

Chief Executive's Office

Chief Executive: N.M. Pringle

**To: All Members of Cabinet:
R.J. Phillips (Leader)
G.V. Hyde (Deputy Leader)
Mrs. L.O. Barnett
P.J. Edwards
Mrs. J.P. French
J.C. Mayson
D.W. Rule MBE
R.V. Stockton
D.B. Wilcox
R.M. Wilson**

Your Ref:

Our Ref: NMP/CD

Please ask for: Mr. N.M. Pringle

Direct Line/Extension: (01432) 260044

Fax: (01432) 340189

E-mail: npringle@herefordshire.gov.uk

23rd June, 2004

Dear Councillor,

**MEETING OF CABINET
THURSDAY, 1ST JULY, 2004 AT 2.15 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD**

AGENDA (04/03)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda.

3. FINAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2003/04

To consider the final outturn position for 2003/04. (*Pages 1 - 8*)

4. LPSA 2ND GENERATION UPDATE

To receive an update on the progress of the second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) which the Council will be negotiating with the Government later in 2004. (*Pages 9 - 18*)

5. LOCAL AREA FORUMS

To receive feedback on the latest round of the Local Area Forums, and note any issues raised by the community. (*Pages 19 - 22*)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Pringle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" at the end.

N.M. PRINGLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Copies to: Chairman of the Council
Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee
Vice-Chairman of Strategic Monitoring Committee
Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees
Group Leaders
Directors
County Secretary and Solicitor
County Treasurer

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:-

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of the Cabinet, of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50, for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

Please Note:

Agenda and individual reports can be made available in large print or on tape. Please contact the officer named below in advance of the meeting who will be pleased to deal with your request.

The Council Chamber where the meeting will be held is accessible for visitors in wheelchairs, for whom toilets are also available.

A public telephone is available in the reception area.

Public Transport links

- Public transport access can be gained to Brockington via the service runs approximately every half hour from the 'Hopper' bus station at the Tesco store in Bewell Street (next to the roundabout junction of Blueschool Street / Victoria Street / Edgar Street).
- The nearest bus stop to Brockington is located in Old Eign Hill near to its junction with Hafod Road. The return journey can be made from the same bus stop.

If you have any questions about this Agenda, how the Council works or would like more information or wish to exercise your rights to access the information described above, you may do so either by telephoning Mrs Christine Dyer on 01432 260222 or by visiting in person during office hours (8.45 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8.45 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. Friday) at the Council Offices, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford.

COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire or emergency the alarm bell will ring continuously.

You should vacate the building in an orderly manner through the nearest available fire exit.

You should then proceed to Assembly Point J which is located at the southern entrance to the car park. A check will be undertaken to ensure that those recorded as present have vacated the building following which further instructions will be given.

Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.

FINAL REVENUE OUTTURN 2003/04

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

1ST JULY 2004

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the final outturn position for 2003/2004.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Reasons

The final outturn for 2003/04 has a bearing on the Council's finances in 2004/05.

Considerations

1. Whilst work continues on the range of tasks necessary to prepare the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts, matters have been sufficiently progressed to enable the final outturn picture to be presented. Annex 1 attached to the report summarises the position.
2. The Statement of Accounts, which will be available by mid July, must be approved by members before 31st August 2004. This year's closedown reflects a further improvement in the timely closure of the Council's accounts and good progress towards the deadline of 30th June for closing the 2005/06 accounts. In accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Auditing Standard SAS610, a report, together with the Statement of Accounts, will be presented to the Statutory Accounts Committee on 2nd August 2004. The report will be accompanied by supplementary reports on early retirements, redundancies and bank accounts changes during 2003/04. The external audit of the accounts is expected to begin in early September.
3. Annex 1 differentiates between those over or underspends to be carried forward under financial regulations and items where a transfer to or from reserves is proposed. Net position shows a net variation in the amount transferred to and from reserves of £5,388,000 which may be summarised in the following table:

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
David Keetch on 01432 260227

	£000	£000
Net Programme Area underspendings carried forward		-3,543
Programme Area transfer from Reserves		11
Reserves		
Movement on earmarked reserves	<u>367</u>	367
Financing transactions		
Additional interest	-580	
Other financing transactions	<u>-427</u>	-1,007
Other		
Capital financing adjustments	-1,604	
Other transactions	<u>388</u>	
		-1,216
		<u>-5,388</u>

4. With regard to carry forwards, the following table shows the position by Programme Area (with overspends shown in brackets):

	£000	£000
Economic Development		365
Education		1,415
Environment		371
Social Care		(245)
Social Development:		
General		157
Leisure contracts		(146)
Strategic Housing		60
Policy and Finance		
Chief Executive		37
Support Services		421
Central Services		234
Director of Policy and Community		942
Property		(433)
Other (including Corporate Development Fund)		<u>365</u>
Net underspending carried forward		<u>3,543</u>

5. The carry forward is an underspending of £3,543,000 or just over 2% of the Council's net budget for the year. Whilst on the face of it the net carry forward looks healthy, there are significant commitments against this sum. For example, the firm commitments against the Education carry forward total are approximately £1,000,000. For items shown in the "to balances" column, on Annex 1 attached, carry forward arrangements are inappropriate by virtue of the nature of the item, (e.g. precepts and levies), or where previous approval has been given for the expenditure

to be met from reserves (e.g. Land Charges, Job Evaluation). This amount includes £300,000 earmarked to meet the potential additional costs following renegotiation of the Waste PFI contract.

6. The sum being transferred from reserves in respect of Programme Area expenditure is £11,000 including the additional cost of job evaluation work, land charges, asset management, grounds maintenance and precepts and levies. These calls on reserves are more than offset by a transfer to reserves of £480,000 which is the underspending on waste disposal and recycling.
7. There is a net transfer to reserves of £1,856,000 in respect of non-programme areas expenditure and income including interest receivable. Included in this figure is £1,604,000 of notional revenue underspendings generated by the decision to use capital reserves instead of revenue contribution to capital thereby ensuring that no conditional resources are lost to the authority. This is a technical accounting adjustment, switching funds to ensure that, within the Council's overall reserves, sufficient revenue sums are available to meet known commitments. It does not represent an increase in the Council's overall reserves. The net transfer also reflects an underspending of £803,000 on IT, together with the earmarking of an equivalent sum for IT costs and developments in 2004/05. Included in the balance remaining is additional interest received during this year (£580,000), primarily as a consequence of delayed capital spending and debt rescheduling.

Economic Development

8. An underspending of £365,000 is reported owing to the carry forward from 2002/03, savings resulting from vacancies and secondments and contributions towards the cost of projects budgeted for in 2003/04 but not required until 2004/05.

Education

9. The gross projected carry forward for Education other than schools is an underspending of £1,415,000. The majority of the underspend, however, is committed to the Standards Fund (£425,000), which is accounted for on a school year basis, the Schools' sickness insurance scheme (£166,000) which is 'owned' by schools, and continuing ring-fenced grants for the Whitecross PFI scheme (£164,000). A number of other small commitments (£257,000) rolled forward mean that the net outcome is a small surplus of £403,000, which is very much in line with the budget monitoring reports.
10. The schools delegated budget carry forwards, including Standards Fund, have increased from £3,956,079 to £5,703,679 after the addition of interest during the year. The end of year balance can be split between Primary Schools (£3,653,448), Secondary (£1,596,914), Special (£287,602) and Pupil referral Units (£165,715). These balances represent just over 9.5% of the schools 2003/04 budget. Schools have a statutory right to carry these balances forward.
11. Schools have, in addition, balances in respect of Devolved Capital grants of £1,141,046 which is an increase of £393,000 during the year.

Environment

12. The anticipated out-turn for the Environment Programme area overall shows an underspending of £851,000. However, as the underspending on the Waste PFI contract of £480,000 is transferred to balances, the carry-forward into 2004/05 is reduced to £371,000. The Waste PFI underspending was partly because volumes were lower than expected (£180,000) and because £300,000 provided for the costs of the contract following re-negotiation was not needed.

13. Environment General, including highways, shows a net overspending of £97,000 after excluding the underspending on the Waste PFI. The main variations are the increased income from new roads and street work fees (£78,000), and the increased cost of public rights of way (£21,000), street lighting (£23,000) and public conveniences (£61,000). The road maintenance budgets were approximately £67,000 overspent.
14. Further underspendings have occurred in crematorium (£62,000) and cemeteries (£62,000), due largely to increased income, and street cleansing (£23,000)
15. Environment Regularity shows an underspending of £31,000. Underspendings on most services were offset by spending on street trading.
16. Planning Services underspent by £437,000 largely owing to additional fee income (£206,000) and Building Control staff savings (£82,000). In addition, a proportion of the Planning Development Grant for 2003/04 will be carried forward into 2004/05 (£165,000).

Social Care and Strategic Housing

17. The final Social Care outturn is expected to be an overspend of £245,000 (including £582,000 carried forward). This is 0.7% of the budget and will be carried forward to the financial year 2004/05.
18. The objective to keep expenditure within the social care budget has been a considerable challenge. It should be acknowledged how difficult this has been for all staff and for users and the public waiting for services. This pressure on older peoples services in particular will impact on the 2004/05 financial year.
19. The key risk area of children's agency placements has been identified as an issue in previous reports. This budget has naturally been particularly difficult to predict. Children's Services managers are already planning for some **more** flexibility within our own fostering service placements to meet children's needs rather than more expensive options.
20. The projected end of year Strategic Housing underspend to be carried forward to 2004/05 is £60,000 (after incorporating the 2002/03 underspend). It is not expected that there will be an underspend in future years. The reason for the underspend in this year is the time taken to review services and recruit to posts within the new Strategic Housing function and also reflects the cautious approach taken in committing to expenditure in the first year following transfer.

Social Development

21. In total, Social Development was overspent by £89,000 although this becomes a carry-forward of an £11,000 underspending when the charge to reserves in respect of grounds maintenance is taken into account. The main variations were underspendings on the Youth Service (£159,000), Leisure Client (£65,000) and Heritage Services (£64,000). These were planned carry forwards in order to achieve service objectives in 2004/05. The only significant overspending was on Parks and Countryside (£155,000) which was previously identified both as an expected overspending and a budget pressure for 2004/05.

Policy and Finance

22. The outturn for Policy and Finance General shows an underspending of £1,692,000. Underspendings include Policy and Community Services (£942,000) including almost £500,000 in the modernisation budget and £40,000 in Policy and Communication

committed to projects in 2004/05, the Development Fund (£163,000), Members' Services (£11,000), Support Services (£421,000), Civic and Corporate costs (£38,000) and Central Services to the public (£119,000). These underspendings are offset by an overspending on Precepts and Levies of £39,000 owing to the Combined Fire Authority issuing a supplementary levy during 2003/04.

23. Against these underspendings there are significant commitments in 2004/05 and future years including upgrading the Council's debtors system, together with the replacement housing benefit and council tax system. Government funding for the later project is available but it does not meet the full cost.
24. A provision for £80,000 has been set up to meet the legal costs associated with an uninsured legal claim. No provision is being made in the accounts for any damages associated with this case, which are being treated as a contingent liability.
25. In total, Property Services overspent by £517,000 largely as a result of a virtually identical carry-forward from 2002/03 although the overspending carried forward does fall to £433,000 because of allocations from reserves. The recovery plan involving additional car park income is only making a modest contribution towards improving the position at present.
26. Markets and Fairs overspent by £382,000 but this includes a deficit of £379,000 brought forward from 2002/03. The deficit has largely been contained but not reduced during the year.
27. Property Management and Administration underspent by approximately £236,000 owing to increased recharges to capital and additional income.
28. The Property Maintenance Pool allocation was spent in full during the year, although very strict management has been necessary to keep spending within budget. There remains a significant backlog in Property Maintenance.
29. There is a deficit of £493,000 on Industrial Estates owing to a continuing shortfall in rent income. Against this deficit can be offset by additional income received from retail properties, including those transferred from the Housing Revenue Account (£247,000).

Housing Revenue Account

30. Following the Housing Stock Transfer in 2002/03, the ODPM gave the Council permission to formally close the Housing Revenue Accounts during 2003/2004. The Account was, therefore, closed on 31st March 2004.
31. When the account was closed it showed a deficit of £475,000, including £318,000 brought forward from 2002/03, which has been funded initially from general reserves. This deficit will be repaid to general reserves from future Housing Right to Buy receipts. Right to Buy receipts for this sum have already been earmarked.

Insurance provision

32. The Council maintains an insurance provision to meet the costs associated with the insurance claims (e.g. policy excesses) which can be submitted some years after the event. An independent review of the amount provided for the period 1st April 1998 onwards suggests the provision for this period is not quite sufficient. The accounts, therefore, reflect an additional contribution of £125,000 to address this shortfall.

Conclusion

The underspending carried forward into 2004/05 is at £3,500,000, significantly better than the figure previously reported, partly because anticipated spending has been delayed and secondly because an over cautious approach has been taken in our forecasting the end of year position which involved highlighting potential overspendings while assuming carry forwards would be spent in year.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options.

Risk Management

Not applicable.

Consultees

None identified.

Background Papers

None identified.

ANNEX 1

2003/2004 FINAL OUTTURN

PROGRAMME AREA	2002/03 Carry Forward £000	2003/04 Base Budget £000	2003/04 Total Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000	To Balances £000	Carry Forward £000
Economic Development	150	2,755	2,905	2,540	(365)		365
Education							
Schools		58,070	58,070	58,070	0		
Other	927	26,588	27,515	26,100	(1,415)		1,415
	927	84,658	85,585	84,170	(1,415)	0	1,415
Environment							
General	210	22,314	22,524	22,141	(383)	(480)	(97)
Regulatory Planning	10	2,502	2,512	2,481	(31)		31
		2,488	2,488	2,051	(437)		437
	220	27,304	27,524	26,673	(851)	(480)	371
Strategic Housing	191	4,599	4,790	4,730	(60)		60
Social Care	(582)	35,017	34,435	34,680	245		(245)
Social Development	(239)	10,053	9,814	9,903	89	100	11
Policy and Finance							
Corporate & Democratic Policy & Community	194	2,103	2,297	2,048	(249)	153	402
Support Services	389	1,467	1,856	914	(942)		942
Central Services to Public Property	520	(7)	513	92	(421)		421
Precepts and Levies	177	3,078	3,255	3,136	(119)	115	234
	(524)	495	(29)	488	517	84	(433)
		7,122	7,122	7,161	39	39	
	756	14,258	15,014	13,839	(1,175)	391	1,566
Total Programme Areas	1,423	178,644	180,067	176,535	(3,532)	11	3,543
Financing and other costs		(10,848)	(10,848)	(13,071)	(2,223)	(2,223)	0
To/(From) reserves	(439)	1,706	1,267	1,634	367	367	0
To/(From) balances	(984)	(1,958)	(2,942)	2,446	5,388	1,845	(3,543)
Total	0	167,544	167,544	167,544	0	0	0

LPSA 2ND GENERATION UPDATE

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

1ST JULY 2004

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To receive an update on the progress of the second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) which the Council will be negotiating with the Government later in 2004.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

THAT the contents of the report be noted.

Considerations

1. As part of the regular monitoring report in March, Cabinet received an outline of the 2nd Generation of Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA2G) the Government is hoping to agree with all upper tier authorities during the next two years. Herefordshire Council is in the first tranche and will need to finalise its agreement by March 2005.
2. As a reminder to Cabinet, the LPSA2G will be different to the current LPSA as it will concentrate purely on local issues rather than having a minimum number of nationally prescribed targets. At its meeting on 4th March, it was reported to Cabinet that initial work on the new LPSA was to be carried out in conjunction with the Learning and Skills Council, the Primary Care Trust and the Government Office of the West Midlands.
3. This resulted in a scoping document which looked at longer term funding agreements with Government but also had a relatively narrow focus on increasing individual dependency within an ageing population. Following initial feedback from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the original scoping document has been revised to better reflect the guidance for developing LPSA2G. It now incorporates a wider theme which is 'Improving the Quality of Life for an Ageing Population'. This extends the thinking behind the original scoping document by including related issues covering environment, housing and transport, for example. Currently the main exclusions are within formal education pre-16 and children in care, both being areas heavily represented in the current PSA but more importantly areas which are being addressed through other measures. The current draft of the submission is attached as Appendix 1.
4. The document needs to be formally submitted to the ODPM before the end of July, in

Further Information on the subject of this report is available from
Andrew Tanner, Assistant County Treasurer on 01432 260162

order for more formal negotiations to start, and a significant amount of work is being carried out at this time. This includes discussion with the Ambition Groups and individual service managers from the Directorates. Various bodies of evidence, particularly data from the “State of Herefordshire” report, are being used to identify priority areas and those requiring performance improvement which feed ultimately into the overall theme.

5. The final submission for the ODPM will not be the final PSA Agreement but a detailed document highlighting the issues the Council wishes to address through the LPSA. Just as importantly, it will also highlight the issues the LPSA will not be addressing and reasons for this. A key feature of LPSA2G is the need to concentrate on outcomes for the community rather than simple outputs. In other words, they are service improvements which make a real difference on the ground. As it stands, the theme is addressing a long-term structural issue in terms of an ageing population and a significant amount of thought is going in to identifying medium term outcomes which can be achieved within the three years of the LPSA.
6. Members are welcome to feed in any ideas they have to the project team prior to this date and Jennifer Watkins, John Eades and Andrew Tanner are the first points of contact in this respect.

Risk Management

Although the LPSA will rely heavily on the Partnership, responsibility for the LPSA remains with Herefordshire Council. In this respect, it is important that members are kept fully informed and engaged where necessary on the progress of the LPSA.

Consultees

None.

Background Papers

None identified.

THE HEREFORDSHIRE APPROACH TO LPSA2

Purpose

This paper sets out the Herefordshire approach to developing LPSA2, and is the basis for the initial submission due July 2004.

This paper proposes that Herefordshire takes a different approach to LPSA2, which meets but could also push the margins of current LPSA2 guidance in a novel way.

The approach

Herefordshire Plan

The basis for LPSA2 is the Community Strategy (Herefordshire Plan), supporting the Vision for Herefordshire in 2011 to:

- Create ***fair and thriving communities*** which will be inclusive for all allowing equal and full access to opportunities and services.
- Properly ***protect the environment*** and enhance it for all those who live and work in it and for those who visit it.
- Build a ***strong, competitive and innovative economy*** with a balanced mix of businesses, jobs and homes through which the local economy can flourish.

To achieve this vision, six Guiding Principles and ten Ambitions have been identified within the Herefordshire Plan, from an extensive community involvement exercise. These are:

1. Improve the health and well being of Herefordshire people.
2. Reduce crime and disorder and make Herefordshire safer.
3. Reduce poverty and isolation in Herefordshire.
4. Encourage communities to shape the future of Herefordshire.
5. Develop Herefordshire as an active, vibrant and enjoyable place to be.
6. Protect and enhance Herefordshire distinctive environment.
7. Develop an integrated transport system for Herefordshire.
8. Meet Herefordshire's accommodation needs.
9. Support business growth and create more and better paid work in Herefordshire.

10. Provide excellent education, training and learning opportunities in Herefordshire for all ages.

Linking the Herefordshire Plan to LPSA2

It is proposed that Herefordshire moves away from the traditional method of identifying a number of individual priorities with associated performance indicators and targets.

Instead, there is potential for Herefordshires LPSA2 to focus on an overarching structural issue that is crucial in achieving the Vision of the Herefordshire Plan. This could be an issue that has significant effects across the ten Ambitions in the Herefordshire Plan, and will worsen significantly unless considered in greater depth. It should also be a national issue, so its relevance and solutions can be tested in a novel way through a pilot approach and potentially an Explorer Partnership.

The Issue

The findings from local statistics, the Herefordshire Plan, supporting strategies, organisational plans and local research studies, such as the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy, were pulled together. From this, one area clearly emerged as having a direct effect and impact on all of these. This is:

The predominance of older people in Herefordshire's demographic structure, particularly the growing number of older people which is increasing at higher than average rates, impacting on deprivation levels and pressures on services

The percentage of older people in Herefordshire is already high and is expected to grow at double the National rate. This is a faster growth rate than Herefordshire's total population projection. The result is a population in-balance, exacerbated with young people leaving the county to attend university and work.

Herefordshire is already working hard to address the retention of young people and encourage other young people into the county to take advantage of work and other opportunities. For example, current higher education studies and young peoples entrepreneurship programmes).

We also know that the growing numbers of older people is already causing greater demands on related services, and that the way we deliver these services will need to change in order to meet these demands and respond to the challenges. However, we also recognise that we cannot just halt the number of older people moving to and growing older in Herefordshire, and that we need to work together to turn this into an opportunity with wider benefits for everyone.

Why

Improving the quality of life for older people is an immediate issue for Herefordshire and will be of greater importance to England as a whole over the coming years. It brings together recently publicised anxieties around pension levels, sources of taxation, quality of social care, delays in hospitals, access to learning and links in the current consultation around standards of care in Health.

It also supports local developments, such as:

APPENDIX 1

- The recently agreed compact in health and social care to enable proper engagement of the voluntary sector in planning and commissioning decisions.
- The current Strategic Area Review of learning in Herefordshire; and
- The current development of an all sector Economic Development Strategy for Herefordshire.

This approach will genuinely challenge and test how support for the ageing population is being achieved in a sustainable way across Herefordshire, with significant differences in approaches and delivery models over the next fifteen years, making this an ideal approach to pilot through LPSA2.

This approach is also ideal for LPSA2, as the quality of life for an ageing population is dependant on a number of organisations and a wide range of services (such as workforce development, transport and community safety). It will provide a structured rationale for identifying those priority areas most relevant to supporting the quality of life for an ageing population in the future.

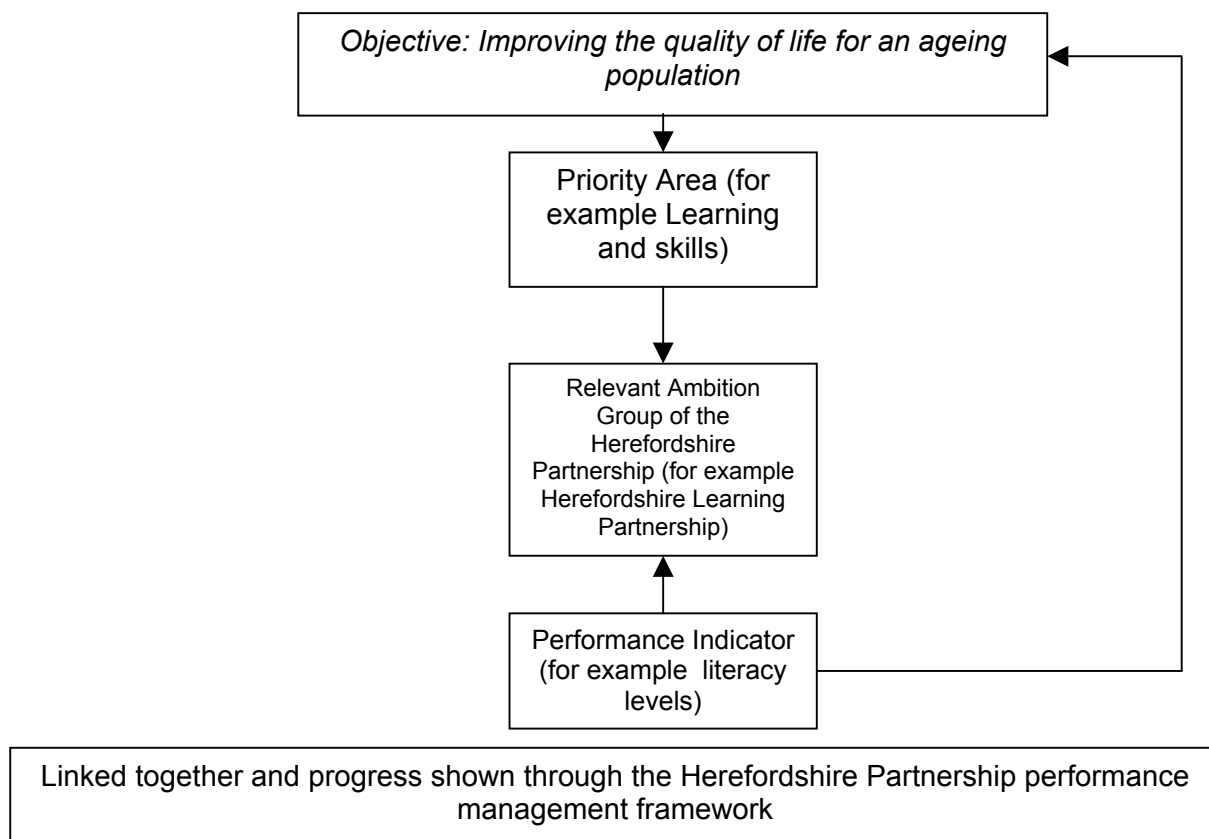
The approach

Herefordshire would like to base its LPSA2 submission on addressing those issues which directly impact on the quality of life for an ageing population.

The LPSA2 will be focused on priority areas which directly affect the quality of life for the ageing population, are not performing to their full potential (based on the State of Herefordshire report), and are supported by local Partners through the Herefordshire Partnership.

These priority areas will then provide the basis for identifying outcomes, associated indicators and targets all aimed at working towards the overall objective. It is expected that the focus of these areas and targets will be firmly linked into the Ambitions of the Herefordshire Plan and its Ambition Groups.

This is shown diagrammatically overleaf:



Priority areas

An initial analysis has been undertaken on indicators and targets from the State of Herefordshire report, to identify these priority areas. This analysis has highlighted eight initial areas that are relevant to the theme, and are either under performing or could perform better. These are:

1. **Health:** healthy population, LIFT scheme, older people as carers and independent living.
2. **Economic development:** business support, wage levels and quality of jobs.
3. **Quality and mix of housing.**
4. **Fear of crime.**
5. **Sense of community.**
6. **Transport:** design of highways, liveability and commercial passenger journeys.
7. **Learning and skills:** take up, outcomes, literacy and numeracy and confidence.
8. **Access to services:** getting services to people; and credit unions.

Who

As this issue is so inherent to life in Herefordshire, the causes, symptoms and proposed models will not be covered by just the local authority. It is proposed that we take a Herefordshire wide view, building on the Herefordshire Partnership and inclusive of other relevant public agencies, the community/voluntary sector and private sector. This will be crucial in the success of this approach.

It is proposed that the Herefordshire Partnership Ambition Groups take a central role in leading action within the priority area, and in setting and working jointly towards the indicators and targets.

Indicators and targets

Each Ambition in the Herefordshire Plan is backed by key indicators and targets and pulled together in the State of Herefordshire Report. It is proposed that key indicators relevant to the objective are identified within each Ambition and used as a tracking mechanism to show progress.

Given the nature of an ageing population, it will be difficult to re-evaluate services and show a significant change in a short timescale. If Herefordshire is going to use this approach to its full effect, there may also need to be changes to the model or performance indicators as we progress. We also wish to look at what the wider effects of this change could mean for Herefordshire, such as pensions and quality of life, as well as quantitative targets.

It is proposed:

- That part of Herefordshire's LPSA2 is undertaken on a longer timescale of at least six years (which is also the timescale of the current Herefordshire Plan) to 2011.
- That initial performance indicators are identified and formally reviewed with ODPM after 3 years; to be followed by further pump priming funding and revised performance indicators/stretching targets for the next three years. If the Government is not willing (or able) to accept a longer-term commitment to funding, then it needs to be understood at the scoping stage that for some of the targets outputs need to replace outcomes at the three-year point. There will, however, be a clear link between the output and longer-term outcomes.

For this to work there would need to be some assurances around freedoms and flexibilities available to the pilot.

Freedoms and flexibilities

The depth and innovation in this approach will be dependent on two aspects. Firstly, how services can be delivered in a joined up way and secondly the level of freedoms and flexibilities to allow the approach to be tested. The precise nature of these freedoms and flexibilities will need to be drawn out in conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) through the development stage.

LPSA2 – Supporting Statistics

Low Earnings

Herefordshire – average weekly earnings for adults in full time employment - £378.20.

West Midlands Region – average weekly earnings for adults in full time employment - £435.80.

England and Wales – average weekly earnings for adults in full time employment - £479.90

Herefordshire average wages are 21% below the England and Wales average.

Herefordshire average wages are the second lowest in England and Wales (parts of west Wales are lower).

Source: Office for National Statistics New Earnings Survey.

Date information pertains to: April 2003.

Aged Linked Deprivation

4,320 people aged over 60, about 10%, of the age group claims Income Support.

4,635 older people are in receipt of Attendance Allowance (13.80% of people in eligible age groups).

Source: Office for National Statistics.

Date information pertains to: August 2002.

Population of Older People

19% of the population of Herefordshire are aged 65 and over.

16% of the population of the West Midlands Region and England and Wales are aged 65 and over.

Source: 2001 census – Crown Copyright.

Date information pertains to: April 2001.

Trends in numbers of older people

The population aged 65 and over in Herefordshire is expected to grow by 27% between 2001 and 2011. Within this older age group, the number of 65–74 year olds is expected to grow by 24%, 75 – 84s by 21% and the very elderly, 85+ by 57%.

Source: Herefordshire Council Research Team.

Over the same period, 2001–2011, the number of people aged 65 and over in England and Wales is expected to grow by 10%.

Source: Government Actuary's Department, 2000 based population projection.

Cost of Providing Services

Average gross hourly cost for home help/care in Herefordshire	£18.50
Average gross hourly cost for home help/care in England	£11.90

Source: Herefordshire Council, Business Case for Older People's Services.

Date information pertains to: 2001/2002.

Older Carers

3,735 (12% of the number of people aged 65 and over living in households) are carers.

Source: 2001 census – Crown Copyright.

Date information pertains to: April 2001.

Volunteer Rates

About 6,100 people aged 60 and over volunteer at some time during the year.

Source: "Valuing the Voluntary Sector." A research report on the social economy in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Date information pertains to: 1998/1999.



LOCAL AREA FORUMS

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

1ST JULY, 2004

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To receive feedback on the latest round of the Local Area Forums, and note any issues raised by the community.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted and the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 be approved

Reasons

Cabinet agreed the principles for new arrangements for LAFs in October 2003. Two rounds have now been completed. An important principle was that issues raised at the meetings would be fed back in to Cabinet after every round of Local Area Forums.

Considerations

1. Background

This round of LAFs ran over a three-week period in May/June 2004. This round was arranged through the Policy Team prior to responsibility moving to a LAF co-ordinator within County Secretary and Solicitor's Department. It is proposed that a review of the new situation should take place after a year. All the meetings commenced at 7.30pm and lasted approximately two hours at a variety of venues – village halls, schools, leisure centres. The agendas for this round were dealt with by the Council, but also took items from the public that were brought to the Council's attention. All the agendas included a presentation on the Unitary Development Plan, with a tailored presentation to each forum on changes in the UDP that would directly affect their LAF area. Additional local items were included with the opportunity for attendees to ask questions. All questions were dealt with at the meeting or followed up directly afterwards. Numbers attending ranged from 20 to 60.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community on (01432) 260042

2. General issues

- i. Accessibility of agendas – Agendas were available on the website, although it was suggested there should be a highlighted link from the Council’s homepage to the agendas. Agendas also went to all libraries, info shops, and parish councils.
- ii. Advertising the meetings – advertisements were placed in the Hereford Times and Journal, but several members of the public suggested they should also be advertised in the Admag, Ross Gazette etc. Parish Councils were directly contacted, and this has led to a large number of parish councillors attending. There was also coverage on the local BBC radio station.
- iii. The public wanted clarity on the Council’s key contact for LAFs – this will be the proposed LAF co-ordinator.

3. Issues raised at meetings

i. **Ross on Wye**

- Employment Land proposals for Model Farm

Round 3 Agenda items:

- None raised at meeting

ii. **North Herefordshire**

- Support for alternative library proposals (old library)
- Objecting to employment land proposal change – from Hatton Garden

Round 3 Agenda items:

- Road safety

iii. **Golden Valley**

- Bridge Sollars road safety and weight limit
- Proposed Estech Development at Madley – very strong objections on grounds of safety of pressurised equipment and increased heavy vehicle use
- Affordable housing

Round 3 agenda items:

- Police in the Golden Valley
- Estech Site
- Peterchurch suggested as location

iv. **Central Herefordshire**

- Affordable housing/sustainable development/land density

- Poly tunnels
- Recycling collections
- Date and venue for Round 3 to be decided dependent on local issues

v. East Herefordshire

- Grass cutting; poor HJS service
- Bypass/viaduct & sewage implications
- Infill developments

vi. Hereford City

- Cattle Market, particularly access if near Roman Road
- Bypass and transport generally. Bus Route on Westfaling Street.

Round 3 agenda items

- Litter in the city
- The future of the River Wye – Leisure, Tourism, Flooding etc
- The vision and future of the city's architecture
- HJS

4. The third and fourth rounds of the LAFs have been arranged for September 2004 and January 2005 respectively.

5. The Future

- Although publicity for the second round was more comprehensive than Round 1 the comments about using more local papers and improving the accessibility of the website would be positive improvements
- Presence of Councillors seems to be appreciated, especially Cabinet Members who chose to attend several of the forums. This should be continued.
- Clarity is required as to who takes responsibility when questions require follow up. This would most sensibly be advised by the LAF co-ordinator working with the senior officer present.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options

Risk Management

None

Consultees

Local Area Forums

Background Papers

None identified