important are Development Plan Documents (DPDs), with a key role in the determination of planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) offer further detail in support of DPD policies and proposals. Finally, there is the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how the Council will involve the community.

These and other terms are explained below.

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| AMR | Annual Monitoring Report | | The Council's annual report to Government on progress in preparing the documents set out in the LDS, and on how far planning policies are being achieved. |
| - | Community Strategy | | Drawn up by local partnerships to show how local areas will address social, economic and environmental issues. The Herefordshire Community Strategy was published in June 2006. |
| DPD | Development Document | Plan | The most important documents within the Local Development Framework, subject to independent examination and with 'development plan' status in the determination of planning applications. DPDs can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Strategy • Site specific allocations of land • Area Action plans • Proposals maps |
| LDF | Local Framework | Development | A portfolio of LDDs which collectively set out the spatial strategy for the Council's area, balancing land use pressures arising from economic, social and environmental demands. |
| LDD | Local Document | Development | DPDs, SPDs and the SCI are all Local Development Documents, collectively forming the LDF. |
| LDS | Local Scheme | Development | The Scheme sets out a 3 year programme for preparing LDDs. |
| RSS | Regional Spatial Strategy | | Provides a spatial framework to inform the preparation of LDDs and Local Transport Plans by local authorities, and of other strategies and programmes that have a bearing on land use, in order to deliver a coherent framework for regional development. |
| SA | Sustainability Appraisal | | An assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the policies and proposals in LDDs. |
| SCI | Statement of Community Involvement | | Explains to local communities and other stakeholders how and when they will be involved in the preparation of LDDs. |

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---------------|--|
| SEA | Strategic Assessment | Environmental | An assessment of the environmental impacts of the policies and proposals in LDDs. |
| SPD | Supplementary Document | Planning | These give more detail about the policies and proposals in DPDs. As a Local Development Document, they form part of the Framework, but do not have the status of DPDs. |
| SPG | Supplementary Guidance | Planning | Previously prepared to offer more detailed guidance to the Unitary Development Plan. Will be superseded by SPDs as the Local Development Framework system is introduced. |

More details can found from the Department for Communities and Local Government at www.communities.gov.uk.

3. Local Development Documents

Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan

The Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in March 2007. The UDP has been prepared to ensure consistency with current Government Planning Policy Statements. The Plan has also been developed to be consistent with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the period up to 2011 (the end date of the UDP). This particularly applies to the provision of housing overall and the Plan's housing strategy; to the Plan's employment policies, intended to help achieve rural renaissance, and to Plan housing, city centre and transport proposals designed to support and reflect Hereford's role within the Strategy. Similarly the Plan's general policies on matters such as design, transport and the environment reflect principles set out in the Strategy. Throughout, the UDP has a strong emphasis on the delivery of sustainable development in the County, reflecting both the RSS and the Community Strategy for Herefordshire.

The UDP has the status of a Development Plan Document. It will be operative as part of the Framework for a three year period from the date of adoption. Discussions will be held with the Government Office as to whether the life of selected UDP policies can be extended beyond the three year period, taking into account the close links that exist between UDP policies, the RSS and the Community Strategy, and the need to ensure effective planning control while successor documents to the UDP are put in place.

Progress on Local Development Documents

In tandem with the completion of work on the UDP, the Council has also been seeking to put in place aspects of the Local Development Framework. A full review of progress over the last year is included within the Annual Monitoring Report. In summary:

- Statement of Community Involvement adopted in March 2007.
- Core Strategy commenced in September 2006 with issues consultation as timetabled in September 2007.
- Supplementary Planning Documents for the Edgar Street Grid regeneration area in Hereford and on planning obligations completed during the year, adding to the SPD's previously issued in the form of development briefs for two UDP housing sites.
- A number of other Supplementary Planning Documents progressed during the year, including commencing work on an SPD on polytunnels.

The previous Scheme included proposals for a Development Control Policies DPD, with a Development Allocations DPD to follow. In discussions with the Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate, and reflecting national experience in implementing the LDF system, these proposals have been reviewed. It is now proposed to give a clearer spatial focus to the Herefordshire Local Development Framework. This will be achieved by taking forward two 'place based' DPDs as follows, in addition to continuing work on the Core Strategy:

(a) Hereford Area Action Plan. This will give effect to Hereford's status as a New Growth Point, and address the emerging RSS phase 2 review proposals for Hereford as a settlement of significant development. Because the RSS provides specific guidance in terms of the balanced growth requirements at Hereford, a start can be made on this document whilst the Core Strategy is still in preparation. Its early preparation will confirm the feasibility of delivering growth, whilst the area-wide approach will allow the implications of growth proposals in a historic market town setting to be assessed comprehensively, including infrastructure needs arising. The focus on a specific location as a basis for the Plan will also help in ensuring that growth is accommodated in a way which recognises, supports and shapes Hereford's 'sense of place'.

(b) outwith Hereford, it is envisaged that a single DPD will be proposed in a future review of this Scheme to set out spatial planning policies as required for the market towns and the wider rural areas. The scope and content of this document must have regard to the need to avoid duplicating national policy statements; to the provisions of the RSS, including for rural renaissance; and to the policies and proposals arising through the Core Strategy, which will establish the distribution of development outside of Hereford, particularly in terms of the growth to be accommodated in the various market towns and other settlements. Pending its preparation and adoption, the policies and proposals of the UDP will provide the basis for planning control in these areas, together of course with the RSS and national policies.

Local Development Documents recommended by the UDP Inquiry Inspector

The UDP Inquiry Inspector identified or supported a number of areas of work to be taken forward within the Local Development Framework, as Development Plan Documents, rather than as part of the UDP. His recommendations were subject to the priorities of the Council in preparing development plan documents as part of the Local Development Framework.

The areas of work recommended by the Inspector were as follows:

- Carry out a detailed assessment of the quantitative and qualitative need for employment land in Hereford
- Consider bringing forward a local development document addressing the need for specific sites for waste recycling, treatment and disposal following the partial review of the RSS in respect of waste matters
- Review the settlement boundary of Hereford and the established residential area in the vicinity of Kings Acre Road in an early development plan document
- Review the settlement boundary of Bromyard in the vicinity of the junction of Panniers Lane and Leominster Road in an early development plan document
- Allocate the following sites at Hereford for housing purposes in a development plan document: Broomy Hill (36 dwellings); The Greyfriars (22 dwellings); Land off Yazor Road and north of Whitecross School (148 dwellings); and Land at Whitecross Road (47 dwellings).
- Allocate land at Merrivale, Ross-on-Wye (21 dwellings) for housing purposes in a development plan document
- Review the settlement boundaries of Almeley (in the vicinity of Almeley Manor) and Staunton-on-Wye (in the vicinity of Bliss House) in an early development plan document
- Address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the preparation of new development plan documents
- Re-examine employment allocations in Kington in a development plan document that examines the potential of land at Hatton Gardens

These recommendations were accepted by the Council, with the exception of that in relation to the review of the settlement boundary at Kings Acre Road, Hereford. In this case, the Council considered that the decision to commit to a review should be undertaken in a wider re-appraisal of the overall settlement boundary for Hereford, within the context of the Local Development Framework when dwelling requirements are known. The proposed Hereford Area Action Plan will now provide the vehicle for this consideration. This document will also address those recommendations in respect of site allocations for housing purposes at Hereford.

The Core Strategy will address the Inspector's recommendations on employment land and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. An employment land review was commissioned as part of the development of the evidence base for the LDF in October 2007. The recommendations in respect of a Waste DPD, and housing and employment allocations and settlement boundary amendments outwith Hereford, are considered further below (see Future work).

Three year programme for Local Development Documents

The programme of forward planning work for the next three years from April 2008 comprises the following documents.

- Core Strategy
- Hereford Area Action Plan
- Polytunnels SPD
- Archaeology and Development SPD
- Historic Landscapes SPD
- Model Farm SPD

The Council's proposals for these Local Development Documents are set out in detail in the Schedule, Programme and Profiles which follow overleaf. The programme assumes that work on the review of the RSS, essential to establishing a strategic context for the Council's Core Strategy, proceeds as proposed.

The programme also takes account of the conformity requirements arising under the planning system, particularly in that the Core Strategy needs to be established ahead of other Development Plan Documents; and reflects the need to give priority to the development of the evidence base for the LDF in providing a sound foundation for Local Development Documents.

Local Development Documents supporting the UDP

A range of further guidance is identified in the UDP including topic studies and site development briefs and when required and resources permitting these will be brought forward as Supplementary Planning Documents. In some cases it may be necessary to commence work on such Documents in advance of their inclusion in the Scheme. In such cases they will be incorporated as an addendum to the published Scheme.

Proposals Map

The Proposals Map comprises the UDP Proposals Maps. The Map will be updated over time as new Local Development Documents are adopted.

Parish Plans

Parish Plans add value to planning at local level by setting out a greater level of detail than the Council might wish to include in Development Plan Documents. Prior to the advent of the new system, local community statements produced as Parish Plans or Village Design Statements were adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to either the Local Plans in the County, or to the UDP. The new system has introduced additional requirements which must be met if the land use and spatial planning components of such documents are to form part of the Local Development Framework as Supplementary Planning Documents. These relate to the conformity requirements of the new system and to the need for requisite community involvement and sustainability appraisal. Certain of these steps must be undertaken by the Council itself as local planning authority, rather than the group preparing the Plan.

This Scheme does not identify any Parish Plan for progression as a Supplementary Planning Document. Rather, Parish Plans are now recognised by the Council through adoption of their planning elements as further planning guidance to the UDP and as an expression of local distinctiveness and community participation. The Council will work with Parish Councils and others in moving Parish Plans forward and will offer further guidance and advice as to the best way to proceed as the new system is developed.

Details of Parish Plans and Village Design Statements completed to date in the County can be found in section 4.

Joint working

It is not envisaged that any joint working with other local planning authorities in the preparation of local development documents will be required. Liaison with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will continue in respect of cross boundary planning issues arising at Hay-on-Wye/Cusop. Due regard will be paid to emerging LDFs for adjoining authority areas and to the Wales Spatial Plan in drawing up local development documents.

Future work

The UDP Inspector recommended that the Council consider bringing forward a local development document addressing the need for specific sites for waste recycling, treatment and disposal. This would follow on from the approval and publication of the phase 2 review of the RSS in respect of waste matters, incorporating a Regional Waste Strategy. This is timetabled for 2009. The Council has accepted this recommendation of the Inspector. The need for a local development document dealing with specific sites for waste recycling, treatment and disposal will be kept under consideration as the RSS partial review and the development of the Council's LDF proceeds. Any proposals will be included within a future review of the Scheme.

As discussed above, a timetable will be established in a future Scheme review for a DPD addressing the market towns and rural areas, to meet specific development requirements arising through the RSS review and the Core Strategy and provide a framework of spatial planning policies. This DPD will also deal with the Inspector's recommendations on relevant housing and employment allocations and reflect necessary settlement boundary amendments.

| Document title | Status | Description | Chain of conformity | Consultation | Public participation | Submission to Secretary of State | Adoption |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Core Strategy | Development Plan Document (DPD) | Sets out the vision and objectives for the LDF, together with the spatial strategy. | Must be in general conformity with the RSS | September – October 2007 | September – October 2008 | June 2009 | July 2010 |
| Hereford Area Action Plan | Development Plan Document (DPD) | Sets out proposals for the delivery of sustainable housing and other growth at Hereford, including regeneration proposals within the urban area. | Core Strategy | September – October 2009 | September – October 2010 | June 2011 | September 2012 |
| Polytunnels | Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Provides further planning guidance on the assessment of proposals for polytunnels | Unitary Development Plan | September 2007 | January – February 2008 | N/A | May 2008 |
| Archaeology and Development | Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Provides further planning guidance on the treatment of archaeological considerations in the planning process. | Unitary Development Plan | December 2007 – January 2008 | February – March 2008 | N/A | September 2008 |
| Historic Landscapes | Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Provides further planning guidance on the treatment of historic landscapes in the planning process. | Unitary Development Plan | February – March 2008 | April – May 2008 | N/A | October 2008 |
| Model Farm | Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) | Provides further planning guidance for development proposals for the site. | Unitary Development Plan | September 2007 | April – May 2008 | N/A | October 2008 |

Schedule of Local Development Documents

| | 2007/08 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2008/09 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M |
| Polytunnels SPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparation of draft document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finalise document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adoption | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Archaeology and Development SPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparation of draft document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finalise document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adoption | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Historic Landscapes SPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparation of draft document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finalise document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adoption | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Model Farm, Ross-on-Wye SPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preparation of draft document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finalise document | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adoption | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Supplementary Planning Documents programmes

Local Development Document profiles

Core Strategy

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Role and subject | Sets out the vision and objectives for the Local Development Framework, together with a spatial strategy, illustrated on a key diagram, for the period up to 2026 (in line with the current review of the Regional Spatial Strategy). |
| Geographic coverage | County wide |
| Status | Development Plan Document |
| Chain of conformity | Must be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy |

Timetable

| | |
|---|--|
| Commencement and evidence gathering | September 2006 – August 2007 Evidence base subject to review and updating |
| Issues and options consultations | September – October 2007 and February – March 2008 |
| Preparation of preferred options | April – August 2008 |
| Public participation on preferred options | September – October 2008 |
| Preparation of submission DPD | November 2008 – May 2009 |
| Submission to Secretary of State | June 2009 |
| Public consultation on submitted DPD | June – July 2009 |
| Pre-Examination meeting | October 2009 |
| Examination | December 2009 |
| Receipt of Report | May 2010 |
| Adoption | July 2010 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|--|
| Lead service | Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Council to approve Preferred Options consultation document; submission DPD, including consideration of representations arising from the Preferred Options consultation; and to adopt, all following proposal by Executive. |
| Resources | In house resources and existing budgets supplemented by Planning Delivery Grant/Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. Consultancy support in developing aspects of the evidence base. |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

Hereford Area Action Plan

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Role and subject | Sets out proposals for the delivery of sustainable housing and other growth at Hereford, including regeneration proposals within the urban area and infrastructure requirements |
| Geographic coverage | Hereford |
| Status | Development Plan Document |
| Chain of conformity | Core Strategy |

Timetable

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Commencement and evidence gathering | June 2008 – August 2009 |
| Issues and options consultation | September – October 2009 |
| Preparation of preferred options | November 2009 – August 2010 |
| Public participation on preferred options | September – October 2010 |
| Preparation of submission DPD | November 2010 – May 2011 |
| Submission to Secretary of State | June 2011 |
| Public consultation on submitted DPD | June – July 2011 |
| Pre-Examination meeting | November 2011 |
| Examination | January 2012 |
| Receipt of Report | June 2012 |
| Adoption | September 2012 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|--|
| Lead service | Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Council to approve Preferred Options consultation document; submission DPD, including consideration of representations arising from the Preferred Options consultation; and to adopt, all following proposal by Executive. |
| Resources | In house resources and existing budgets supplemented by Planning Delivery Grant/Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

Polytunnels Supplementary Planning Document

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Role and subject | Provides further planning guidance on the assessment of proposals for polytunnels. |
| Geographic coverage | County wide |
| Status | Supplementary Planning Document |
| Chain of conformity | Unitary Development Plan |

Timetable

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Preparation of draft SPD | June – December 2007 |
| Public participation | January – February 2008 |
| Consider representations and finalise SPD | March – April 2008 |
| Adoption | May 2008 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|--|
| Lead service | Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Executive |
| Resources | In house resources and existing budgets. |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Document

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Role and subject | Provides further planning guidance on the treatment of archaeological considerations in the planning process. |
| Geographic coverage | County wide |
| Status | Supplementary Planning Document |
| Chain of conformity | Unitary Development Plan |

Timetable

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Preparation of draft SPD | June – January 2008 |
| Public participation | February – March 2008 |
| Consider representations and finalise SPD | April – August 2008 |
| Adoption | September 2008 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|--|
| Lead service | Conservation/Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Executive |
| Resources | In house resources and existing budgets. |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

Historic Landscapes Supplementary Planning Document

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Role and subject | Provides further planning guidance on the treatment of historic landscapes in the planning process. |
| Geographic coverage | County wide |
| Status | Supplementary Planning Document |
| Chain of conformity | Unitary Development Plan |

Timetable

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Preparation of draft SPD | June 2007 – March 2008 |
| Public participation | April – May 2008 |
| Consider representations and finalise SPD | June – September 2008 |
| Adoption | October 2008 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|--|
| Lead service | Conservation/Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Executive |
| Resources | In house resources and existing budgets. |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

Model Farm, Ross-on-Wye Supplementary Planning Document

Document details

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Role and subject | Provides further planning guidance for development proposals for the site. The SPD, together with the UDP, will be used for development control purposes in determining relevant planning applications. |
| Geographic coverage | Model Farm, Ross-on-Wye |
| Status | Supplementary Planning Document |
| Chain of conformity | Unitary Development Plan |

Timetable

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Preparation of draft SPD | March 2007 – March 2008 |
| Public participation | April - May 2008 |
| Consider representations and finalise SPD | June – September 2008 |
| Adoption | October 2008 |

Arrangements for production

| | |
|--|---|
| Lead service | Economic Regeneration, Social and Economic Regeneration/Forward Planning, Planning Services |
| Management arrangements | Executive |
| Resources | Advantage West Midlands Market Towns Initiative funds and in house resources |
| Involving stakeholders and the community | As defined in the Statement of Community Involvement |

4. Supplementary Planning Guidance

Supplementary Planning Guidance to the UDP

Supplementary Planning Guidance is no longer to be prepared under the arrangements for the Local Development Framework. However, there are a number of such documents which remain in use under the transitional arrangements, and which provide supplementary guidance to the UDP. These are:

- Design and development requirements SPG
- Reuse and adaptation of rural buildings SPG
- Biodiversity SPG
- Landscape Character Assessment SPG

In addition, a number of local communities have brought forward Village Design Statements and Parish Plans, which have been adopted as interim SPG to the UDP:

- Village Design Statement for Ewyas Harold
- Parish Plans for Belmont Rural, Bishopstone Group Parish, Middleton on the Hill and Leysters, Pembridge and the Border Group of Parishes, Weobley and Wellington.

Parish Plans are now recognised through adoption of their planning elements as further planning guidance to the Unitary Development Plan and as an expression of local distinctiveness and community participation. Parish Plans for Burghill, Kings Caple, Cusop and Tarrington have been endorsed in this way.

Site development briefs for UDP proposal sites have been produced as follows: land opposite Sutton St Nicholas Primary School; Frome Valley Haulage Depot, Bishops Frome; and Tanyard Lane, Ross-on-Wye.

The above documents do not form part of the Local Development Framework and it is not intended that they will be converted to Supplementary Planning Documents. They will continue to be used to provide guidance to further and help implement UDP policies and proposals. They have benefited from a range of consultation processes, which are detailed within them.

Village Design Statements for Colwall, Cradley and Storrige, Leintwardine and Much Marcle, which were adopted as SPG to the former Local Plans, continue to offer relevant design guidance for developments coming forward in these communities.

5. Supporting statement

How the Local Development Documents work together

The diagram overleaf illustrates how the various documents discussed in this Scheme will work together to provide a Local Development Framework for Herefordshire.

Evidence base

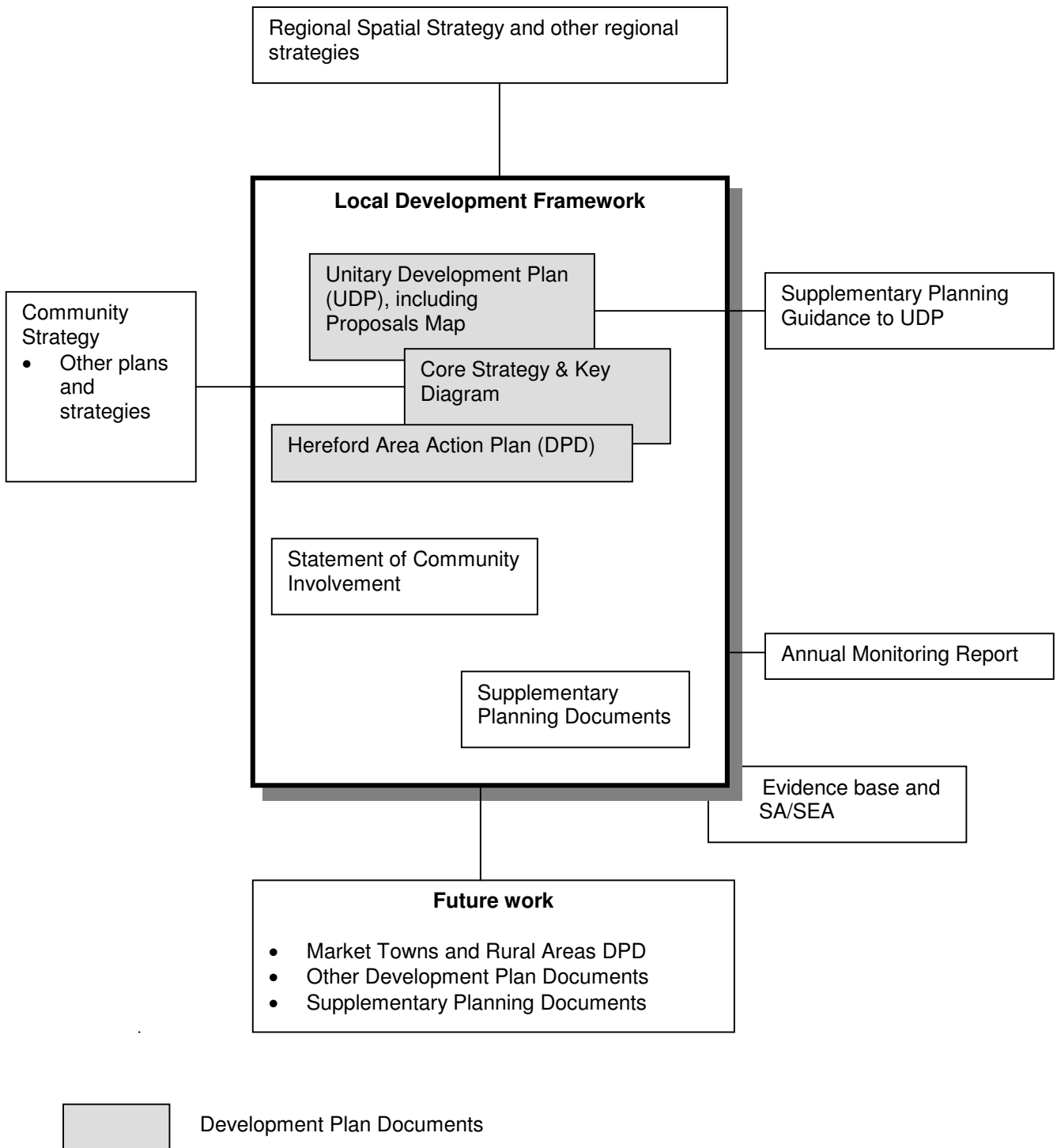
The Council has a sound basis of evidence to use in developing its Framework. Much of this has been built up and refined over a period of time, while in other subject areas specific studies have been commissioned and are underway. The evidence base comprises the following principle resources and technical studies:

| Title | Current edition | How the evidence base will be managed |
|--|--|--|
| Annual Monitoring Report (incorporates housing and employment land studies) | 2006-2007 | Annual review |
| Housing Needs Studies | County wide study 2005. Studies for individual settlements as resources permit | Rolling programme of studies based on settlements |
| Housing Land Availability Assessment | Study in preparation | Monitored through annual housing land study and periodic review |
| Sub-regional Housing Market Assessment | Study in preparation using consultants | Periodic review |
| Water Study, comprising assessment of water supply, treatment, infrastructure and flooding (PPG25 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) | Study in preparation using consultants | Periodic review |
| National Land Use Database (NLUD) | 2006 submission to national database | Annual review |
| Employment Land Review | Study in preparation using consultants | Periodic review |
| Retail study (PPS6 Assessment) | Study in preparation using consultants | Periodic review |
| Green Infrastructure Study | Study in preparation using consultants | To be developed into a Green Infrastructure Strategy (subject to Growth Point funding) |
| Open space study (PPG17) | Study in preparation using consultants | Periodic review |

| Title | Current edition | How the evidence base will be managed |
|--|--|--|
| Transportation Assessment/Hereford SATURN model | Prepared for UDP and further developed for the Hereford Transport Review | To be reviewed on a multi-modal basis in 2008 to incorporate likely LDF development requirements to 2026 (subject to Growth Point funding) |
| Regional monitoring of offices, retail, hotels/leisure, minerals and waste | Regional Planning Guidance Annual Monitoring report, 2006 | Annual return to Regional Planning Body |

The evidence base is being further developed as part of continuing work on the Local Development Framework and further studies will be undertaken or commissioned as required. In particular, bids to Government have been made in October 2007 to access New Growth Point funding in a number of areas, addressing transportation, green infrastructure and other environmental issues raised. If successful, these bids will allow studies to go forward to assist with the delivery of sustainable housing growth, through the Hereford Area Action Plan in particular.

The evidence base feeds into and is supplemented by information collected for other Council and Herefordshire Partnership Strategies, including the Housing Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy.



The Local Development Framework for Herefordshire

Sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment

Local Development Documents have to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development – the simple idea of seeking a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. Planning authorities also have to meet the requirements of the European Union Directive on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). Sustainability appraisal (SA) is a systematic and iterative appraisal process, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive. The appraisal process has an important role to play in the production of Local Development Documents, ensuring that policies reflect sustainable development principles by providing information on the potential social, environmental and economic effects of policies.

To ensure that a consistent approach is taken to SA throughout the Local Development Framework process, the Council has prepared a General Scoping Report which defines an overall framework for sustainability appraisal. This will be used as a baseline in all subsequent appraisals to be conducted on Local Development Documents.

SA is an integral part of the production of both DPDs and SPDs from the outset. At specific stages in the process of producing these documents appraisal reports will be produced, for instance, to accompany the submission of DPDs to the Secretary of State.

In addition to SA and to meet the requirements of the European Habitats Directive, the Council will undertake an Appropriate Assessment of DPDs and SPDs where it is determined that they are likely to have significant effects upon the conservation objectives of a site designated as a European site of nature conservation interest (Special Protection Areas) and Special Areas of Conservation. While recognising that SA and Appropriate Assessment are two distinctively separate processes, the Council will undertake them in conjunction with one another in accordance with Government guidance. In accordance with this guidance, outputs for Appropriate Assessment will be clearly distinguishable and reported on separately.

Delivering the Framework

The planning policies set out in the Local Development Framework will be delivered in many ways. The refusal or grant of planning permission, and the use of planning conditions and obligations, will remain one of the most important means by which the Council's planning policies are implemented. However the emphasis on a spatial planning approach - which seeks to reconcile competing demands for land in a planned way – means that working with others has become more important.

Here, the link between the documents comprising the LDF and the Community Strategy is all important. The Framework is a key mechanism for delivering the land use aspects of the Plan, but also provides a long term spatial context within which the Herefordshire Plan can be progressed.

The need to recognise the link between land use planning policy and the Community Strategy has long been recognised in Herefordshire. The UDP is already set firmly within the overall Community Strategy approach. These close links will be continued and strengthened as the LDF is established. The SCI for instance builds on existing community consultations undertaken by the Herefordshire Partnership.

Council procedures for approval

The Local Development Framework forms part of the Council's overall Policy Framework as defined in the Constitution. The Executive (Cabinet including the Leader of the Council) has responsibility for proposing elements of the Policy Framework to Council, with the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) having responsibility for planning and land use matters (excluding development control). The following responsibilities for approving different documents within the Framework reflect the varying conformity arrangements, and the fact that documents differ both in the extent to which they define policy and are used in the determination of planning applications.

Development Plan Documents: Council, following proposal by Cabinet

Supplementary Planning Documents: Cabinet Member, following consultation with Planning Committee.

Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme: Cabinet, following consultation with Planning Committee.

Monitoring and review

The Local Development Framework system incorporates an Annual Monitoring Report – the AMR. This must be compiled on a financial year basis and submitted to the Government Office by the end of the calendar year. The AMR tracks progress against the targets and milestones set out in this scheme for producing LDDs, and the extent to which policies in LDDs are being achieved.

Each year a report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet via the Planning Committee that will:

- Specify to what extent the timescales set out in the LDS for the production of LDDs are being met
- Review the extent to which policies within LDDs are being achieved, focussing initially on key policy areas where information is available and where national, regional or local targets have been set.
- In particular, the AMR will report on the number of dwellings built in Herefordshire during the period covered by the Report and relate this to relevant LDD policies
- Consider whether any policies need amendment because they are not working as intended or are not achieving sustainable development objectives and, if so, suggest ways to achieve this
- Consider the need to review the LDS in the light of the AMR. The Scheme will be revised each time the list of Local Development Documents changes, either by addition of a new proposed Document or through significant revision to the timetable for the preparation of a Local Development Document.

Monitoring is undertaken within the Forward Planning section of the Council. In addition, the Herefordshire Partnership carry out a monitoring exercise against the ambitions and aims of the Community Strategy. This is published as a regular 'State of Herefordshire' Report. Over time, the monitoring of planning policies set out in the AMR will need to be aligned with that carried out on the Community Strategy, reflecting the role of the LDF as the key delivery mechanism for those Strategy ambitions with a spatial dimension.