

Chief Executive's Office

Chief Executive: CJ Bull

To: All Members of Cabinet:
RJ Phillips (Chairman)
LO Barnett
AJM Blackshaw
H Bramer
JP French
JA Hyde
JG Jarvis
DB Wilcox
PD Price

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CJB/SAHC

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2nd June 2008

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF CABINET
THURSDAY 29 MAY 2008 AT 2.00 PM.
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD

AGENDA (08/01)

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 15 OF THE LOCAL
 AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS((ACCESS TO INFORMATION) REGULATIONS
 2000 (AS AMENDED)**

Notice is hereby given that the following reports contain key decisions. When the decisions have been made, Members of the relevant Scrutiny Committees will be sent a copy of the decision notices and given the opportunity to call-in the decisions.

Item No	Title	Portfolio Responsibility	Scrutiny Committee	Included in the Forward Plan Yes/No
4	Development of the Local Area Agreement	Corporate Strategy and Finance	Strategic Monitoring Committee	Yes
5	West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy	Environment and Strategic Housing	Environment	Yes
6	Herefordshire Local Development Framework: Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper	Environment and Strategic Housing	Environment	Yes
8	Highway Network Management	Highways and	Environment	Yes



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	Plan 2008 to 2017	Transportation		
11	Review of Polling Stations	The Returning Officer		Yes
12	Redevelopment of Defective Concrete Homes at Woodedge, Ross-on-Wye and Archenfield Madley	Environment and Strategic Housing	Environment	Yes

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 the Agenda.

GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is and leave the meeting room.

3. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2008. *(To follow)*.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

To agree the final version of the Local Area Agreement for submission to Government Office.



(Pages 1 - 42)

5. WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY, PHASE TWO REVISION

To determine a response to the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). A full copy of the Phase Two Revision document is available in the Members room for Members attention.

(Pages 43 - 58)

6. HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY: DEVELOPING OPTIONS PAPER

To seek approval for the publication of the Herefordshire Core Strategy Developing Options paper for consultation purposes together with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports.

(Pages 59 - 412)

7. STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

To receive and agree for publication and further technical assessment, the emerging findings of an initial study of land with potential for housing development within Herefordshire.

(Pages 413 - 418)

MAPS

Maps relating to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

8. HIGHWAYS NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/17

To adopt the Highways Network Management Plan 2008 to 2017 as Council policy.

(Pages 419 - 504)

9. FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2007/08

The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider and approve:

- a. The final outturn position for 2007/08.
- b. Joint Management Team's proposals for carry forward of unspent budget into 2007/08.
- c. The creation of new reserves and provisions in the 2007/08 accounts.

(Pages 505 - 522)

10. MINIMUM REVENUE POSITION (MRP) STATEMENT



To approve the statutory Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (MRP).
(Pages 523 - 526)

11. REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

To comment on the proposed changes to the number and locations of polling stations in Herefordshire.
(Pages 527 - 578)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the next item will not be, or is likely not to be, open to the public and press at the time it is considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act as indicated below.

12. REDEVELOPMENT OF DEFECTIVE CONCRETE HOMES AT WOODEDGE, ROSS-ON-WYE, AND ARCHENFIELD, MADLEY

To seek approval to allocate to Herefordshire Housing Limited, Right to Buy (RTB) shared receipts in the sum of £879,443 received from the Housing Association for the 2005/06 financial year to support the redevelopment of the defective concrete homes at Woodedge, Ross-on-Wye and Archenfield, Madley.

Not for publication this item discloses information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
(Pages 579 - 600)

Yours sincerely,



CJ BULL
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
Assistant Chief Executive



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- 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:

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A public telephone is available in the reception area.

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- 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 Sally Cole on 01432 260249 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.



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COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.

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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.

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT
Presenting the Improvement Targets

Priority	Indicator(s) including those from national indicator set (shown with a *)	Baseline	LAA Improvement Target including those to be designated (shown with a*) and including education and early years targets			Partners who have signed-up to the target and any which are acting as lead partner/s (shown with a *)
			08/09	09/10	10/11	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE						
Improve access to integrated public and community transport, reduce traffic congestion and encourage alternatives to car use	NI178 - Bus services running on time*	67% (07/08)	69%*	71%*	73%*	Herefordshire Council* Rural Access Partnership
Increase the economic potential of the county with a particular regard to higher skilled and better paid jobs	NI163 - Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher*	69.9%	2%*	3%*	4%*	Learning and Skills Council* Herefordshire Council
Increase the economic potential of the county with a particular regard to higher skilled and better paid jobs	NI 171 New business registration rate*	To be set In 08/09				Herefordshire Council* Chamber of Commerce Business Link Economic Development Partnership

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			08/09 09/10 10/11	
Increase access to and participation in learning and development at all levels in order to raise achievement, address worklessness and improve workforce skills	NI152 - Working age people on out of work benefits*	8.9%	0.5% * reduction	Jobcentre Plus* Herefordshire Council Learning and Skills Council
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				
Encourage and enable children and young people in Herefordshire to achieve their potential and participate in positive activities	NI110 - Young People's participation in positive activities*	Indicator not in scope until 09/10		Children's Trust* Community Safety And Drugs Partnership Voluntary and Community Sector Herefordshire Activity Network Sport England

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Encourage and enable children and young people in Herefordshire to achieve their potential and participate in positive activities	NI51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services*	15 points	15 points*	16 points*	16 points*	Children's Trust* Primary Care Trust
Improve participation in, and achievement for, young people in education, employment and training post 14	NI117 - 16-18 years old who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)*	5.4%	5.2%*	5.0%*	4.7%*	Children's Trust* Connexions Learning and Skills Council
STRONGER COMMUNITIES						
Increase the availability of appropriate and affordable housing	NI155 – Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)*	127	200*	300*	350*	Herefordshire Council*
Increase the availability of appropriate and affordable housing	NI156 Number of households in temporary accommodation*	163	109*	82*	82*	Herefordshire Council*

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Encourage thriving communities where people are able to influence change and take action to improve their area, regardless of their background.	NI1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together*	73.8%			77.8%*	Herefordshire Council* Equalities Partnership Community Development Partnership Voluntary and Community Sector
Encourage thriving communities where people are able to influence change and take action to improve their area, regardless of their background.	NI4 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality*	To be set In 08/09				Herefordshire Council* Community Development Partnership Herefordshire Association of Local Councils Voluntary and Community Sector
Encourage thriving communities where people are able to influence change and take action to improve their area, regardless of their background.	NI6 - Participation of regular volunteering*	To be set In 08/09				Community Development Partnership* Herefordshire Council Voluntary and Community Sector Sport England

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Improve the availability of sustainable services and facilities and access to them.	NI9 – Use of Libraries*	To be set In Nov 08			3% point Improve ment*	Herefordshire Council* Cultural Consortium
Improve the availability of sustainable services and facilities and access to them.	NI 11 Engagement in the Arts (local indicator)	To be set In 08/09			3.1% point Improve ment	Herefordshire Council* Cultural Consortium Arts Council
Improve the availability of sustainable services and facilities and access to them.	Percentage of people who feel it is easy to access key services and facilities (exact description to be defined following publication of the Place Survey) (local indicator)	To be set In 08/09				Herefordshire Council* Rural Access Partnership

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
HEALTH AND WELL BEING						
Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to: Reducing smoking, reducing levels of obesity and avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol	NI56 – Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6*	16.7%	16.0%*	15.7%*	15.3%*	Children's Trust* Primary Care Trust
Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to: Reducing smoking, reducing levels of obesity and avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol	NI57 – Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport*	To be set In 08/09				Children's Trust* Herefordshire Activity Network Sport England
Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to: Reducing smoking, reducing levels of obesity and avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol	NI121 Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75*	2007 59 (per 100,000 pop)	58 (per 100,000 pop)*	57 (per 100,000 pop)*	56 (per 100,000 pop)*	Primary Care Trust* Herefordshire Council

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to: Reducing smoking, reducing levels of obesity and Avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol	NI123 Stopping smoking*	781 (2006/07)	779*	798*	817*	Primary Care Trust* Herefordshire Council
Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle with particular attention to: Reducing smoking, reducing levels of obesity and Avoiding excessive consumption of alcohol	NI 39 – Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates (local indicator)	294 (per 100,000 pop)	315 (per 100,000 pop)	315(per 100,000 pop)	308 (per 100,000 pop)	Primary Care Trust*
Help vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes	NI130 Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support (Direct Payments and Individual Budgets)*	91.5 (per 100,000 pop)	107 (per 100,000 pop)*	181 (per 100,000 pop)*	282 (per 100,000 pop)*	Herefordshire Council* Primary Care Trust

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			08/09	09/10	10/11	
Help vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes	NI135 Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information*	12.9%	17.9%*	20.4%*	22.9%*	Herefordshire Council* Primary Care Trust
Help vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes	NI136 – People supported to live independently through social services (all ages)*	3095 (2006/07)	3793*	3869*	3985*	Herefordshire Council*
Help vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes	NI142 – Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living*	96.73% (07/08)			97.75%*	Herefordshire Council* Supporting People Network

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			08/09 09/10 10/11	
SAFER COMMUNITIES				
To further reduce the low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county and to reduce any disproportionate fear of such.	NI17 - Perceptions of anti-social behaviour*	27% (2007)	5% point Improvement**	Community Safety and Drugs Partnership*
To further reduce the low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county and to reduce any disproportionate fear of such.	NI19 Rate of proven re-offending by young people*	Available June 2008	To be set in Dec 08*	Community Safety and Drugs Partnership*
To further reduce the low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county and to reduce any disproportionate fear of such.	NI30 - Re-offending of prolific and priority offenders*	20.7 months (07/08)	19%*	Community Safety and Drugs Partnership* West Mercia Constabulary Probation Service

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To further reduce the low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county and to reduce any disproportionate fear of such.	NI40 Drug users in effective treatment*	494 (07/08)	504*	514*	524*	Community Safety and Drugs Partnership*
Improve safety for road users in the county	NI47 people killed or seriously injured (3 year rolling average)*	133 (2007)	3% reduction (129)*	0.8% reduction (128)*	6.5% reduction (120)*	Herefordshire Council* Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership West Mercia Constabulary H&W Fire and Rescue Service
Improve safety for road users in the county.	NI168 Principal roads where maintenance should be considered*	6% (07/08)			5%*	Herefordshire Council* .

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Improve safety for road users in the county.	NI169 Non principal roads where maintenance should be considered*	11% (07/08)	10%*	9%*	8%*	Herefordshire Council*
Minimise domestic and commercial waste and improve recycling	NI191 - Residual household waste per household*	852 Kg	762 Kg*	759 Kg*	691 Kg*	Herefordshire Council*
Lead a local contribution to climate change reduction	NI197 - Improved local biodiversity - active management of local sites*	29% (07/08)	32.5%*	38.3%*	44.1%*	Herefordshire Council* Environment Partnership
Lead a local contribution to climate change reduction	NI 186 – CO2 reduction in the LA area*	9.4 tons per capita (2005)			13.1%* (2010) (See note)	Herefordshire Council* Environment Partnership Note: Of which 8.2% relates to national

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT Presenting the Improvement Targets

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Strengthening resilience to and recovery from civil emergencies which may have a long term impact on Herefordshire communities through effective partnership planning and co-ordination	Discussions are currently underway with partner organisations to develop a robust approach to recovery. The indicator will be agreed in the November Refresh of the LAA.					measures and 4.9% to national measures with LA influence. Herefordshire Council is not accountable for national measures. Herefordshire Council* West Mercia Constabulary Fire and Rescue Service

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EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS TARGETS						
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 72 - Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy*	49.8%	53%*	53%*	54%*	Children's Trust*
			78%*	78%*	78%*	
			74%*	75%*	76%*	
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)*	76.7%	78%*	78%*	78%*	Children's Trust*
			72%	72%	72%	
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 74 - Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)*	72%	74%*	75%*	76%*	Children's Trust*

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young people	English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)*					
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 75 - Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)*	52%	56%*	56%*	57%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 83 - Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3*	78%	84%*	84%*	84%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 87 - Secondary school persistent absence rate*		6.5%*	5.75%*	5%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 92 - Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest*	35.5%	32.5%*	32.5%*	31%*	Children's Trust*

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Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 93 - Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2*		86%*	88%*	90%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 94 - Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2*		83%*	85%*	87%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 95 - Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3*	27%	28%*	29%*	30%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 96 - Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3*	60%	62%*	64%*	65%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 97 - Progression by 2 levels in English between	52%	54%*	56%*	57%*	Children's Trust*

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young people	Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4*					
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 98 - Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4*	34%	35%*	36%*	37%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 99 - Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2*	14.3%	40%*	50%*	60%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 100 - Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2*	14.3%	45%*	50%*	55%*	Children's Trust*
Improve educational attainment of children and young people	NI 101 - Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)*	15%	16%*	18%*	20%*	Children's Trust*

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To agree the final version of the Local Area Agreement for submission to Government Office.

Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards.

Recommendation

THAT: Herefordshire's Local Area Agreement be agreed for submission to Government Office for ministerial sign off in June 2008.

Reasons

To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the targets and the final submission of the LAA which consists of the Story of Place, Priorities, Performance Indicators and Improvement Targets. Herefordshire Council is the accountable body for the LAA and will have a key leadership role in ensuring its successful delivery. The LAA will also be an essential element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and will be one of the most visible indicators of whether Herefordshire Council, together with its partners, is making positive change for the local community. In meeting the targets under the LAA Herefordshire Council and its Partners could gain access to additional Reward Grant.

Considerations

1. The LAA has been developed through a long and robust process which has included significant input from lead officers in all partner organisations, Joint Management Team, Members, Cabinet, partnerships and members of the local community.
2. The past 2 months have seen an ongoing process of negotiation between Herefordshire Partnership and Government Office. The overriding aim of these negotiations was to ensure that the targets were ambitious enough to make a difference to the local area but, at the same time, achievable so that Herefordshire would not be disadvantaged either financially or reputationally during the ongoing monitoring of the LAA.
3. All targets have been negotiated through the Council's Improvement Managers who

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jennifer Watkins, Herefordshire Partnership Team Manager, (01432) 260610

have ensured that they have support at all levels of the organisation, particularly with Directors. Emerging targets have been scrutinised by the Joint Management Team at their regular meetings who have been able to input and influence their development.

4. Only the Priorities, Indicators and Improvement Targets are submitted to Central Government as part of the LAA. In addition the Story of Place is equally important as this sets the background to the priorities and will help to ensure that Government Office recommends Herefordshire's LAA to Central Government.
5. The LAA consists of 31 indicators taken from the National indicator Set, together with 4 locally defined indicators where it was felt that the national indicator set did not accurately reflect the issues in Herefordshire or where it was felt that there were specific data related issues which led officers to recommend that it would be better to make a particular indicator into a local one. Only the National Indicators included in the LAA will be in scope for the Reward Grant and will be monitored by Government Office. All indicators within the 198, plus any locally defined indicators will be considered for CAA. A small number of Performance Indicators and Targets are in the final stages of negotiation, and these will be confirmed at the Cabinet Meeting.
6. The final version of the LAA was considered by the Joint Management Team on the 12th May 2008, the Herefordshire Partnership Performance Management Group on 15th May 2008. The final version will be considered by the Chief Executive's Group on the 30th May 2008. It is expected that the LAA will gain ministerial sign off at the end of June 2008.
7. There will be an opportunity at the LAA refresh in October 2008 to make adjustments to indicators and targets where data was not previously available or where the initial proposal, following the first few months of operation, proves to need amending.

Financial Implications

Details of how the LAA Reward Grant will work are still unclear but there has been a commitment that funding will be made available against achievement of agreed targets. It is expected that this funding will be in the region of £2.2 million at the end of the three years and will be awarded against achievement of the LAA overall, not just specific targets. Only national targets within the LAA will be in scope for Reward Grant and local indicators will not be taken into consideration.

Risk Management

1. Without the commitment and support of all partners in the development of the LAA, the Council risks submitting a document that will not have the ownership and buy-in from those who will be delivering the activity, thus making it impossible to optimise the benefit to the people of Herefordshire. Through a considered approach, the support of Herefordshire Council and by involving partners at every stage of the LAA's development the Council can mitigate this risk.
2. There is a clear financial risk around achievement of the Reward Grant. If indicators prove impossible to measure and monitor the Council and its partners will not be able to prove progress towards achievement of the targets. This will undermine the potential impact of the LAA and minimise the potential to achieve the Reward grant. and it is important that all targets are both stretching enough to make a difference but achievable. This risk has been mitigated by the full involvement of the Herefordshire Council Research Team and the Joint management Team throughout the process of identifying indicators and targets.

Alternative Options

There are no Alternative Options as there is a legal requirement that upper tier Councils enter into LAA's to identify priorities and objectives for delivery and benefit of the people of Herefordshire.

Consultees

Herefordshire Council Councillors
Joint Management Team
Directorate Management Teams
Lead Officers
Performance Improvement Managers
Children's Trust
Community Safety and Drugs Partnership
Partnership Groups
Herefordshire residents through public consultation, newsletters, attendance at workshops and events

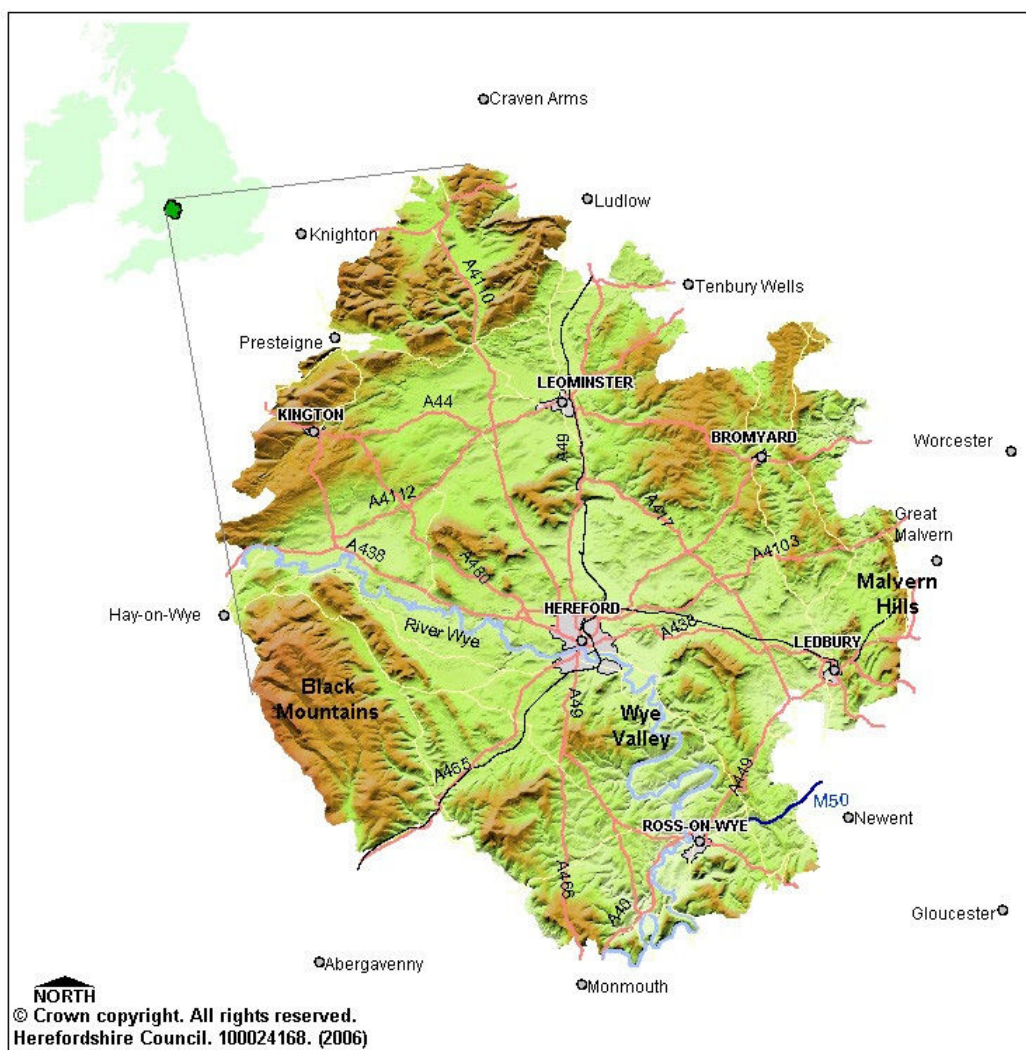
Key Partners of Herefordshire Partnership through the Board, Chief Executives' Group and Performance Management Group, this includes:

Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
Herefordshire Council
The Learning and Skills Council
Voluntary and Community Organisations
West Mercia Constabulary
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Advantage West Midlands
Government Office for the West Midlands

Background Papers

1. Story of Place and Priorities
2. List of Performance Indicators with Targets

HEREFORDSHIRE STORY OF PLACE



LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008 - 2011

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THE STORY OF PLACE

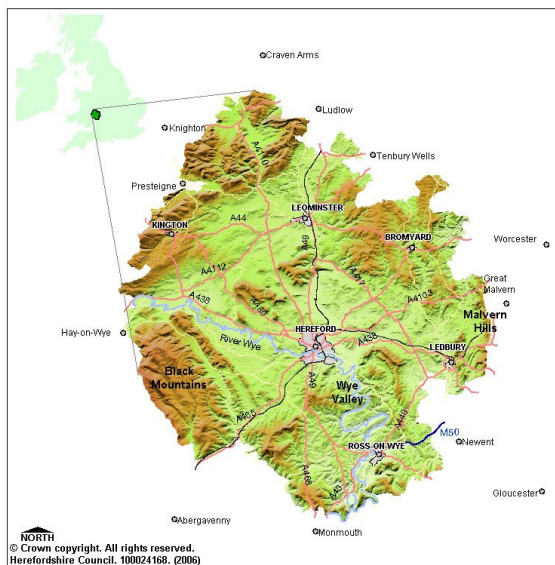
HEREFORDSHIRE

The Vision

Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses, working together within an outstanding natural environment, will bring about sustainable prosperity and well-being for all (Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy)

Herefordshire has a great deal to offer those who live here, work or visit, including a rich heritage, a beautiful natural environment and a wide range of cultural and leisure opportunities. Herefordshire is ambitious for its employment sector, and the education of young people is of a high standard. It is a safe place to live and work, with low levels of crime. There are, however, challenges for the county that are reflected in the chosen priorities. The rural nature of the area often creates a barrier to providing equal services to all, and businesses find the infrastructure in the county a challenge. Its widely dispersed and often sparsely populated communities need support if they are to have a sustainable and successful future. Further, the ageing population will mean an increase in the demand for social care support. All these challenges have to be addressed with a substantially lower level of Government funding than the average for unitary authorities; Herefordshire Council receives 19% less total grant per head of population than the average of the 47 similar authorities in 08/09. It is ranked 38 out of 47 for the level of funding per head of population, 1 being the highest).

This document presents a picture of Herefordshire, describing the main trends and highlighting the key issues and challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve the vision. It goes on to set the priorities to which the Council and its partners are committed to working together to address the challenges.



Herefordshire and its Distinctive Environment

Herefordshire is a predominantly rural county of 842 square miles¹, situated in the south-west corner of the West Midlands region bordering Wales. It is entirely land-locked and has borders with Shropshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and the Welsh counties of Monmouthshire and Powys. The city of Hereford is the major location

¹ 218,283 hectares; 2,183 square km

for employment, administration, health, education facilities and shopping. The five market towns of Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury, Bromyard and Kington are the other principal centres.

Herefordshire has beautiful unspoilt countryside, a distinctive heritage and remote valleys and rivers. The county is bordered in the east by the Malvern Hills, and in the south-west by the Black Mountains. The Malvern Hills, and the Wye Valley in the south of the county fall within designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Parts of the rivers Wye and Lugg are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). In 2004, 85% of Herefordshire's rivers were judged to be very good/good for biological quality and 83% for chemical quality; both compare favourably with rivers in other English Authorities².

At 0.8 persons per hectare, Herefordshire has the 4th lowest population density in England (relative to the other 149 top tier authorities³). More significantly, Herefordshire has a higher proportion of its population living in very sparsely populated areas (0.5 or fewer residents per hectare) than any other English county level authority⁴. Just below one-third of the population lives in Hereford City (54,800 people), about a fifth in the market towns and almost half in the rural areas. The population living in the market towns is as follows: Leominster (11,100), Ross-on-Wye (10,100), Ledbury (9,700), Bromyard (4,500) and Kington (3,200)⁵. Using the official definition, 55% of the population live in a rural area.⁶

Demography of the County

The current population of Herefordshire is 177,800⁷. It has grown by 1.7% between 2001 and 2006, an increase of 2,900. This is slightly below the growth of the population of England and Wales as a whole (2.6%).

While the overall population has remained relatively static, there have been dramatic changes within age groups. The number of 25-34 year-olds in Herefordshire fell by 18.7% (3,800 people) over the period – almost three times the national decrease. The largest absolute change in the county was an increase of 4,000 people in the 55-64 year-old age group. The increase in the number of people over 65 has been more than double the equivalent national increase. The biggest proportionate change was a 20% increase in the number of people aged 85 and over.

The net effect of these changes has been an increase of 1,200 people in the working age population⁸ of Herefordshire between 2001 and 2006. At 1.2%, this growth is lower than the national increase (3.7%).

The county's population has a considerably older age profile than that of England and Wales; 23.9% of the population is over retirement age, while 2.7% are aged 85 and over, (compared with 18.8% and 2.1% respectively nationally). There are fewer persons of working age (58.1%

² Environment Agency

³ Top tier authorities are those authorities that are responsible for services that must be provided at the county council level, i.e. county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan districts or city councils and London boroughs.

⁴ 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

⁵ Mid-2005 Population Estimates for Lower Super Output Areas, Wards & Market Towns in Herefordshire, ONS, Crown copyright 2007

⁶ Rural/Urban Area Classification (2004), Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) & Mid-2005 Population Estimates for Lower Super Output Areas, Wards & Market Towns in Herefordshire, ONS, Crown copyright 2007

⁷ 2006 mid-year estimate, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

⁸ 16 to 59 for females; 64 for males.

compared with 62.2%) and under 25 (27.4% compared with 30.9%). Students living away from home are excluded from the county's population, and the county's proportion of under 16s is only slightly lower than the national figure (18.0% compared with 19.0%).

The total population of Herefordshire in 2011 is forecast to be 182,400. This is a 2.6% increase from 2006, and equates to an average growth of 0.5% per annum; by 2026 the population is forecast to be 193,600. The average annual rate of growth over the forecast twenty years is 0.4%, which is lower than over the last fifteen years (0.7% per annum between 1991 and 2006) – but very slightly higher than in the last five years (0.3% between 2001 and 2006).

The number of under 16s is forecast to continue to fall until 2016, although at a slightly lower rate (0.9% p.a.) than in recent years (1.3% p.a. between 2001 and 2006). Numbers are then expected to stabilise at around 29,000 (9.4% below 2006 levels).

The numbers aged 16 to 64 will continue to increase very slightly until 2011 (a 1.0% growth from 2006, compared to 2.6% between 2001 and 2006), but will then begin to fall steadily as the post-war 'baby-boomers' move into retirement age and are replaced by smaller cohorts of younger adults. There are forecast to be 103,600 people in this age-group by 2026 (5.4% fewer than in 2006)

The number of people aged 65 and over is forecast to continue to increase, but more rapidly than in recent years (an average of 3.4% p.a. between 2006 and 2026 compared to 1.4% p.a. since 2001). By 2026 the number of Herefordshire residents of this age is forecast to be 61,000 (68.0% higher than in 2006). In particular, the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to more than double, from 4,800 in 2006 to 10,200 in 2026. People in this age group are, nationally and locally, the biggest users of health and social care and Herefordshire faces a real challenge to meet their needs.

One of the main challenges faced in supporting those growing older in Hereford is how to help people to live safely and independently in their own homes. Many older and disabled people are supported by informal carers (normally family), who often require support in their own right if they are to continue to undertake this very valuable work. The need for such support has been highlighted by recent inspections and is a key priority within the Local Area Agreement. (Key Improvement Areas as identified by CSCI were Outcome 2 - To ensure plans to improve services and opportunities for adults with disabilities are progressed to enable adults with complex and specialist needs to have the same opportunities of independence and choice and Outcome 4 – Continue with the development of the range of alternative services to provide choices and reduce the dependency on traditional residential services).

Provision of services to all members of the community is a particular challenge in sparsely populated rural areas and a robust multi-agency approach is needed if the difficulties are to be overcome. The developing public service arrangements, which bring together key areas of planning, commissioning and delivery under one Chief Executive for Herefordshire Council and the Primary Care Trust, present a unique opportunity for partnership working that will benefit the community.

Currently Herefordshire performs poorly in terms of people who feel they can influence decisions, with only 30% agreeing they could influence decisions affecting their local area (33% their local community).⁹

⁹ Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey 2007

Herefordshire has low proportions of ethnic minorities; experimental statistics¹⁰ suggest that, in 2005, only 3.7% of the county's resident population was from ethnic minorities (6,600 people). This is very low compared to nationally (15.3%), but has grown rapidly since 2001, when it was just 1.4% of the total county population.

There are no official statistics of numbers in traveller communities in Herefordshire; however, estimates from a variety of sources range from 670 to around 1,000 individuals¹¹.

Herefordshire has substantial numbers of short-term international migrants; approximately 2,000 seasonal workers from overseas are employed (annually) on farms through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme but local data suggests that this only represents about a third of the total. It also appears that the number of short-term migrants coming into the county has increased substantially since Accession in May 2004.

Pockets of deprivation

The most deprived areas in Herefordshire are within Hereford (South Wye and Central) and Leominster. The Golden Post - Newton Farm area in South Wye was ranked the 2,570th most deprived area nationally out of 32,482 areas; Leominster Ridgemoor was ranked 4,605th. Conversely, the least deprived areas are concentrated to the east of the county, in some of the fringes of Hereford and directly north and west of the city, and around Ross-on-Wye¹².

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index highlighted that 62% of children living in the Ridgemoor area of Leominster are in income-deprived households (ranked 982nd most deprived nationally out of 32,482 areas, with rank 1 being most deprived).

Herefordshire has relatively low claim rates for Income Support (IS) (4% compared to 6% for England) and Pension Credit (17% compared to 21% for England)¹³. A large proportion of those claiming IS in Herefordshire are also claiming Incapacity Benefit; (59% of IS claimants were claiming Incapacity Benefit as well in Feb 2007, compared with 33% who were lone parents)¹⁴.

Where appropriate, activity will be focussed on these areas in order to reduce inequalities by improving the life-chances of disadvantaged groups. This is a key aim of the Local Area Agreement and one of the criteria that has been used to identify the priorities.

Economic Development

Between 2003 and 2004, the number of people employed in the county increased by 2%. The sectors experiencing the largest increases were education and transport, storage and communication; those with the largest decreases were hotels and restaurants, public administration and defence.¹⁵

¹⁰ Population Estimates by Ethnic Group for 2001-2003, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

¹¹ University of Chichester report 2004 and Herefordshire Council Survey 2006

¹² According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007), which measures deprivation across 7 domains and ranks all 32,482 Super Output Areas in England; Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM, now DCLG)

¹³ DWP benefit statistics, February 2007 and 2001 Census, ONS - Crown copyright

¹⁴ DWP benefit statistics, February 2007

¹⁵ 2003 & 2004 Annual Business Inquiry

In 2001, the sectors with the greatest number of employees in Herefordshire were wholesale, retail and repair trades (18%), manufacturing (17%) and health & social work (12%); comparable figures for England and Wales were 17%, 15% and 11% respectively. Agriculture accounted for 7% of employment in Herefordshire, compared with 2% nationally.¹⁶

Agriculture continues to be a significant part of the county's economy, with the numbers employed in this sector having increased by 6% between 2001 and 2005 - possibly in part due to a shift towards more labour-intensive farming activity such as small fruit. In contrast, numbers employed in agriculture in the West Midlands region and England have decreased by 4% and 6% respectively. The largest proportion (31%) of Herefordshire's agricultural workforce is self-employed, which is also the case regionally and nationally (34% for both). However, the county has a much higher proportion of casual agricultural workers than the region or England (27% compared to 16% and 13% respectively), and the numbers of these workers have grown much more rapidly in the county over the last 4 years (60% increase, compared to 10% regionally and a 2% decrease nationally).¹⁷

Herefordshire has relatively high levels of self-employment (20% of the economically active¹⁸ population, compared with 11% regionally and 12% nationally) and part-time employment¹⁹ (28% of those employed, compared with 25% regionally and nationally).

Herefordshire has a thriving tourism sector, which is estimated to support 5,610 full time equivalent jobs²⁰, which equates to approximately 7% of those in employment²¹. Of these tourism jobs, 59% are in the hotels and restaurants sector²¹. The value of tourism to the county is £291 million, and though this is significant to the local economy, the Visitor Economy for the West Midlands (2007) shows that the county has the lowest income in the region with potential for significant improvement. The tourism product reflects the distinctiveness of the county, including capitalising on food and drink production, reflective of the agricultural nature of the county. Also, new technologies and creative industries, often in the form of micro-businesses, play a part in diversifying the economy of the county.

The third (voluntary, community and non-profit) sector had an estimated income of £95 million in 2005: £28 million from voluntary activity; £63 million from sale of goods or services; and £4m from investments; with expenditure of £86.3 million. 28% of income is raised from contracts, primarily with local authorities. 90% of estimated expenditure is spent on activities which benefit the public. The sector employs an estimated 2,708 workers, which equates to 3.9% of the workforce.²²

In 2007, average (median) gross weekly earnings for full-time employees working in Herefordshire were £384.40, compared with £430.00 for the West Midlands region and £462.00 for England.²³ Herefordshire's earnings are the 13th lowest out of the 14 West Midlands authorities. Herefordshire's workers tend to do longer hours: 9.3% working 60 or more, compared with 5.8% in the West Midlands²⁴. Research for the County's economic development strategy shows that many

¹⁶ 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

¹⁷ Agricultural Census 2004, Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

¹⁸ Those people aged 16-74 either in employment or actively seeking employment; 2001 Census, ONS

¹⁹ People aged 16-74 in employment working for 30 hours or less per week, on average, in the 4 weeks before the 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

²⁰ Heart of England Tourist Board, 2001

²¹ Calculated using the estimated numbers in 'tourism' employment from the Heart of England Tourist Board 2001 and the numbers in employment from the 2001 Census, ONS Crown-Copyright

²² Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, January 2007, Sustain Consultancy and GuideStar UK

²³ 2007 Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

²⁴ 2001 Census, ONS - Crown Copyright

residents with high-level skills are working outside the county because of lack of opportunity in the local area. The objective is to address this through better-paid work and supporting entrepreneurship.

Two longer-term strategic projects that aim to stimulate and regenerate economic growth in Herefordshire are the Edgar Street Grid and Rotherwas Futures. Rotherwas Futures will transform the existing Rotherwas Industrial Estate, creating new jobs and helping Herefordshire's economy to compete in the longer term. The Edgar Street Grid Development will regenerate 100 acres within the city centre, creating hundreds of opportunities for local people through development of leisure facilities, retail outlets and other business developments. Both developments are ambitious and will take time to deliver but when fully implemented will provide a huge economic boost for the whole of Herefordshire.

Education and Skills

Herefordshire has a high proportion of young people achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-G (93.6% in the June 2007 exams compared with 91% of the top performing English Authorities). This proportion falls to 51.7% of those achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, (compared with the average of 46% across all English Authorities). The percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE at grade A*-G or equivalent was 77% in the June 2006 exams, maintaining performance above statistical neighbours (59%) and all English Authorities (55%).

Whilst the focus of the Children's Trust in Herefordshire is on maintaining and improving educational achievement for all children and young people at all key stages, the Local Area Agreement places particular emphasis on improving participation in, and achievement for, young people in education, employment and training, through the development of an area-wide programme for 14-19 learning. Particular attention will be paid to those who are at risk of being socially disadvantaged, such as children looked after, those leaving care, teenage mothers, those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and young offenders. The proportion of young people aged 16 and above, known to the Youth Offending Service, and who are in education, employment and training is lower than the national target of 90% with current levels (December 2007) at 80.8%. Contributory issues are the types of jobs on offer; a lack of motivation; substance misuse; some young people not being job ready and behaviour issues.

The 2007/2008 outturn for 16-18 year olds not in education, employment and training (NEET) was 5.4%. Whilst this is low and compares favourably with national figures (7.7% on 2006/2007), the general economic situation in the county means will put pressure on its ability to achieve the 2010 target of 4.7%. Issues include an increase in jobs without training; an increase in NEET from those in post-16 education, coupled with an increase in immigration which has impacted on jobs which had traditionally been the preserve of young people. The main pockets of NEETs are in South Wye and Leominster and include families where worklessness is part of the culture in those communities.

Although 19% of the adult population holds qualifications at Level 4 or 5 (compared to 16% regionally and 20% nationally), the overall skills level of the adult population is low, with 17 areas in Herefordshire falling within the 25% most deprived in England in terms of Adult Education, Skills and Training²⁵. At the time of the 2001 Census, 29% of 16-74 year old age group had no qualifications, compared to 34% regionally and 29% nationally. This impacts in a number of ways, not least on the potential for service providers and local businesses within the county to gain and

²⁵ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007), which measures deprivation across 7 domains and ranks all 32,482 Super Output Areas in England; Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM, now DCLG)

retain the appropriate level of skills needed for them to provide high quality services and to remain competitive within changing markets.

Worklessness

A priority within the Local Area Agreement will be to encourage and support those disadvantaged in the labour market to gain the skills, confidence and experience that they need in order to gain and sustain meaningful employment

Levels of those registered as unemployed continue to be relatively low; 1.5% in January 2008, compared with 3.4% for the region and 2.6% for England.²⁶ There are, however, high levels of worklessness in some areas of the county, in particular, three wards in Hereford City and parts of Leominster. These areas have higher unemployment levels, higher numbers of people who are inactive, higher numbers of lone parents claiming income support, and higher numbers of people claiming income support who are also entitled to incapacity and severe disablement benefits and carers allowance.

In Herefordshire, in February 2007, there were 5,080 people in receipt of Incapacity Benefit and 1,300 lone parents in receipt of Income Support. 4,460 people have been in receipt of Incapacity Benefit and outside the labour market for more than six months.²⁷ Research shows that 37% of people claiming Incapacity Benefit are doing so owing to mental health problems and that General Practitioners spend more than one-third of their time addressing such problems.²⁸ Poverty linked to worklessness divides our communities and deprives many children of a fair chance in life.

Volunteering has a large part to play in moving people closer to the labour market, building skills, confidence and self-esteem amongst those who may otherwise suffer social and economic exclusion.

Travel, Communications and Access to Services

Transportation and communication infrastructure is a key issue for the county, as it impacts on employment, health, access to services and quality of life. Herefordshire has high levels of car ownership: nearly 37% of households have 2 or more cars²⁹, compared with 30% regionally. 18% of households in Herefordshire, however, don't have a car, so potentially a significant number of people have to travel to work or access services using public or community transport or, where feasible, by walking or cycling. Access to public transport is particularly poor in the north and western parts of the county where many residents, particularly older people, depend on third sector-run community transport schemes.

Amongst Herefordshire residents who work, (whether inside or outside the county), there is relatively low use of public transport for commuting, (4% in county; 11% regionally; 15% nationally), but relatively high levels of walking or cycling (16% compared with 12% regionally; 13% nationally) and home-working (15% compared with 9% regionally and nationally)³⁰. Most travel to work is undertaken by car, with little difference in the profile between those living in the town and in

²⁶ Monthly Unemployment Claimant Counts, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

²⁷ DWP benefit statistics, February 2007 and 2001 Census, ONS - Crown copyright

²⁸ Jobcentre Plus research

²⁹ 2001 Census, ONS - Crown Copyright, Cars & Vans

³⁰ Usual method of travel for people aged 16-74 in employment the week before the 2001 Census, ONS

the rural areas. Many people travel relatively short distances, which is a major factor in traffic congestion.

Traffic often has to travel through Hereford City and the market towns, which puts extra pressure on the road network and often leads to congestion and delays during peak times. Traffic congestion has been highlighted as of particular concern to the local community³¹ and it is a priority to address this in the Local Area Agreement.

Accessibility of services is a key issue in the sparsely populated rural areas, with 76 out of the 116 super output areas in Herefordshire falling within the 25% most deprived in England in terms of geographical access to services³². Access to services is being addressed in two ways: bringing people to services through developing and sustaining rural transport networks, and bringing services to people through the enhanced use of shared facilities. For example, increased use of local schools and fire stations would help to make provision of services sustainable, as would an increase in the ability to access services and information electronically. Although the percentage of the population using broadband facilities has risen, (40% in 2006 compared with 27% in 2005)³³ there are still a significant number of people who are disadvantaged by not having access to high-speed communications. Dial-up connections are both slow and expensive; this impacts on the community (for instance, by leaving people isolated or unable to shop and get bargains on-line) and also the ability of local businesses to remain competitive.

Stronger Communities

As part of the 2006 Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey³⁴, residents were asked to select 5 aspects affecting quality of life from a list of 20 that they felt were most important in making somewhere a good place to live, and 5 aspects that most needed improving in Herefordshire. Combining the responses to these two questions gives the five aspects that were most commonly identified as important and in need of improvement in Herefordshire. These were:

- affordable, decent housing
- clean streets
- health services
- level of crime
- level of traffic congestion.

Parish Plans and Community Forums/PACTS have also been used to highlight issues of concern to local residents and an analysis confirms that the five areas above are of significant concern to communities across Herefordshire.

Third (voluntary, community and non-profit) Sector

Herefordshire has a particularly, diverse and independent third sector³⁵ (VCS), with a wide range of voluntary organisations, community groups, social enterprises and housing associations

³¹ 2006 Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey, Herefordshire Council's Research Team

³² According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007), which measures deprivation across 7 domains and ranks all 32,482 Super Output Areas in England; Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM, now DCLG)

³³ State of Herefordshire Report 2007

³⁴ 2006 Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey, Herefordshire Council's Research Team

³⁵ VCS is also referred to as 'The Third Sector'

contributing significantly to all aspects of life in Herefordshire. An estimated 18%³⁶ of the population volunteer and there are 1,580 voluntary and community organisations, two-thirds of which are registered charities. The sector has grown strongly in the past decade, benefiting from a coordinated approach to recent infrastructure investment.³⁷ Although the sector is now in a strong position in terms of being able to support the needs of those who are often at the margins of society, the inevitable turnover of volunteers requires continued effort and investment so that the level of provision can be maintained.

The sector plays a strong role in planning and delivery, as a partner in the joint commissioning of services and in the context of a diversification of the provider base, which should see the sector's share of the market grow.

The sector also plays a strong role in signposting, advocacy, advice and support. The preventative and early intervention role of the sector helps to mitigate the costs of services and treatment that would otherwise have to be provided.

In recognition of this significant role the third sector plays, partners have recently signed up to a Herefordshire Compact, which will govern the development of working relationships between sectors and provide a firm foundation for the future.

Additional impacts of the sector include developing new skills and building confidence; combating rural isolation and social exclusion; filling gaps in statutory provision; and giving choice in relation to arts, sport and educational activities.

As many funding streams come to an end, the sector is facing a particularly challenging future to maintain its capacity. Small groups, particularly those located in sparsely populated rural areas often struggle to keep going and lack the capacity to engage with wider agendas such as the delivery of services.

The third sector has been actively involved in identifying the priorities and indicators which sit within the Local Area Agreement and will be a key partner in the delivery of activities which will support these priorities.

Culture, sport and leisure

The county has a distinct cultural heritage and countryside, access to which depends on a huge network of public rights of way. The network of cultural centres contribute to access of services, with 70% of respondents finding it easy to access a library and 69% for sports and leisure centres. Sport centres provide opportunities to increase health, with 55% of respondents using sport and leisure facilities / events in the last 12 months. These include LIFT, which is a GP referral scheme (77% feel healthy as a result of their referral). 59% of respondents of the 2007 Satisfaction Survey had used libraries in the last 12 months, 40% museums and galleries, 79% parks and open spaces. Herefordshire Voice Survey (2006) shows that just over half of respondents (51%) use the Courtyard Centre for the Arts (the main arts venue in the county) and those who were involved in three of the main cultural events in the county showed high levels of satisfaction (h.art week 86%; walking festival 95%; contemporary crafts fair 87%). These events also make a contribution to the tourism offer, which supports the economic growth of the businesses involved and the county as a whole. However, what these figures do not show is the positive impact cultural

³⁶ 2005 mid-year estimate, Sustain Consultancy GuideStar Research, January 2007

³⁷ 2005 mid-year estimate, Sustain Consultancy GuideStar Research, January 2007

activities can have on the engagement of those who are disenfranchised and at risk of social exclusion, specifically young people, older people and those vulnerable through disability and/or mental health problems.

Healthy Communities

In general, health in the county is relatively good. People in Herefordshire live longer than the average regionally and nationally: life expectancy is 77.6 years for males and 82.4 for females, compared with 76.9 and 81.1 respectively in England³⁸. However, there are pockets of poor health: nine areas in Herefordshire (7 in Hereford City, both North and South of the river, and 2 in Leominster) are within the 25% most health deprived areas in England³⁹. After accounting for differences in age-structure, death rates from all causes for the period 2003-05 were 24% higher for deprived parts of Herefordshire than for the county as a whole.⁴⁰

There are some causes of death where local rates are slightly above the national rates, but numbers are small and subject to year-on-year variation. The female death rate from stroke, the male death rate from accidents, and the death rates from some skin cancers remain persistently above what might be expected. Amongst children, there was a small increase in 2005 in the number dying in the first year of life, and also the number of low birth weight. Child dental health is poor, and this has been the case for some years.⁴¹

Health inequalities exist in Herefordshire, as they do elsewhere and these are most clearly measured in terms of the differences in mortality rates cited above. These are significantly affected by different patterns of risk-taking behaviour and in particular smoking, drinking too much, and being overweight or obese are all more prevalent in areas of high social deprivation.

In respect of smoking, the largest concerns relate to 35-44 year olds (29% of 35-44 year olds in Herefordshire smoke, compared to 22% regionally⁴²); teenagers, in particular 15 year olds girls (25% reported that they smoked)⁴³; and pregnant women (around 17% of pregnant women had smoked during the last two years).

With regard to alcohol, the priority is to reduce hospital admissions, which have risen from 204 in 2002 to 516 in 2006, and where there has been a sharp rise among young people, with admissions of under 16 year olds rising from 9 in 2002 to 30 in 2006. Analysis of admissions by deprivation quartile shows that 46.8% of all alcohol-related admissions in 2002-6 were from patients in the most deprived quartile.

With regard to obesity, the weighing and measuring of children in reception class and Year 6 has shown that 23% of reception class children and 31% of year 6 children, are either overweight or obese. Whilst these are slightly below the figures for the West Midlands and England as a whole, it is a matter of considerable concern and must be addressed to control the future pressures on the health services and to enable today's young people to reach their full potential. There are links between obesity and social deprivation, and these can be shown locally as well as at national level.

³⁸ Life expectancy at birth, 2003-05 average, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

³⁹ Health Deprivation & Disability Domain, Indices of Deprivation 2007, ODPM (now DCLG)

⁴⁰ Public Health Department, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust

⁴¹ Director of Public Health Annual Report 2007, Herefordshire PCT

⁴² 2005 Regional Lifestyle Survey

⁴³ 2007 Teenage Lifestyle Survey

In Herefordshire, 19% of children from the most deprived 18 Super Output Areas were obese, compared with 12% in the areas outside this group⁴⁴.

The health, well-being and independence of older people is a key priority for Herefordshire, which will only be achieved through robust multi agency-working, including an enhanced role for the third sector. The vision promoted through the Growing Older in Herefordshire Strategy is that older people will remain independent and active, continuing to live in, and contribute to, strong local communities and be included in decisions regarding the future services and activities that they want and need.

The above average mortality from stroke, especially among women, has persisted; tackling it is a priority. The county has a very high rate of hip fracture: in 2005/6 there were 355 hospital admissions for hip fractures for those over 65 years, which is a rate of 780 per 100,000 people, compared with the regional and England averages of 565. More needs to be done to prevent falls, which will be a significant factor in helping older people to live independently at home.

Housing and Affordability

Average (mean) house prices in Herefordshire are high (£215,208) compared with the region as a whole (£172,152) and England and Wales (£207,573)⁴⁵. Lower quartile prices (i.e. the price that is exceeded by 75% of properties) represent the lower end of the housing market. Three-quarters of properties sold in Herefordshire are more expensive than £135,000, whereas the regional and national figures are markedly lower: £109,950 and £119,950 respectively⁴⁶.

Low average levels of earnings, coupled with the relatively high house prices, mean that housing affordability is a major issue in the county. The preferred measure for house price affordability is the ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings. For 2006, the ratio for Herefordshire was 8.6 (ie house prices are 8.6 times the average earnings which makes it difficult when mortgage companies typically offer 4 times earnings). Amongst the 14 West Midlands authorities, ratios range from 4.5 (Stoke on Trent) to 8.8 (Solihull & Shropshire) with Herefordshire in 3rd place for the worst affordability ratio.⁴⁷

The mix of properties affects affordability, with Herefordshire having a much higher proportion of detached properties (43.0%) than regionally (23.8%) or nationally (22.8%)⁴⁸. A key priority for the county is to increase the availability of appropriate, decent and affordable housing for the community, particularly for disadvantaged groups and first-time buyers.

The county has a different profile of housing tenure than both the region and England & Wales overall: a higher proportion of households are owner-occupied without a mortgage (35.8% compared with 30.3% regionally and 29.5% nationally), and a slightly lower proportion of households live in socially rented accommodation (15.2% compared with 20.6% regionally and 19.2% nationally)²³.

The county has a commitment to reduce the number of people living in residential homes, which presents a particular challenge in terms of supporting people to live safely and independently in their own homes. To fulfil this commitment requires a robust multi-agency approach, with carers and the voluntary and community sector having a key role to play alongside statutory agencies.

⁴⁴ Director of Public Health Annual Report 2007, Herefordshire PCT

⁴⁵ 4th quarter of 2006, HM Land Registry

⁴⁶ 2nd quarter of 2006, Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)

⁴⁷ HM Land Registry and Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings, ONS

⁴⁸ 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics

Safer Communities

Crime Levels

Herefordshire has relatively low levels of crime. It compares favourably with similar areas for some key crime categories, such as vehicle crime and domestic burglary; conversely anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and common assault are slightly higher. Marked decreases in recorded crime have generally been seen over the past four years, for example house burglaries have reduced by 66% from 965 recorded in 2002-03 to just 324 in 2006-07. Vehicle crime has reduced by 34%, with 1371 recorded in 2002-03 but just 901 in 2006-07.

Perceptions of crime often do not reflect the levels of recorded crime and can have a disproportionate impact on whether people feel their community is a good place to live. So while the overall level of crime in Herefordshire has decreased over the last four years, the fall in resident's fear of crime has not reduced to the same extent. House burglaries are an illustrative example of this; as highlighted above the numbers have fallen over four years, yet worry about it having fallen from 50% of people in 2005 to 30% in 2006, it then remained at a similar level in 2007 despite further reductions in the level of crime. It is therefore considered to be a priority for the Local Area Agreement not only to decrease the already low level of crime overall but also to address the disproportionate fear of crime felt amongst some members of the community.

Anti-social behaviour remains a focus in Herefordshire, with annual residents surveys measuring the proportion of residents who have a high perception of anti-social behaviour. In 2006 27% of the people surveyed perceived a high level of anti social behaviour in their area with this figure not reducing in the 2007 survey.

One way of tackling crime levels is to focus on those who are prolific and priority offenders (PPOs) as statistics show that 20% of offenders commit 80% of the crime. Further reducing their offending should have a noticeable impact on crime rates (indeed, this has been shown already to be the case in the county). The Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership (HCSDP) has a target to reduce the proportion of prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend by tracking the conviction history of an identified cohort of PPO's. A similar measure has been introduced with the Youth Offending Team to monitor the re-offending rates of young offenders. Both the PPO and youth offending issues remain a local priority.

Following a lengthy public consultation, the HCSDP Strategic Group has identified alcohol and drugs harm reduction as a priority. Herefordshire has a proportionally high number of injecting opiate users and this represents a significant health and community safety issue to be tackled in partnership by a number of agencies.

Likewise it is important to tackle issues such as arson, which is of particular concern to the Fire and Rescue Service. Arson is seen as a 'gateway' crime which needs to be addressed through education and prevention work, in order to prevent escalation into further anti-social behaviour and potentially more serious crime. The statistics for Herefordshire over the last two years show that the number of deliberate fires has risen as a proportion of all fires, representing some 43% of all fires in 2007 (38% in 2006), and that deliberate fires now represent almost 3 out of 5 fires to derelict buildings or outdoors, and 2 in 5 of all vehicle fires.⁴⁹ One other area where anti-social behaviour has an impact on the Fire and Rescue Service, and the community, is the number of

⁴⁹ Source: H&W Fire and Rescue Service

hoax calls which are not only a considerable cost to the service but take resources away from real emergencies, potentially putting lives at risk. (74 hoax calls in 2007)

In addition to the need to address crime and the fear of crime, there are other issues affecting community safety and personal well-being. These include the impact of road traffic collisions, the well-being and safety of older and vulnerable people, and the impact of events such as fires and flooding, which are emergency planning issues. Partners recognise the interdependence of many of these issues and will work together to address them through a range of community safety, education and prevention initiatives.

Road Safety

Rural roads, sometimes poorly maintained, are Britain's biggest killers, accounting for two-thirds of deaths across England, with a third of these involving young drivers. Herefordshire has some of the highest risk roads in the country in terms of road death statistics. 2006 saw a significant decrease in the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads (119 in 2006 against 147 in 2005) but these figures have risen over the past few months, with an increase to 133 people killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads in 2007. Reducing road traffic collisions therefore remains a priority for the county.

Environmental Issues

Road Maintenance

Road condition for principal roads and non-principal roads was in the lower quartile in 2006-07 (the last year for which comparative data exists). Although there has been improvement this year, improving road condition remained a high priority for Herefordshire residents in the most recent survey.

Waste and Recycling

Nationally the issue of waste and recycling is a high priority and in Herefordshire this is no different. The county does not perform well in terms of either reducing the amount of household waste collected or the amount going to landfill: approximately 521kg of waste was collected per person per year in 2005-06, compared to the worst 25% of all other English Authorities who collected on average 479kg. In 2005-06, Herefordshire land filled 76% of all household waste; this was an improvement on previous years but still worse than the 70% national average.

Waste and recycling facilities have been highlighted as important issues throughout Herefordshire, with many Parish Plans mentioning the need for better recycling facilities, especially in the rural areas where there is no kerbside recycling collection.

Response to flooding, disease and other potentially damaging issues

Over recent years the Herefordshire community and the rural economy has been severely affected by issues such as Foot and Mouth Disease and flooding. In the July 2007 floods, Herefordshire was severely affected, causing an estimated £3.6 million of damage, over and above the costs to individuals and businesses, and putting significant pressure on local service providers.

There is a need to enhance and co-ordinate the local partnership approach to dealing with emergency issues in order to hasten the recovery from events that could have long-term effects on the local community and economy.

Links to Local and Regional Strategies

West Midlands Economic Strategy

The West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) and the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) both support the achievement of smart growth, that is where sustainable prosperity and skills development can be achieved. Both strategies place highest importance on preserving the quality of life, which means balancing economic prosperity with social and environmental impacts.

Critical to maintaining the West Midlands as a desirable place to live, work and do business is the provision of infrastructure and critical rural services.

The Herefordshire Local Area Agreement puts forward priorities that are designed to increase economic activity and workplace skills across the county. In particular, it proposes to prioritise, the reduction of worklessness by improving training and development opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

Key areas of the strategic objectives of the WMES that link strongly with Herefordshire's Local Area Agreement are summarised below:

Harnessing knowledge

The UK and West Midlands economies need to maximise their use of knowledge and creativity in order to compete in new global markets. The region must harness and grow our diverse knowledge assets and the competitive advantage tied up in the skills and attitudes of our people.

Improving infrastructure

Competitive regional economies require a comprehensive portfolio of infrastructure to support economic growth, which must be invested in and continuously improved to maintain competitiveness. Provision of transport, housing, land and property, and encouraging the use of technology, must be aligned with the economic needs of the region while recognising the need to meet the growing environmental challenge. More effective management and use of our infrastructure, including both transport and ICT, as well as more efficient use of resources including our natural environment, water and energy, is therefore key to ensuring that the region remains a competitive place to visit, live, work and do business.

Sustainable communities

Successful, thriving and growing economies require a network of high-quality sustainable urban and rural communities which attract and retain a diverse and thriving workforce, encourage enterprise, provide access to services and are designed to the highest quality.

Sustainable living

Long-term shifts in the region's environmental impact must be driven by changes in underlying patterns of consumption and demand. Changes in patterns of travel, waste production, energy use and overall consumption will encourage businesses to adapt their methods and stimulate the supply of lower-impact goods and services.

Raising ambitions and aspirations

To become a higher value added, more inclusive, region we need to create a more positive attitude to work and a stronger culture of life-long learning and continuous development among all the people of the West Midlands. This involves raising the aspirations of people at all skill levels, in and out of work from cradle to grave. This change has to be driven by inspirational leaders, and by the

removal of barriers to investment in skills, employment and continuous development leading to a general rise in aspirations and ambitions.

Achieving full potential and opportunities for all

Raise the skill levels of all to increase employment opportunities and to meet demand for higher-level skills in the workplace, by providing better information and intelligence about the current and future skills needs of employers, and better access to appropriate training at work and in local communities.

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2

The priorities in the Herefordshire Local Area Agreement align with the RSS's focus on the major issues of housing, employment land, transport and waste.

RSS key considerations:

- Housing levels, type and distribution of housing in the Region, the role of the Sub-regional foci and whether these towns are capable of accommodating increased levels of growth; and the issue of increasing the provision of affordable housing across the region.
- Employment with Hereford identified as a strategic centre in the current RSS, with the role and scale of housing development needing to be reflected in terms of related retail and leisure provision.
- Each waste planning authority to identify sites to manage all the waste in its area and that only the residues from any waste treatment processes should be landfilled. In addition, a variety of new facilities will need to be built, ranging from small composting sites to larger recycling and recovery plants.
- Transport covering a range of issues, including strategic park and ride, car parking standards, road-user charging and the role of airports in the region. Options for car parking standards focus on what needs to be done to ensure appropriate levels of parking supply and availability in everything from rural market towns to larger centres like Hereford.

The Children and Young People's Plan

The vision for the Children's Trust is for "every child to grow to reach their full potential within a happy, healthy and secure environment both at home and during their learning". Particular priorities in the new Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011, are:

- To increase the participation of children and young people in shaping strategies and services that affect their lives
- To reduce offending, anti-social behaviour and bullying by children and young people
- To increase access to positive activities for all children and young people, including targeted activities for vulnerable groups.

The Local Area Agreement, therefore, places particular emphasis on encouraging and enabling children and young people to achieve their potential and participate in positive activities, thus deflecting young people from engaging in anti-social behaviour and involvement in crime.

Consultation with the Shadow Children's Trust Board, a representative group of children and young people of all ages and vulnerable groups, throughout 2007, together with a major consultation event in October 2007, has highlighted that children and young people in the county want more involvement and participation in decision-making, more and better information, more sport and recreational facilities, improved transport and action to stop bullying. The Tellus2 survey

undertaken in the summer of 2007 highlighted that the main reason for the lack of involvement in sport, cultural and recreational pursuits was the proximity of facilities to young people's homes and the lack of transport. 31% of young people in the 2007 Youth Survey felt that the Council gave them enough opportunity to influence important decisions about local services, a significant improvement on the 2005 baseline of 19.2%. Analysis of Parish Plans confirms that these matters are of concern to communities across Herefordshire.

Chamber of Commerce Manifesto

The following are excerpts from the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire Manifesto

Skills and Education

Herefordshire Businesses have difficulty in filling skilled manual and technical positions and some managerial and professional roles. It is the Chamber's belief that young people are not being given the skills for the world of work. Some lack basic skills, but also the soft skills of communication, teamwork and punctuality. Others do not have the higher level vocational skills required from the local businesses. The Chamber therefore is concerned that the poor attitude to work and skills shortages are holding back the productivity and competitiveness of the county's businesses."

Transport

Herefordshire road network to the rest of the country is split between excellent in the south, which is served by the M50, compared to poor in the City and north as the trunk roads of the A49/ A44 are often congested and overloaded with traffic. Poor transport infrastructure and traffic congestion on roads in the area are imposing damaging restraints on the local economy. This often causes delays in delivery of goods and services to customers or from suppliers. The rural nature of the county means that poor quality local public transport provision has put more cars onto our already congested roads. Regional competition has seen the rural areas such as Herefordshire lose out in the West Midlands transport funding. This is a major setback and ways must be found to make up lost ground.

Further evidence

More comprehensive data showing comparisons and trends are in the *State of Herefordshire Report* www.herefordshirepartnership.co.uk

Our Priorities and the Local Area Agreement

Overall, Herefordshire presents an exceptional dichotomy. The rural nature of the County offers a unique, beautiful and healthy environment in which to live and work, but that same environment brings with it challenges in relation to economic development, employment, housing, access to services, transportation and quality of life.

Herefordshire is a unitary authority, which has a strong, well-established Local Strategic Partnership, with a wide range of partners across all sectors working together to make things better. The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy, produced following extensive public involvement and consultation, sets out the vision for Herefordshire to 2020. It is, therefore, the basis for the proposed priorities for the new Local Area Agreement. These have been extensively debated with the community as a whole, with partners and by elected members.

The *Herefordshire Partnership* is in no doubt that the vigorous pursuit of these priorities, rooted in evidence set out in this *Story of Place*, will make a major and lasting difference to the quality of life of people in the county. In particular, they are designed to have a major impact on reducing inequalities, so that currently disadvantaged groups enjoy significantly better life-chances.

Priorities for Herefordshire

The following criteria have been used to identify the priorities for the Local Area Agreement:

- Is this going to make a significant difference to Herefordshire?
- In particular, will it help to reduce inequalities by improving the life-chances of disadvantaged groups?
- Is this a priority for the local community?
- Is this something that can be achieved through partnership or multi-agency working?

Applying these criteria in the light of the foregoing factual analysis, the following priorities are proposed:

Local Area Agreement Priorities for Herefordshire
--

Economic Development and Enterprise
--

Increase the economic potential of the county, with particular regard to higher skilled and better paid jobs
--

Increase access to learning and development at all levels, and increase participation, in order to raise achievement, address worklessness and improve workforce skills.
--

Improve access to integrated public and community transport, reduce traffic congestion and encourage alternatives to car use
--

Children and Young People

Improve participation in, and achievement for, young people in education, employment and training post 14

Encourage and enable children and young people in Herefordshire to achieve their potential and participate in positive activities

Stronger Communities

Increase the availability of appropriate, decent and affordable housing

Improve the availability of sustainable services and facilities and access to them
--

Encourage thriving communities where people are able to influence change and take action to improve their area, regardless of their background
--

Health and Well-Being

Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle, with particular attention to reducing smoking, levels of obesity and excessive consumption of alcohol
--

Help vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes
--

Safer Communities

Further reduce the already low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county and to reduce disproportionate fear of such
--

Increase safety for road users in the county
--

Environment

Minimise domestic and commercial waste, and increase recycling
--

Lead a local contribution to climate change reduction

Strengthen resilience to and recovery from civil emergencies, which may have a long term impact on Herefordshire communities, through effective partnership planning and co-ordination
--

Cross Cutting Themes

Volunteering; Culture, Leisure and Sport; Environment

Indicators which support these priorities are shown within Appendix 1 - Presenting the LAA Improvement targets

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

PHASE TWO REVISION

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County wide.

Purpose

To determine a response to the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). A full copy of the Phase Two Revision document is available in the Members room for Members attention.

Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included in the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

THAT the Council submits representations to the Panel Secretary generally supporting the Phase Two Revision subject to:

- 1. The Spatial Strategy should include further recognition of the infrastructure requirements at Hereford if growth is to be achieved; the peripheral expansion of market towns, and their service centre role for their rural hinterlands; and the need to plan for the renaissance of the region's remoter rural areas in a way which sustains their social, economic and environmental character;**
- 2. Policy CF2 should be amended to recognise that growth may only be capable of being accommodated in some settlements of significant development if infrastructure constraints are removed. The recognition in para. 6.21 in respect of meeting housing needs in smaller settlements is welcomed;**
- 3. In respect of policy CF3:**
 - a) the total provision of 16,600 dwellings for Herefordshire be supported;**

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
David Nicholson, Forward Planning Manager on 01432 261952

- b) the identification of Hereford as a settlement of significant development be supported as reflecting the Council's Growth Point partnership with Government for the delivery of housing growth;
 - c) the provision for Hereford (8,300 dwellings) be expressed as a maxima, recognising that at present the extent to which Hereford can accommodate new development is limited and that the practical achievement of these levels of growth will be dependent on suitable transport and other infrastructure provision, as well as other factors;
 - d) following consideration of the distribution of growth within the County in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and the Hereford Area Action Plan, dwellings which cannot be accommodated within or adjacent to Hereford be directed to the rest of the County in accordance with the principles in policy CF2;
4. The affordable housing targets in policy CF7 be re-assessed in the light of the emerging Housing Market Assessment for the West Housing Market Area;
 5. Policy CF10 be supported and further recognise that in rural areas there are also considerations such as the relatively high proportion of small sites in the overall housing supply;
 6. The comparison retail floorspace requirements set out in policy PA12A be supported, with the retail assessment work being undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework offering the opportunity to refine the Phase Two Revision figures at Examination if necessary to ensure suitable provision is made for Hereford city centre;
 7. The office development requirement for Hereford in policy PA13A be supported;
 8. The revisions to the waste policies be supported, subject to clarification of the implications of the existing joint arrangements for the principle that each waste planning authority should plan to manage an equivalent tonnage of waste arising within their boundary; and
 9. The continuing recognition of the need to implement the package of measures identified in the Hereford Transport Review be supported, so as to allow Hereford to fulfill its role as a Settlement of Significant Development.

Reasons

To ensure that the Council's views on the Phase Two Revision are considered.

Considerations

Introduction

1. The current version of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was issued by Government in 2004. An immediate phased review was commenced. The first phase – dealing with the Black Country – is complete. The second phase, the subject of this report, has now reached an advanced stage. It deals with housing, employment, the role of centres, waste and some aspects of transport. The third and final phase began in November 2007 and covers rural services, gypsy and traveller sites, culture, minerals and environment policies.
2. In preparing the phase two revision, the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) has worked closely with regional stakeholders. Strategic planning authorities in the region, including Herefordshire Council, prepared and submitted advice to the Assembly in 2006. Consultation was then undertaken on spatial options. These were considered by Cabinet in February 2007. A preferred option was approved by the Assembly's Regional Planning Partnership in October, and submitted to the Secretary of State in December.
3. A formal public consultation on the revision was launched on 7 January 2008. The current closing date of 30 June 2008 is likely to be extended (see below).
4. The next stage is an Examination in Public, arranged by the Secretary of State and held before an independent Panel. The Panel will prepare a Report for consideration by the Secretary of State, who will publish and consult on proposed changes before finalising the revised RSS.
5. Throughout the process of drawing up the revision, Government has been concerned that more houses need to be built if problems of affordability are to be addressed. The Assembly has worked with partners, including local planning authorities, to increase its proposals for housing provision throughout the region. Although significant increases in housing development are proposed across the region, the submitted revision does not meet Government aspirations in full.
6. Government has responded by commissioning a study to look at options delivering higher housing numbers. In order to allow adequate time for consultees to consider the study when it becomes available in October, the consultation period on the revision is proposed to be extended to December. On this basis the Examination will not commence until Spring 2009.
7. A further report to Cabinet will be made on the Government study when this is available. However, the study will not alter the content of the submitted document. It is this which has been published for consultation, and which will be before the Panel at the independent examination. Moreover, the submitted

document forms in effect the starting point for the Council's Local Development Framework, and to establish a basis for the Core Strategy spatial options it is essential to define the Council's position on the RSS document.

8. Against this background, this report goes on to advise on a response to each of the policy areas in the phase two revision as it stands.

Sustainable region (chapter 2 of the RSS)

9. This chapter of the revision sets out four new crosscutting policies on climate change, sustainable communities, sustainable construction and improving air quality for sensitive ecosystems.

Response

10. The introduction of these policies reflects the increased importance attached to these issues since the RSS was approved in 2004. Several aspects are worth highlighting:
 - The potential impact of housing and other development on nature conservation sites of European and national importance in the region. Diffuse air pollution is highlighted as a particular area of concern, affecting several sites in and adjacent to Herefordshire: Downton Gorge; Wye Valley Woodlands; and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites. Other sites such as the River Wye are at risk from other factors. There will be a need to continue to assess the impacts of growth proposals on these sensitive locations as the Local Development Framework is prepared;
 - A proposed requirement that medium and larger scale developments meet at least 10% of their energy requirement on site;
 - The pressure that new housebuilding is likely to create on water resources supplying the region and on sewage treatment infrastructure.
11. In brief, in principle these policies are very much to be supported. Their overall effect is to put in place safeguards against which the scale of proposed new development can be assessed. The policies effectively delegate much of this work to local planning authorities in their Local Development Frameworks, and this is a measure of the difficulty of determining a regional level policy to what is essentially a local issue. Nonetheless the policies should help ensure a consistent local response.

Spatial Strategy (chapter 3)

12. A number of adjustments have been made to the wording of the RSS spatial strategy, in order in part to reflect the levels of development being contemplated. For instance, the green belt objective now accepts that such land may be used in certain defined circumstances where necessary to deliver housing proposals. At Coventry the approach now allows for peripheral expansion of the conurbation onto greenfield land or in exceptional circumstances onto green belt, in order to meet housing needs.

13. Outside the metropolitan areas, new development is to be focused in and adjacent to towns capable of growth, but without attracting investment or migration from the conurbation. Hereford is listed as one of these ten settlements, designated as 'Settlements of Significant Development'. Effectively this is to replace the 'sub-regional foci' approach in the approved RSS (where Hereford is one of five). Provision for housing is to be concentrated in these settlements.
14. Peripheral development of other settlements may also be considered, with a key role recognised for market towns and larger villages. On transport, reference is now made to resolving existing infrastructure problems and assisting economic objectives. Overall the Strategy recognises that the growth agenda will require significant concerted investment in existing and new infrastructure.
15. A revised text for the 'rural renaissance' challenge is identified which emphasises the economic and social potential of rural areas whilst embracing the challenges of access and climate change.
16. Greater emphasis is placed on the need to achieve the spatial strategy through working with partners and in alignment with both the Regional Housing Strategy and the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES). As far as housing is concerned, the revision endorses the four sub-regional housing market areas. Herefordshire sits in the West area, with Shropshire (excluding Telford & Wrekin). For economic development, the revision addresses the spatial implications of the WMES. In the context of the recommendations of the sub-national review for a single regional strategy to be developed by the Regional Development Agency, these steps towards an integrated approach are to be welcomed.
17. At a sub-regional level, the implications of the strategy are set out more clearly than hitherto in a separate section. The implications for Herefordshire are:
 - the role of Hereford as a settlement of significant development, where the aim is primarily aimed at meeting the economic and social needs of the area rather than attracting out-migration from the conurbation;
 - a recognition that the extent to which Hereford can accommodate new development is limited, with an identified priority for the city being to ensure necessary transport infrastructure to deliver levels of planned economic and housing growth, support regeneration and protect historic heritage;
 - outside of Hereford, further development within key market towns acting as strategic locations for balanced housing and employment growth;
 - within the context of the WMES, economic measures to develop the tourist potential of the market towns and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, bringing forward new, high quality employment sites/premises in sustainable locations, and revitalise industrial estates and town centres.

Response

18. Clearly the Strategy as now set out puts more emphasis on the achievement of growth. Proposals to use green belt, the identification of ten Settlements of Significant Development and the contemplation of peripheral development at other locations are notable amendments to the approach approved in 2004.
19. The designation of Hereford as a Settlement of Significant Development is a logical extension of the current 'sub-regional foci' role and also reflects the Council's support for the City's role as a New Growth Point. The emphasis on the need to address transport matters is very much to be welcomed although other infrastructure issues will also need to be considered, such as water and sewerage.
20. For the market towns, the allowance for them to grow in a balanced way is also to be supported. A clearer recognition should be made of the likely need to accommodate growth through peripheral expansion in these locations. Reference could also be considered to the role that market towns play in providing a certain level of service for their rural hinterlands.
21. In the rural areas, whilst larger villages do have a role to play, there is a need to recognize that many parts of rural Herefordshire have an open and diffuse settlement structure. Here, focusing growth to larger settlements can run against supporting communities and achieving sustainability at a local level. The existing RSS policy on this issue already requires planning authorities to take into account the extent to which new development may help the provision of local services, whilst supporting new and innovative forms of service delivery. There are also helpful statements on the role of market towns and villages. As the phase two and three revisions of the RSS proceed, it will be important to emphasise the point that the Strategy needs to provide for economic and social needs and requirements in the remoter rural areas, where larger settlements are few and far between, as well as providing for growth in larger towns and cities.

Housing (Communities for the Future, chapter 6)

22. This chapter sets out the Assembly's response to the Government's goal to increase levels of new housebuilding. The emphasis on urban renaissance – the concentration of housing growth within the conurbation, where much demand arises - remains. At the same time, growth is directed to the settlements of significant development as well as to other settlements, market towns and rural areas. Growth within and adjacent to market towns is again recognised. There is an explicit acceptance that whilst sustainability considerations will lead to growth in the rural areas being focused in the market towns and larger rural settlements where services exist, small scale housing provision may also be considered in smaller settlements where this can be shown to contribute to the regeneration of the rural economy and the sustaining of local communities by meeting proven housing needs (policy CF2).

23. The level and distribution of housing development, set out in policy CF3, is such that the ratio of development between the metropolitan and other areas is expected to be 1:1.2 – for every ten dwellings built in the conurbation, 12 will be built outside. This compares with the approved strategy which aims to achieve a balance of 1:0.7 – where for every ten dwellings built in the conurbation, only seven are constructed in the rest of the region. This demonstrates the extent to which the overall strategy – based on urban renaissance achieved by enabling the conurbations to meet their own generated needs - has been affected by the pressure to accommodate increased levels of growth and the reaching of capacity limits in the conurbation. Provision overall falls short of that suggested by the 2004 based household projections, with a shortfall of around 16,400 dwellings (365,600 in the phase two revision, compared to 382,000 in the projections).
24. For Herefordshire, 16,600 dwellings are proposed 2006-2026 (830 per annum), with half of this growth directed to Hereford.
25. Policy CF5 sets a target for development on previously developed land at 70% for the region. This is down from a target of 76% in approved RSS. For areas outside the conurbation, the target is now to be 60% (down from 65%). These more modest targets reflect the need to develop greenfield land to deliver growth.
26. Policy CF7 sets a minima target of 700 units of affordable housing per annum for the West Housing Market Area. The policy highlights the setting of lower site thresholds in rural areas and small rural settlements; the option of allocating sites as 100% affordable; the use of the rural exception approach, and the use of local authority land resources.
27. Policy CF8 emphasises the need to achieve a balanced mix of development, which allows for more family friendly housing and provides for more housing for the elderly such as lifetime homes and extra care housing.
28. Finally, policy CF10 identifies the contribution that windfall sites make to regional housing land supply – currently over half of all completions are on such sites. Current Government policy is that windfalls on previously developed land should not be taken into account when assessing future provision, unless there is robust evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified. Government appears to assume that windfalls on greenfield land will not occur in any significant numbers. Against this, the phase two revision argues that in the circumstances of the West Midlands, where economic re-structuring is underway, land falling out of employment use can - where it is not required for its original purpose - make a significant contribution to housing land supply. In doing so, sites can be brought back into use quickly and the need to use peripheral greenfield land minimised. The policy thus proposes that a windfall allowance is made by local authorities in determining their housing provision, where justified by evidence.

Response

29. As a starting point, policy CF2 should include explicit reference to the need to improve infrastructure if growth is to be accommodated. The recognition of the role of market towns, larger villages and smaller rural settlements is to be welcomed.
30. The implications of the levels and distribution of housing development proposed in policy CF3 for Herefordshire can be best illustrated by comparison with historic rates of provision and the equivalent UDP position (see table).

	Dwellings completed (per annum, 1996-2007)	Average UDP rate (dwellings per annum, gross)	Phase 2 revision (dwellings per annum, net)	UDP/phase 2 % difference	% phase 2 provision already identified*
Herefordshire	816	813	830	+2%	30%
Of which Hereford	207	270	415	+54%	25%
Rest of County	609	562	415	-26%	35%

* completions since April 2006, planning permissions and UDP allocated sites

31. For the County overall, the table shows that proposed rates of development are broadly comparable with both those already being achieved and those postulated in the UDP. These rates are similar to those endorsed by the Council during the earlier spatial options consultation, and are to be supported.
32. Concerns arise in the proposed distribution of this new development between Hereford and the rest of the County. The phase two revision introduces a new requirement that half of new housing be directed to Hereford. In effect this equates to a significant increase in rates of development at Hereford – up 54% on UDP rates and 50% on what has been achieved in the recent past. This will undoubtedly require both significant greenfield releases and the solution of infrastructure constraints. Limits relating to transport and water provision are presently being investigated as part of the development of the Local Development Framework’s evidence base, and work is also underway to assess the likely availability of housing land. It is too early to say whether these levels of development will in practice be achievable, having regard to infrastructure; levels of market demand; availability of suitable sites; and capacity in the construction industry.
33. Outside Hereford, the position is reversed. Rates of development are proposed to fall. Past completion levels and UDP rates of development are both significantly higher than those now being mooted. The issue that thus arises is whether sufficient provision is now being made outwith Hereford, bearing in mind the need to provide for the growth of the market towns and in sustainable settlements in the wider rural areas.

34. In considering these opposing concerns, it is important to remember that the Council has adopted a position of welcoming growth at Hereford in its participation in the New Growth Point programme – and the phase two revision reflects this. However, Growth Point aspirations are subject to testing and confirmation through the RSS process. The Council has also previously confirmed to the Regional Assembly (in its response on the spatial options consultation) that there are infrastructure limits at Hereford. Significant development at Hereford will require these to be resolved, and indeed may help provide the means to do so via the new Community Infrastructure Levy (if confirmed). The Council has also expressed the view that the County's market towns should also be considered to accommodate increased levels of growth.
35. A possible approach to resolve these dilemmas would be to introduce an element of flexibility in the distribution within Herefordshire. This would first recognize that as much growth as possible should be sought at Hereford. Necessary infrastructure provision would be made to achieve a maxima of 8,300 dwellings over the period. The balance would then fall to be found outwith Hereford. This would be a minima of 8,300 dwellings, plus any residual which could not be located at Hereford. The RSS total for the County would remain unchanged.
36. This would allow a balanced pattern of development to be determined through the Council's own Local Development Framework, whilst protecting overall provision and the priority given to Hereford as a settlement of significant development. The Council's approach to the preparation of its Local Development Framework – the preparation of the Core Strategy, then the Hereford Area Action Plan, followed by a final Development Plan Document dealing with the market towns and the rural areas – is very much in line with such a step by step process. It would also allow the implications of the forthcoming phase three revision to be addressed at the local level – notably how development might be used to support rural services in the market towns and larger villages. In the interim, pending completion of different elements of the Local Development Framework, UDP policies will provide policy coverage. It is recommended that appropriate representations are made on this basis.
37. Turning to policy CF5, the proposed revised target for development on previously developed land outside the conurbation, 60%, is the same as the national target in PPS3. Last year 71% of housing completions in the County were on previously developed land (to March 2007) – the highest figure since data was collected in 1996. Some 77% of outstanding planning permissions at March 2007 were located on previously developed land. For the future, such 'brownfield' development can be expected to continue to occur although current rates are unlikely to be sustained as a result both of greenfield UDP sites coming on stream and further greenfield releases which will be necessary to deliver housing growth aspirations. The policy as written will not create undue difficulties for the County.

38. In terms of affordable housing, policy CF7 sets an indicative annual minima of 700 affordable units for the West Housing Market Area, of which Herefordshire forms part. However the emerging Housing Market Assessment for the Market Area points to a much higher level of need, a reflection of the affordability gap in the area and relatively low levels of social housing supply. Clearly there is a need to establish workable policies which do not in themselves act to constrain development and so restrain supply. However the evidence would appear to support measures such as increased targets/requirements, or reduced thresholds. This can be pursued in the Council's own emerging Core Strategy, within the context of appropriate regional targets. Policy CF7 is expressed as a minima, but it is recommended that representations be made that the affordable housing targets in policy CF7 be re-assessed in the light of the emerging Housing Market Assessment. Some 120 affordable housing units were achieved in Herefordshire in 2006/7, an increase over the average 97 dwellings per annum achieved since 1996.
39. The line taken in policy CF10 towards so called 'windfalls' – housing units arising on previously unidentified sites – is very much supported. The national policy towards windfalls is difficult to sustain in Herefordshire where a significant proportion of the housing land supply derives from this source. The UDP for instance assumes that over 2,800 dwellings will arise from windfalls in the period 2001- 2010 – 23% of the total Plan housing provision. Clearly it is important that a reasonable and evidenced allowance is made for sites from this source, and the regional arguments in policy CF10 are welcomed. However the case made is expressed very much in terms of economic changes and restructuring in manufacturing. It would be helpful if a rural dimension could be added – referring for instance to the relative emphasis on small sites which typically characterizes housing land supply in areas such as Herefordshire.

Employment (Prosperity for All, chapter 7)

40. This chapter and the partial revisions to it cover both general employment matters and town centres. The text has been revised in tandem with the revision by AWM of the Regional Economic Strategy, with which it dovetails.
41. The overall approach is to ensure sustainable economic growth as appropriate across the region, including the settlements of significant development such as Hereford, ensuring housing and employment growth proceed together. The emphasis on Regeneration Zones, including the rural zone, remains as in the approved RSS.
42. The various requirements for employment, retail and office uses for the County are summarized in the table below.

Use/location	RSS proposals
Employment land provision for Herefordshire (Policy PA6A)	Rolling five year reservoir of 37 hectares readily available land, with an indicative longer term requirement of 111 hectares.

Comparison retail, within Hereford city centre (Policy PA12A)	An additional 40,000 m ² for the period 2006-2021, with an indicative requirement of a further 20,000 m ² for the period 2021-2026 (gross figures).
Offices, Hereford city centre or edge of centre (Policy PA13A)	A 'lower limit' of 45,000 m ² gross for the period 2006-2026.

Response

Employment land

43. The County has some 21 hectares of readily available employment land, to set against the 37 hectares required by the draft revision. This 'rolling reservoir' approach is new and will need careful handling in the Local Development Framework to ensure that land of appropriate quantity and quality is readily available in desired locations as it is expected to be required. It may be necessary to phase land release so as to synchronise with housing growth.
44. Overall the policy appears to suggest a provision of 148 hectares for the County over the twenty year RSS period (ie five year reservoir plus the longer term figure). This compares with a provision of 100 hectares in the UDP over fifteen years (equivalent to 133 hectares over a 20 year period). The UDP assumes that land for housing and employment would be needed on a 4:1 ratio, and applying this rule of thumb to the RSS housing provision suggests an overall requirement of 138 hectares. Taking into account the fact that the forecasting of employment land needs is an inexact science, particularly over the timescales now being considered, the RSS requirements overall appear reasonable and should be supported. Also to be welcomed is the emphasis in the policy on the fact that the longer term figures are indicative and are subject to testing and possible revision as part of Core Strategies. As part of the Council's work on the Local Development Framework, an employment land review is currently under way.

Retail

45. The retail proposals, for an additional 40,000 square metres of gross comparison shopping floorspace in Hereford city centre up to 2021 and further indicative provision beyond that, are also supported. These levels may be compared with the balance of the UDP provision - estimated by the Inspector to be of the order of 15-21,000 sq m net for the period up to 2011. Current and emerging proposals on Edgar Street Grid are likely to account for this and may significantly take up the RSS provision to 2021 (for instance, the masterplan provides for 33,000 sq m of retail and leisure - subject to confirmation as the development proceeds). This would still allow further retail provision within the rest of the city centre, ensuring that opportunities were available for new retail schemes to come forward.
46. A retail study has been commissioned by the Council as part of the preparation of the Local Development Framework. The Council's emerging

study is taking the regional work to date into account. However, this in itself might lead to the need to refine the draft RSS figures. Fortunately the opportunity exists to deal with any significant variations at the Examination stage. In any event, the phase two revision already accepts that whilst the floorspace figures should not normally be exceeded, it will be for local authorities to review them in the context of Core Strategy preparation, a process which might lead to some local variations. This flexibility is sensible and should be supported.

47. In respect of the provision between 2021 and 2026, this is rightly seen as indicative and is subject to revision through future RSS reviews. This recognises that there are considerable uncertainties in projecting future comparison retail requirements so far into the future.

Offices

48. Office provision in the County has been relatively modest to date, with recent rates suggesting around 4,500 sq m have been completed in the last five years. This has tended to be on the basis of bespoke provision to meet the needs of existing/expanding businesses rather than speculative.
49. The phase two revision effectively suggests a doubling of this rate. This reflects the housing growth proposed and the need to provide for associated employment.
50. The RSS directs this provision to be planned for in or on the edge of Hereford city centre. This reflects national policy which identifies offices as a town centre use, with new development directed first to in-centre locations before other locations are considered. Emerging national and regional policies both recognise that market demand and other factors will influence office location, and the revision accepts that an element of out-of-centre development will continue to be required. Emerging proposals within the Edgar Street Grid will create capacity opportunities in and around central Hereford.

Waste (Quality of the Environment, chapter 8)

51. When approved, the waste policies in the phase two revision will form the Regional Waste Strategy. An important principle is that each waste planning authority should allocate enough land through their LDF to manage an equivalent tonnage of waste to that arising from all waste streams within its boundary. Reflecting the more stringent targets and challenges in the Waste Strategy for England 2007, the phase two revision sets a series of targets for waste management and diversion from landfill. An assessment is made of the 'treatment gap' between available facilities and tonnages of waste arising. This is to be met by making provision through LDFs for a pattern of sites and areas suitable for new or enhanced waste management facilities in, or in close proximity to, a range of settlements including Hereford. The phase two revision recognises that the allocation of specific waste streams or technologies to particular locations would stifle the opportunity for innovation, so identified sites should be capable of accommodating a variety of technologies and size of facility.

Response

52. The targets set out in the phase two revision will need to be further considered in the context of both the emerging Local Development Framework and the joint contractual arrangements. The latter has obvious implications for the principle of planning for an equivalent tonnage of waste arising in each waste planning authority boundary, which requires clarification as the process continues. The targets will form the background for local waste policies and necessary waste management facilities to deliver the strategy. The locational preferences for new facilities (ie in or close to Hereford) are sensible, as is the envisaged range of sites which includes industrial land and other uses compatible with waste management operations. The principle that site allocations should not be specific to either particular technologies or waste streams is fully supported.

Transport (Transport and accessibility, chapter 9)

53. This chapter sets out the Regional Transport Strategy, setting a context for Local Transport Plans. The chapter has been partially revised, including an update to policy T12, dealing with priorities for transport investment. This policy has been amended to reflect the implications of housing and employment growth.
54. A major transport challenge is balancing the needs of new housing and the economy against increasing levels of congestion. Managing the increasing demand for travel will require a package of measures, including reducing the need to travel, travel awareness, and park and ride. The revision accepts that there will continue to be a need for targeted improvements to the strategic transport network, particularly where they affect Settlements of Significant Development.
55. In this respect, the revision continues to recognise that the road and rail networks in the corridor between Shrewsbury, Hereford and Wales provide strategic links. They are to be managed and developed to balance environmental protection with regeneration and linking areas of opportunity. For Hereford, the revision continues to recognize the problems of congestion and refers to the proposals in the local multi modal study (i.e. the Hereford Transport Review) designed to relieve this and accommodate development and regeneration, thereby allowing Hereford to fulfil its role as a Settlement of Significant Development.
56. Where significant development is proposed in policy CF2, necessary highway and other infrastructure will be needed to access sites and mitigate transport impacts.
57. Policy T12 deals with priorities for investment. The policy identifies the improvement of the transport networks in Settlements of Significant Development (including Hereford) as one sub-regional priority for investment outside the conurbation, in order to support their growth.

Response

58. The recognition of the need for transport infrastructure to be provided at Hereford to deliver the level of planned economic and housing growth has already been noted and welcomed in this report (see section on Spatial Strategy). In the Communities for the Future section dealing with housing development, a precautionary position is recommended that is designed to provide a fall back in the event that growth targets at Hereford cannot be fully met. It is important that adopting this position is not interpreted as signaling a weakening or withdrawal of support for transport infrastructure investment at Hereford. The Hereford Transport Review confirmed that as part of a package of measures an Outer Distributor Road (ODR) will be required in the period to 2031. This position is recorded in the Local Transport Plan where the significant contribution of the ODR to reductions in congestion is set out. In this respect, work is underway as part of the development of the Local Development Framework to assess the transport implications of the levels of growth proposed. Transportation work for the UDP indicated that Hereford's transport capacity was such that levels of growth on greenfield land had to be restricted. The indications are that in terms of accommodating further growth, improvements to transport infrastructure is an essential pre-condition.

Conclusions

59. The phase two revision has been developed in a spirit of partnership by the Regional Assembly, working with the local authorities at both officer and member level and with other stakeholders across the region. As a result, it has a wide ownership. The revision stands as a comprehensive and coherent response to the challenges facing the spatial development of the region to 2026. Accommodating increased levels of housing growth has been achieved within the broad scope of the overall strategy, even if the balance of development between the urban and other areas is not entirely as originally envisaged. The revision has been able to consider and plan for the consequences of that growth for other policy areas, such as employment, waste, and transport. It is appropriate that overall the Council records its broad support for the phase two revision.
60. For the County, as for all other areas in the region, there are significant challenges ahead if the levels of growth now being envisaged are to be met without compromising valued assets such as landscape or protected features such as European sites. The main issue identified in this report is with the scale of development proposed for Hereford, both in its own terms and relative to the rest of the County. The recommended measure of flexibility which is to be sought in this regard will allow an appropriate distribution to be determined locally. This will ensure overall levels of growth, whilst facilitating an appropriate infrastructure response to allow Hereford to fulfil its regional role as a Settlement of Significant Development and the Council's Growth Point aspirations.

Financial implications

No direct financial implications.

Risk Management

The principal risk is with the levels of housing and other allied growth proposed which is to be managed through continuing engagement with the RSS process, including the independent Examination, taking into account the emerging evidence base being assembled as part of the Local Development Framework.

Alternative Options

Not to respond to the consultation.

Consultees

Edgar Street Grid Company.

Background Papers

West Midlands Regional Assembly, West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Two Revision – Draft, Preferred Option December 2007.

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY: DEVELOPING OPTIONS PAPER

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County wide.

Purpose

To seek approval for the publication of the Herefordshire Core Strategy Developing Options paper for consultation purposes together with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports.

Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included on the Forward Plan

Recommendation

THAT the publication of Herefordshire Core Strategy Developing Options paper be approved for consultation purposes together with the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports.

Reasons

To ensure through the publication of the Developing Options paper that stakeholders and the public are fully engaged in the development of the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

Considerations

1. The preparation of a Core Strategy is a mandatory element of the Local Development Framework (LDF). In Herefordshire it is the first development plan document being prepared as part of the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy will include:
 - a long term vision for the County and its places, this will look to 2026;
 - objectives for an identified set of key issues;
 - a strategy to deliver the objectives; and
 - an indication of strategic sites or locations, infrastructure needs, funding and responsibilities.
2. The development of a Core Strategy is about the shaping of places rather than simply the granting of planning permission and it is essential to link the Core Strategy to the Community Strategy and to the Local Area Agreement. To ensure that these

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

links are made early in the process of preparing the Core Strategy an LDF Task Group has been established. The Group, which consists of Herefordshire Council Cabinet Members covering the portfolio areas of environment, housing, transportation and economic development/regeneration and Herefordshire Partnership Board representatives for community, economy and environment, provides a forum for the broad consideration of the spatial development of the county, and helps to ensure consistency and coherence across the Council and Partnership.

3. In September and October last year a public consultation was undertaken to help to identify the key issues for the Core Strategy. In order to progress the development of the document further all reasonable alternatives or “options” should be considered and these are set out in the Developing Options paper. The development of options:
 - is an important element in ensuring the soundness of the Core Strategy;
 - is part of the requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive; and
 - is helpful in undertaking stakeholder engagement.
4. The LDF Task Group has helped to develop the set of options in the paper. Meetings with officers from key departments across the Council have also informed the options and technical stakeholders from key external organisations have been consulted upon draft options. A seminar was held for Council Members in February in order to provide an early sight of the developing strategic options. In addition, a series of meetings with local Members has recently been held in Hereford and each of the market towns to review the options and implications for places.
5. The document sets out the key issues as well as a vision and spatial objectives for Herefordshire in 2026. The objectives have been closely aligned with the outcomes of the Community Strategy. The document also acknowledges a number of “givens” in respect of the need to be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and is consistent with national planning policy. The strategic options therefore assume that the County is likely to have to accommodate at least the levels of growth set out in the RSS Phase 2 revision. Hereford is acknowledged to be a place where significant levels of growth will be directed over the period up to 2026 and it is assumed that the market towns will remain as foci for new development.
6. The Paper suggests four strategic spatial options. **Option A** provides a focus upon the economy, placing emphasis on economic objectives being the driver for change in accommodating growth. It reflects the Economic Development Strategy for Herefordshire. It would focus housing and employment growth to Hereford, Leominster and the market towns and hinterland settlements in the south and east of the County (around Bromyard, Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury) where employment demand is greatest. This latter area is referred to in the Economic Development Strategy as the ‘eastern corridor’. This option also draws upon the potential for transport improvements to support economic growth in the towns and settlements based on the A49 Corridor, including Hereford, Leominster and Ross on Wye, as referred to in the RSS.
7. **Option B** places emphasis on social objectives being the driver for change in the County in accommodating new growth. The option emphasises addressing the impacts of deprivation, including income and employment deprivation and in terms of access to services and facilities (including housing) across the County and particularly in rural areas. The focus for growth would be towards Hereford and Leominster but with a dispersal of development to other market towns and sustainable settlements.

8. **Option C** provides an approach based upon environmental objectives. A key priority of this option would be to use the opportunities presented through growth in the County to invest in environmental upkeep and enhancement. The option reflects the work on priority habitats emerging from the Landscapes for Living Project (2007) undertaken by the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership as well as the Strategic River Corridors in the RSS. It also reflects the emerging Herefordshire Water Cycle and Green Infrastructure Studies. The focus of development in this option would be towards Hereford and the market towns as well as to sustainable settlements and within other areas where an environmental focus could be demonstrated. A key priority of the option would be to use the opportunities presented through growth to invest in the provision, restoration and enhancement of environmental assets ensuring a robust and adaptable environmental framework across the County.
9. **Option D** places specific emphasis upon housing objectives and focuses upon developing a new or expanded settlement. This option promotes the distribution of growth to Hereford, the market towns and a new or expanded settlement in the County. Further work would need to be carried out to identify sustainable locations for such a settlement. It is acknowledged that this option would not be in conformity with the existing or emerging RSS, which generally directs larger scale growth to existing settlements. However, there is continuing uncertainty regarding the regional housing requirement and the option may become more realistic if the housing targets of RSS revision are raised significantly above those that are currently proposed. Such an option should be considered at this time even if it is discounted at a later date.
10. The Paper also focuses upon a number of place shaping options. For Hereford this includes:
 - options regarding the future role of the City;
 - the strategic distribution of housing, including an indication of potential directions of growth;
 - the potential for economic diversification;
 - retail provision and the development of the City centre; and
 - transportation infrastructure.
11. Options are also included regarding potential roles for each of the market towns, indicating where strategic growth could be distributed while recognising the existence of constraints in each place. The options document also considers the retail function and employment provision within the market towns. In the rural areas, the paper includes options for rural housing and employment and community facilities and services.
12. The Core Strategy will not contain a full range of development control policies as currently set out in the UDP. National planning policy guidance in PPS12: Local Development Frameworks indicates that local planning authorities should avoid producing a compendium of use-related development control policies and that policies should not repeat national planning policy statements. In addition the RSS now forms part of the development plan and its policies need not be repeated within the Core Strategy. However, there will continue to be a need for a set of generic policies for key topic areas and the options paper provides an opportunity for these policy areas to be explored. The context for these generic policies will, in part, be determined by the preferred spatial option and place shaping proposals, but there are options presented in the document for the development of policies for topics such as

affordable housing, renewable energy, waste, minerals, flooding, water use, design, employment, health and open space provision.

13. In order to continue to make progress towards the preparation of the Core Strategy it is proposed that the Developing Options paper be published as a consultation document in mid June for an eight-week period. During the consultation period there will be significant publicity and specific stakeholder and Parish Council events. In addition, the Forward Planning Team will take a “roadshow” around Hereford, the market towns and Ewyas Harold. A detailed questionnaire will be produced to accompany the Developing Options paper in order to help analyse representation.
14. Other key elements of preparing the Core Strategy include undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the document. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic and iterative appraisal process, incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The purpose of the SA is to incorporate social, and economic effects as well as environmental effects through the SEA Directive of the strategies and policies in a local development document from the outset of the preparation process. SA reports will be produced at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy, and will play an important part in demonstrating that the Core Strategy is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainable development objectives. The methodology for the SA process will demonstrate how Herefordshire Council has incorporated sustainable development in an integrated way into its Core Strategy. The first volume of the SA Report for the Core Strategy is attached. The report includes details of a series of SA workshops which discussed various elements of the Core Strategy options. The brief results of each are explained in the main report whilst the detail is contained in the appendices.
15. The purpose of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is to assess the impacts of a land use plan in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. There are four areas within Herefordshire that have SAC designation, these are the River Wye (River Wye SSSI and part River Lugg SSSI), Downton Gorge, the Wye Valley Woodlands and the River Clun (part of the River Clun SSSI). In addition there are 14 sites within 15km of the boundary of Herefordshire which have been screened in order to attempt to indicate whether the Core Strategy options are likely to have a significant effect upon them.
16. The first volume of the HRA incorporating the screening stage of the assessment is appended to this report. It aims to ensure that the Core Strategy complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive by identifying whether the emerging Strategic Options in the Core Strategy require an appropriate assessment. In undertaking this assessment it was apparent that due to the high level nature of the Strategic Options and the incomplete nature of the emerging evidence base, assessment of the likely significant effects on the European Sites site integrity was difficult to ascertain at this early stage. In light of this the precautionary principle has been used and except for the SAC designation at Lyppard Grange Ponds in Worcester, the Strategic Options are considered to have the potential to have significant effects on all the sites. However, the Countryside Council for Wales has indicated that some of the screened European sites located in Wales are unlikely to be adversely affected by proposals in Herefordshire and may well be screened out as the HRA process proceeds.

17. In producing the options paper the evidence emerging from a number of studies has been utilised. Developing a robust evidence base is an important element in achieving a sound Core Strategy. A list of the technical studies, which will form significant elements of the evidence base, is set out in Appendix 3 at the back of the options paper. Of particular significance is the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and a separate report to this meeting of Cabinet is being made regarding this work. Elements of the evidence base completed to date and which will be published with the Core Strategy are being assembled and will be approved by the Cabinet Member.

Financial implications

Cost of the consultation exercise will be met from growth point monies.

Risk Management

Preparation of the Core Strategy is a statutory requirement. The various risk factors to successfully completing the preparation of the document are:

- The availability of staff resource;
- Funding being available to support the timely and necessary development of the evidence base;
- The extent to which national and regional housing requirements are subject to change as the RSS review process continues;
- Linked to this, the RSS review proceeding to timetable;
- Anticipated changes to statutory regulations and PPS12, coupled with proposals expected to emerge in the forthcoming Planning Bill.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options, preparation of the Core Strategy being a statutory requirement.

Consultees

Government Office for the West Midlands, Welsh Water, Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage

Local member briefing meetings

Planning Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper

Appendix 2 – Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper – Sustainability Appraisal

Appendix 3 - Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper – Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening report

Background Papers

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks



Shaping our Place 2026

Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper

Habitat Regulation Assessment
Screening Report

April 2008

Local Development Framework

If you need help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call the Forward Planning Team on 01432 260000 or send an email to: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk



www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Habitat Regulations Assessment of Herefordshire Core Strategy Developing Options Paper

May 2008

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1. Non Technical Summary

Herefordshire Council is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 to undertake a Habitat Regulation Assessment to ensure that its plans to do not adversely affect a European important site. European Sites are designated for their habitat, flora, fauna or birds under the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive, respectively. The purpose of this report is to establish which European Sites may be affected by the Core Strategy, the first development plan document to be produced under the Local Development Framework.

A total of 18 European Sites have been identified through the screening stage of the HRA. In the case of only one of these sites was it considered clear that there would not be any adverse effects on them as a result of the contents of the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, this was Lyppard Grange Ponds in Worcestershire designated for its Great Crested Newts. It was considered that because it is located in a built up residential area, any new development in Herefordshire was unlikely to have any additional, in-combination or adverse effect on the ponds (and thus the Great Crested Newts) from recreational pressure, fish introductions or control of Stickleback. As a result this site will not be taken through to the next assessment stage.

The remaining 17 European Sites have been taken onto the second stage of the HRA, the Appropriate Assessment (AA). There was not enough evidence to rule out significant likely effects on these remaining 17 European Sites and because of the strategic level of the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options to screen any of them out at present is considered inappropriate. The Precautionary Principle was considered necessary to ensure that all the remaining Sites were assessed more fully through Appropriate Assessment.

It is expected that between the consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008 and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and this report on Habitat Regulation Assessment, that further details will be received from Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales on Conservation Objectives on some of the European Sites in order to complete Appendix 3 on the description of the European Sites. Other evidence base studies expected for the Core Strategy, which is likely to assist the HRA, should also be received between consultation and preferred Options and this will assist further in the HRA. Furthermore a workshop group of external key stakeholders will be brought together to discuss and agree the factors affecting each of the 17 European Sites and to assess the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options for any significant likely effects on the European Sites.

2. Consultation Arrangements

The consultation of this document is being undertaken in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to ensure the views of key stakeholders and members of the public help inform a more inclusive document.

Consultation will take place over an eight-week period from 16th June 2008 to the 8th August 2008. We would welcome your comments.

Any comments or suggestions you have on this document should be returned in writing to Emma Lawrence, LDF Community Involvement Officer, at the address below. A copy of this document can be found on our website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk following the Planning, Forward Planning, LDF, Core Strategy links, or is available from:

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3. Introduction

- 3.1 Herefordshire Council is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF). Part of this process involves undertaking a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) on the LDF to ensure that internationally important nature conservation sites are safeguarded. The HRA is legally required and this legislation is described in section 5.

4. Purpose of the Report

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to document the process and results of the HRA. This report is the first in a series of HRA documents that will be written through the production of the Core Strategy for Herefordshire Council. The Core Strategy will guide growth and change in the County over the next 20 years and will replace the existing adopted Unitary Development Plan, March 2007.
- 4.2 This first volume of the HRA Report is the first stage in the process, the screening stage and accompanies the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008 and Sustainability Appraisal Report. It aims to ensure that the Core Strategy complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive by identifying whether the emerging Strategic Options in the Core Strategy require an Appropriate Assessment. To ensure that the HRA criteria are being met the Council has used criteria set out in the European Commission Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites, November 2001. Appendix 4 sets out these requirements and reviews this report and indicates which section in this document covers the relevant criteria for the Directive.

5. Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- 5.1 The Habitat Regulations Assessment, Screening Stage, has been undertaken in accordance with the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive), relevant to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). This protects habitats and non-avian species of European importance. The HRA has also been undertaken in accordance with the European Directive (79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive), relevant to Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which protects bird species of European importance.
- 5.2 SAC and SPA are a network of European sites designated for their ecological status. They are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites. Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (transposed into UK law in part IV of the Habitats Regulation (The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) (amended) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007), explains the circumstances in which "Appropriate Assessments" of plans and projects are required. The UK Government Guidance on HRA from the Department of Communities and Local Government, August 2006 states that areas designated as globally important wetlands under the Ramsar Convention (1971) should also be given the same level of protection as SAC and SPA designations in the HRA process. Given this, this report collectively refers to SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites as "European Sites".

- 5.3 Appropriate Assessment is one stage of the process by which the impacts of a plan or project are assessed against the conservation objectives of a European Site, in order to identify whether there are likely to be any adverse effects on site integrity and site features. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. The scope of the HRA is dependant on the location, size and significance of the proposed Plan.
- 5.4 The Appropriate Assessment stage aims to gather further information about the proposed options and policies in order to decide if the Core Strategy, if carried out, will harm a European protected site. If the option and/or policies are found to have an adverse affect, the option and policies can only continue and be adopted by the Council if: the identified option and policies are changed so that they can not harm the site; appropriate mitigation measures that will counteract any harmful affects; or if it is deemed that the policy represents a development which is of over-riding public interest. In the later case the West Midlands Government Office must be consulted and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will inform the European Commission about the compensatory measures adopted.
- 5.5 The following is a list of guidance used in the assessment process:
- European Commission DG Environment, Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the “Habitats” Directive 92/43/EEC, Novemeber 2001;
 - Managing Natura 2000 Sites The provisions of Article 6 of the “Habitats” Directive 92/43/EEC, European Communities 2000;
 - Department for Communities and Local Government, Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment, August 2006;
 - Appropriate Assessment of Plans, September 2006, Scott Wilson *et al*; and
 - The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England A guide to why, when and how to do it, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, August 2007
- Verbal guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has also been utilised throughout the process.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 In accordance with guidance and advice the following methodology was adopted in the screening report:

Step 1: Site identification

- 6.2 The first step in the assessment process was to identify which European Sites were found within the County and within a 15km boundary of the County that may be affected by Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. Appendix 2 lists those European Sites in each neighbouring County. The map in Appendix 2A also graphically identifies where the screened European Sites are located and usefully shows them in relation to one another.

Step 2: Site Information

6.3 Appendix 3 shows all the information that has been gathered to undertake the screening stage of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008. It was completed with the assistance of several sources of information that are listed below:

- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website detailed what features had been notified for each European Site.
- The original Natura 2000 notification form provided additional information on the factors affecting the sites.
- Natural England (NE) were consulted in developing the screened sites and asked to confirm some of the Conservation Objectives, these will be notified during the formal consultation period.
- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) were also consulted on the list of screened sites and have indicated that some of the sites listed may be withdrawn at the next stage as they consider that Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy is unlikely to have a significant effect on their site integrities.
- CCW also provided some of the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites that are in Wales.
- Herefordshire Council's Planning Ecologist also provided additional general information on the environmental conditions needed to support site integrity that accompanies information on site vulnerabilities from the original Natura 2000 notification form.
- The Environment Agency were contacted with regards to Review of Consents and although the report is not yet available, it will be taken into account when it becomes available and integrated into the preferred options stage.

Step 3: Screening Assessment

6.4 The factors affecting individual European Sites, as set out in Appendix 3, were considered against the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options using a methodology in the European Commission publication Managing Natura 2000 Sites, see Appendix 5 (It shows the screening stage in blue and the appropriate assessment, to be completed at preferred options stage, in green).

6.5 When undertaking this assessment it became clear that because of the high level nature of the Strategic Options and lack of detail and insufficient evidence at this early stage, assessment of the likely significant effects on the European Sites integrities were difficult to ascertain. In light of this the precautionary principle has been used and except for the SAC designation at Lyppard Grange Ponds in Worcester, the Developing Options paper is considered to have the potential to have a significant effect upon all the other sites.

6.6 Lyppard Grange Ponds is located in a residential area in Worcestershire and is designated for its Great Crested Newts. Any development in Herefordshire is unlikely to adversely affect the Great Crested Newt, as these specie vulnerabilities are recreational pressure, fish introductions and control of Stickleback, which are unlikely to be altered by options for growth in Herefordshire.

- 6.7 It is proposed to carry all these screened sites, except Lyppard Grange Ponds, to the next HRA stage of Appropriate Assessment. Although it should be noted that the CCW have indicated that some of the screened European sites that are in Wales are unlikely to be adversely affected by proposals in Herefordshire and will therefore be removed prior to the next stage, this will be reported on in the next HRA report, at Preferred Options.

Step 4: Assessment of in combination affects

- 6.8 Appendix 1 lists all those plans and programmes that were reviewed from the General Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework, June 2007. This highlights those that are considered to potentially have in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

Step 5: Assessment of likely significant effects

- 6.9 Following consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper and on receipt of a complete set of evidence base and prior to the Preferred Options Paper being published, workshops will be held with key stakeholders. The factors affecting each of the European Sites Screened for the Appropriate Assessment will be agreed and the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options will be discussed. The policies in the Core Strategy will also be assessed. The results of these assessments will be published in the next volume of the HRA report at Preferred Options.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Herefordshire Council has consulted Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, the Planning Advisory Service, Environment Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds throughout the preparation of this screening report and has also communicated with other Authorities on their methodology to date. Although formal consultation on the HRA is not required until Preferred Options, it was considered best practice to consult key stakeholders and the public on this screening report to ensure a more inclusive Core Strategy.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1 Herefordshire Council as the responsible Authority has undertaken a screening assessment of the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008. Only one of the European Sites screened was ruled out as not having any likely significant effects and the precautionary principle was used for the remaining 17 European Sites screened because likely significant effects upon them could not be ruled out. These will be assessed in more detail in the next stage of the HRA, the Appropriate Assessment, as more information becomes available.
- 8.2 In the next HRA report, expected at Preferred Options, the European Sites to be assessed will be confirmed following the consultation on screening. The Appropriate Assessment will be detailed in this next report and the Core Strategy Objectives, Strategic Options and Core Policies will be assessed to establish any likely significant impacts upon the identified protected sites. If

necessary, the Objectives and Core Policies wording will be amended and the outcomes will guide the development of the Preferred Option to ensure that impacts are avoided in the first instance. Appendix 5 includes the methodology for the Appropriate Assessment.

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment (AA) - The process under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive by which the potential effects of a plan or project upon a Special Protection Area or Special Area of Conservation are assessed to determine whether an adverse effect can be avoided.

Birds Directive – The European Union Directive that introduced the Special Protection Area designation to ensure the protection of areas of habitat of key importance to protect certain rare, vulnerable and/or migratory European bird species.

Compensatory measures – A requirement set out in Article 6(4) where damage to a European site has been justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI – see below). The Government must ensure all necessary compensation measures are provided that protect the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network. This is normally through the creation of appropriate habitat as close as possible to where the damage will occur and fully functioning before the damage occurs.

Core Strategy – The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It is comprised of a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework, with clear objectives for achieving delivery. Once adopted, all other planning must be in conformity with it.

Development Plan – The statutory development plan is the starting point in the consideration of planning applications for the development plan will consist of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy prepared by the West Midlands Regional Planning Body, and Development Plan Documents prepared by the council.

Evidence Base - The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the 'soundness' of the policy approach set out in Local Development Documents, including physical, economic and social aspects of the area.

Flora and Fauna - Wild flowers, wild animals and native trees of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

General Scoping Report - The General Scoping Report provides a general framework for the Sustainability Appraisal of future documents being produced as part of a new planning system for Herefordshire. The existing scoping report represents the first stage in an iterative process of sustainability appraisal of the Council's Core Strategy.

Habitats Directive – The European Union Directive that introduced the Special Area of Conservation designation to ensure the protection of species and habitats of European Community interest.

Habitats Regulations – The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 no. 2716) is the mechanism by which the UK Government has implemented the Habitats Directive in England, Scotland and Wales.

Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) – A requirement set out in Article 6(4), in limited circumstances, permits a plan or project to go ahead even after an AA has identified an adverse effect to a European site.

Local Development Framework (LDF) - The Local Development Framework is not a statutory term, however, it set out, in the form of a 'portfolio/folder', the Local Development Documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for local planning authority's area. These are replacing the Unitary Development Plan.

Mitigation - Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts e.g. changing the way development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing.

Natura 2000 Network – The EU network of designated sites comprising Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Precautionary Principle – Where there is incomplete information about the nature or extent of an effect the precautionary principle requires action to be taken to prevent harm in the absence of complete certainty about the adverse effects.

Screening – This process is used to determine whether an AA is needed. This term is also used for similar procedures in EIA and SEA.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) - SACs are sites designated under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). Together with Special Protection Areas they will form the Natura 2000 network of sites.

Special Protection Areas (SPA) – Special Protection Areas are sites designated under the Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). Together with Special Areas of Conservation they will form the Natura 2000 network of sites.

Stakeholders - Groups, individuals or organisations, which may be affected by, or have a key interest in, a development proposal or planning policy. They may often be experts in their field or represent the views of many people.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainability appraisal is a systematic appraisal process. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies set within a Local Development Document from the outset of the preparation process. This will ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Review of Plans, Programmes and Policy Objectives

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
European Noise Directive 2002/49/EC	<p>The most relevant objectives of the Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures considered to address noise. 	<p>The Directive states that Member States must draw up action plans to manage noise issues and effects, including noise reduction by 18th July 2008. However, the Directive does not set 'ideal' noise limits or targets to be met by 2008.</p>	<p>Noise can impact upon habitats and particularly some species and therefore should be considered when assessing the effects of the Core Strategy on European Sites.</p>
European Sustainable Development Strategy (ESDS) 2001	<p>The ESDS focuses on four key priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy; and Managing natural resources more responsibly. 	<p>The ESDS sets a number of headline indicators to meet its priorities. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy; and Manage natural resources more responsibly. 	<p>Climate change and natural resources may have an effect on designated sites and therefore these aspects will need to be considered when assessing the effects of the Core Strategy on European Sites.</p>
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	<p>Promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources;</p> <p>Contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts; and ensure the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevent its further pollution.</p>	<p>All inland waters to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015.</p> <p>By 2010 ensure adequate contribution from key sectors to the recovery of costs of water services.</p>	<p>Water issues whether its use or protection may have an effect of designated sites and therefore this directives objectives should be considered when assessing the effects of the Core Strategy on European Sites.</p>
Kyoto Protocol to the	<p>The ultimate objective of the Convention is</p>	<p>Does not include any targets.</p>	<p>Atmospheric conditions</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1999	"to achieve stabilisation of atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system".		have a bearing on European designated sites and therefore the objectives of this directive need to be considered when assessing the effects of the Core Strategy.
European Biodiversity Strategy 1998	Aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source. A range of objectives is identified under four themes: 1. Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; 2. Sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources; 3. Research, identification and monitoring of information; and 4. Education, training and awareness.	No specific targets identified.	Sustainable biodiversity is key to European designated sites and therefore the objectives of this directive will need to be considered when assessing the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC	The Directive seeks to define and establish objectives for ambient air quality to avoid, reduce or prevent harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.	Prescribes limit values for certain pollutants that all member states must meet. These targets must be adopted into UK legislation.	European designated sites may be impacted upon by air quality and therefore the objectives of this directive need to be considered when assessing the impacts of the HRA of the Core Strategy.
EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of	The aim of the Habitats Directive is to create a coherent European ecological network known as Natura 2000. This will	Concerns flora, fauna and natural habitats of EU importance. Seeks to establish a framework of	The Habitats Directive is the reason why the HRA on the Core

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) 1992	consist of a series of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which will protect habitats and species of Community interest.	protected areas and ensure biodiversity.	Strategy is to be done and therefore must be in conformity with it.
The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future, DTI – March 2005	<p>The following objectives are considered to be the most relevant for the HRA:</p> <p>Living within environmental limits – respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity, to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.</p> <p>Using sound science responsibly – ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.</p>	<p>The Strategy introduces a set of high-level indicators; the <i>UK Framework Indicators</i> to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas shared across the UK.</p> <p>There will also be a mix of indicators, targets and performance measures in the individual strategies for the UK Government.</p>	<p>The relevant objectives' of this Plan identify what is needed to achieve sustainability within the natural environment. These objectives should be followed during the production of the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
The Planning Response to Climate Change, ODPM – September 2004	<p>Provides planning professionals with an overview of current thinking and state of knowledge on planning response to climate change.</p> <p>It aims to stimulate planners to look for new strategies to respond to climate change in partnership with developers and the wider community.</p> <p>It aims to strengthen policies that will mitigate and reduce greenhouse gas</p>	<p>The main relevant targets for HRA are as follows:</p> <p>LPA's must be familiar with the UK's commitment to its climate change programme.</p> <p>Recognise the availability of water resources in formulating development plans.</p> <p>Include climate change sensitive policies on biodiversity and</p>	<p>The impacts of climate change could have implications for European designated sites and therefore an understanding, and where appropriate, implementation of the programme's objectives from the</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	emissions.	<p>landscape. Set a context in which there is less need for travel. Set out a framework for minimising greenhouse gas emission.</p>	ODPM should be considered during the production of the HRA for the Core Strategy.
Rural Strategy 2004, DEFRA – July 2004	<p>The strategy reviews the Rural White Paper, 2000 after the creation of DEFRA in 2001. It sets out a new devolved and targeted approach to rural policy and delivery over the next 3-5 years. There are three priorities for rural policy of which one is relevant for the purposes of the HRA, this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing the value of our countryside – protecting the natural environment. 	<p>The target most relevant for the HRA is to, make the countryside more accessible and promote sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>The relevant objective and associated target of this strategy may have impacts on designated sites and therefore these should be considered when assessing the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
The First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004-2006, DEFRA – 2004	<p>Contains 52 sections, ranging from soil management on farms to soils in the planning system, soils & biodiversity, contamination of soils & the role of soils in conserving cultural heritage & landscape. All actions make a step towards more sustainable soil use and protection.</p>	<p>No specific targets. This is partly due to there being no right or wrong type of soil, for national targets to be set against.</p>	<p>Soils can have a significant impact on designated sites and as such the objectives of this Plan need to be taken into consideration when conducting the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reforms	<p>Agenda 2000:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further reduction in intervention support; ▪ Introduced the Rural Development Regulation. <p>2004 Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage farmers to produce what the market wants, getting away from 	<p>Reform will happen by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking away the incentive to ‘farm for the subsidy’ – via decoupling; ▪ Committing the farmer to environmental stewardship – via cross compliance; 	<p>Agricultural practices may have a significant impact on designated sites and therefore the objectives and targets of this Plan should be considered when</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<p>'farming for subsidies';</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove the environmentally negative incentives; ▪ Improve and provide encouragement for more sustainable farming practices. <p>Provide more money for rural development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintaining some form of income support – via the single farm payment (SFP); <p>Divert part of farmers SFP to rural development funds.</p>	<p>assessing the HRA for the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Energy White Paper, DTI – Feb 2003</p>	<p>Energy White Paper proposes to ensure that a strategic approach to energy is developed and implemented in each region. It is based on four goals and the following is the most relevant in terms of the HRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. 	<p>Achieve carbon cuts of between 15-25 million tonnes of carbon in 2020.</p> <p>UK has a Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-12.</p>	<p>Carbon dioxide could have an impact on designated sites and therefore the objective and targets mentioned in this Plan should be considered when assessing the HRA for the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England, DEFRA – 2002</p>	<p>The Strategy builds on the Biodiversity Action Plan, 1994 and aims to embed biodiversity in policy and decisions and society as a whole. The most relevant issues it addresses for the purposes of the HRA are as follows:</p> <p>Agriculture – encouraging the management of farmland and agricultural land so as to conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Water – whole catchment approach to wise, sustainable use of water and wetlands.</p> <p>Woodland – management and extension of woodland to promote and enhance biodiversity and quality of life.</p>	<p>Strategy aims to ensure biodiversity considerations are embedded in all sections of public policy. Sets out key species for concern in different environments.</p> <p>Aims to bring 95% of SSSIs into favourable condition by 2010.</p> <p>Aims to reverse the decline of farmland birds.</p>	<p>Agriculture, water and woodland environments are all important aspects for consideration when assessing the core strategy in terms of the HRA. Many European designated sites are made up of SSSIs and therefore the target on favourable condition will be directly relevant. All these points should be taken into consideration when</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
Directing the Flow – Priorities for Future Water Policy (Nov 2002)	Sets out what the priorities for policy on water should be in England over the longer term. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prudent use of water resources and keeping its use within the limits of its replenishment; ▪ Tackling agricultural and urban diffuse pollution of water; ▪ Achieving better integration between water and other policies and between different aspects of water policy. 	The document sets out a number of priorities for water but these mainly outline future actions and strategies rather than targets.	carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy. These Plan's objectives may be key in the protection of European designated sites and as such need to be incorporated into the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)	The Act makes provision for public access to the countryside and to enable traffic regulation orders to be made for the purpose of conserving and enhancing areas natural beauty and to further protect the AONB.		There is potential for European designated sites to be located in or near to an AONB and therefore the objectives of this Plan need to be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Air Quality Strategy for the UK, Working together for clean air, DETR – Jan 2000	Aims to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK in the medium term. Sets objectives for 8 main air pollutants to protect health. Performance against these objectives will be regularly monitored.	Contains a number of national air quality targets that were updated by DEFRA in August 2002.	Air quality is an important element of the protection of European designated sites. Although these objectives mention pollutants to protect human health, these improvements will also

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development, ODPM – 2005	Sustainable development is identified as the key principle underlying planning. Planning is charged with addressing sustainable development in 5 key ways, the following is the most relevant of these in terms of HRA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities. 	No specific targets.	contribute to better environmental health for flora and fauna. As such this Plan should be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy. By fulfilling this objective protection is likely for European designated sites and therefore it should be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, ODPM – 2004	Key national objectives: To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas that are 7 main elements of promotion, 3 of these are relevant for the purposes of the HRA, these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good quality, sustainable development that respects local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside; and ▪ A high level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources. ▪ To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors. 	No specific targets.	These 3 objectives of the Plan may have significant impacts on European designated sites and therefore they need to be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
PPG8: Telecommunications, ODPM – 2001	Overall objective is to facilitate the growth of new communications systems in order to provide people with a wider choice, while protecting human health and keeping environmental impact to a minimum.	No specific targets.	Telecommunication services may be located in or near to a European designated site and as such the Plans objective needs to be considered during the HRA of the Core Strategy.
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, ODPM – 2005	The Government's objectives for conserving and enhancing biological diversity are to promote sustainable development, conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology and contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity.	No specific targets.	Biological and geological diversity may have an impact on European designated sites and as such the Plans objective(s) need to be considered in the HRA of the Core Strategy.
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks, ODPM 2004	The policies in PPS12 focus on procedural policy and the process of preparing local development documents (these will comprise the Local Development Framework). The Core Strategy should set out key elements of the planning framework for the area, the long-term spatial vision and the strategic policies required to deliver that vision. The core strategy development plan document should draw on any strategies of the local authority and other organisations that have implications for the development	No specific targets.	This Plan identifies the process for the preparation of the Core Strategy and identifies the need for such Plans to carry out HRA amongst others. The production of a HRA therefore must be in conformity with the Plan.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
PPG21: Tourism, ODPM – 1992	<p>and use of land.</p> <p>This PPG outlines the economic significance of tourism and its environmental impact, and therefore its importance in land-use planning. It explains how the needs of tourism should be dealt with in development plans and in development control.</p> <p>The broad principles and general criteria that are relevant to most types of tourist development are set out in the PPG, although it does not deal in detail with each type of development.</p> <p>Chapter 5 contains advice on large scale and innovative projects, whilst Annexes A and B provide policy guidance on hotel and on holiday and touring caravan developments.</p>	No specific targets.	The PPG, in identifying what the environmental impacts of tourism are, may contain relevant information for the HRA of the Core Strategy and should be used in the assessment process when identifying significant effects for this reason.
PPS22: Renewable Energy, ODPM – 2003	<p>The Government's policy on renewable energy will contribute to sustainable development objectives, the most relevant of these for the HRA ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases and thereby reducing the potential for the environment to be affected by climate change. <p>Government objectives in relation to renewable energy are set out in full in the Energy White Paper.</p>	The Government has set a target to generate 10% of UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2010 and 20% by 2020.	By creating more sources of renewable energy, reductions in greenhouse gases can be predicted, which will benefit the European designated sites. This objective should be considered when undertaking the HRA for the Core Strategy.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control, ODPM, 2004	In accordance with national policies, the Government expects LPA's to adopt a strategic approach to integrate their land use planning processes with plans and strategies for the control, mitigation and removal of pollution, as far as it is possible and practicable to do so. The overall aim of planning and pollution control policy is to ensure the sustainable and beneficial use of land (and in particular encouraging reuse of previously developed land in preference to greenfield sites). Within this aim, polluting activities that are necessary for society and the economy should also be so sited and planned, and subject to such planning conditions, that their adverse effects are minimised and contained to within acceptable limits. Opportunities should be taken wherever possible to use the development process to assist and encourage the remediation of land already affected by contamination.	No specific targets.	Regard for the Programmes objectives is required when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy to ensure the safeguarding of European designated sites as they could be adversely affected by pollution.
PPG24: Planning and Noise, ODPM – 1994	The planning system should ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise (such as road, rail and air transport and certain types of industrial development). It is equally important that new development involving noisy activities should, if possible, be sited away from noise-sensitive land uses. Where it is not possible to achieve such a separation of	No specific targets.	Noise can affect habitats and the species that occupy them and as such under the objective that refers to development away from noise sensitive land uses, the natural environment, including

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	land uses, local planning authorities should consider whether it is practicable to control or reduce noise levels, or to mitigate the impact of noise.		European designated sites, are included here. As such the objectives of this Plan should be taken into account when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Regional Regional Sustainable Development Framework Jun 06	There are 4 main objectives of this regional Plan, the following 2 are those most relevant in terms of the HRA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure natural resource protection and environmental enhancement • Reduce overall energy use and increase use of renewable sources 	No specific targets	Protecting natural resources and using energy more efficiently could both have significant impacts on European designated sites. As such these objectives should be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Restoring the Region's Wildlife: The Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands, Final Draft, January 2005	Maintaining and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop a coordinated and integrated spatial framework, incorporating other aspects such as landscape and historic elements as appropriate • Establish spatial biodiversity objectives for the region, linking to the habitat targets. 	Twenty-three UK priority habitats occur in the West Midlands, and a much larger number of priority species, and each of these has targets for their maintenance, restoration and creation or expansion. A set of regional habitat targets has been included in the RSS and the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership is continuing to work with local biodiversity partnerships	The European designated sites will form part of this regional biodiversity strategy and therefore the Plans objectives need to be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems 	to further develop these.	
<p>A Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands, Environment Agency 2005</p>	<p>Underpinning principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prudent and sustainable use of natural resources to seek the efficient use of water while bringing forward timely proposals for resource development (the 'twin-track' approach) the need for the strategy to be robust to uncertainty and change where there is uncertainty about the consequences of a proposal, decisions taken should ensure that the environment is protected (the 'precautionary principle') <p>Water abstraction cut-backs are necessary in some areas to improve the environment. Water resource options that are flexible to the possible impacts of climate change are preferred.</p>	<p>Estimates of reductions in groundwater licences required to achieve sustainable levels of abstraction amount to up to 100 MI/d region-wide.</p> <p>By 2025, the Agency expects to see water savings of up to 140 MI/d compared to the highest growth scenario, in addition to water savings through maintaining current active leakage control targets</p>	<p>European designated sites are likely to be significantly affected by water resources. Therefore this Plans objectives need to be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Valuing People and Places: Priorities for Action, Culture West Midlands, June 2005</p>	<p>There are 6 main objectives of this Plan, x are considered relevant for the purposes of the HRA, these are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved management and promotion of nationally and internationally significant cultural destinations, for example SSSI's and AONB's Encouraging partnership working aimed at improving the 		<p>European designated sites are covered in this Plan for improvement and promotion; partnership working; and joint working with local community groups and the like. These objectives have an</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
<p>Enriching our Region: An environmental manifesto for the West Midlands, West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum, 2005</p>	<p>development and delivery of cultural opportunities, at neighbourhood, local, sub-regional and regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of joint working with local services and community groups to improve cultural opportunities in disadvantaged urban and rural areas 		<p>impact on the HRA both in the process followed to assess the Core Strategy (partnership working etc) and through the potential risk that promotion of such sites may have. These objectives should therefore be considered when undertaking the HRA for the Core Strategy.</p>
	<p>There are 35 actions required to achieve the vision for 2025, of these 16 are most relevant in terms of the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce consumption of natural resources • West Midlands to become a leader in energy efficiency • Promoting consumption of local raw materials • Equitable protection from effects of development • Encourage new ways of working • Amended food policy in favour of local producers • Concentrating housing and economic development in urban areas • Design car free communities 		<p>The objectives may have a significant impact on European designated sites in one capacity or another. Understanding and acknowledging these will be important in the undertaking of the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No large development in rural areas • Sensitive planning • Greater care of natural assets • Planning policies to recognise and provide for quality, diversity and distinctiveness of landscapes • Radical improvement in air quality • Recovery of threatened wildlife species • Expansion of important habitats • Introduce water conservation measures 		
Regional Spatial Strategy: West Midlands (formerly Regional Planning Guidance – RPG) 11 - June 2004	<p>There are 8 main objectives of the RSS and of these 1 is most relevant for the HRA, this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the quality of the environment is conserved and enhanced across all parts of the region 	<p>The most relevant headline indicator is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the number of days (i.e. fewer) with poor air quality. 	<p>This general objective applies to European designated sites and therefore its aim will need to be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy – 2004	<p>The energy strategy has 4 main objectives, 2 of these are most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve energy efficiency; and • To increase use of renewable energy. 	<p>Targets aimed for include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing industrial CO2 emissions by 2.4 Mt (18%) by 2010 and an additional 4.3Mt (32%) by 2020 • Reducing commercial and public sector emissions by 2.0Mt (36%) by 2010, with a 1.5 Mt (26%) reduction by 2020 • Reducing domestic 	<p>These objectives are relevant to the HRA in terms of the location of such development and the air quality resulting from them, both these factors could have an impact on a European designated site and as such these objectives need to be considered</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
		<p>emissions by 2.4Mt (195) by 2010 and an additional 3.7Mt (29%) by 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilise transport emissions by 2010 and reduce by 0.7Mt (7%) by 2020 • Target of 1,000 MWe by 2010 for production of Combined Heat and Power • 10% of electricity consumption by 2010 to be from renewable energy • Production of 460 GWh of liquid biofuels per year by 2010 	<p>when undertaking the HRA for the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework 2004: Growing our Future</p>	<p>There are 6 main objectives of this Programme and of these 3 are most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet national targets for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the priority habitats and species of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) • Protect and enhance ancient and/or semi-natural woodland • Clarify the contribution of the woodland and forestry sector to air quality, soil quality, protect water quality and conserve water resources both at a national and 		<p>The objectives may have a significant impact on European designated sites in one capacity or another. Understanding and acknowledging these will be important in the undertaking of the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy (see RSS) – 2004	<p>local level through appropriate woodland creation and management</p> <p>There are 6 main objectives of this Plan, 2 of which are most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Congestion • Protection of the environment 		The impacts of air quality and general environmental conditions on European designated sites may be significant and as such will need to be considered when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.
The West Midlands Rural Delivery Framework 2006	<p>There are 3 high level Government's priority strands for rural policy and 1 of these is relevant in terms of the HRA, this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the value of our countryside- protecting the natural environment for this and future generations 	<p>There are 3 main targets within the Plan and again 1 of these is relevant for the HRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All policies and strategies include both mitigation and adaptation measures 	The Plan's identified objective and target (although in terms of the Habitats Directive and UK Regulations avoidance should be sought prior to the need for mitigation or compensatory measures for European designated sites), should be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.
Regional Sustainable Development Strategy Feb 2000	<p>There are 4 main objectives of this Programme, 2 of which are most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and protect the 		These objectives should be considered in the HRA of the Core Strategy as they may

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> environment Ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources. 		have impacts on European designated sites.
Herefordshire Community Strategy –June 2006	<p>There are 5 guiding principles of this plan, 3 of which are considered most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate sustainability into all our actions Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment Build on the achievements of partnership working and ensure continual improvement 		The objectives of this Plan are more procedural than directly applicable to impacts likely on a European designated site. However, the identified guiding principles need to be considered in the undertaking of the HRA of the Core Strategy as non-compliance may result in negative impacts on such sites.
Herefordshire Cultural Strategy 2004	<p>There are 10 ambitions of the strategy and 1 of these is considered most relevant in terms of the HRA, this is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinct environment – promote and preserve the historic and rural landscape, with schemes linked to tourism, distinctiveness and archaeological sites. 	<p>There are 8 Key targets for the strategy, 4 are most relevant for the HRA as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase visitor numbers to specific sites and activities Increase the number of people travelling to work or school or for recreation by cycling and walking Increase visitor numbers and visitor spend 	The objective and identified targets will need to be considered during the HRA of the Core Strategy as a balance will need to be struck with increases in visitor numbers and their activities. These factors may adversely impact upon European designated sites, e.g.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan 2005/2008 "Action for a better Herefordshire"	<p>The Corporate Plan identifies the need to involve communities in establishing objectives and working in partnership and highlights priorities for council investment. There are 4 top sustainability objectives for this period within the Plan and 1 of these is relevant for the HRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the environment, including by recycling much more waste and significantly reducing carbon emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schemes to identify, protect and enhance the County's natural and historic landscape <p>Numerous detailed targets are identified in the Plan and some of these may be relevant for the purposes of the HRA.</p>	<p>effects of trampling, noise and pollution from more vehicles.</p> <p>Air and soil quality are important factors in European designated sites and therefore this identified objective and any appropriate targets will need to be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
Herefordshire Council Corporate Environmental Strategy 2005-2011	<p>To meet their commitments Herefordshire Council has identified 8 actions it will do, 6 of these are considered most relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make efficient use of natural resources including water, heat and electricity and promote the use and development of appropriate sources of renewable energy and recycled products Take action to prevent pollution and minimise environmental risks Implement a waste strategy to reduce the amount of waste entering the waste stream and increase recycling, while ensuring that all waste generated is dealt 		<p>In the assessment of effects of the Core Strategy on European designated sites for the HRA, regard will need to be given to these objectives.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
<p>Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy 2005/6-2011/12</p>	<p>with in a way that reduces its impact on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the challenges posed by climate change by significantly reducing carbon emissions from its own activities and acting, where possible, to address and mitigate wider potential impacts • Protect natural habitats and species to maintain and improve the wealth of biodiversity in the county • Provide a planning system that ensures that development is sustainable 		
	<p>Reduce emissions of Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per head of population per year • Reduce the fossil fuel and electricity consumption of operational council properties <p>Support and promote energy efficient measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the average street lamp circuit wattage • Improve the energy efficiency of all housing sectors • Reduce the energy consumption of operational Council properties <p>Support and promote the use of renewable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from activities directly controlled by the council or upon which it has an influence by 1.25% per year to 2012 • To secure 100% renewable electricity for operational Council properties 	<p>These objectives appear to be more relevant to the Council as an organisation rather than there implications for the County as a whole, however, there objectives, in principle, will need to be considered when embarking on the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<p>energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the use of renewable energy sources where they are economically and environmentally sustainable, through the Unitary Development Plan. 		
Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, 2005	<p>Protect and enhance the county's biodiversity assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the condition of Council owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan complete with an effective monitoring, reporting and review system Protect and enhance the biodiversity on Council owned land 		Some European designated sites incorporate SSSIs and any monitoring or enhancements schemes may have an impact on the European designated sites. As such the HRA will need to take account of these objectives when assessing the Core Strategy.
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2 2006/7- 2010/11	<p>This Plan has 4 main shared priorities in Herefordshire LTP2 objectives, 3 of these are, in part considered appropriate for the HRA, these are:</p> <p>Tackling Congestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced congestion Increased use of sustainable modes of travel <p>Safer Roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use of sustainable modes of travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing Bus Patronage by nearly 80,000 journeys by 2010/11 Increasing Cycling Trips by 18% by 2010/11 	Air quality has an impact on European designated sites and therefore this Plans objectives will need to be taken into account when carrying out the HRA of the Core Strategy.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<p>Better Air Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarded environment • Reduced congestion • Increased use of sustainable modes of travel 		
<p>Herefordshire Carbon Management Plan, 2005/6 – 2011/12</p>	<p>The broad objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adoption of a carbon management hierarchy based on avoidance - minimisation of energy use, efficiency – Increased efficiency of energy use and; renewables – switching to renewable energy, including electricity • Alignment of the CMAP with the Herefordshire Partnership climate change strategy, including adoption of targets for Herefordshire council's contribution to emissions reduction • The identification of changes to council policies and procedures designed to enable the furtherance of the CMAP, by the adoption of low cost energy measures in corporate buildings and schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council target is to achieve a 12.5% reduction on the 2002 base-line by 2012 and a total 20% reduction by 2020. • total emissions from waste management are projected to reduce to around 25% of 1990 levels by 2020. • Sourcing at least 10% electricity from renewable sources by 31 March 2008, sourcing at least 15% of electricity from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) by 2010. 	<p>Air quality can have a significant impact on European designated sites and therefore the objectives of this Plan need to be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan 1996 – 2011 – Adopted March 2007</p>	<p>There are 4 main objectives of the UDP that will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development, by developing land use policies and proposals, 2 are appropriate in terms of the HRA and these help ensure:</p>	<p>The Annual Monitoring Report will set out core output indicators, local indicators and significant effects indicators.</p>	<p>The general objectives of this Plan to contribute to sustainable development will impact upon European</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
<p>Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2004 - 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment and of Herefordshire's environmental capacity; and • sustainable use of natural resources. <p>Future management objectives for the Malvern Hills include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent encroachments – this principle refers to encroachments resulting from enclosure of land or building • To keep the Hills open and unbuilt on for the benefit, recreation and enjoyment of the public. To provide opportunities for informal outdoor recreation by the public, both visitor and resident. • To conserve and enhance the character and quality of the existing landscape – this includes all types of natural flora and fauna. To conserve and enhance the existing wildlife of the Hills and Commons. • To protect the interests of the commoners • To improve the public's knowledge, understanding and respect for the Malvern Hills • To have regard for the social and economic well-being of the people living in the area in a manner 		<p>designated sites and therefore these objectives will need to be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Although the Malvern Hills are not designated at a European level it should be accepted that these areas are often passages for wildlife to move from place to place and as such could be important in the preservation of the European designated sites in and around the county. Therefore, the objectives of this Plan should be considered when undertaking the HRA of the Core Strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
Wye Valley AONB Management Plan, 2004-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compatible with the conservators' other purposes • To seek influence on planning control and development in the area to ensure that this is not inconsistent with the objectives of the conservators • To conserve and enhance, where this is needed, the natural beauty of the landscape in the Wye Valley AONB, with its natural and cultural features and processes • To conserve, enhance and restore the characteristic biodiversity • To conserve and enhance the geodiversity of the AONB • To conserve, safeguard and enhance the historic environment of the AONB, with its wealth of cultural associations • To foster viable farming enterprises that manage the land in ways that protect the natural resources and distinctiveness of the AONB and to enhance them where need arises • To ensure woodland throughout the Wye Valley AONB is managed sustainably in a way that protects and enhances the outstanding semi natural wooded character of the area, and provides economic, environmental and social benefits 	<p>There are 17 targets / indicators for 2009 14 of which are relevant for the HRA, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% of average domestic energy requirement in the AONB generated from renewable sources within the AONB • No new over ground lines affecting skylines or important views • No new aggregate quarries in the AONB • No net loss of tree cover • No decrease in ancient woodland • Increase in farmland and hedgerow trees planted and protected • No loss of habitats or features due to inappropriate agricultural practices • 10% of AONB in higher tier agri-environment 	<p>The Wye Valley AONB is not designated at the European level, however similarly to the Malvern Hills AONB it has European designated sites within it (important for bats) and furthermore the area it covers is accepted as potentially being a safe haven for species which may move between natural habitats which may include European designated sites. Therefore it is considered necessary to include this Plan when undertaking the HRA for the Core Strategy.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Most Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to HRA of the Core Strategy	Implications for HRA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That sustainable tourism, based upon the natural beauty and local distinctiveness of the AONB, continues to enrich the lives of visitors, operators and employees while contributing positively to the conservation and enhancement of the area. 	<p>schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase area of farmland under agri-environment schemes and organic farming No increase in light pollution from within the AONB Increase in affordable housing in AONB Increased markets for local organic and woodland produce Increase in use of renewable energy, such as wood fuel, and recycling Increased use of public transport, town and village facilities by recreation users 	

Appendix 2 - European Sites in Herefordshire County and within a 15km boundary of the County

Herefordshire

River Clun
Downton Gorge
River Wye (shared with Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire and Powys)
Wye Valley Woodlands (shared with Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire)

Shropshire

The Stiperstones
The Hollies (unclear to locality/scale on map)

Worcestershire

Lyppard Grange Ponds (unclear to locality/scale on map) – unlikely to be significant as a pond!

Gloucestershire

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites (7 sites within Gloucestershire)
Walmore Common
River Wye (shared with Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and Powys)
Wye Valley Woodlands (Runs from border of Herefordshire and between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire)
Severn Estuary
Cotswold Beechwoods and Radborough Common are on GIS map but outside 15km boundary.

Monmouthshire

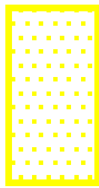
Coed y Cerrig
Sugar Loaf Woodlands
River Usk
Cwm Cldach Woodlands
Usk Bat Site (Between Powys and Monmouthshire)
River Wye (shared with Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Powys)
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Site
Wye Valley Woodlands (shared with Herefordshire and Gloucestershire)

Powys

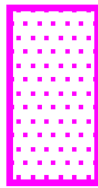
Rhos Goch
River Wye (shared with Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire)
Drostre Bank (unclear on GIS map of its location/scale)
Llangorse Lake
Usk Bat Sites (shared with Monmouthshire)

European Designated Sites

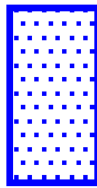
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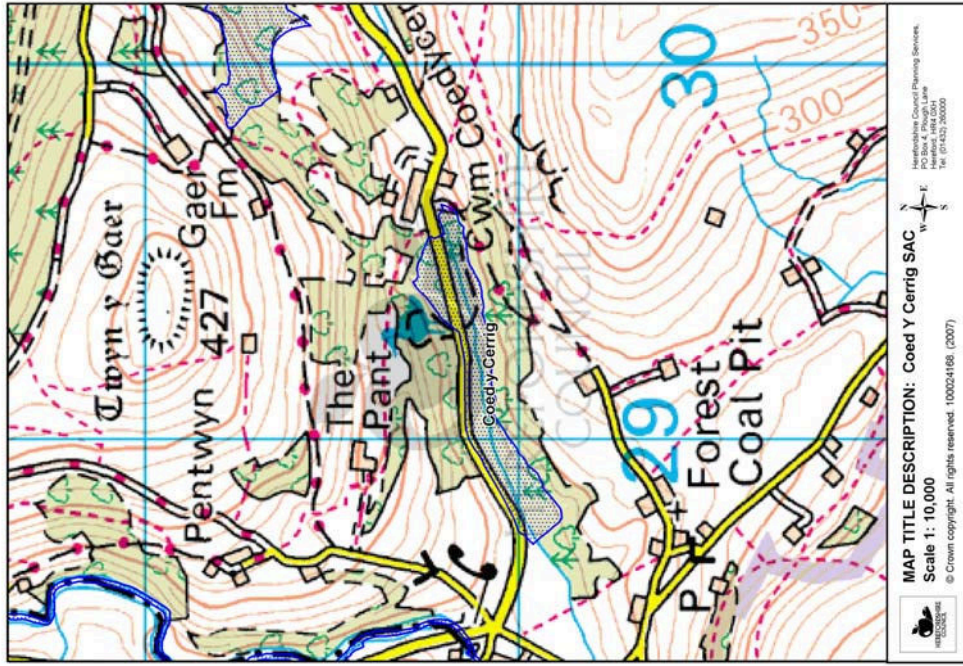
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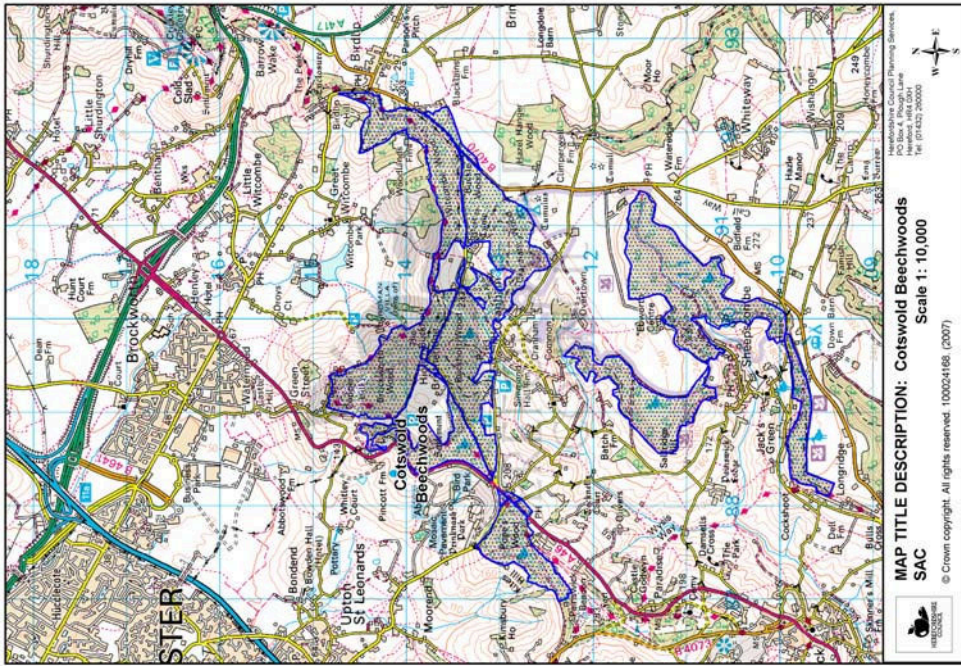
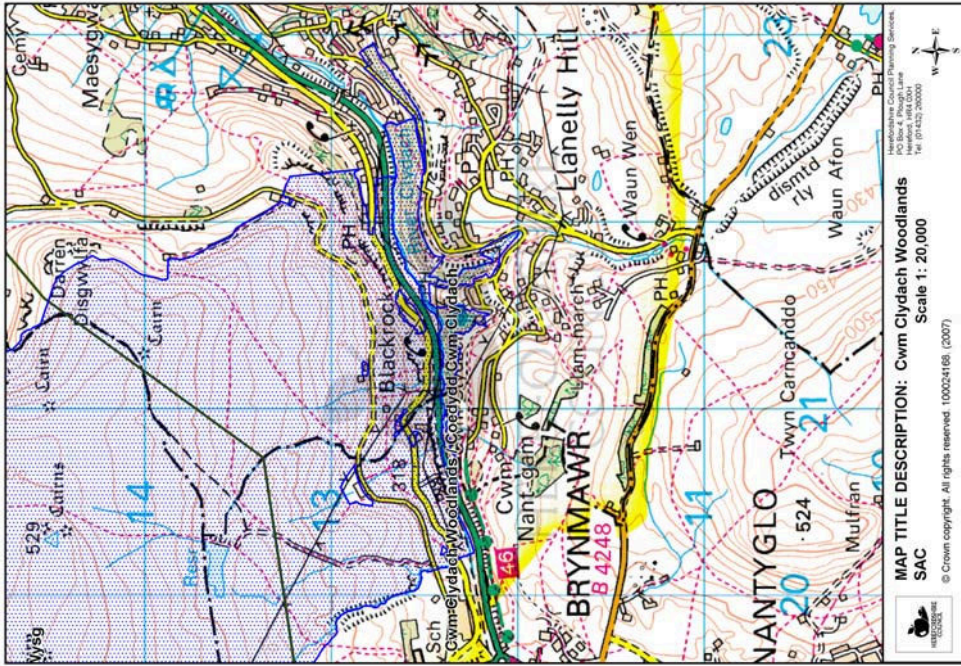


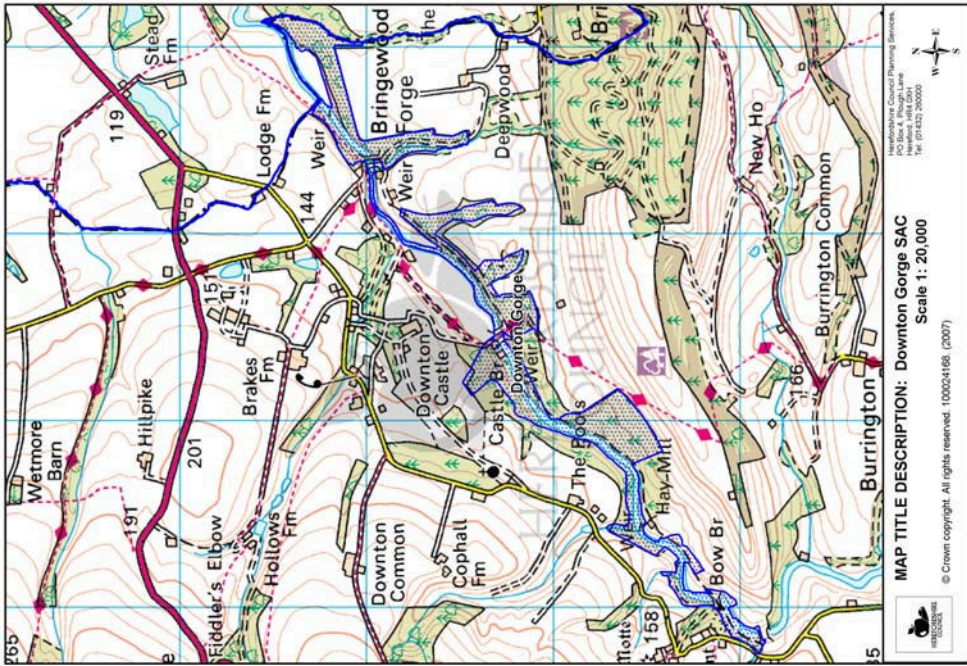
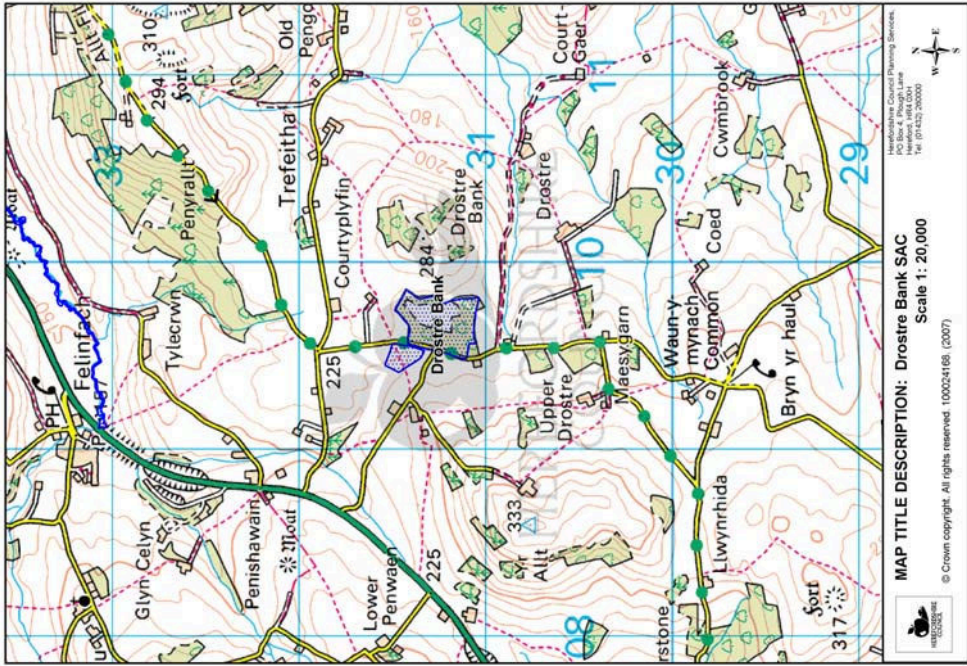
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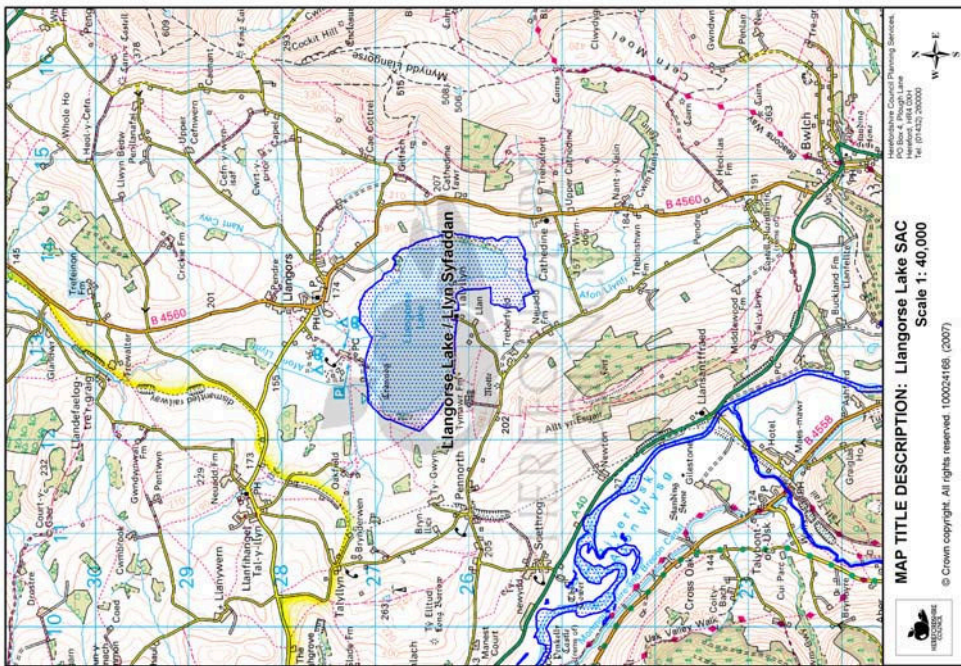
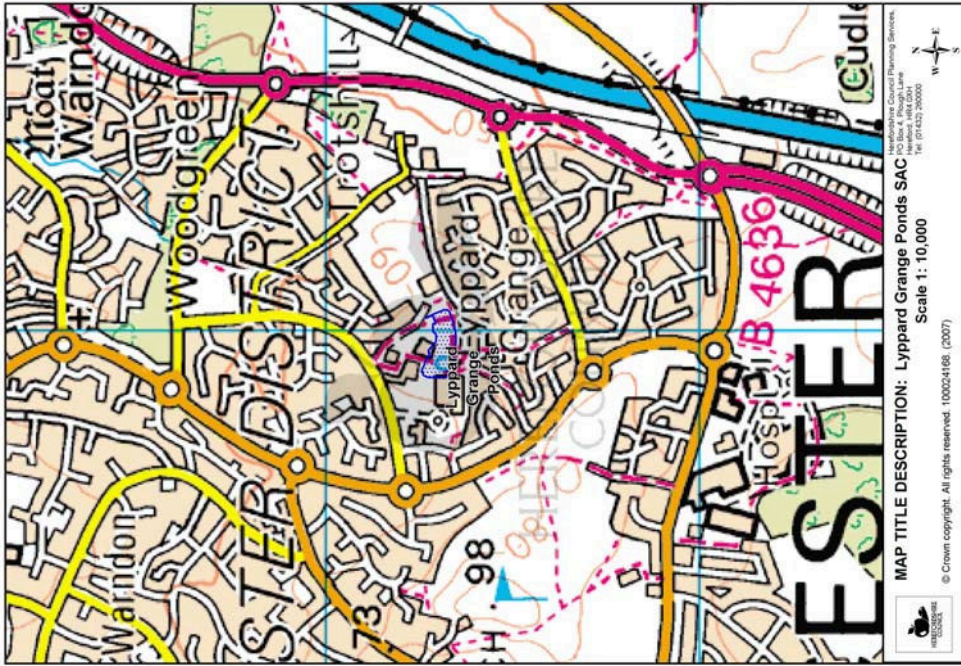


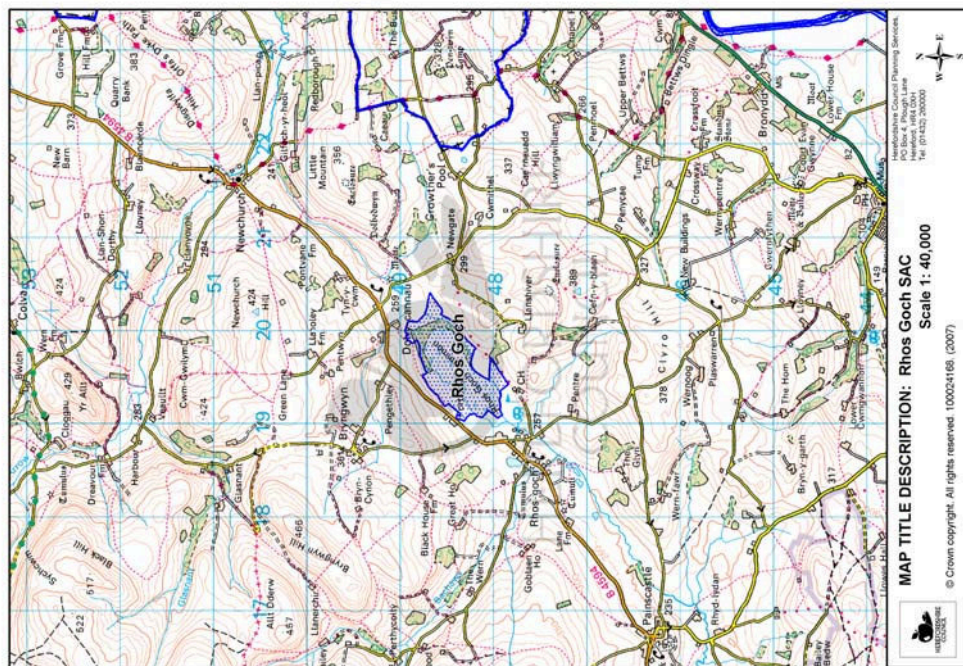
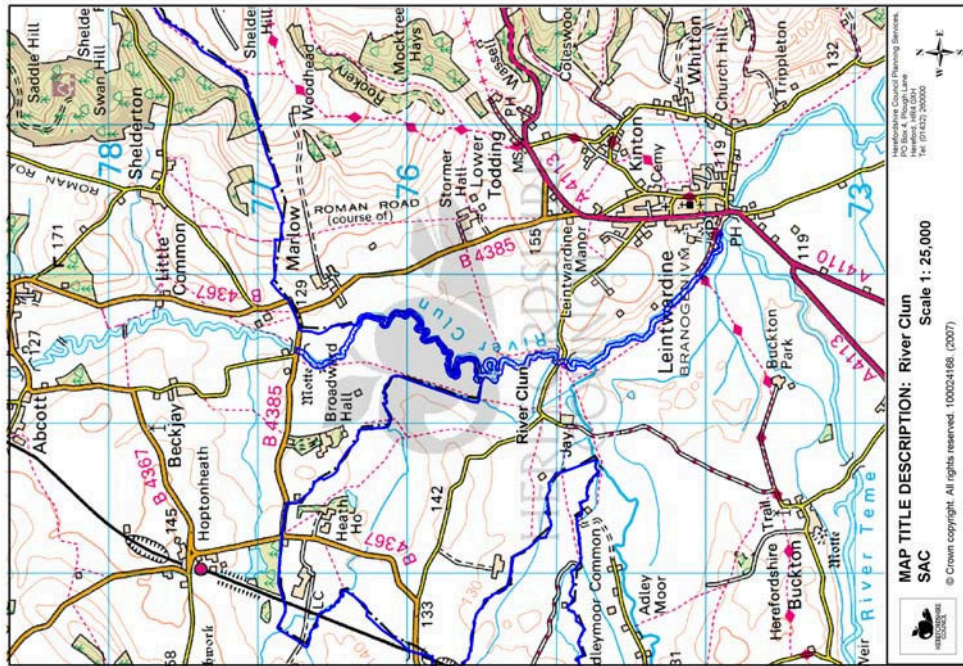
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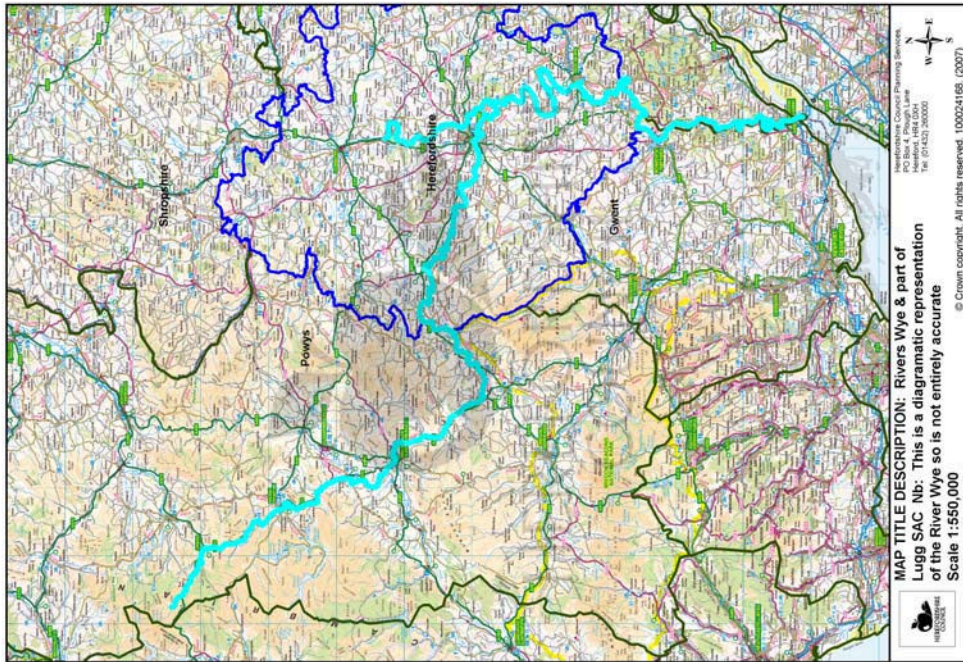


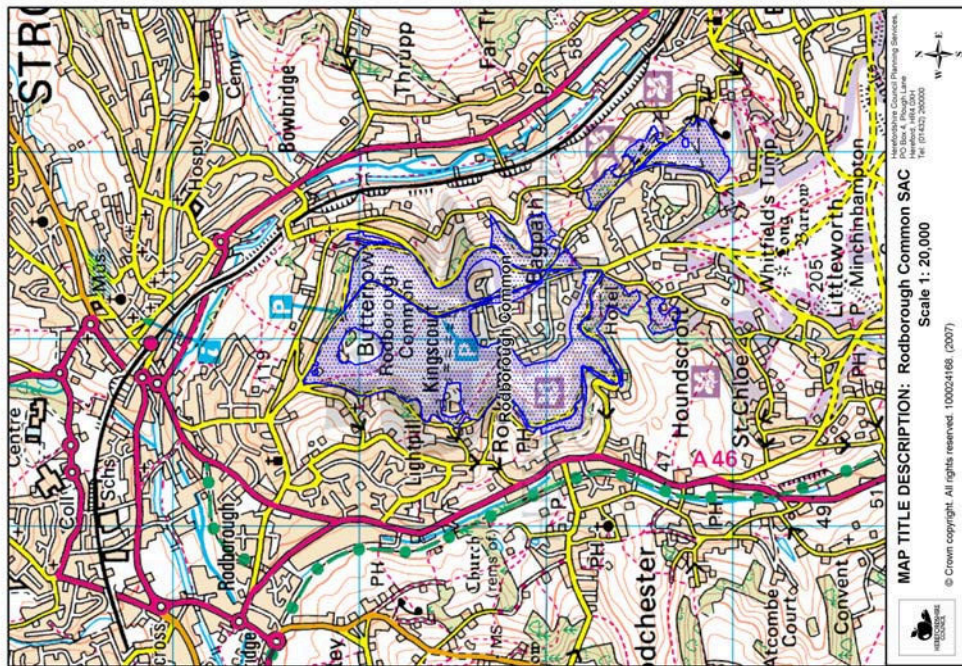
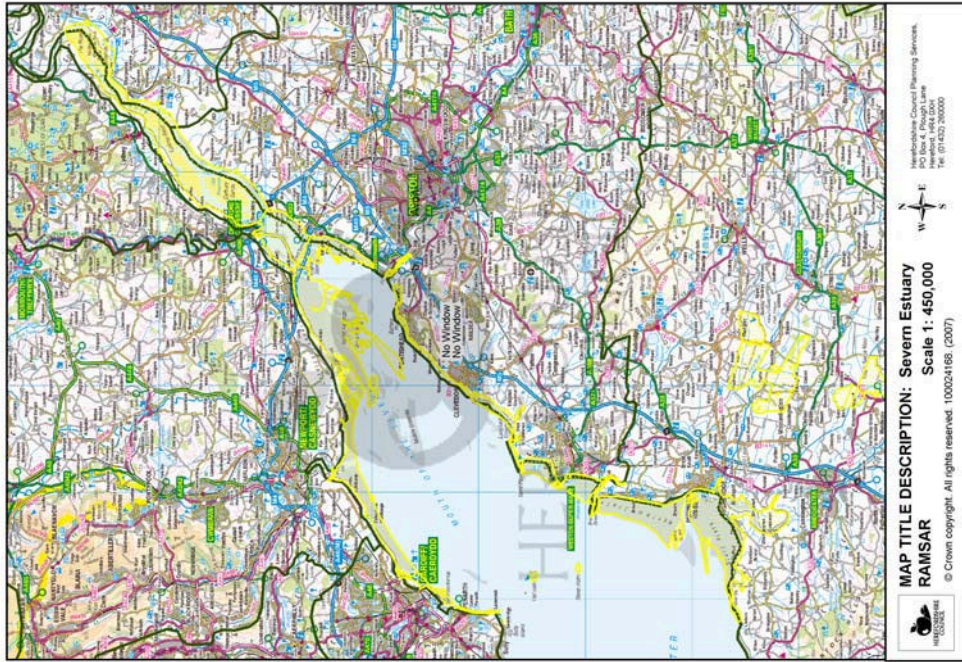


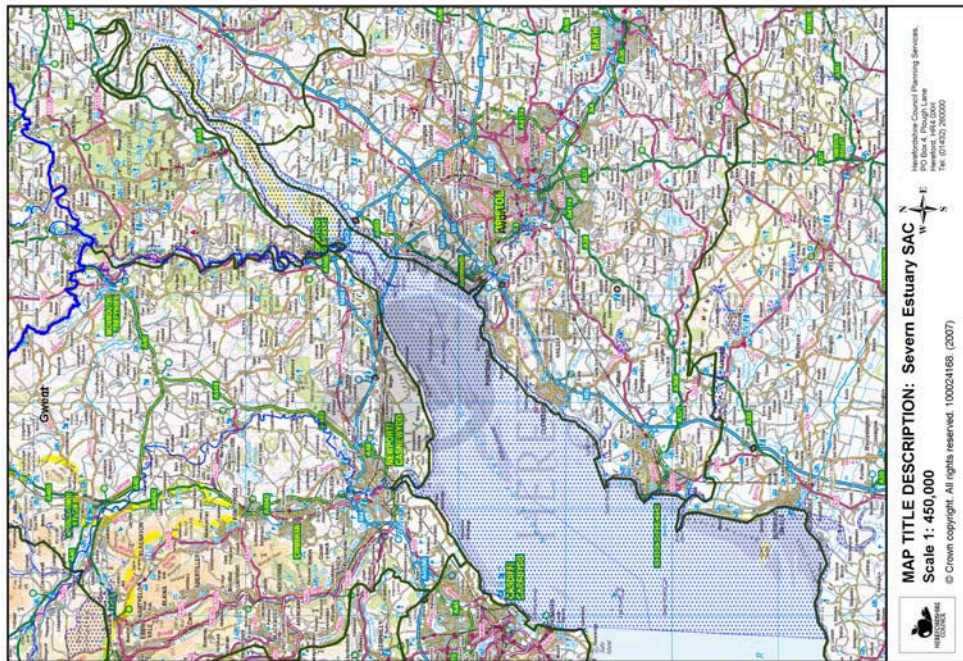
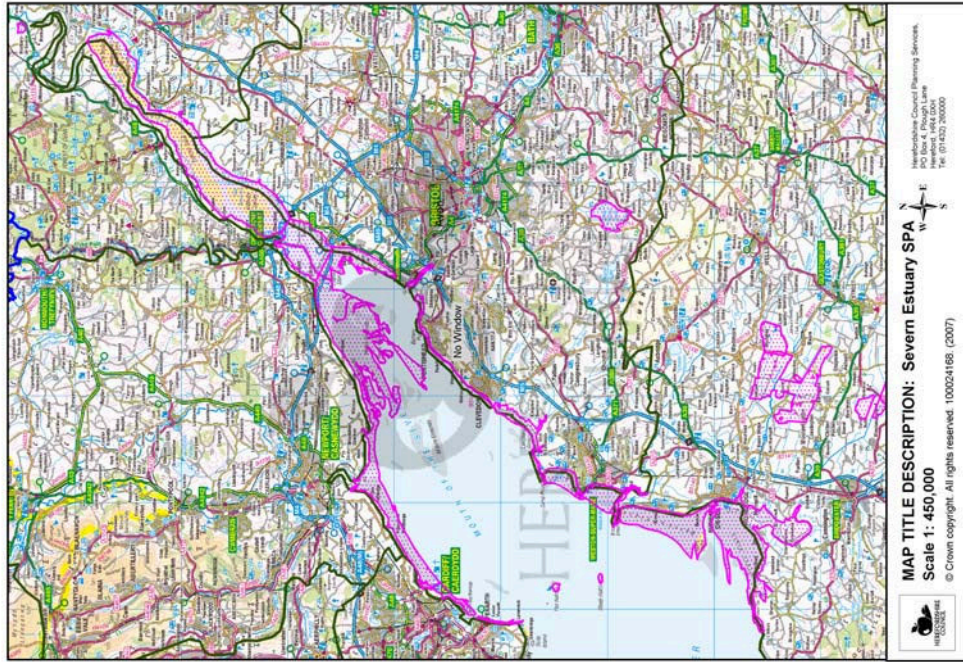


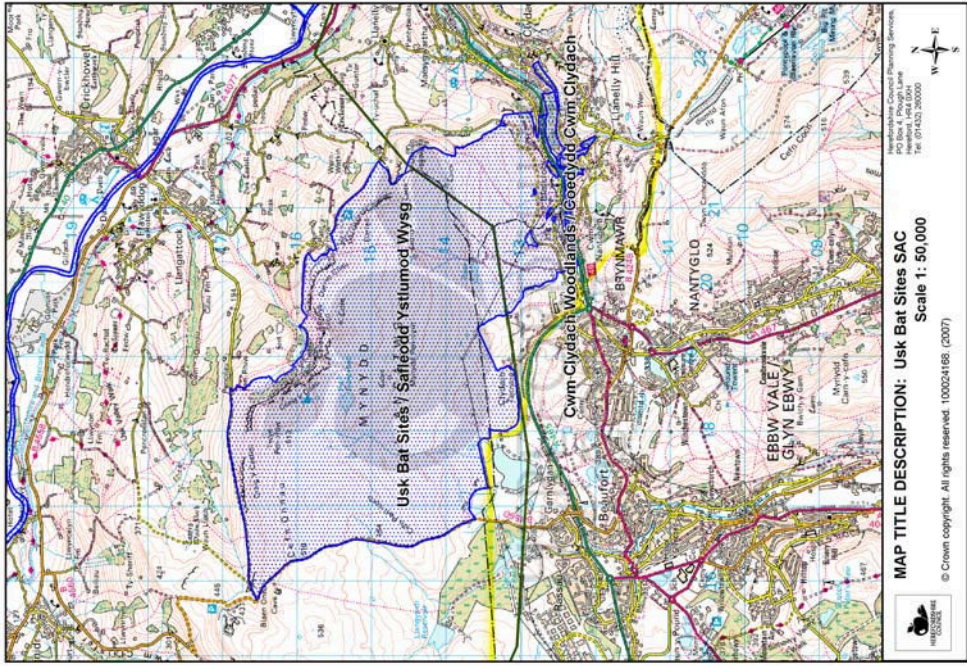
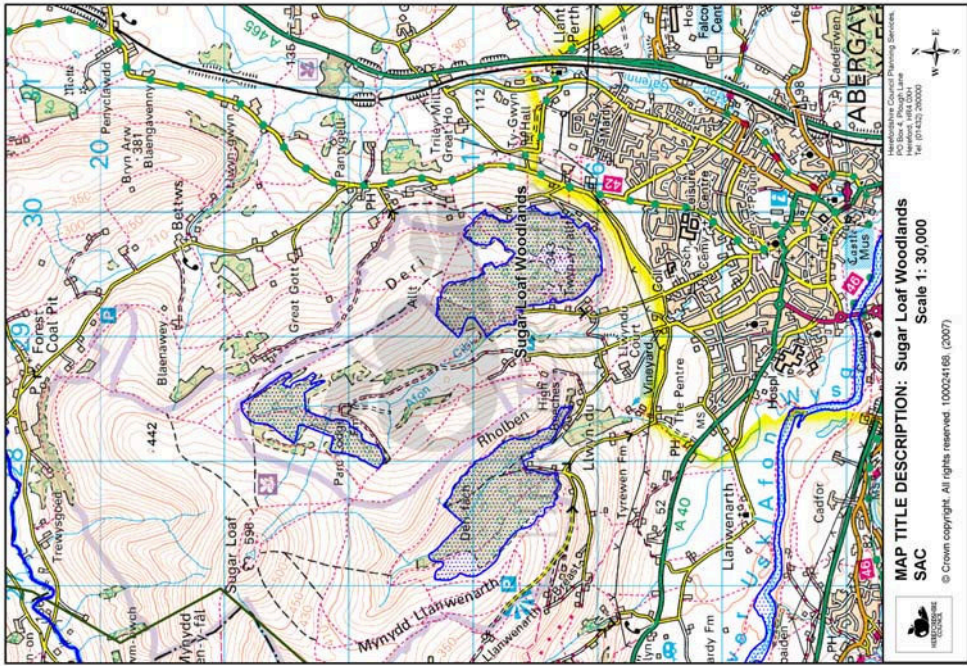


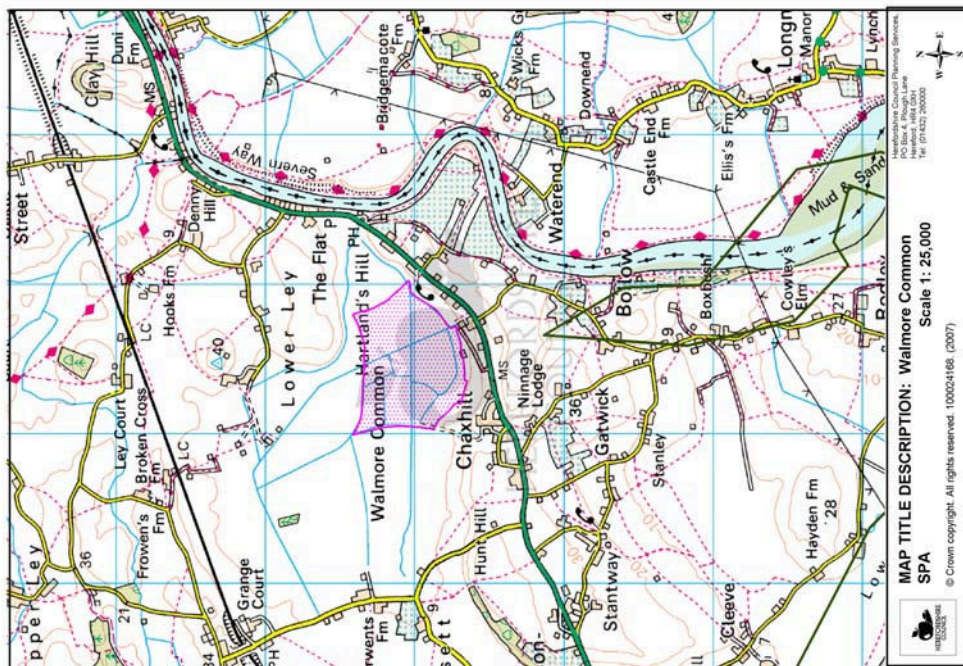
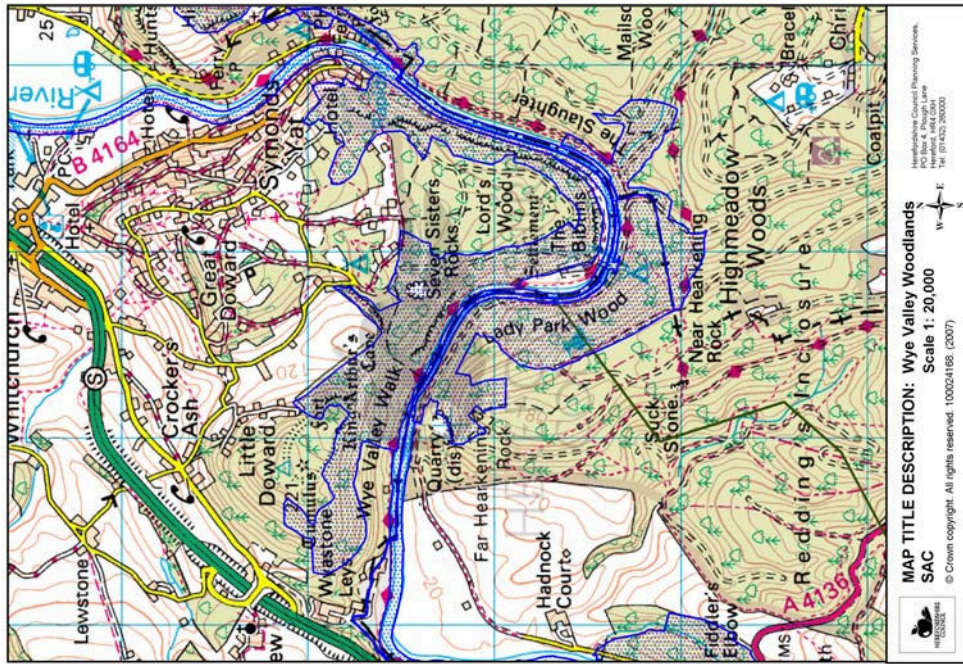
River Usk SAC to be completed











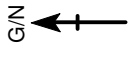
Ystlumod Dyffryn dena

Cód Safle y GE UK0014794
EC Site Code

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70 ha

Gorllewin
West
Gogledd
North



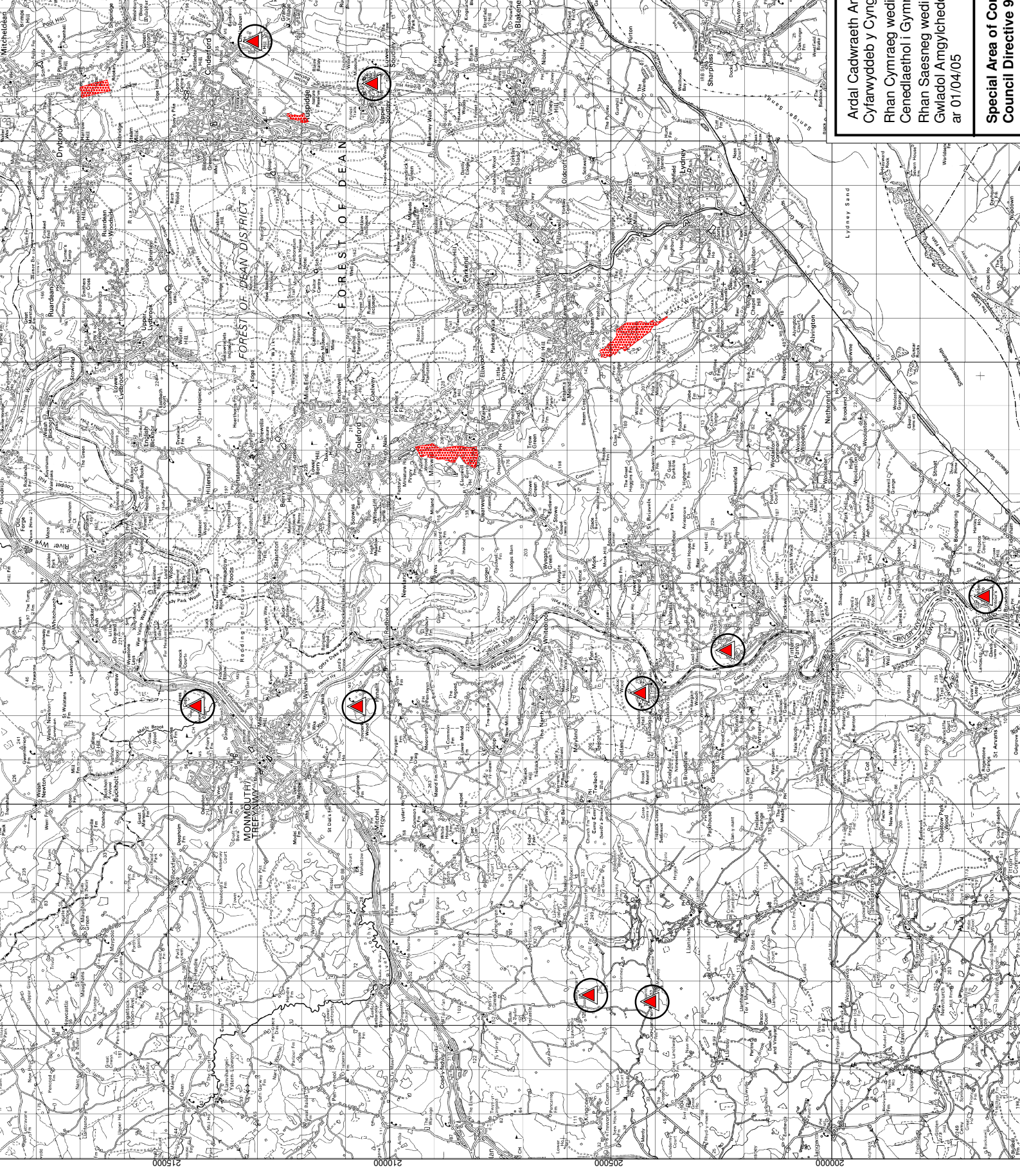
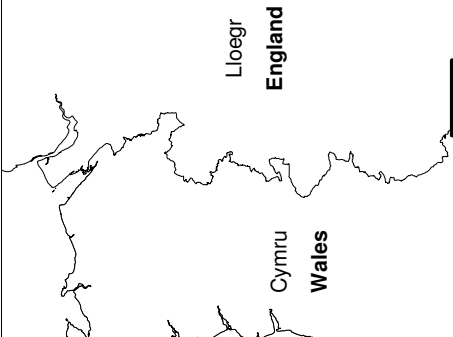
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Ardal Cadwraeth Ar
Cyfarwydddeb y Cyngr
Rhan Cymraeg wedi
Cenedlaethol i Gym
Rhan Saesneg wedi
Gwladol Amgylchedd
at 01/04/05
Special Area of Conservation
Council Directive 92/43/EEC



Shropshire

River Clun

Downton Gorge

Powys

LEOMINSTER

KINGTON

BROMYARD

Worcestershire

Rhos Goch

Herefordshire

HAY-ON-WYE

HEREFORD

LEDBURY

River Wye / Afon Gwy(England)

Gloucestershire

ROSS-ON-WYE

Coed y Cerrig

Monmouthshire

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Wye Valley Woodlands /Coetiroedd Dyffryn Gwy(England)

Walmore Common

Safleoedd Ystlumod Wysg

Sugar Loaf Woodlands

River Wye

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Woodlands / Coedydd Cwm Clydach

River Usk / Afon Wysg

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites /Safleoedd Ystlumod Dyffryn Gwy a Fforest y Ddena(England)

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Wye Valley Woodlands

115

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

River Wye

Areas

Coed y Cerrig (England)

Appendix 3 – Site Descriptions of Screened Nature 2000 Sites identified for Herefordshire Council’s Core Strategy Developing Options Paper

The Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Stage of Herefordshire Council’s Core Strategy Developing Options Paper identified the following European sites, listed in alphabetical order, as being relevant to the Plan. The following tables provide detailed data on each site including: site name; site description; conservation objectives (where known); site vulnerability; reason for designation; and the environmental conditions needed to support the site integrity. This was used to assess whether the Core Strategy Strategic Options, as set out in the Developing Options Paper, April 2008 version, would likely to have a significant effect on each of the European Sites. The information has been sourced from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website, Natural England (NE), Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and from Herefordshire Council’s Planning Ecologist.

Screened European Sites

- Coed y Cerrig
- Cotswold Beechwoods
- Cwm Clydach Woodlands
- Downton Gorge
- Drostre Bank
- Llangorse Lake
- Lyppard Grange Ponds
- Rhos Goch
- River Clun
- River Usk
- River Wye
- Rodborough Common
- Severn Estuary
- Sugar Loaf Woodlands
- Usk Bat Sites
- Walmore Common
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
- Wye Valley Woodlands

Table 1: Coed y Cerrig

Site name: Coed y Cerrig SAC, SO291210, Wales, Monmouthshire	
Site Description: Coed y Cerrig (9.1ha) is a good example of alluvial forest in southern Wales. The valley-bottom woodland has a canopy dominated by alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> with ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , and a rich understorey that includes guelder-rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> and bird cherry <i>Prunus padus</i> . The ground flora is characterised by abundant large sedges <i>Carex</i> spp., and a wide diversity of wet woodland species. The woodland is continuous with diverse ash-elm <i>Fraxinus-Ulmus</i> and oak <i>Quercus</i> spp. woodland on the valley sides.	
Conservation Objectives: CCW to confirm.	
Site Vulnerability: The naturally high, largely spring-fed water table is essential to the ecological character of the site, as is the maintenance of an appropriate woodland management regime. The majority of the site is managed as a National Nature Reserve, the remainder subject to a management agreement; these ensure that there are no current management problems.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (priority feature) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain level of water table • Maintain and monitor current management regime

Table 2: Cotswold Beechwoods

Site name: Cotswold Beechwoods SAC, SO898134, England, Gloucestershire	
Site Description: The Cotswold Beechwoods (585.85ha) represents the most westerly extensive blocks of <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests in the UK. The woods are floristically richer than the Chilterns, and rare plants in the wood include red helleborine <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i> , stinking hellebore <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> , narrow-lipped helleborine <i>Epipactis leptochila</i> and wood barley <i>Hordelymus europaeus</i> . There is a rich mollusc fauna. The woods are structurally varied, including blocks of high forest and some areas of remnant beech coppice.	
Conservation Objectives: NE to confirm.	
Site Vulnerability: The woodland is being maintained by a variety of silvicultural practices including selective forestry, group fellings and small areas of coppicing. Age-class and structural diversity is being enhanced through a sympathetic Woodland Grant Scheme. Early removal of planted conifers is being encouraged in areas where planting occurred in the 1970's.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats of primary reason for selection of site: <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests (this is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and monitor current management regime
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of succession processes to retain diversity of habitats

Table 3: Cwm Clydach Woodlands

Site name: Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC, SO207123, Wales, Gwent and Monmouthshire
Site Description: Cwm Clydach Woodlands (28.81ha) is an example of <i>Asperulo-Fragetum</i> beech forests close to the northern-western limit of the habitat's UK and European range and at relatively high altitude. The main wood is on a steep valley side, comprising a mature canopy of large trees with abundant dead wood. Transitions occur to more acidic beech woodland. Rare and characteristic plant species at the site include the whitebeam <i>Sorbus porrigentiformis</i> , mountain sedge <i>Carex montana</i> , yellow bird's-nest <i>Monotropa hypopitys</i> and bird's-nest orchid <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> .
Conservation Objectives (Source – CCW): The vision for <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of the canopy forming trees are beech. The canopy cover is at least 80% (excluding areas of crag) and composed of locally native trees. The woodland has trees of all age classes with a scattering of standing and fallen dead wood. Regeneration of trees is sufficient to maintain the woodland cover in the long term. The shrub layer and ground flora can be quite sparse, but where present consist of locally native plants such as yew, hawthorn, wych elm, ash, hazel, field maple and elder, bramble, dog's mercury, enchanter's-nightshade, lords-and-ladies, woodruff, male fern, sanicle, wood melick, ivy, false brome, violets, herb robert, wood avens, and tufted hair-grass. Scarcer plants, such as soft-leaved sedge and bird's-nest orchid are locally frequent and, more rarely, yellow bird's-nest orchid can be found. All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.
The vision for Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i>

in the shrub layer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Illici-Fagenion*) is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

At least 75% of the woodland vegetation meets the criteria for intact acid beech wood, where:

- At least 10% of the canopy forming trees are beech.
- The canopy cover is at least 80% and composed of locally native species.
- The woodland has trees of all age classes with a scattering of standing and fallen dead wood.
- Regeneration of trees is sufficient to maintain the woodland cover in the long term.
- The shrub layer and ground flora can be quite, but where present consist of locally native plants.
- Scarcer plants, such as oak fern can be found.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Site Vulnerability: The woodland was formerly grazed by sheep from the nearby common land, but better fencing here has reduced livestock trespass to a level that does not prevent regeneration of trees and shrubs or damage the woodland ground flora. However, the impact of grazing needs to be monitored and fencing against livestock considered if necessary. Due to the close proximity to urban areas, fly-tipping and vandalism are a particular problem in these woodlands. Rubbish is regularly cleared but an increased wardening effort would be needed to bring these problems under control. The woodlands may be threatened by road improvement plans and associated development but these proposals will be subject to appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations 1994. Airborne acid and nutrient deposition are not a significant threat here as most of the woodland soils are well-buffered and nutrient-rich.

Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss in extent of ancient semi-natural woodland • Monitor and control grazing levels • Limit recreational pressure
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrub layer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Illici-Fagenion</i>) (which is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss in extent of ancient semi-natural woodland • Limit recreational pressure

Table 4: Downton Gorge

Site name: Downton Gorge SAC, SO443743, England, Herefordshire
Site Description: Downton Gorge (69.3ha) is an example of <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests in a narrow ravine with a distinctive microclimate and a variety of slopes and aspects. Both small-leaved lime <i>Tilia cordata</i> and large-leaved lime <i>T. platyphyllos</i> and elm <i>Ulmus</i> spp occur. The ground flora includes wood fescue <i>Festuca altissima</i> and violet helleborine <i>Epipactis purpurata</i> . The gorge cliffs are rich in ferns, reflecting the humidity of the site, with a range of species recorded.
Conservation Objectives: NE to provide more detail: Maintain the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> ravine forests in a favourable condition.

Site Vulnerability: The site is potentially vulnerable to the effects of air and water borne pollution, particularly in respect of its significant lichenological interest. However, these effects are not related to the management of the site.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (priority feature) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current management regime • Monitoring and control of air and water borne pollution

Table 5: Drostre Bank

Site name: Drostre Bank SAC, SO096312, Wales, Powys
Site Description: Drostre Bank (12.66ha) is selected for its species-rich example of the typical form of <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i> fen-meadow. This vegetation is particularly well characterised, having a high frequency of mildly base-demanding species, such as tawny sedge <i>Carex hostiana</i> , flea sedge <i>C. pulicaris</i> , quaking-grass <i>Briza media</i> and marsh valerian <i>Valeriana dioica</i> . There are well-displayed transitions to a floristically related form of rush-pasture, as well as to base-rich flush and wet woodland.
<p>Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): The vision for <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>eu-Molinion</i> grassland occupies approximately 25% of the total site area. • The remainder of the site supports other semi-natural habitats including woodland and rush pasture. • The following plants will be common in the <i>eu-Molinion</i> marshy grassland: purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>; meadow thistle <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>; devil's bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>; tawny sedge <i>Carex hostiana</i>; Flea sedge <i>Carex pulicaris</i>; Quaking grass <i>Briza media</i>; Marsh Valerian <i>Valeriana dioica</i> and Marsh orchids <i>Dactylorhiza</i> sp. • Purple moor-grass and rushes are not completely dominant and there is no significant accumulation of dead vegetation from year to year. • Species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> will be largely absent from the <i>eu-Molinion</i> marshy grassland. <p>Scrub species such as willow <i>Salix</i> and birch <i>Betula</i> will also be largely absent from the <i>eu-Molinion</i> marshy grassland.</p> <p>The vision for Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Franxinus excelsior</i> (<i>AlnoPadion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 15% of the site supports alluvial forest (this is 25% of the woodland). • The remainder of the site supports other semi-natural habitats including dry woodland and marshy grassland. • The tree canopy consists of alder, ash, birch and willow • Young trees/saplings and/or vegetative regrowth of the above species are present. • The ground flora consists of a variety of wetland plants, including meadowsweet, yellow pimpernel, and remote sedge. • Plants indicative of nutrient enrichment or disturbance such as nettle, cleavers, and rosebay willowherb are nowhere extensively dominant. • Some bare ground is present but it is not extensive. • There is no significant input of nutrient-rich water from ditches and surrounding land. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

<p>Site Vulnerability: The fen-meadow community is particularly vulnerable to agricultural improvement in the form of drainage, cultivation, application of herbicides and fertilizers and increased stocking and possibly associated feeding of livestock. Conversely, abandonment of traditional treatment may, through natural succession, result in reversion to rank secondary fen and scrubby woodland. However a management agreement is in force to ensure continuation of the traditional management of light grazing with cattle in late summer through to the early winter. There is a possibility of eutrophication of the site from the inward drainage of water enriched by nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers, and also as a result of fertilizer spray drift. Monitoring projects will be initiated to ensure that the fen-meadow community is maintained in a favourable condition.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats of primary reason for designation: <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage environmentally sensitive agricultural practices on adjacent farm land • Maintain current management agreement
Annex I habitats qualifying feature but not a primary reason for designation: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Franxinus excelsior</i> (<i>AlnoPadion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) (priority feature) (considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage environmentally sensitive agricultural practices on adjacent farm land • Maintain current management agreement

Table 6: Llangorse Lake

<p>Site name: Llangorse Lake SAC, SO131262, Wales, Powys</p>	
<p>Site Description: Llangorse lake (215.64ha) is the largest lake in South Wales and is an example of a northern or western natural eutrophic lake of glacial origin and in this case lying on Old Red Sandstone. Flora is dominated by pondweed, yellow water-lily. <i>Potamogetonaceae</i> – <i>Nupharetum</i> associations, and the shoreline flora is a good example of the club-rush, common reed <i>Scirpo</i> – <i>Phragmitetum</i> association. It is also richer than Loch Watten (another lake of this type) in more southern elements such as shining pondweed <i>Potamogeton lucens</i>.</p>	
<p>Conservation Objectives: CCW to confirm.</p>	
<p>Site Vulnerability: Water quality is of primary importance to the aquatic macrophyte flora. This naturally eutrophic lake entered an algal-dominated hyper-eutrophic state in the late 1970's, following high nutrient loadings from sewage effluent. These inputs were diverted and the aquatic macrophyte recovery monitored. Recovery has been substantial but there is still the potential for a return to an algal-dominated state. Surveillance of the ecosystem continues. Recreational activities on the lake, fisheries operations and agricultural practice within the catchment are potentially influential. The need for further measures to aid the recovery is being kept under review.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats of primary reason for designation: Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrochartition</i> -type vegetation (which is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of recreational activities • Monitor and maintain water quality

Table 7: Lyppard Grange Ponds

Site name: Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC, SO879556, England, Worcestershire	
Site Description: Lyppard Grange Ponds (1.09ha) is located on the outskirts of Worcester, set amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. The ponds are associated with good quality terrestrial habitats, and are a remnant of a formerly more widespread newt habitat when large numbers of ponds were maintained for agricultural purposes.	
Conservation Objectives: NE to confirm.	
Site Vulnerability: The site is composed of two ponds in an area of public open space surrounded by residential development. The site is vulnerable to the effects of recreational pressure from the public and in particular the introduction of fish, which affect the suitability of ponds as breeding habitats for great crested newts. One of the ponds is currently overrun with stickleback's, which is affecting the long-term survival of the newt population at the current level. A series of measures, including the notification of the site as an SSSI, development of a Management Plan, the implementation of an action plan to remove stickleback and construction of hibernacula and refugia and water management systems, are being undertaken to secure the conservation of the newt population.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> (101-250 residents) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementation and monitor management plan • Control of recreational activities and human influence and disturbance

Table 8: Rhos Goch

Site name: Rhos Goch SAC, SO197483, Wales, Powys
Site Description: Rhos Goch (67.65ha) consists of a sequence of mire communities developed within a flat valley floor, which crosses the interfluvium between the Rivers Wye and Arrow. The site lies at an altitude of 257m and is one of the most southerly raised bogs in the UK. The raised bog interest occupies the north-eastern part of the system and grades to the south-west into an extensive suite of poor-fen and swamp communities (Transition mires and quaking bogs); wet carr woodland (comprising downy birch <i>Betula pubescens</i> , grey willow <i>Salix cinerea</i> and alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) at varying stages of development occupies the relatively intact lagg zone at this site to the north, south and east. The raised bog surface has been much affected by scrub encroachment (now intensively managed) and past influences of peat-cutting and fire. Drier areas dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> , purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> and a range of hypnoid mosses display a relatively impoverished range and cover of bog-mosses <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., although both common cottongrass <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> and hare's-tail cottongrass <i>E. vaginatum</i> are prominent. Numerous hollows and bog pools occur across the surface of the mire, and at least some bear evidence of artificial deepening. These support a flora dominated by carpets of the bog-mosses <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i> and <i>S. recurvum</i> , together with bogbean <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> , marsh cinquefoil <i>Potentilla palustris</i> , bog pondweed <i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i> and occasional royal fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i> . The transition mire and quaking bog at Rhos Goch manifests as a suite of poor-fen swamp communities juxtaposed within the context of a lagg zone between active raised bog and rush pasture. A wide range of communities are present, extending from <i>Carex rostrata</i> – <i>Potentilla palustris</i> tall-herb fen and <i>Carex rostrata</i> – <i>Sphagnum squarrosum</i> mire through to swamp vegetation more strongly dominated by single species such as bottle sedge <i>Carex rostrata</i> , water horsetail <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> and common spike-rush <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> .
Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): The vision for active raised bogs is for it to be in a favourable conservation status within the site, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised bog habitat with only a few scattered trees cover around 20% of the site. • The bog surface consists of a series of pools and hummocks.

- The drier hummocks support heather, hare's-tail cottongrass, cross-leaved heath and purple moor-grass, while the pools are dominated by common cottongrass and bog-mosses.
- Purple moor-grass is not overwhelmingly dominant on the raised bog.
- Scattered birch trees and willow scrub, where present, do not form a closed canopy.
- There is no significant bracken encroachment around the bog edges or on the bog dome.
- Water levels on the bog remain high throughout the year.
- The vegetation is not affected by atmospheric pollution.
- All other factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

The vision for **transition mires and quaking bogs** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status within the site, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- "Transition mire", comprising basin bog and swamp vegetation, with some scattered trees and scrub, covers at around 10% of the site.
- There is a broad zone of "transition mire" extending to at least 6ha on the southwest side of the raised bog dome, with smaller patches of similar vegetation close to the main ditches in Portway meadows.
- Areas closest to the raised bog have vegetation that is characteristic of more acidic conditions, with plants such as sedges, common cottongrass, marsh cinquefoil, soft rush, water horsetail and marsh pennywort over carpets of bog-mosses.
- In the central zone of this transition mire, bog-mosses are gradually replaced by others, such as bog groove-moss and spear-mosses, with a greater range of other typical "poor-fen" plants, including bogbean, water mint, bog pondweed, marsh marigold, lesser spearwort, common marsh-bedstraw and forget-me-nots.
- The areas furthest from the raised bog support additional plants that are found in more nutrient-rich swamps, including common spike-rush, bulrush, lesser pond-sedge, greater tussock-sedge, gipsywort and the locally rare greater spearwort. Here the taller swamp plants form a dense canopy during the summer months but the water beneath supports floating plants such as floating club-rush, ivy-leaved duckweed and bladderwort.
- There are large patches of rusty willow scrub but they occupy less than 10% of the south western bog transition zone in total and the willow and birch trees are not encroaching into the open bog and swamp areas.
- Plants indicating high nutrient levels and disturbance, such as floating sweet-grass and creeping buttercup may be prominent at the edges of the common but these plants are uncommon in the central wetland areas.
- There are poached areas with sparse vegetation, where grazing animals roam, but these cover less than 5% of the swamp zone in total.
- Water levels are maintained so that surface water is present throughout the year.
- There is no significant input of nutrient-rich water from ditches and surrounding land.
- All other factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.
- There are good populations of wetland breeding birds, including water rail, snipe, sedge warbler and reed bunting.

The vision for ***Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status within the site, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- Around 20% of the site supports alluvial forest.
- The majority of this woodland is found in the "lagg zone" of the raised bog around the north-eastern edge of the common. With small patches within the meadows at Portway, Dol-y-cannau and Cefn-y-blean.
- The tree canopy consists of mixtures of downy birch, alder and rusty willow, with some ash and aspen in places.
- The ground flora consists of a variety of wetland plants, including common reed,

greater tussock sedge, purple moor-grass, meadowsweet, hemp-agrimony, bittersweet, soft rush, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage and marsh marigold.

- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- The canopy is fairly even but there occasional gaps where trees have died.
- The location of open glades varies over time.
- Standing and fallen dead wood is plentiful.
- Non-native trees and shrubs, such as Scots pine and sycamore, are rare.
- Plants indicating high nutrient levels, such as common nettle, bramble, cleavers and creeping buttercup, occur locally but are nowhere overwhelmingly dominant.
- Plants indicating surface drying, such as purple moor-grass, bracken and bramble, do not dominate the woodland ground flora.
- Grazing is light enough to allow regeneration of trees and shrubs.
- Water levels are maintained so that surface water is present throughout the year.
- There is no significant input of nutrient-rich water from ditches and surrounding land.
- All other factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.
- The woodland supports populations of typical breeding birds.

The vision for **bog woodland** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status within the site, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- Around 10 - 15 % of the site supports bog woodland.
- All of this woodland occurs in patches around the edges of the raised bog or in the adjacent "lagg zone" around the north-eastern edge of the common.
- The tree canopy consists of mainly downy birch on the bog surface and mixtures of downy birch, rusty willow and alder in the lagg zone.
- The ground flora generally consists of purple moor-grass and common reed over carpets of bog-mosses. Other typical plants found here include marsh cinquefoil, water horsetail, lady fern, bilberry and velvet bent grass. Royal fern is abundant in some areas.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- The canopy may be fairly open, particularly on the raised bog dome, with large glades.
- The location of open glades may vary over time.
- Standing and fallen dead wood are common in places.
- Non native trees and shrubs, such as Scots pine, are rare.
- Plants indicating high nutrient levels, such as common nettle, bramble, cleavers and creeping buttercup are absent.
- Plants indicating surface drying, such as bracken, do not dominate the ground flora.
- Grazing is light enough to allow some regeneration of trees and shrubs.
- Water levels are maintained so that water table is at or close to the surface throughout the year.
- All other factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

The vision for **Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status within the site, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- Species-rich "fen-meadow" vegetation occupies between 6% and 10% of the site in total.
- A large part of Portway meadows support this vegetation and there are other patches on the drier ground at the south-west end of the common, Llanshiver and Cefn-y-blaen.
- The vegetation consists of mixtures of purple moor-grass and sharp-flowered rush, with a wide variety of other plants, including devil's-bit scabious, meadow thistle, fen bedstraw, marsh valerian, flea sedge, quaking grass, cross-leaved heath, tawny sedge and marsh orchids.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple moor-grass and rushes are not completely dominant and there is no significant accumulation of dead vegetation from year to year. • Plants indicating disturbance and nutrient enrichment, such as Yorkshire fog, floating sweet-grass, rough-meadow grass, marsh thistle, creeping buttercup and cleavers are not prominent in these areas. • The fen meadow areas may have scattered trees or bushes but are generally free from dense or invading scrub. • Some bare ground is present but cattle poached areas are not extensive. • Water levels are maintained so that the water table is close to the surface throughout the year but these areas are not subject to regular flooding. • There is no significant input of nutrient-rich water from ditches and surrounding land. • All other factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control. • There are good populations of wetland breeding birds, such as snipe and lapwing. 	
<p>Site Vulnerability: The open mire areas are currently threatened by natural succession to willow and birch carr. This is partly a result of a reduction in the numbers of livestock being grazed on the common in summer. The spread of woody species is being monitored and a programme of birch and willow clearance has been initiated. The effects of reduced grazing on the vegetation structure and composition are also being monitored with a view to increasing livestock numbers where appropriate. The spread of soft rush into the swamp and mire communities has been monitored and a programme of experimental cutting has been initiated. The mire communities could also be adversely affected by falling water tables, eutrophication as a result of agricultural intensification on surrounding land, or acidification via rainfall. Current monitoring indicates that all of these influences fall within acceptable limits. Sluices maintain water tables on-site, and a large amount of adjacent unimproved pasture provides a buffer against eutrophication.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats of primary reason for selection: Active raised bogs (priority feature) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water table levels • Grazing and management regime • Control of succession processes
Annex I habitats of primary reason for selection: Transition mires and quaking bogs (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water table levels • Grazing and management regime • Control of succession processes
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) (the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water table levels • Grazing and management regime • Control of succession processes
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Bog woodland (priority feature) (considered to be rare as its total extent in the UK is estimated to be less than 1000ha and the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water table levels • Control of succession processes
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water

primary reason for site selection: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) (priority feature) (the area is considered to support a significant presence).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> table levels Control of succession processes
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Table 9: River Clun

Site name: River Clun SAC, SO393754, England, Herefordshire and Shropshire	
Site Description: The River Clun (14.93ha) supports the freshwater pearl mussel <i>M. margaritifera</i> , which grows to 140mm in length, and burrows into sandy substrates, often between boulders and pebbles, in fast-flowing rivers and streams. It requires cool, well-oxygenated soft water free of pollution or turbidity. The mussel spends its larval, or glochidial, stage attached to the gills of salmonid fishes. The larvae attach themselves during mid to late summer and drop off the following spring to settle in the riverbed gravel where they grow to adulthood.	
Conservation Objectives: NE to confirm this version and provide further detail if available - According to the EN Conservation Objectives for the River Teme SSSI (part of the River Clun) V4 and 13 March 2006 format version 1.5: Freshwater pearl mussel population density should be 5 mussels per m ² within a sample transect, age structure should be at least 20% of population c. 65mm and at least 1 mussel c.30mm, fish host populations: juvenile salmonid densities (0+ and 1+ year classes) should be abundant (to be refined following the results of the Life in UK Rivers project on pearl mussel/fish host relationships), river morphology should maintain the characteristic physical features of the river channel, banks and riparian zone, river substrate should maintain very little or no silt and fine sand in substrate, negative indicators include an absence of rainbow trout and brook trout and any other non-native species that may impair juvenile densities of salmon and brown/sea trout, and negative indicators: signs of disturbance being no disturbance of existing mussel beds by in-stream activities.	
Site Vulnerability: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> is dependent on low sediment and nitrate levels, fast flows of cool water and clean gravels. It also relies on the presence of trout for part of its breeding cycle. Intensification of agriculture across the catchment is a significant threat to the long-term survival of the isolated population at this site i.e. enhanced sedimentation through poor agricultural practice leading to smothering of adult and juvenile mussels; eutrophication of waters through fertiliser run-off from adjacent land. In addition upstream domestic sewage treatment works are believed to give a significant nutrient loading. Recent increases in the occurrence of alder disease also pose a risk through loss of shading bankside tree cover. Some of these issues will be addressed by revised authorisation, Review of Consents /AMP 4 processes. Sustainable agricultural management is being promoted via production of Whole Farm Plans, Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements and Countryside Stewardship Agreements for landowners within the catchment.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of good water quality (limit pollution and sedimentation, particularly from agricultural run-off) Maintenance of salmonid populations Maintain riparian vegetation

Table 10: River Usk

Site name: River Usk SAC, SO301113, Wales, Newport, Monmouthshire and Powys
Site Description: The Usk is a medium-sized catchment in south Wales, important for its population of sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> . Survey of juveniles and observation of spawning adults indicates that this species is mainly restricted to the lower reaches of the catchment. The site supports a range of Annex II fish species. Healthy populations of Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> and River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> are considered to provide exceptionally good quality habitat likely to ensure the continued survival of the species in this part of the UK. Twait shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> spawns in the River Usk. The Usk is one of only four sites in the UK where a known breeding population of twait shad occurs (the River Wye and

Twyi are other SAC sites). Water quality and quantity are considered favourable for this species. The main channel is largely unmodified and a variety of aquatic habitats are present, including good quality spawning gravels and deep pools used for cover by adults and fry. However, Trostrey and Rhadyr Weirs may be a barrier to shad migration under low flow conditions. The river Usk is a river famous for its salmon *Salmo salar*, with a high proportion (c. 30-40%) of multi sea winter fish recorded in the rod catch. In 1999 the Usk had highest estimated egg deposition of any British river south of Cumbria, and was one of the few rivers in England and Wales to exceed its spawning target for salmon. The Usk has a mixed catchment with a largely unmodified river channel, no significant obstructions to salmon migration, good quality spawning gravels and a diversity of habitats providing excellent habitat for salmon parr. The most important tributaries for salmon spawning are included within the site boundary. The Usk represents bullhead *Cottus gobio* in the southern part of its range in Wales. It is considered to have exceptionally high-quality habitat with good water quality, abundant cover and a variety of aquatic habitats. Bullhead are widespread throughout the Usk system. The river Usk is also an important site for otters *Lutra lutra* in Wales. They are believed to be using most parts of the main river, from Newport upstream, and in recent years signs of otters have increased. In 1991 an expansion upstream of known otter ranges was recorded on several tributaries, including the Honddu, Senni and Crai. The upper Usk may have acted as a "refuge" during the decline of the 1950s, and had subsequently acted as a "source" population for recolonisation of south-east Wales.

Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): The ecological status of the **watercourse** is a major determinant of favourable condition status for all features. The required conservation objective for the watercourse is defined below:

- The capacity of the habitats in the SAC to support each feature at near-natural population levels, as determined by predominantly unmodified ecological and hydromorphological processes and characteristics, should be maintained as far as possible, or restored where necessary.
- The ecological status of the water environment should be sufficient to maintain a stable or increasing population of each feature. This will include elements of water quantity and quality, physical habitat and community composition and structure.
- Flow regime, water quality and physical habitat should be maintained in, or restored as far as possible to, a near-natural state, in order to support the coherence of ecosystem structure and function across the whole area of the SAC.
- All known breeding, spawning and nursery sites of species features should be maintained as suitable habitat as far as possible, except where natural processes cause them to change.
- Flows, water quality, substrate quality and quantity at fish spawning sites and nursery areas will not be depleted by abstraction, discharges, engineering or gravel extraction activities or other impacts to the extent that these sites are damaged or destroyed.
- The river platform and profile should be predominantly unmodified. Physical modifications having an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, including, but not limited to, revetments on active alluvial river banks using stone, concrete or waste materials, unsustainable extraction of gravel, addition or release of excessive quantities of fine sediment, will be avoided.
- River habitat SSSI features should be in favourable condition. In the case of the Usk Tributaries SSSI, the SAC habitat is not underpinned by a river habitat SSSI feature. In this case, the target is to maintain the characteristic physical features of the river channel, banks and riparian zone.
- Artificial factors impacting on the capability of each species feature to occupy the full extent of its natural range should be modified where necessary to allow passage, eg. weirs, bridge sills, acoustic barriers.
- Natural factors such as waterfalls, which may limit the natural range of a species feature or dispersal between naturally isolated populations, should not be modified.
- Flows during the normal migration periods of each migratory fish species feature will not be depleted by abstraction to the extent that passage upstream to spawning sites is hindered.
- Flow objectives for assessment points in the Usk Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy will be agreed between EA and CCW as necessary.

- Levels of nutrients, in particular phosphate, will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Usk SAC, and measures taken to maintain nutrients below these levels.
- Levels of water quality parameters that are known to affect the distribution and abundance of SAC features will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Usk SAC, and measures taken to maintain pollution below these levels.
- Potential sources of pollution not addressed in the Review of Consents, such as contaminated land, will be considered in assessing plans and projects.
- Levels of suspended solids will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Usk SAC. Measures including, but not limited to, the control of suspended sediment generated by agriculture, forestry and engineering works, will be taken to maintain suspended solids below these levels.

The vision for **water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation** is as set out in the rows below:

<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat exists over the long term. Suitable habitat and associated plant communities may vary from reach to reach. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms eg. depth and stability of flow, stability of bed substrate, and ecosystem structure and functions eg. nutrient levels, shade. Suitable habitat for the feature need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future, except where natural processes cause it to decline in extent.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: More information is required on the natural range and distribution of this feature in the Usk. Important examples of the feature may be present outside currently known locations. Sympathetic management will be promoted wherever the feature is present.</p> <p>Species indicative of unfavourable condition for this feature eg. filamentous algae associated with eutrophication, invasive non-native species, should be maintained or restored below an acceptable threshold level, indicative of high ecological status, within the SAC.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: 3 site management units are known to have occurrences of this important feature. Management to maintain or increase the feature within these units will be a priority. Adverse factors may include elevated nutrient levels, shading or altered flow and/or sediment transport regimes.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate JNCC river vegetation type for the particular river reach, unless differing from this type due to natural variability when other typical species may be defined as appropriate.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: More information is required on the typical species that are expected to be found within each management unit in the SAC.</p>
<p>The vision for Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>; River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>; Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>; Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>; Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>; and Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> is for them to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied as set out in the rows below:</p>	

<p>Favourable Condition Status: The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: Entrainment in water abstractions directly impacts on population dynamics through reduced recruitment and survival rates.</p> <p>Fish stocking can adversely affect population dynamics through competition, predation, and alteration of population genetics and introduction of disease.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat for each life stage exists over the long term. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms e.g. suitable flows to allow upstream migration, depth of water and substrate type at spawning sites, and ecosystem structure and functions e.g. food supply. Suitable habitat need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future. Natural factors such as waterfalls may limit the natural range of individual species. Existing artificial influences on natural range that cause an adverse effect on site integrity, such as physical barriers to migration.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: Some reaches of the Usk SAC are more suitable for some features than others e.g. the Senni has important populations of brook/river lamprey and salmon but is not used by shad due to its small size and distance from the estuary. These differences influence the management priorities for individual reaches and are used to define the site units. In general, management for one feature is likely to be sympathetic for the other features present in the river, provided that the components of favourable conservation status for the watercourse are secured.</p> <p>The characteristic channel morphology provides the diversity of water depths, current velocities and substrate types necessary to fulfil the habitat requirements of the features. The close proximity of different habitats facilitates movement of fish to new preferred habitats with age. The presence of hard bank revetments in a number of active alluvial reaches e.g. through Brecon and upstream of Abergavenny, adversely affects the processes that maintain suitable habitat for the SAC features.</p> <p>Hydrological processes in the Usk are currently affected by large abstractions, especially at Prioress Mill and Brecon Weir. However, there are many smaller abstractions not considered to cause a problem at present.</p> <p>Shad and salmon migration can be affected by acoustic barriers and by high sediment loads, which can originate from a number of sources including construction works.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: Allis and Twaite shad are affected by range contraction due to artificial barriers to migration in the Usk. It is likely that this loss of habitat affects their maintenance in the SAC on a long-term basis.</p>
<p>The vision for Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied as set out in the below rows:</p>	
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural</p>	<p>Supporting information / current knowledge: None</p>

levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour.	
Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches that are potentially suitable to form part of a breeding territory and/or provide routes between breeding territories. The whole area of the Usk SAC is considered to form potentially suitable breeding habitat for otters. The size of breeding territories may vary depending on prey abundance. The population size should not be limited by the availability of suitable undisturbed breeding sites. Where these are insufficient they should be created through habitat enhancement and where necessary the provision of artificial holts. No otter breeding site should be subject to a level of disturbance that could have an adverse effect on breeding success. Where necessary, potentially harmful levels of disturbance must be managed.	Supporting information / current knowledge: Survey information shows that otters are widely distributed in the Usk catchment. While the breeding population in the Usk is not currently considered to be limited by the availability of suitable breeding sites, there is some uncertainty over the number of breeding territories which the SAC is capable of supporting given near-natural levels of prey abundance. The decline in eel populations may be having an adverse effect on the population of otters in the Usk.
Favourable Condition Status: The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc at road bridges and other artificial barriers.	Supporting information / current knowledge: Restrictions on the movement of otters around the SAC, and between adjoining sites are currently a particular concern in the reach through Newport as a result of a continued decrease in undisturbed suitable riparian habitat.
Site Vulnerability: The River Usk (1007.71ha) is an excellent habitat for six Annex II freshwater fish. There are some concerns over long-term aquatic and riparian habitat degradation but these are being addressed in the Usk Catchment Management Plan, the Conservation Strategy, the River SSSI Management Plan, and by the Countryside Council for Wales and Environment Agency encouraging owners and occupiers to carry out positive habitat management through agreements and agri-environment schemes. There are few barriers to migration for the anadromous species and where barriers exist, investigation is proposed to analyse for potential impacts and remedy them through multi-species fish passes. Water quality is good throughout the main river, except for localised enrichment from sewage discharges, the effects of which, along with the more significant water abstractions, are being closely monitored by the Environment Agency.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation (the area is considered to support a significant presence).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions

<i>planeri</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> (the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Control of human activities and disturbance

Table 11: River Wye

Site name: River Wye SAC, SO109369, England and Wales, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Powys
Site Description: The Wye (2234.89ha), on the border of England and Wales, is a large river representative of sub-type 2. It is a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive <i>Ranunculus</i> beds. There is a varied water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus</i> flora; stream water-crowfoot <i>R. penicillatus</i> ssp. <i>pseudofluitans</i> is abundant, with other <i>Ranunculus</i> species – including the uncommon river water-crowfoot <i>R. fluitans</i> – found locally. Other species, characteristic of sub-type 2 include,

flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*, lesser water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*. There is an exceptional range of aquatic flora in the catchment including river jelly-lichen *Collema dichotum*. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland. The R. Wye system is the best site known in Wales for White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. The tributaries are the main haven for the species, particularly at the confluences of the main river and the Edw, Dulas Brook, Sgithwen and Clettwr Brook. Sea lamprey populations are found in the main stem below Llyswen. The site provides exceptionally good quality habitat for sea lamprey and supports a healthy population. Brook and River lamprey populations are widely distributed in the Wye's catchment. The river provides exceptionally good quality habitat for Brook and River lamprey and supports their healthy populations. Twaites shad have long been abundant in the Wye, often spawning at or just above the tidal limit, but in the Wye they migrate over 100km upstream, the highest spawning site being at Builth Wells. Data held by the Environment Agency indicate that, of the three selected rivers, the largest spawning areas for this species occur on the Wye. The river has relatively good water quality, adequate flows through an unobstructed main channel and a wide range of aquatic habitats conducive to supporting this fish species. In particular, there are a number of deep pools essential for congestion before spawning. Historically, the Wye is the most famous and productive river in Wales for Atlantic salmon, with high quality spawning grounds and juvenile habitat in both the main channel and tributaries; and water quality in the system is generally favourable. It is also one of the most diverse river systems in the UK, with a transition from hard geology, high gradients, rapid flow fluctuations and low nutrient content in its upper reaches, to a more nutrient-rich river with lower gradient, more stable flow and softer geology in the lowlands. The effect of river engineering work on migration and spawning has been limited, although there is a localised influence from the Elan Valley reservoirs, through inundation of spawning and nursery habitat and fluctuations in flow and water levels in the Upper Wye. The most important tributaries for spawning are included in the SAC. Although in the past non-native salmon may have been released to the system, the impact of this is likely to have been winter (MSW) fish, a stock component, which has declined sharply in recent years throughout the UK. This pattern has also occurred in the Wye, with a consequent marked decline in the population since the 1980's. However, the Wye salmon population is still of considerable importance in UK terms. With a range of nutrient conditions and aquatic habitats and generally good water quality for fish species, the diversity of habitat types in the Wye means that it is likely to represent most of the habitat conditions in which bullhead occurs in Britain, highlighting the conservation importance of this river. The Wye holds the densest and most well-established otter population in Wales, representative of otters occurring in lowland freshwater habitats in the borders of Wales. The river has bank-side vegetation cover, abundant food supply, clean water and undisturbed areas of dense areas of dense scrub suitable for breeding, making it particularly favourable as otter habitat. The population remained even during the lowest point of the UK decline, confirming that the site is particularly favourable for this species and the population likely to be highly stable.

Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): Conservation Objective for the watercourse

- The capacity of the habitats in the SAC to support each feature at near-natural population levels, as determined by predominantly unmodified ecological and hydromorphological processes and characteristics, should be maintained as far as possible, or restored where necessary.
- The ecological status of the water environment should be sufficient to maintain a stable or increasing population of each feature. This will include elements of water quantity and quality, physical habitat and community composition and structure. It is anticipated that these limits will concur with the relevant standards used by the Review of Consents process.
- Flow regime, water quality and physical habitat should be maintained in, or restored as far as possible to, a near-natural state, in order to support the coherence of ecosystem structure and function across the whole area of the SAC.
- All known breeding, spawning and nursery sites of species features should be maintained as suitable habitat as far as possible, except where natural processes cause them to change.
- Flows, water quality, substrate quality and quantity at fish spawning sites and nursery areas will not be depleted by abstraction, discharges, engineering or gravel extraction

- activities or other impacts to the extent that these sites are damaged or destroyed.
- The river planform and profile should be predominantly unmodified. Physical modifications having an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, including, but not limited to, revetments on active alluvial river banks using stone, concrete or waste materials, unsustainable extraction of gravel, addition or release of excessive quantities of fine sediment, will be avoided.
- River habitat SSSI features should be in favourable condition. Where the SAC habitat is not underpinned by a river habitat SSSI feature, the target is to maintain the characteristic physical features of the river channel, banks and riparian zone.
- Artificial factors impacting on the capability of each species feature to occupy the full extent of its natural range should be modified where necessary to allow passage, eg. weirs, bridge sills, acoustic barriers.
- Natural factors such as waterfalls, which may limit, wholly or partially, the natural range of a species feature or dispersal between naturally isolated populations, should not be modified.
- Flows during the normal migration periods of each migratory fish species feature will not be depleted by abstraction to the extent that passage upstream to spawning sites is hindered.
- Flow objectives for assessment points in the Wye Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy will be agreed between EA and CCW as necessary. It is anticipated that these limits will concur with the standards used by the Review of Consents process.
- Levels of nutrients, in particular phosphate, will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Wye SAC, and measures taken to maintain nutrients below these levels. It is anticipated that these limits will concur with the standards used by the Review of Consents process.
- Levels of water quality parameters that are known to affect the distribution and abundance of SAC features will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Wye SAC, and measures taken to maintain pollution below these levels. It is anticipated that these limits will concur with the standards used by the Review of Consents process.
- Potential sources of pollution not addressed in the Review of Consents, such as contaminated land, will be considered in assessing plans and projects.
- Levels of suspended solids will be agreed between EA and CCW for each Water Framework Directive water body in the Wye SAC. Measures including, but not limited to, the control of suspended sediment generated by agriculture, forestry and engineering works, will be taken to maintain suspended solids below these levels.

The vision for water courses of **plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied, see rows below.

<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat exists over the long term. Suitable habitat and associated plant communities may vary from reach to reach. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms e.g. depth and stability of flow, stability of bed substrate, and ecosystem structure and functions e.g. nutrient levels, shade. Suitable habitat for the feature need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future, except where natural</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Stands of this feature are known to be widespread in the Wye SAC including many of the tributaries. However, further information on its natural range, distribution and variation is desirable. Sympathetic management will be promoted wherever the feature is present.</p> <p>Species indicative of unfavourable condition for this feature e.g. filamentous algae associated with eutrophication, invasive non-native species, should be maintained or restored below an acceptable threshold level, indicative of high ecological status within the SAC.</p>
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processes cause it to decline in extent.	
Favourable Condition Status: The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing.	Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Adverse factors may include elevated nutrient levels, shading or altered flow and/or sediment regimes. It is possible that reaches with slightly elevated nutrient levels and/or regulated flows may have a higher cover of the feature than under natural conditions, though species composition may also be affected.
Favourable Condition Status: The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate JNCC river vegetation type for the particular river reach, unless differing from this type due to natural variability when other typical species may be defined as appropriate.	Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: More information on the typical species expected within each management unit in the SAC is required. The effects of artificial factors such as flow regulation on species composition should be examined e.g. river jelly lichen may prefer greater flow variability
The vision for transition mires and quaking bogs is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied, see rows below:	
Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and landforms favour the development of this habitat. The feature need not be present in all suitable locations in the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future.	Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: This feature is represented within the SAC at Colwyn Brook Marshes SSSI. Other locations with similar habitat within and adjacent to the SAC are not considered to qualify as examples of this feature e.g. Waen Rhyd SSSI, but may have similar management requirements. Species indicative of unfavourable condition for this feature e.g. invasive native trees and shrubs and non-native species, should be maintained or restored below an acceptable threshold level, indicative of high ecological status within the SAC.
Favourable Condition Status: The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing.	Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Adverse factors may include elevated nutrient levels or altered hydrological processes through drainage or groundwater abstraction.
Favourable Condition Status: The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate NVC type(s), unless differing from this type due to natural variability/local distinctiveness when other typical/indicator species may be defined as appropriate.	Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: More information on the typical species expected within each management unit is required. Details to be confirmed.
The vision for white-clawed (or Atlantic Stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied, see rows below:	

<p>Favourable Condition Status: The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Presence of non-native crayfish adversely affects population dynamics through competition, predation and introduction of disease (crayfish plague). This is thought to invariably lead to local extinction of white-clawed crayfish. American signal crayfish are present in the Bachawy and Lugg and Arrow sub-catchments (outside the SAC) and have been reported in the Edw.</p> <p>The release of highly toxic sheep dips into streams has caused mass mortality and local extinction in the SAC from which populations may be very slow to recover.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat for each life stage exists over the long term. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms e.g. substrate type, water hardness and temperature, and ecosystem structure and functions eg. food supply, absence of invasive non-native competitors. Suitable habitat need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future. Natural factors such as waterfalls may limit the natural range of individual species. Existing artificial influences on natural range that cause an adverse effect on site integrity will be assessed.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Some reaches of the Wye SAC are more suitable for some features than others e.g. the natural range of white-clawed crayfish may be limited by water hardness and temperature (which may possibly also mediate competition with non-native crayfish to some extent). These differences influence the management priorities for individual reaches and are used to define the site units.</p> <p>Eradication of American signal crayfish, or control of its spread in the Wye catchment is considered essential to the long-term suitability of the SAC for white-clawed crayfish. At present there are no known effective methods for eradication or long-term control of signal crayfish.</p> <p>Prevention of release of toxic sheep dips and other harmful diffuse pollution into watercourses is essential.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Invasion of American signal crayfish is likely to make existing habitat in the Wye SAC unsuitable for white-clawed crayfish in the long term. There may be a need to translocate white-clawed crayfish to suitable habitat outside its present (and historic) range.</p>
<p>The vision for Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ; River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ; Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> ; Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> ; Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; and Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> is for them to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied, see rows below:</p>	
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Entrainment in water abstractions directly impacts on population dynamics through reduced recruitment and survival rates.</p> <p>Fish stocking can adversely affect population dynamics through competition, predation, introduction of disease and alteration of population genetics.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Some reaches of the Wye SAC</p>

<p>being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat for each life stage exists over the long term. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms e.g. suitable flows to allow upstream migration, depth of water and substrate type at spawning sites, and ecosystem structure and functions e.g. food supply. Suitable habitat need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future. Natural factors such as waterfalls may limit the natural range of individual species. Existing artificial influences on natural range that cause an adverse effect on site integrity, such as physical barriers to migration, will be assessed.</p>	<p>are more suitable for some features than others e.g. the Edw has important populations of salmon but is not used by shad due to its small size. These differences influence the management priorities for individual reaches and are used to define the site units. In general, management for one feature is likely to be sympathetic for the other features present in the river, provided that the components of favourable conservation status for the watercourse are secured.</p> <p>The characteristic channel morphology provides the diversity of water depths, current velocities and substrate types necessary to fulfil the habitat requirements of the features. The close proximity of different habitats facilitates movement of fish to new preferred habitats with age.</p> <p>Hydrological processes in the Wye are affected by abstraction and regulation releases from the Elan Valley reservoirs. While these effects cannot practicably be removed any adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC should be minimised as far as possible.</p> <p>Extensive coniferous forestry plantations in the upper catchment, including the Irfon catchment, adversely affect the run-off and sediment characteristics and water quality of the river. Measures should be taken to restore the hydrological characteristics of headwater areas including wetland functions.</p> <p>Shad and salmon migration can be affected by acoustic barriers and by high sediment loads, which can originate from a number of sources including construction works.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: None</p>
<p>The vision for Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied, see rows below.</p>	
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: None</p>

<p>Favourable Condition Status: The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches that are potentially suitable to form part of a breeding territory and/or provide routes between breeding territories. The whole area of the Wye SAC is considered to form potentially suitable breeding habitat for otters. The size of breeding territories may vary depending on prey abundance. The population size should not be limited by the availability of suitable undisturbed breeding sites. Where these are insufficient they should be created through habitat enhancement and where necessary the provision of artificial holts. No otter breeding site should be subject to a level of disturbance that could have an adverse effect on breeding success. Where necessary, potentially harmful levels of disturbance must be managed.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Survey information shows that otters are widely distributed in the Wye catchment. However, an assessment of otter breeding habitat has indicated that there may be a shortage of suitable habitat around the middle reaches of the river, which may affect the long-term viability of the population. This should be addressed by habitat enhancement including stock exclusion from suitable woodlands near to the river but outside the floodplain.</p> <p>The decline in eel populations may be having an adverse effect on the population of otters in the Wye.</p>
<p>Favourable Condition Status: The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc at road bridges and other artificial barriers.</p>	<p>Supporting Information/Current Knowledge: Road and bridge improvement schemes within the catchment should take appropriate measures towards achievement of this objective.</p>
<p>Site Vulnerability: Water quality impacts arising from changing agricultural land-use within the catchment are having direct and indirect effects on the SAC interests through effects of diffuse pollution such as nutrient run-off and increased siltation. Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales are seeking to address such issues through improved targeting of existing and new agri-environment schemes and through improvements in compliance with agricultural Codes of Practice. Water quality is also affected by synthetic pyrethroid sheep-dips and by point-source discharges within the catchment. The impact of sewage treatment works on the SAC is being addressed through the Asset Management Plan process and review under the Habitats Regulations. Loss of riparian habitat is occurring as a result of changes in agricultural land-use practices and other factors, including riverside development and the loss of alder tree-cover through disease. These impacts and concerns over water quality will be identified and actions recommended within the joint Natural England / Environment Agency / Countryside Council for Wales conservation strategy for the river. Fishing activities are implicated in the decline of the salmon; initiatives such as the Wye Salmon Action Plan will help to address this issue. There is increasing demand for abstraction from the river for agriculture and portable water. The impact of this is still being investigated by the Environment Agency, but maintenance of water levels and flow will be addressed under the review of consents under the Habitats Regulations. Demand for increased recreational activities is a source of potential concern for the future. Regularisation of the functions of the competent authorities, currently being sought, should reduce the risk of damage to the SAC as a result of developments for such activities.</p>	
<p>Reason for designation</p>	<p>Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity</p>
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality and flow levels • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Control of recreational activities
<p>Annex II habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality • Maintain water table levels

selection: Transition mires and quaking bogs (considered to support a significant presence)	
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: White-clawed (or Atlantic Stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution • Control of human activities and disturbance
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality, water flows and control water abstractions • Encourage appropriate management of

(considered to support a significant presence)	adjacent land to reduce sedimentation and diffuse agricultural pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal and prevention of barriers to fish migration
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Table 12: Rodborough Common

Site name: Rodborough Common SAC, SO849036, England, Gloucestershire	
Site Description: Rodborough Common (104.26ha) is the most extensive area of semi-natural dry grasslands surviving in the Cotswolds central southern England, and presents CG5 <i>Bromus erectus</i> – <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> grassland, which is more or less confined to the Cotswolds. The site contains a wide range of structural types, ranging from short turf through to scrub margins, although short-turf vegetation is mainly confined to areas of shallower soils.	
Conservation Objectives: NE to confirm.	
Site Vulnerability: The grassland is dependant upon the maintenance of grazing, and this is co-ordinated through a Commoners Committee. The numbers of cattle grazing has declined with the general decline in the livestock industry. The site owners (National Trust) have developed a project to restore management to the species-rich slopes of the site, and a number of authorities are working together to provide traffic-calming measures on busy through roads to reduce the number of livestock injuries and promote further uptake of common rights. Scrub management is being addressed through the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme. Recreation has an impact on areas accessible by cars, and is causing localized erosion. Management issues are being addressed through continued liason, joint working and a Site Management Statement between English Nature (now Natural England) and the National Trust.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and monitor management regime • Control of recreational activities

Table 13: Severn Estuary (SAC)

Site name: Severn Estuary SAC, ST321748, England & Wales, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Newport, City of Bristol, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire	
Site Description: The Severn Estuary is a large estuary with extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats, rocky platforms and islands. Saltmarsh fringes the coast backed by grazing marsh with freshwater ditches and occasional brackish ditches. The seabed is rock and gravel with subtidal sandbanks. The estuary's classic funnel shape, unique in the UK, is a factor causing the Severn to have the second-highest tidal range in the world. This tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tidal swept sand and rock. A further consequence of the large tidal range is an extensive intertidal zone, one of the largest in the UK.	
Conservation Objectives: Please refer to Severn Estuary SPA for the Conservation Objectives, however these are only for the SPA and only give general information for the SAC, further information has been requested from NE and CCW for specific Conservation Objectives for the Seven Estuary SAC designation.	
Site Vulnerability: The conservation of the site features is dependent on the tidal regime. The tidal range in the Severn Estuary is the second highest in the world and the scouring of the seabed and strong tidal streams result in natural erosion of the habitats and the presence of high sediment loads. The estuary is therefore vulnerable to large-scale interference, mainly as a result of human actions. These include land-claim, aggregate extraction, physical	

<p>developments such as barrage construction and other commercial construction activities, flood defences, industrial pollution, oil spillage and tourism-based activities and disturbance. There are several management mechanisms that seek to secure sustainable management of the Severn Estuary and its wildlife interest. A management scheme under Regulation 34 of the Habitats Regulations was established in 2004 in relation to the international bird interest that underpins designation as a Special Protection Area. Conservation advice has been provided under Regulation 33 in relation to conserving the internationally important bird populations. The mechanisms are in place to produce both Regulation 33 advice and a management scheme for the SAC once the site goes forward. The Severn Estuary Partnership is a longstanding partnership whose remit and membership extends beyond the designated area. It predates the European designations and seeks to deliver holistic management of the uses of the estuary. In Wales, Community Strategies and Local Biodiversity Action Plans also contribute to achieving the conservation aims for the Estuary.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Estuaries (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Sandbanks, which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Reefs (the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
Annex II species that are a primary reason for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime

<p>site selection: Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities
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Table 14: Severn Estuary (SPA)

<p>Site name: Severn estuary SPA, England & Wales, Avon, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Somerset and South Glamorgan</p>
<p>Site Description: The Severn Estuary is a large estuary with extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats, rocky platforms and islands. Saltmarsh fringes the coast backed by grazing marsh with freshwater ditches and occasional brackish ditches. The seabed is rock and gravel with subtidal sandbanks. The estuary's classic funnel shape, unique in the UK, is a factor causing the Severn to have the second-highest tidal range in the world. This tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tidal swept sand and rock. A further consequence of the large tidal range is an extensive intertidal zone, one of the largest in the UK.</p>
<p>Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): Gadwall: Gadwall is also a qualifying interest feature of the Severn Estuary SPA but does not occur within the European marine site. It is found within the SPA, but only above the highest astronomical tide (HAT) and the European marine site for which this Regulation 33 advice is written, only extends up to HAT. Consequently, there are no specific conservation objectives within this document for this species. Objectives to maintain this features in favourable condition are identified within English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales' conservation objectives for the relevant SSSIs within each European site boundary, and will be dealt with through procedures outlined in the Conservation (Natural Habitat &c.) Regulations 1994. However, relevant authorities need to have regard to such adjacent interests as they may be affected by activities taking place within, or adjacent to the European marine site.</p>
<p>European white-fronted goose: The conservation objective is to maintain the European white-fronted goose population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature European white-fronted goose will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering European white fronted goose population is no less than 3,002 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9-1992/3); (ii) the extent of saltmarsh at the Dumbles is maintained; (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats at Frampton Sands, Waveridge Sands and the Noose is maintained; (iv) greater than 25% cover of suitable soft-leaved herbs and grasses is maintained during the winter on saltmarsh areas; (v) unrestricted bird sightlines of >200m at feeding and roosting sites are maintained; (vi) aggregations of European white-fronted goose at feeding or roosting sites are not subject to significant disturbance.
<p>Dunlin: The conservation objective is to maintain the dunlin population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature dunlin will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering dunlin population is no less than 41,683 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9 - 1992/3); (ii) the extent of saltmarsh is maintained; (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained; (iv) the extent of shingle and rocky shore is maintained; (v) the extent of vegetation with a sward height of <10cm is maintained throughout the saltmarsh; (vi) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;

- (vii) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (viii) the extent of strandlines is maintained;
- (ix) unrestricted bird sightlines of >200m at feeding and roosting sites are maintained;
- (x) aggregations of dunlin at feeding or roosting sites are not subject to significant disturbance.

Bewick's swan: The conservation objective is to maintain the Bewick's swan population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature Bewick's swan will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the Bewick's swan population is no less than 289 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9 - 1992/3);
- (ii) the extent of saltmarsh at the Dumbles is maintained;
- (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats at Frampton Sands, Waveridge Sands and the Noose is maintained;
- (iv) the extent of vegetation with an effective field size of >6 ha and with unrestricted bird sightlines > 500m at feeding, roosting and refuge sites are maintained;
- (v) greater than 25% cover of suitable soft leaved herbs and grasses in winter season throughout the transitional saltmarsh at the Dumbles is maintained;
- (vi) aggregations of Bewick's swan at feeding, roosting and refuge sites are not subject to significant disturbance.

Shelduck: The conservation objective is to maintain the shelduck population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature shelduck will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering shelduck population is no less than 2,892 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9 - 1992/3);
- (ii) the extent of saltmarsh is maintained;
- (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (iv) the extent of shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (v) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (vi) unrestricted bird sightlines of >200m at feeding and roosting sites are maintained;
- (vii) aggregations of shelduck at feeding or roosting sites are not subject to significant disturbance.

Redshank: The conservation objective is to maintain the redshank population and its supporting habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature redshank will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the wintering redshank population is no less than 2,013 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9 - 1992/3);
- (ii) the extent of saltmarsh is maintained;
- (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (iv) the extent of shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (v) the extent of vegetation with a sward height of <10cm throughout the saltmarsh is maintained;
- (vi) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (vii) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (viii) strandlines are not subject to significant disturbance;
- (ix) unrestricted bird sightlines of >200m at feeding and roosting sites are maintained;
- (x) aggregations of redshank at feeding or roosting sites are not subject to significant disturbance.

Waterfowl assemblage: The conservation objective is to maintain the waterfowl assemblage and its supporting

habitats in favourable condition. This conservation objective is subject to review. The interest feature waterfowl assemblage will be considered to be in favourable condition when, subject to natural processes, each of the following conditions are met:

- (i) the 5 year peak mean population size for the waterfowl assemblage is no less than 68,026 individuals (ie the 5 year peak mean between 1988/9 - 1992/3);
- (ii) the extent of saltmarsh is maintained;
- (iii) the extent of intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (iv) the extent of shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (v) extent of vegetation of <10cm throughout the saltmarsh is maintained;
- (vi) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in intertidal mudflats and sandflats is maintained;
- (vii) the distribution and abundance of suitable invertebrates in shingle and rocky shore is maintained;
- (viii) greater than 25% cover of suitable soft leaved herbs and grasses during the winter on saltmarsh areas is maintained;
- (ix) strandlines are not subject to significant disturbance;
- (x) unrestricted bird sightlines of >500m at feeding and roosting sites are maintained;
- (xi) waterfowl aggregations at feeding or roosting sites are not subject to significant disturbance.

Natural processes: Each interest feature is subject to both natural processes and human influences. Human influence on the interest features is acceptable provided that it is compatible with the achievement of the conditions set out under the definition of favourable condition for each interest feature. A failure to meet these conditions, which is entirely a result of natural processes will not constitute unfavourable condition, but will trigger a review of the definition of favourable condition. This qualification is necessary because:

- (a) the bird populations themselves are subject to natural factors, many of which arise outside the SPA, such as breeding success and winter temperatures;
- (b) the supporting habitats of the birds are influenced by the evolution of the estuary. Natural adjustments within estuaries can take many forms. One important example is the tendency of estuaries to accumulate sediment, thereby changing their form from their original Holocene morphology to a state where tidal energy is dissipated by subtidal and intertidal sediment banks or features. This, with other natural processes, will therefore cause the width and depth of the estuary to change over time, moving towards a state of dynamic equilibrium or 'most probable state'. As part of this process, the location and extent of saltmarshes and mudflats may change, provided there is capacity to accommodate readjustment. However, where this process is constrained, the capacity of habitats to accommodate readjustment may be affected.

Site Vulnerability: The conservation of the site features is dependant on the tidal regime. The range is the second highest in the world and the scouring of the seabed and strong tidal streams result in natural erosion of the habitats. The estuary is therefore vulnerable to large-scale interference, including human actions. These include land-claim, aggregate extraction/dredging, physical developments such as barrage construction flood defences, pollution (industrial, oil spillage), eutrophication and tourism based activities and disturbance. These issues are being addressed through existing control measures and as part of the Severn Estuary Strategy. Since June 1995 the Severn Estuary Strategy has been working towards the sustainability management of the site, through the involvement of local authorities, interested parties and local people. This integrated approach is being further developed in conjunction with the SAC management scheme for the nature conservation interest of the estuary.

Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> 282 Individuals (0.9% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Annex I birds and regularly occurring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime

migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> 2664 Individuals (0.4% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Dunlin <i>Caldidris alpina</i> 44624 individuals (3.3% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Beswick Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> 280 individuals (3.9% of the GB population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> 3330 individuals (1.1% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I: Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex I species: Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> 2330 individuals (1.3% of the population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites
Internationally important assemblage of birds, over winter the area regularly supports: 84317 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998), including all of the above mentioned species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational activities • Control of extraction and other industrial activities • Protection of bird sites

Table 15: Severn Estuary (RAMSAR)

Site name: Severn Estuary RAMSAR site, England & Wales, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Newport, Avon, City of Bristol, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Gwent, North Somerset, Somerset, South Glamorgan and South Gloucestershire
Site Description: The estuary's classic funnel shape, unique in Britain, is a factor causing the Severn to have the second-largest tidal range in the world (after the Bay of Fundy, Canada). This tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tide swept sand and rock. The species-poor invertebrate community includes high densities of ragworms, lugworms and other invertebrates forming an important food source for passage and wintering waders. A further consequence and annual sea-blite colonise the open mud, with beds of all three species of eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> occurring on more sheltered mud and sandbanks. Large expanses of common cord-grass also occur on the outer marshes. Heavily-grazed Saltmarsh fringes the estuary with a range of Saltmarsh types present. The middle marsh sward is dominated by common salt-marsh-grass with typical associated species. In the upper marsh, red fescue and Saltmarsh rush

become more prominent.	
Conservation Objectives: Please refer to the Severn Estuary SPA Conservation Objectives, as this provides part of the information needed for this RAMSAR designation. The remaining Conservation Objectives for Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>; Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i>; Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>; <i>Alosa alosa</i>; <i>Alosa fallax</i>; <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>; and <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> have been requested from CCW.	
Site Vulnerability: Current recreation and tourism activities, facilities provided and seasonality: Walking, dog walking and birdwatching are concentrated along the sea walls all the year round and on the Saltmarsh and sandy beaches. Bathing, beach recreation, including sand yachting and wind surfing are practiced on the sandy beaches, mainly in the summer. There are boat clubs/marinas in the sub-estuaries with sailing, motor boats and jet skiing. Angling is carried out from the shore and small boats. There is a certain amount of bait digging. Wildfowling is carried out from September to February all around the Estuary; consents and further management measures are being addressed. There are agreed refuge areas for the birds. (See the Information Sheet on RAMSAR Wetlands (RIS) for references).	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Under RAMSAR criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance species with peak counts in winter: 70919 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> , NW Europe, 229 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Greater white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons</i> , NW Europe, 2076 individuals representing an average of 35.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean for 1996/97-2000/01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe, 3223 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> , NW Europe, 241 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2202/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> , W Siberia/W Europe, 25082 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites

RAMSAR criterion 6 species/populations occurring at levels of international importance and qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Common redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> , 2616 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of bird sites
Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> , W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa, 4167 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.8% of the breeding population (seabird 2000 Census)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of breeding bird sites
Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , Europe/Northwest Africa, 740 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of migrating bird sites
Species with peak counts in winter: Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> , NW Europe, 4456 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of over-wintering bird sites
Species with peak counts in winter: Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> , NW Europe, 756 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution • Control of recreational and other human activities • Protection of over-wintering bird sites
Species occurring at levels of international importance on the site: Fish – <i>Alosa alosa</i> (IUCN Red data book – threatened; habitats directive Annex II, Annex V, S1102)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution
Species occurring at levels of international importance on the site: <i>Alosa fallax</i> (IUCN Red data book – threatened Habitats Directive Annex II, Annex V, S1103)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution
Species occurring at levels of international importance on the site: <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (IUCN Red data book – threatened; Habitats Directive Annex II, S1099)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution
Species occurring at levels of international importance on the site: <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II, S1095)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain tidal regime • Prevention of water and air borne pollution

Table 16: Sugar Loaf Woodlands

Site name: Sugar Loaf Woodlands SAC, SO295166, Wales, Monmouthshire
Site Description: Sugar Loaf Woodlands (173.84ha) are the largest example of old sessile oak woods near the south-eastern fringe of the habitat's range in the UK and Europe. The relatively dry situation restricts the development of the Atlantic flora associated with the habitat, but the main floristic components of sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> canopy, acidic ground flora (typically of bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> and wavy hair-grass <i>Deschampsia</i>

<p><i>flexuosa</i>) and extensive fern and bryophyte cover are in place. The woodland is grazed, but regenerates within gaps and at the fringes, where transitions to upland grassland and heath communities occur.</p>	
<p>Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): The vision for Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> is for it to be in favourable conservation status within the site, as a functioning and regenerating oak wood, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wooded area is no less than 122 ha; • The remainder of the site is semi-natural acid grassland, heathland, bracken and scrub, often forming a transition zone at the woodland edge; • Saplings of birch <i>betula spp</i>, oak <i>Quercus petraea</i>, alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> or holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> dominate the tree regeneration; • Young beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> and sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> trees are rare; • The woodland ground flora is composed of a range of typical native plants including bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>, wavy-hair grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> and the mosses <i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>, <i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>, <i>Dicranum majus</i>. • The liverwort <i>Bazzania trilobata</i> to continue to be present in its core area of Unit 1. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions will under control. 	
<p>Site Vulnerability: The majority of the woodland is on common land that is grazed by sheep. So long as tree regeneration is sufficient to maintain the canopy, it should not be necessary to control grazing within the majority of the woodland. Part of the woodland is presently subject to livestock exclusion. Removal of non-native trees and shrubs may be necessary in this area. Agri-environment schemes offer the best mechanism for securing favourable management in the longer term. The accumulation of bracken litter on the common poses a fire risk in dry weather. Restrictions on public access could be considered, but it would be very difficult to control most incidents, as they appear to be the result of children deliberately setting fires. Control of bracken in a buffer strip at the wood edges may be a more sensible consideration. Airbourne acid and nutrient deposition may also be a problem, particularly for epiphytic lichens on the oak trees.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor grazing and control if necessary • Control of recreational activities • Secure appropriate management regimes

Table 17: Usk Bat Sites

<p>Site name: Usk Bat Sites SAC, SO190145, Wales, Monmouthshire and Powys</p>
<p>Site Description: The Usk Valley area (1686.4ha) in south-west Wales contains one of the largest maternity roosts for lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> as well as a number of important hibernacula in caves in the area. The area contains up to 5% of the UK population, though counts in hibernation sites suggest this may be an underestimate.</p>
<p>Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): Vision for European dry heaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent, quality and diversity of heath vegetation within the constituent sites is maintained and, where possible, degraded heath is restored to good condition. • The main heathland areas have a varied age structure with a mosaic of young heath, mature heath and degenerate heath. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. <p>Vision for degraded raised bogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent, quality and diversity of degraded raised bog vegetation is maintained and, where possible, restored to good condition. • Peat profiles containing important pollen records are maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Vision for **blanket bogs**

- The extent, quality and species richness of the blanket bog vegetation is maintained and, where possible, degraded bog is restored to good condition.
- Peat profiles containing important pollen records are maintained.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Vision for **calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation**

- Sufficient vegetation within crevices remains free from disturbance to support typical plants, including mosses, ferns and rare hawkweeds (*Hieracium* spp.) and allow them to sustain their populations into the future.
- Areas accessible to grazing animals should free from being smothered by ivy or heavily shaded by trees.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Vision for **caves not open to the public**

- The cave system provides a winter hibernation site for large numbers of lesser horseshoe bats and other bat species, including Brandt's, whiskered, Daubenton's, Natterer's, brown long-eared and, occasionally, greater horseshoe bats.
- Numbers of roosting bats are stable or increasing in the system as a whole.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

The vision for ***Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines** is for it to be in favourable conservation status within the site, as a functioning and regenerating ash woodland, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- There are extensive patches of semi-natural woodland on the cliffs of the Langatwg escarpment and hillsides in the Clydach gorge;
- The woodland canopy is dominated by locally native species, including lime ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Tilia* spp., pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, birch *Betula* spp., whitebeams *Sorbus* spp. and in the clydach gorge, beech *Fagus sylvatica*;
- Saplings of locally native species dominate the tree regeneration and there is evidence of sufficient regeneration to maintain the canopy in the long term;
- There is an accumulation of standing and fallen dead wood as the woodland develops.
- The woodland ground flora is composed of a range of typical native plants including enchanters-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*.
- The populations of rare whitebeams are stable into the future.
- Young beech sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trees are rare, as are beech *Fagus sylvatica* in areas away from the Clydach gorge;
- Plants indicating disturbance and nutrient enrichment, such as nettles, clevers and of weeds, are not dominant in the ground flora of the woodland;
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

The vision for **lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The site will support a sustainable population of lesser horseshoe bats in the River Usk area.
- The population will viable in the long term, acknowledging the population fluctuations of the species.
- Buildings, structures and habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the populations.
- Sufficient foraging habitat is available, in which factors such as disturbance, interruption to flight lines, and mortality from predation or vehicle collision, changes in habitat management that would reduce the available food source are not at levels which could

<p>cause any decline in population size or range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the surrounding habitats is of the appropriate type and sufficiently secure to ensure there is likely to be no reduction in population size or range, nor any decline in the extent or quality of breeding, foraging or hibernating habitat. • There will be no loss or decline in quality of linear features (such as hedgerows and tree lines) which the bats use as flight lines - there will be no loss of foraging habitat use by the bats or decline in its quality, such as due to over-intensive woodland management • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control. 	
<p>Site Vulnerability: Minimal disturbance is required within the lesser horseshoe bat cave hibernacula. Disturbance has been safeguarded for many years by means of gated cave entrances, permits and promoting a code of conduct. A large coach-house has been renovated by a conservation body to safeguard maternity roost occupiers. Remaining features are on common land with grazing rights that are difficult to control and some reduction in grazing levels and / or change of grazing patterns appears desirable. Past uncontrolled fires and historic atmospheric inputs have affected the condition of blanket bog and degraded raised bog interest. However, the effect of atmospheric inputs is unknown. The blanket bog has been subject to hydrological change as a result of past ditch construction to supply water to reservoirs. With landowner and graziers agreement it may be possible to block up some ditches. The actual benefit of this is unknown and would therefore need prior identification.</p>	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: European dry heaths (considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain appropriate grazing levels • Implement and monitor appropriate management regime
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain appropriate grazing levels • Implement and monitor appropriate management regime • Maintain water-table levels
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Blanket bogs (priority feature) (is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain appropriate grazing levels • Implement and monitor appropriate management regime • Maintain water-table levels
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (is considered to be rare as its total extent in the UK is estimated to be less than 1000ha and for which the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control disturbance • Monitor succession
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Caves not open to the public (for which the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain control of access and prevent disturbance
Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (priority feature) (is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control disturbance • Monitor succession
Annex II species of primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , UK population 5%, although it is suggested this is an underestimate (is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain control of access and prevent disturbance • No loss of or damage to roost and hibernation sites • No loss of or damage to foraging areas

Table 18: Walmore Common

Site name: Walmore Common SPA, England, Gloucestershire	
Site Description: Walmore Common SPA (52.85ha) is located in Gloucestershire, in the west of England, about 10km south-west of Gloucester. It is an area of damp grassland and ditches composed of clayey soils overlying the only significant area of peatland in Gloucestershire. The area is subject to regular winter flooding and this creates suitable conditions for regular wintering by an important number of Beswick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> .	
Conservation Objectives: NE to confirm.	
Site Vulnerability: Bewick's swans are attracted for feeding and roosting by the grassland, which is maintained by grazing and the natural winter flooding which is in turn determined by rainfall, runoff and river levels. A water level management plan, currently in preparation, will ensure appropriate conditions are retained for wintering bird interest. The marshy grassland and ditches will be maintained and enhanced by maintaining high water levels from spring to autumn through the implementation of a water level management plan.	
Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory bird species not listed on Annex I (over winter): Bewick Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> 104 individuals, 1.4% of Great Britain's population, 5 year peak mean 1991/92 to 1995/96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain water quality and water levels • Grassland management regime

Table 19: Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Site name: Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC, SO605044, England and Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire
Site Description: This complex of sites on the border between England and Wales contains by far the greatest concentration of lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> in the UK, totalling about 26% of the national population. It has been selected on the grounds of the exceptional breeding population, and the majority of sites within the complex are maternity roosts. The bats are believed to hibernate in the many disused mines in the area. The site also represents the greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> in the northern part of its range, with about 6% of the UK population. This specie also uses the site as its main maternity roost and hibernates in the disused mines in the forest.
Conservation Objectives (Source CCW): The vision for lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site will support a sustainable population of lesser horseshoe bats in the Wye Valley area. • The population will viable in the long term, acknowledging the population fluctuations of the species. • Buildings, structures and habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the populations. • Sufficient foraging habitat is available, in which factors such as disturbance, interruption to flight lines, and mortality from predation or vehicle collision, changes in habitat management that would reduce the available food source are not at levels which could cause any decline in population size or range • Management of the surrounding habitats is of the appropriate type and sufficiently secure to ensure there is likely to be no reduction in population size or range, nor any decline in the extent or quality of breeding, foraging or hibernating habitat. • There will be no loss or decline in quality of linear features (such as hedgerows and tree lines) which the bats use as flight lines - there will be no loss of foraging habitat use by the bats or decline in its quality, such as due to over-intensive woodland management • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

The vision for **greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*** is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The site will support a sustainable population of greater horseshoe bats in the Wye Valley area.
- The population will viable in the long term, acknowledging the population fluctuations of the species.
- Buildings, structures and habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the populations.
- Sufficient foraging habitat is available, in which factors such as disturbance, interruption to flight lines, and mortality from predation or vehicle collision, changes in habitat management that would reduce the available food source are not at levels which could cause any decline in population size or range
- Management of the surrounding habitats is of the appropriate type and sufficiently secure to ensure there is likely to be no reduction in population size or range, nor any decline in the extent or quality of breeding, foraging or hibernating habitat.
- There will be no loss or decline in quality of linear features (such as hedgerows and tree lines) which the bats use as flight lines - there will be no loss of foraging habitat use by the bats or decline in its quality, such as due to over-intensive woodland management
- All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

Site Vulnerability: The site is composed of parts of a number of buildings in everyday use (mainly roof-spaces) used by the bats for breeding and a series of mines used by bats for hibernation. Within the roosts the bats are vulnerable to disturbance at critical times, structural alteration and changes in the characteristic ventilation patterns. Any proposed changes which are likely to have an impact on the bat populations within the breeding roosts will be discussed with the relevant owners and occupiers. Where appropriate to any populations potentially damaging works will be addressed through appropriate planning regulation, management agreements and monitoring of individual roosts. Regular liaison takes place with site-owners. The human use of the mine systems (continued mineral working and recreational caving/research) is regulated by Forest Enterprise in consultation with Natural England where appropriate. Site Management Statements have been agreed with the owners of working mines to secure conservation of the populations alongside continued working. In addition, the preparation of Cave Conservation Plans will be promoted to maintain and enhance the underground environment for bats.

Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of or damage to roost and hibernation sites • No loss of or damage to foraging areas
Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss of or damage to roost and hibernation sites • No loss of or damage to foraging areas

Table 20: Wye Valley Woodlands

Site name: Wye valley woodlands SAC, ST530957, England and Wales, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

Site Description: The Wye Valley (916.24ha) contains abundant and near-continuous semi-natural woodland along the gorge. Beech stands occur as part of a mosaic with a wide range of other woodland types, and present the western range of *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests. Such a variety of woodland types is rare within the UK. In places lime *Tilia* sp., elm *Ulmus* sp. and oak *Quercus* sp. share dominance with the beech. Structurally the woods include old coppice, pollards and high forest types. Lady Park Wood, one of the component sites, is an outstanding example of near-natural old-growth structure in mixed broad-leaved woodland,

and has been the subject of detailed long-term monitoring studies. The woods of the lower Wye Valley on the border of south Wales and England form one of the most important areas for woodland conservation in the UK and provide the most extensive examples of *Tilio-Acerion* forest in the west of its range. A wide range of ecological variation is associated with slope, aspect and landform. The woodland occurs here as a mosaic with other types, including beech *Fagus sylvatica* and pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* stands. Uncommon trees, including large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos* and rare whitebeams such as *Sorbus porrigentiformis* and *S. rupicola* are found here, as well as locally uncommon herbs, including wood barley *Hordelymus europaeus*, stinking Hellebore *Helleborus foetidus*, narrow-leaved bitter-cress *Cardamine impatiens* and wood fescue *Festuca altissima*. Wye Valley is representative of yew *Taxus baccata* woods in the south-west of the habitat's range. It lies on the southern Carboniferous limestone, and yew occurs both as an understorey to other woodland trees and as major yew-dominated groves, particularly on the more stony slopes and crags.

Conservation Objectives to be confirmed with NE and/or CCW: - According to EN's conservation objectives version 1: 26th September 2000 for Wye Valley Woodlands SAC it is composed of component SSSIs in England and Wales; England includes the SSSIs Astridge Wood, Bigsweir Woods, Highbury Wood, Lower Wye Gorge, Shorn Cliff and Caswell Wood, Swanpool Wood and Furnace Grove, The Hudnalls and Upper Wye Gorge (part) and in Wales includes Upper Wye Gorge (part), Blackcliff – Wyndcliff, Cleddon Shoots Woodland, Fiddler's Elbow, Graig Wood, Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove, Livox Wood, Lower Hael Wood and Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods. Bigsweir Woods. The conservation objectives of all these SSSIs, although subject to natural change, are to maintain in favourable condition, the ash-elm-lime woodlands, with particular reference to *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines, to maintain in favourable condition, the beech woodlands, with particular reference to *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests, the Yew Woodland with particular reference to *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles, the mines with particular reference to their use as a hibernation roosts for lesser horseshoe bats. If the feature is currently in unfavourable condition maintenance also implies restoration.

Site Vulnerability: Forest Enterprise, the Woodland Trust and County Wildlife Trusts already manage a significant proportion of the SAC sympathetically. Principal pressures are from lack of management (particularly traditional management, e.g. coppice) and inappropriate management proposals that would alter the recognised woodland stand types. Felling licence approval and Forestry Commission consultation with English Nature/Countryside Council for Wales are adequate in addressing the latter issue. Positive management is being promoted through management plans (CCW), Site Management Statements (EN) and management agreements, and the Woodland Grant Scheme (including specialized targeting) is being encouraged where possible and appropriate to return some woods to active management.

Reason for designation	Environmental conditions needed to support site integrity
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Beech forests <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of appropriate management plans
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (priority feature) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of appropriate management plans
Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles (priority feature) (considered to be one of the best areas in the UK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of appropriate management plans
Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , 51-100 residents (the area is considered to support a significant presence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss or damage to hibernation sites • Maintain appropriate woodland management regime

Appendix 4: Compliance with Habitats Directive

Review Criteria	Comments
1. Features of the Project or Plan	
1.1 The Purpose(s) and objectives of the project or plan are fully explained	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 4
1.2 Plans, diagrams and maps are provided which clearly indentify the location of the proposed project or plan	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 5
1.3 The size, scale, area and land take/cover of the project or plan are fully explained	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 5
1.4 Provides details of the physical changes that will take place during the various stages of implementing the project or plan.	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 5
1.5 Describes the resources requirements for the construction/operation and decommissioning of the project or plan (including water resources, construction material and human presence).	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, awaiting further evidence
1.6 Describes the timescales for the various activities that will take place as a result of implementing the project or plan (including likely start and finish dates).	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 1 – timescale for production of the Plan.
1.7 Describes any wastes arising, or other residues (including quantities), and their means of disposal	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Awaiting further evidence
1.8 Identifies any wastes and other residues (including quantities) that may be of particular concern in the context of the Natura 2000 site.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report Awaiting further evidence
1.9 Describes any additional services required to implement the project or plan including pipelines, overhead electricity lines etc, their location and means of construction.	Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008, Section 6 – Delivery.

2. Cumulative Effects	
2.1 Identifies all projects or plans that may in combination with the proposed project or plan, give rise to adverse effects on the Natura 2000 site	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.8 and Appendix 1
2.2 Defines the boundaries used when identifying cumulative effects	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.2 and Appendix 2
2.3 Defines the timescales over which cumulative effects have been considered	Habitat Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report at next stage
2.4 Identifies the potential cumulative pathways.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report at next stage
3. Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
3.1 Describes the site in terms of its physical area, habitat types, presence of key species etc.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Appendix 3
3.2 Sets out in full the conservation objectives of the site including the factors that contribute to the conservation value of the site	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Appendix 3
3.3 Explains any planned or contemplated nature conservation initiatives likely to affect the site in the future.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Appendix 3
3.4 Explains the existing baseline conditions – including species and habitats dynamics and ecology (including seasonal fluctuations), the physical and chemical composition and the key structural and functional relationships that maintain the site's integrity	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Appendix 3
3.5 Provides details of the value of the site to the Natura 2000 network (e.g. 15% of population in the Member State)	
3.6 Provides an indication of how the baseline conditions of the site will change in the future in the absence of the project or plan.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report at next stage
3.7 Describes the methodologies used to gather information on the baseline conditions of the site.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6 (6.3)
3.8 Identifies the organisations consulted to gather information on the baseline conditions of the site.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.3
3.9 Provides details of the organisations consulted to gather information on the baseline conditions of the site	

4. Screening	
4.1 Where no significant impacts are predicted on the Natura 2000 site, a Finding of No Significant Impacts statement is provided which clearly sets out why this conclusion has been drawn and provides evidence that the relevant nature conservation agencies and authorities are in agreement with this finding.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.5 and 6.6
4.2 Where likely significant impacts are identified these are clearly explained and where possible quantified.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.7
4.3 Evidence is provided of the assessment methodologies used in the screening process.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.4
4.4 There is clear evidence in the documentation that sufficient account and assessment has been taken of the possibility of cumulative impacts from other projects or plans.	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report, Section 6.2 and 6.8

APPENDIX 5: METHODOLOGY FOR CONSIDERING THE CORE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS AFFECTING EUROPEAN SITES.

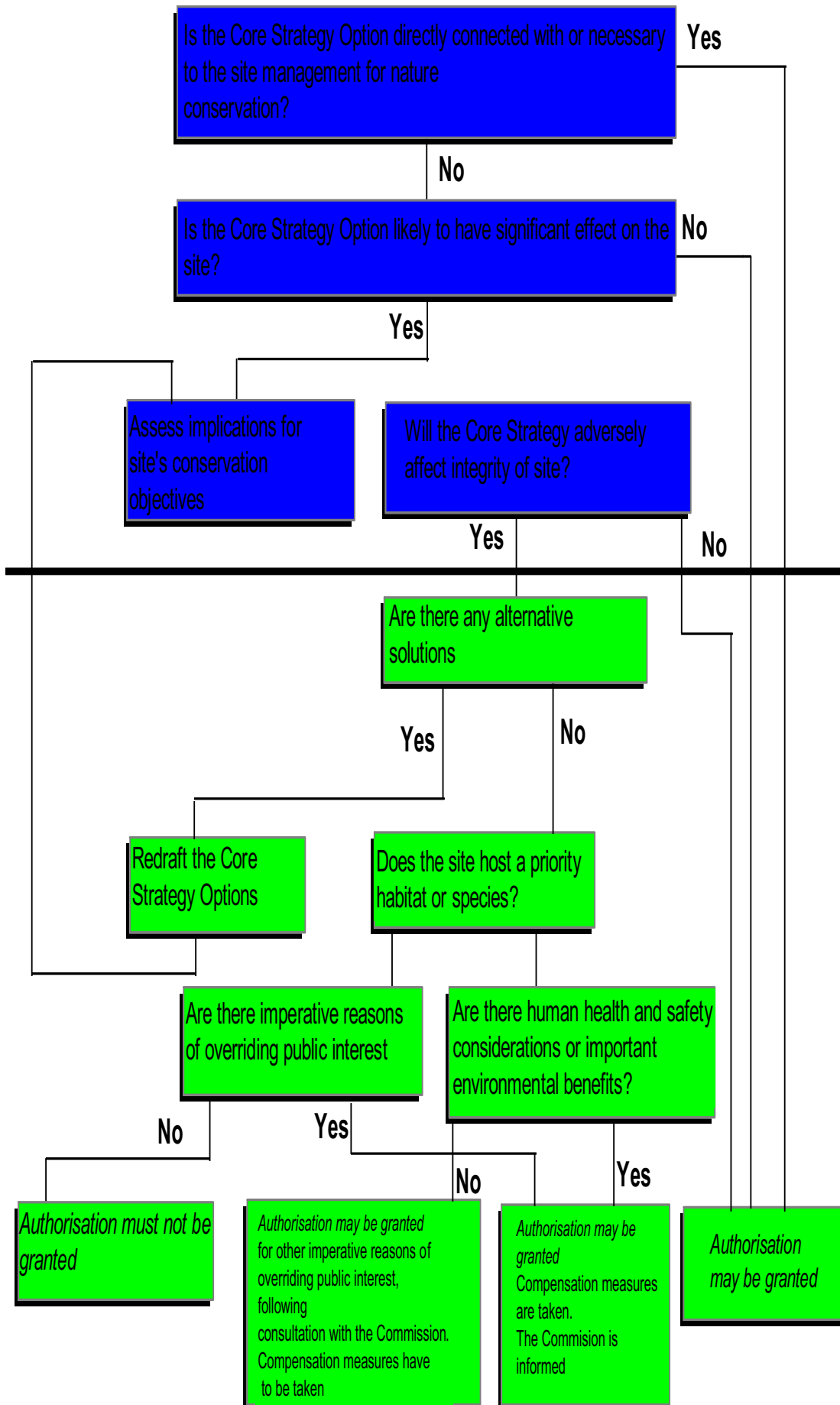
Key:



Stage 1: Screening



Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment



Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper

..... 2008

Local Development Framework



Herefordshire Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper

May 2008

Contents

1. Introduction
2. What has already been decided?
3. Creating sustainable communities
4. Spatial Vision and Objectives
5. Strategic Options
6. Shaping our Place Options
7. Policy Options
8. Delivery and Monitoring Framework
9. What happens next?

Glossary of Terms

Appendices

- 1 Links between community strategy and core strategy
- 2 Links between core strategy and other plans
- 3 Evidence base

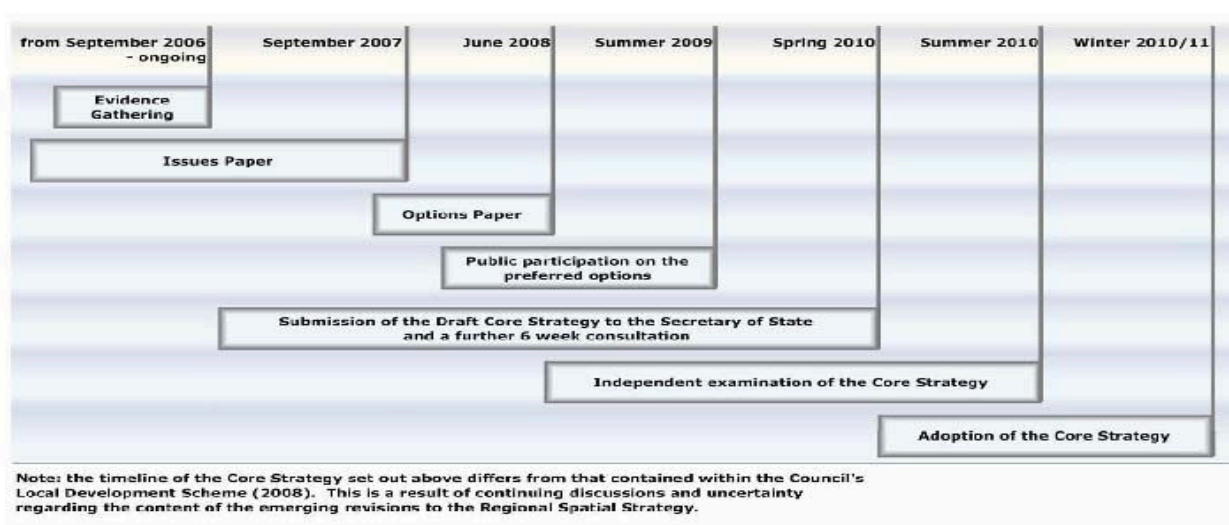
1. Introduction

This Options Paper

This paper is the second stage in the production of the **Core Strategy** to shape Herefordshire up to the year 2026. It sets out some suggested ways forward or **Options** for dealing with the issues identified through the first stage of the Core Strategy preparation – the Issues Paper (September 2007).

The Core Strategy

Shaping Herefordshire will involve looking at what the County is like today (a spatial portrait), agreeing a vision and objectives for what we want the County to be like in 2026 and deciding on a spatial strategy and policies to deliver that vision.



The Local Development Framework for Herefordshire

The Core Strategy is just one key document that the Council is preparing as part of a series of planning documents known as the Local Development Framework or LDF. These documents will guide growth and change in the County over the next 20 years and will replace the existing, adopted Unitary Development Plan (March 2007).

Although the first statutory LDF document to be produced is the Core Strategy, the Council has produced the following other components of the LDF to date:

Local Development Scheme (2008). Setting out the purpose, programme and timetable for each of the LDF documents,
Annual Monitoring Report (December 2007). Reporting on the success or otherwise of the existing planning policies in Herefordshire,
Statement of Community Involvement (March 2007). Providing a framework for engaging with the public and stakeholders in plan making and undertaking consultation

Various Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's). Setting out more detailed planning guidance in respect of specific adopted planning policies and issues.

(see www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forwardplanning for more details)

Your role?

Your views and comments are needed to help us decide what options should be looked at in more detail. Please think about how the options in this document could affect your community and the problems or benefits that might result. What should our towns, villages and countryside look like in 2026 and beyond? How will they function? Will there be enough housing and jobs of the right type and in the right place? If you would like to have your say on these issues and help to develop the policies that will shape the future of your area, this is your opportunity.

We want your views to help develop a new planning strategy for the County. Attached to this document and on the Council's website you will find a questionnaire on the key points we want feedback on. Please answer the questionnaire, preferably online, as it helps us to use the information more efficiently and effectively and let us have your comments.

Please contact us if you need more information by

- e-mail: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk
- in writing: P.O Box 4, Plough Lane, Hereford HR4 OXH
- Fax: 01432 383031
- Phone: 01432 260500

2. What has already been decided?

The Government's national policy and the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (called the regional plan for the purposes of this paper) already set the scene for the Herefordshire LDF, so the task of writing it does not start with a blank page. In this respect, some of the options for Herefordshire are limited by policies set at a higher level. However, the regional plan is currently being reviewed and so the Core Strategy we produce will need to be flexible and be able to take on board future changes that may be made to the regional plan. The requirements of the existing regional plan and the proposed revision to it are outlined below.

Current regional plan requires:

- Concentrates development on the Major Urban Areas (conurbations);
- Outside of the conurbations, focus development on sub regional centres which includes Hereford, Worcester, Shrewsbury etc;
- New development should primarily meet locally generated needs to prevent commuting to the conurbations;
- A balanced network of town and city centres as the strategic focus for development, acting as service centres for their rural hinterlands;
- Transport networks improved;
- Total number of houses to be built between 2001 and 2021 in Herefordshire is **13,200** with an average of **600 houses per annum for the County**;
- 68% target on brownfield;
- In rural areas, the provision of new housing should generally be restricted to meeting local housing needs and/or to support local services; and
- Economic growth outside of the major urban areas should help meet the needs of rural renaissance, especially improving the market towns and can create more sustainable communities by providing a balance between housing and employment.

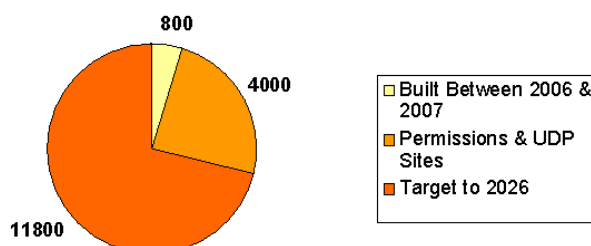
Emerging regional plan (Phase 2 Revisions Preferred Option (January 2008))

- Enhanced levels of housing requirements across the Region;
- For Herefordshire this means **16,600 (830 per annum)** net new homes 2006-2026, half of which i.e. **8,300** are targeted in Hereford;
- Affordable housing target for the west housing market area (Herefordshire and Shropshire (excluding Telford and Wrekin)) of **700** homes per annum;
- Outside of Hereford, further development in the County focused within market towns acting as strategic locations for balanced growth whilst continuing to protect the environment and character of Herefordshire;
- Development in villages should support the need to meet local housing requirements, particularly needs for affordable housing; and promote local regeneration or support the retention or creation of local services. Development should be prioritised in villages which still have a range of services and within these, priority should be given to the reuse of previously developed land and the conversion of existing buildings;
- Targets for employment land of **111** hectares with a rolling 5 year reservoir of **37** hectares;
- Targets for retail floorspace of **60,000** sq m gross and office floorspace of **45,000** sq m gross, within or on the edge of Hereford centre.

It must be noted that the Phase 2 housing figures have not yet been examined and agreed. Although the figures for new homes are higher than that in the existing regional plan, they do not meet the national 2004 based household projections produced by central government. Given the current national momentum towards housing growth, it is possible that the Phase 2 housing figures for Herefordshire may rise further. The Core Strategy will therefore need to be flexible enough to take into account any future increases to the regional housing/employment requirements.

As well as having to take into account the requirements of the regional plan, the Core Strategy has to take account of what is actually being built in terms of housing provision in the County at present. Some development has already taken place in the County as part of the implementation of the current Unitary Development Plan. For instance, around 800 additional new homes were built in Herefordshire between 2006 and 2007. A further 4000 homes are likely to be built on sites identified in the adopted UDP or with the benefit of planning permission. If these sources of housing are developed, they will contribute to the overall housing target set by the regional plan.

Housing Needed in Herefordshire
(2006 – 2026)



Growth Points

In October 2006 the Government announced it was entering into a long-term partnership for growth with local authorities in 29 places across the country, one of which was Hereford. The New Growth Point initiative is part of the Government's response to the 2004 Kate Barker report and is aimed at helping to increase the rate of house building in the country.

Hereford was considered appropriate for such an initiative because of its role as a focus in the sub-region, which is recognised in the regional plan. This sub-regional focus role reflects the extensive hinterland of the City for jobs, health, education and many other services.

3. Creating sustainable communities

The Herefordshire LDF will be about creating sustainable communities across Herefordshire, whether or not those communities are going to see major growth in terms of jobs or homes. The Government's definition of sustainable communities is that they are "places where people want to live and work, now and in the future". Key points for measuring this are that communities should be "active, inclusive and safe, well run, environmentally sensitive, well designed and built, well connected, thriving, well served and fair for everyone".

In practice, in relation to the Core Strategy, to achieve sustainable communities we need to be sure we are joined up in our thinking. This means relating our ideas to other strategies being produced inside and outside of the local authority and particularly the objectives of the Community Strategy and Council's priorities; using all the evidence base studies that we are undertaking to produce sound and robust strategies and policies; testing these against general objectives of sustainability; engaging the community at every stage and finally making things happen on the ground in terms of delivering development and the necessary infrastructure to support it. These issues are considered in turn.

Links to the Community Strategy and Council's Priorities

It is important that the Core Strategy reflects the aims of the Community Strategy, prepared by the Herefordshire Partnership, as well as the Council's key objectives/priorities. The table in Appendix 1 shows the links between the key elements of the Core Strategy and the Community Strategy. Herefordshire's Community Strategy was adopted in June 2006 and sets out a vision, guiding principles and outcomes for the period to 2020.

Vision

For Herefordshire for 2020:

"Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and well being for all."

Guiding Principles

The five Guiding Principles of the Herefordshire Community Strategy will ensure that we work towards Herefordshire being a sustainable County by considering the impacts of all proposed actions on communities, the environment and the economy.

The Guiding Principles are:

- Realise the potential of Herefordshire, its people and communities
- Integrate sustainability into all our actions
- Ensure an equal and inclusive society
- Build on the achievements of partnership working and ensure continual improvement
- Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment

Outcomes

These are the results of addressing the priorities for the County, links to which are shown under each of the suggested core strategy objectives set out in section 4 and in Appendix 1. As well as the community strategy, the plan needs to be aligned with other relevant strategies and programmes. Links to these are shown in Appendix 2.

Writing a sound Core Strategy

When an independent inspector examines the Core strategy (see diagram on page 5), he or she will be looking at whether it is “sound”. The test will be whether the overall strategy and policies are soundly based and successfully address the needs and issues of Herefordshire. The evidence on which the strategy will be based will of course be continually developing and there will always be new or updated information to take account of, which is why the eventual plan will be regularly reviewed and changed where necessary.

This Options Paper describes what has been pulled together to date and what still needs to be done before deciding on a preferred option and producing a full Core Strategy. As studies that help in preparing the Core Strategy are finished they will be added to the Core Strategy pages of the Council’s web site. Appendix 3 sets out the evidence base studies being undertaken in detail.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

Alongside the Core Strategy a sustainability appraisal is being developed, to test the contribution the new strategy and its policies will make towards achieving more sustainable communities. A General Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the LDF and an Initial Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal for the Core Strategy (which will incorporate the requirements of the European Union Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) can be found on the Council’s website. As part of the initial SA process a set of “sustainability objectives”, which cover many distinct aspects of sustainability, have been used to appraise the impact of the emerging ten Core Strategy objectives and the four spatial options. This appraisal will help identify the compatibility of the objectives and the relative effect of each option on sustainable development, and will contribute towards the decision on which policy options and objectives might be carried forward. The degree to which the option choices and preferred option furthers both climate change mitigation and adaptation will be a key element of the sustainability appraisal.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) must also be applied to the Core Strategy under the European Union Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). HRA aims to assess the potential effects of a land use plan against the conservation objectives of any sites designated for their nature conservation importance as part of a system known collectively as the Natura 2000 network of European sites.

European sites are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Union. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive). Under the Habitats Directive, the assessment must determine whether or not a plan will adversely affect the integrity of the European site(s) concerned. Where negative effects are identified, the process should consider alternatives to the proposed actions and explore mitigation opportunities. If it is impossible to avoid or remove the perceived adverse effect, the plan-makers must demonstrate, under the conditions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest to continue with the proposal. This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.

Engaging with the community

Engaging with the community and stakeholders at the outset is a vital part of the new planning system. The aim for Herefordshire Council in this context is to achieve as wide ranging participation from the community as possible, within the constraints of limited resources. We are using existing community networks and other structures as far as possible to raise general awareness of the LDF amongst these organisations. The consultation programme leading to the Options stage of the Core Strategy was developed following the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and is explained in full in Consultation Statements Part 1 and 2, which can be viewed on the website.

Infrastructure

Various facilities and services can be regarded as infrastructure, including roads, footpaths, sewerage, water mains, waste disposal, electricity, gas, telecommunications and so on, as well as community infrastructure such as public transport, schools, healthcare etc. In addition and in order to ensure sustainable communities are created, the consideration of the environment should be integrated into all development through the protection of and improvement to environmental infrastructure such as green infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems, organic waste composting/processing facilities and so on. The quality of infrastructure provision of all types can greatly affect the quality of people's lives. New housing and economic growth will increase pressure on existing service provision and infrastructure in an area. As the LDF preparation progresses, the Council will work with service and infrastructure providers, such as the area's water companies (Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water) and the Primary Care Trust, to identify where the current provision might already be under pressure and to ensure that forthcoming growth is planned for.

4 Spatial Vision and Objectives

This next section sets out the spatial portrait, key issues, vision and objectives for the Core Strategy.

Spatial Portrait and characteristics of the County

The compiling of a spatial portrait or characteristics of the County of Herefordshire has helped to identify the set of key issues set out in section 4.2. These are issues that have been apparent in the County for some time, are existing trends or new issues. All may present challenges and opportunities for the future.

People

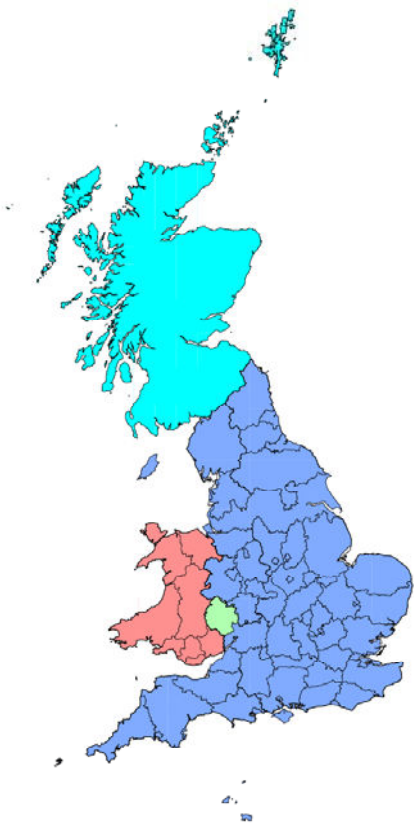
The population of Herefordshire at 2006 was estimated at 178,800. With the population density of the County at 0.8 people per hectare, Herefordshire is one of the five most sparsely populated counties in England. Population statistics indicate that the County's population will live longer, on average, than the population of England in general with increases over the last 12 years broadly in line with national trends. However, population trends also show that the population of the County is ageing more rapidly than the national population and the County also suffers from a marked loss of younger generations. Herefordshire is widely regarded as being an affluent County, but this reputation masks the extremes in both deprivation and poverty. Most parts of the County fall within the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of geographical access to services and barriers to housing and the average income of residents is significantly below both the regional and national averages, with pockets of severe deprivation in parts of Hereford and Leominster. Generally crime is below the national average although it is concentrated in specific areas.

Natural and Built Environment

Herefordshire is a rural, agricultural County located in the southwest corner of the West Midlands Region bordering Wales. It is considered to be the Midlands' most rural County and boasts a quality of landscape that is nationally acclaimed. Although large tracts of the landscape are of high quality, including parts of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's), there is no vernacular style to the County's buildings. More typical are relatively small areas with common features.

Herefordshire contains 4 Special Areas of Conservation, numerous Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and other designated areas, including 24 historic parks and gardens scheduled by English Heritage as being of national importance. In addition the County has a wealth of historic buildings with around 6000 being listed. There is an acknowledgement of the need to provide greater awareness of the importance of protecting and enhancing the County's natural and historic assets.

In order to tackle the issue of emissions of harmful substances, Air Quality Management Areas have been set up at Hereford, Leominster and the A40(T) Corridor.

LOCATION		GEOGRAPHY	
	<i>Status</i>	Unitary District	
	<i>Region</i>	West Midlands	
	<i>Area</i>	2, 180 Km ²	
	- <i>District</i> - <i>Local Authority</i>	Ranked 3 rd largest (UK) Ranked 26 th (UK)	
	<i>Principal centres</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hereford ▪ Bromyard ▪ Kington ▪ Ledbury ▪ Leominster ▪ Ross-on-Wye 	
<i>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (parts of)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wye Valley ▪ Malvern Hills 		
ADMINISTRATION		DEMOGRAPHICS	
<i>Parliamentary Constituencies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hereford ▪ Leominster 	<i>Population</i>	Ranked 45 th (UK)
<i>Electoral Wards</i>	40	- <i>Total (2006)</i>	178,800
<i>Parishes</i>	238	- <i>Density</i>	82 / Km ²
<i>Police authority</i>	West Mercia Constabulary	- <i>District</i>	Ranked 84 th (UK)
<i>Health authority</i>	Herefordshire Hospitals Trust, Herefordshire PCT	<i>Electorate</i>	135,297
<i>Fire authority</i>	Hereford & Worcester	<i>Ethnicity</i>	
<i>Water authorities</i>	Welsh Water/ Severn Trent	- White British	97.5%
		- White Other	1.6%
		- Mixed	0.4%
		- Black / Asian	0.5%
		<i>Minority communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roma Gypsy ▪ Portuguese ▪ Polish

Climate Change and Flooding

Addressing climate change will be a key element in the Core Strategy. The requirements to reduce the need to travel, tackle traffic congestion and improve air quality are elements which are connected to climate change. In addition, the design and location of new housing and other development, the management of waste and the development of renewable energy can also contribute to addressing the issue of climate change. Significant areas of Herefordshire are low-lying and are liable to flood risk. The impact of climate change and increased risk of flooding is being assessed in the emerging Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which will form part of the evidence base for this Core Strategy (Appendix 3). Another issue in relation to the impact of climate change is that of the changing face of the County through possible changes in agricultural practices and any knock on effects on the rural economy. This aspect may present opportunities for addressing the impacts of climate change head on, for e.g. using areas of land for biomass production or wind energy. Ever growing demands for water to supply new homes, industry and agriculture will also be affected by climate change. The issue of water availability will be a fundamental one for the Core Strategy.

Housing

At March 2006 there were approximately 78,105 homes in Herefordshire, with 32% of these being located within Hereford. Owner occupation is high although there are significant variations across the County. The average house price is above the national average. House prices have risen much more steeply than earnings over the last decade, creating affordability issues in the process. Although the number of affordable housing completions has increased in recent years the completion rate will need to continue to increase significantly in order to achieve the targets set out in the Phase 2 preferred option for the regional plan. Many of the rural villages are attractive places to live for people wishing to commute to Hereford and further a field. Increases in housing targets will also require the provision of new infrastructure. In addition, although the County has performed well in recent years in maximising the development of brownfield land, there may well be a shortage of such land to accommodate the levels of new development emerging through the regional planning process.

Economy

The 2001 Census gave Herefordshire's working population as 85,000 (68% of those aged 16-74), of whom 15% work outside Herefordshire. Manufacturing industries employ a larger share of the workforce than is the case nationally – this accounts for almost 18% of employment in the County. Agriculture remains a very important source of employment in Herefordshire making up 6.7% of the County's employment compared to the national average of 1.5%. Service sector activities are broadly under-represented along with technology and knowledge intensive industries, yet both have seen an increase in growth nationally. The tourism sector accounts for a relatively large share of employment in Herefordshire (5,610 full-time posts) when compared with the national or regional average. Self-employment throughout the County is high and the unemployment rate consistently remains below both the regional and national average at 1.5%.

Education

The provision of education is very important to Herefordshire's economy with an estimated 6,027 jobs (nearly 7% of the total workforce). Herefordshire has a comprehensive education system with seven independent schools. Most state secondary schools provide for children aged 11-16. Sixth-form provision is limited throughout the County, but having received a glowing Ofsted report in 2006 Herefordshire College of Technology has spent £30 million on redeveloping itself as a 'Learning Village' in conjunction with Hereford College

of Art. The agreement to develop the Herefordshire Learning Village may positively improve access to higher education courses as well as training in the skills desired locally for those who continue their formal education beyond secondary school. However, the limited higher education provision in the County has been identified as a factor in the loss of the younger generation from the County's population.

Whilst there is limited higher education provision within Herefordshire, the County performs well at GCSE level with 63% of school leavers achieving 5 GCSE's A* - C. In addition the County has a slightly lower proportion of people without qualifications compared to regionally and nationally, and over a quarter of the resident population is educated to degree level.

Transport

Herefordshire plays a strategic role in facilitating cross boundary links between England and Wales. The County suffers from a limited strategic highway network and the externalities associated with these network limitations impact upon the communities that live along its most congested parts. The Highways Agency is responsible for the strategic road network; within Herefordshire these routes include the A49, A465 (south of Hereford), A40 and M50. In a nation context vehicle flows along these routes are low. But coupled with interactions between the local and strategic networks, the local and strategic vehicle flows results in congestion, most notably within Hereford.

Despite high car ownership rates the County enjoys a healthy sustainable transport network. This network includes a range of public transport options and serves Hereford and the Market Towns in addition to ever improving walking and cycling links. Whilst there has been a reduction in the number of local bus services operating in the past few years, bus patronage is beginning to increase. There are two rail lines, one operating East to West linking Hereford with Birmingham, the second operating North to South providing links with Newport and Manchester. In 2006 it was revealed that rail use had increased by 12% over the previous years.

Over the plan period car use will inevitably increase, and how this demand is managed will be crucial in addressing the likely growth in congestion, the economic viability and desirability of the County and the impacts upon air quality. The need for significant investment in transport infrastructure is acknowledged.

Shopping and Urban Regeneration

With a population of 55,000, Hereford is identified as a sub-regional centre in the existing Regional Spatial Strategy and its traditional role has been to serve the administrative and commercial hinterland extending beyond the County. This sub-regional role will be further strengthened with additional central area retail development, guided by the Edgar Street Grid (ESG) Masterplan and Supplementary Planning Document, both of which may be found on the Council's website.

Additional central area retail development is essential to claw back expenditure currently used at shops in Worcester, Cheltenham and Gloucester, as well as over the Internet. It is considered vital to reverse the historic loss of business from shopping centres in Herefordshire, and the regeneration of ESG will play an important part in meeting this challenge. The Grid presents a unique opportunity to develop an under-utilised area of land, strengthening the role of Hereford as a sub regional shopping centre and ensuring the City plays a full role in the wider rural economy.

Waste

The proportion of waste recycled in Herefordshire has increased over the past few years. Nevertheless, each year, the average Herefordshire household throws away approximately 522 kg of rubbish, which has important implications for landfill sites. The County is still not performing as well as other English Authorities placed within the bottom quartile (478 kg) and the local recycling rate currently stands at 19%. This figure is an improvement however on 15% in 2004-05 and there are plans to achieve a recycling rate of 50% by 2010. Minimising the amount of waste sent to landfill sites will be a continuing pressure during the period up to 2026 as will the need to become increasingly self sufficient in managing the waste produced in the County.

Culture, Leisure and Recreation

It is estimated that the visitor economy in Herefordshire is now worth in excess of £290 million, due mainly to the attraction of the County's beautiful unspoilt countryside and the strong cultural offer of the market towns. The rate of growth is about 2% per annum with the region attracting 4.8 million visitors per year, of which 93% are day visitors. Visitor attractions are characterised by small, seasonal enterprises in family ownership. Some Herefordshire attractions have failed to sustain their visitor numbers, although overall this has been counterbalanced by growth in some newer enterprises. Investment in Herefordshire's tourism potential may provide significant benefits for the County.

The level of satisfaction with the cultural activities and facilities available in the County is fairly high, with satisfaction levels in the upper quartile for sports venues and libraries, and parks and open spaces. However, levels of satisfaction are slightly lower for museums and galleries. Hereford is well provided with open space, sports and leisure facilities, though there are variations in provision across the County. The provision of sports and leisure facilities can be quite poor in the remoter areas and so there is scope for improvement on many sites. The results of the emerging Open Space Study and Green Infrastructure Study (Appendix 3) will be used in developing policies for open space provision and enhancement in the Core Strategy.

Key Issues

The following key issues reflect the 773 responses received to the Issues Paper consultation (September 2007); information from Parish Plan analysis; and the issues identified in the spatial portrait in section 4.1 above. The original 14 key issues that were detailed in the Issues Paper have been redefined as a result of this information. They are grouped here under sustainable development themes as follows:

Social Progress

- Providing for the needs of all generations (KI 2)
- Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability (KI 4)
- Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas (KI 7)
- Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County (KI 10)
- Reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour (KI 13)

Economic Prosperity

- The need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development (KI 3)

- Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development (KI 8)
- Regeneration of the County (KI 11)
- Promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County (KI 12)

Environmental Quality

- Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites (KI 5)
- Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County (KI 6)
- Improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution (KI 9)
- Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

The key issues numbers relate to the list as set out in the Issues Paper Consultation Statement – Part 2 (January 2008). The next section of the document sets out a vision and objectives for how these key issues can be addressed in the Core Strategy.

Vision and Objectives

The Core Strategy's long-term vision must help deliver the Community Strategy (see section 3). In order to achieve this the following spatial vision is proposed:

Shaping our place 2026

Herefordshire will be a place of distinctive environmental, historical and cultural communities, with sustainable development fostering a high quality of life for those who live, work and visit the County.

Social progress

By 2026, decent, affordable homes, jobs, health and community facilities will have been provided to meet the needs of all sections of the population creating safe, inclusive places and robust communities which promote good health and well-being. The opportunities and benefits from open space, leisure, shopping, sport, art, heritage, learning, health and tourism facilities and assets will be maximised enabling active lifestyles, reducing pollution and improving quality of life and retention of young people. Residents and workers will have a reduced need to travel by car with opportunities for active travel i.e. walking and cycling promoted. The trend of growing harmful environmental impacts from traffic growth will be lessened. In Hereford, congestion will be managed and public transport improved through the provision of a new outer distributor road, park and ride and bus priority schemes. Residents will have the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of their place.

Economic prosperity

By 2026, Herefordshire will have a thriving local economy, with a balanced and diversified business base, an adaptable and skilled workforce. Workplace and resident incomes will compare favourably with the regional average and where a genuine commitment by all businesses to sustainable development underpins a unique quality of life. Educational developments will be promoted which bolster and support local resources and strengths, such as food production, forestry, equestrian expertise and tourism. With the implementation of the Edgar Street Grid proposals, Hereford will be a strong sub-regional shopping, employment, leisure and cultural focus for the County. The market towns will

be distinctive, thriving service centres that are better linked to their catchment villages. Our village-based services will be more economically resilient and better integrated. Herefordshire will be a sought after destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by more fully utilising, but respecting, the County's unique environmental capital.

Environmental quality

Herefordshire's growth will be accommodated in ways to ensure that the environment is sufficiently robust to adapt to the wider impacts of climate change, including minimising pollution, ensuring availability of water resources and providing appropriate waste management facilities. Networks of connected, well managed and accessible natural green spaces will provide a range of enhanced leisure and health benefits within and between towns, villages and the countryside. Local food production and processing will be fostered whilst supporting stewardship of soils and water, biodiversity and the characteristic Herefordshire landscape. The area's natural beauty and quality of landscape, biodiversity, built development and cultural heritage will be enhanced. It will underpin and foster growth and innovation in businesses and jobs; being accessed, appreciated and actively supported by more people, for more purposes, in all walks of life.

To achieve the vision, the following objectives are proposed.

Social Progress

- 1. To ensure sufficient homes, with a mix of house types and tenures, are built in sustainable locations in the period to 2026, to meet the housing needs of all sections of the community in accordance with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Phase 2 Revision).**

Key Issues addressed:

Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger generations (KI 2)
Ensuring appropriate housing provision (KI 4)
Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

Cleaner, greener communities
People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged
Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice

- 2. To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of Herefordshire residents by improving access to, provision and use of, improved public open spaces, recreation, education, cultural and health facilities in urban and rural areas.**

Key Issues addressed:

Addressing an ageing population and the loss of young people (KI 2)
Protecting and enhancing environmental assets (KI 5)
Provision/access to important services/facilities (KI 7)
Improving transport infrastructure, choices and movement (KI 10)
Reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour (KI 13)
Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles

Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice
Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles
Children and young people engage in positive behaviour inside and out of school
Children and young people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards
People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged

- 3. To meet the needs and aspirations of all generations through the provision and/or improvement, throughout the County, of higher education, skills development and training facilities to retain young people in the County and ensure life-long learning for all generations and support the economy.**

Key Issues addressed:

Addressing an ageing population and the loss of young people (KI 2)
Need to capitalise on educational achievements (KI 3)
Provision/access to important services/facilities (KI 7)
Diversification of the economy (KI 8)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

More and better paid employment
A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce
Children and young people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards
Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school

- 4. To locate development in sustainable locations where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation, leisure and other services are available by public transport, walking and cycling in order to reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car, and thus lessen the trend of growing harmful impacts from traffic growth and promote active travel to improve quality of life and protect the environment.**
- 5. To ensure improved accessibility and movement from rural areas to urban areas and within urban areas to key services, places of work and recreation through the better provision and integration of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices and traffic management throughout Herefordshire, plus the provision of an outer distributor road for Hereford, in order to improve the quality of life for County residents, businesses and visitors alike.**

Key Issues addressed

Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
Improving air quality (KI 9)
Improving transport infrastructure, choices and movement (KI 10)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

Reduced traffic congestion through access to better integrated transport provision
People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged
Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles
Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice

Economic Prosperity

- 6. To diversify and strengthen the employment base by attracting higher value added industries and cutting edge environmental technologies to Herefordshire, as well as enabling local businesses to start, grow and diversify, in order to raise resident incomes.**

Key Issues addressed

An ageing population and the loss of younger people (KI 2)
Need to capitalise on educational achievements (KI 3)
Diversification of the economy (KI 8)
Regeneration of the County (KI 11)
Promoting tourism and culture (KI 12)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

More and better paid employment
A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce
Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles
Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice

- 7. To enhance the County's service centres and thus the economy by: providing better linkages between Hereford, the market towns and their catchment villages; improving the economic resilience and integration of village-based services; and implementing the Edgar Street Grid proposals in Hereford.**

Key issues addressed

Provision/access to important services and facilities (KI 7)
Regeneration of the County (KI 11)
Tourism and culture (KI 12)
Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

More and better paid employment
A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce
Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles
Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice

- 8. To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and more sustainable tourism by utilising the opportunities provided by, and contributing to the maintenance and restoration of, our high quality natural and built environment through increased provision of tourist accommodation in urban areas and visitor information/facilities in rural areas.**

Key issues addressed

Protecting and enhancing environmental assets (KI 5)
Diversification of the economy (KI 8)
Regeneration of the County (KI 11)
Promoting tourism and culture (KI 12)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

More and better-paid employment
Cleaner and greener communities

Environmental Quality

- 9. To work with partners to deliver well designed places, spaces and buildings which use land efficiently, reduce the consumption of natural resources through sustainable construction methods, increase the use of renewable forms of energy, reduce waste and pollution and addressing the wider impacts of climate change including flood risk and the availability of water supply and sewerage facilities.**

Key Issues addressed

Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability (KI 4)
Protecting and enhancing environmental assets (KI 5)
Better use of resources (KI 6)
Provision/access to services and facilities (K 7)
Improving air quality (KI 9)
Improving transport infrastructure, choices and movement (KI 10)
Reducing the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour (KI 13)
Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

Community Strategy Outcomes:

Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour
Cleaner, greener communities
People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged

- 10. To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, reversing negative trends and ensuring best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space.**

Key Issues addressed

Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
Protecting and enhancing environmental assets (KI 5)
Better use of resources (KI 6),
High quality, local distinctive sustainable design and construction (KI 14)

Community Strategy Outcome:

Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour
Cleaner, greener communities
People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged

5 Strategic Options

Which spatial strategy for Herefordshire?

This section outlines strategic “options” for growth - where it should go and what it might mean on the ground. The options reflect different approaches, emphases’ and priorities based on the objectives set out in the previous section, but are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The preferred strategy could be a combination of one or more of these options, or an entirely new approach. However, the final Core Strategy must reflect national and regional planning objectives and be tested by a Sustainability Appraisal, which will assess its social, economic and environmental performance.

The emerging regional plan gives a strong steer to the approach to be taken for Herefordshire:

- Hereford is to provide a sustainable focus for housing and employment growth with improved services and facilities including transport;
- Outside of Hereford, further development in the County will be focused within market towns acting as strategic locations for balanced housing and employment growth whilst continuing to protect the environment and character of Herefordshire. The appropriate level of growth for each town needs to be identified in the Core Strategy; and
- Development in villages should support the need to meet local housing requirements, particularly needs for affordable housing and promote local regeneration or support the retention or creation of local services. Development should be prioritised in villages that still have a range of services, and within these, priority should be given to the reuse of previously developed land and the conversion of existing buildings.

The options set out in this section relate to whether we focus the direction of new growth based on:

A The desire to promote Herefordshire’s economy (an economic option) with an eastern focus for development; or

B Prioritising the regeneration of areas of the County suffering from greatest social deprivation with a dispersed focus for development; or

C The protection and enhancement of our distinctive environmental assets (an environmental option) with a concentrated focus of development; or

D A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C above, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.

The issues of addressing the impact of climate change and environmental protection and enhancement are recognised as being critical to the development of any sustainable spatial strategy. They will be fundamental elements of all of the identified options. Option C specifically reflects the extent to which new development could be used to enhance existing or provide new assets.

The emerging evidence base will continue to be used to help inform the choice of spatial strategy appropriate for the County. Developing a spatial strategy is about the planning of spaces in an integrated, sustainable fashion and for Herefordshire this really means planning for the development of its “places” – we have defined these for the purposes of this Options paper as Hereford, the Market Towns (Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross on Wye) and the Rural Areas, including all the rural settlements.

A Focus on the economy

This option places emphasis on economic objectives being the driver for change in accommodating growth. It reflects the Economic Development Strategy for Herefordshire.

It would focus housing and employment growth to Hereford, Leominster and the market towns and hinterland settlements in the south and east of the County (around Bromyard, Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury) where employment demand is greatest. This latter area is referred to in the Economic Development Strategy as the 'eastern corridor'. This option also draws upon the potential for transport improvements to support economic growth in the towns and settlements based on the A49 Corridor, including Hereford, Leominster and Ross on Wye, as referred to in the regional plan. New growth would be focused at these locations at levels appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity.

If significant elements of this option are preferred, consideration could also be given to incorporating elements of Option D i.e. a new or expanded settlement, depending on the level of growth required by revisions to the housing figures of the regional plan.

This option is illustrated in Figure 1 and summarised in Table 1.

Key issues emphasised:

- Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger generations (KI 2)
- The need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development (KI 3)
- Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability (KI 4)
- Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development (KI 8)
- Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County (KI 10)
- Promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County (KI 12)

Advantages:

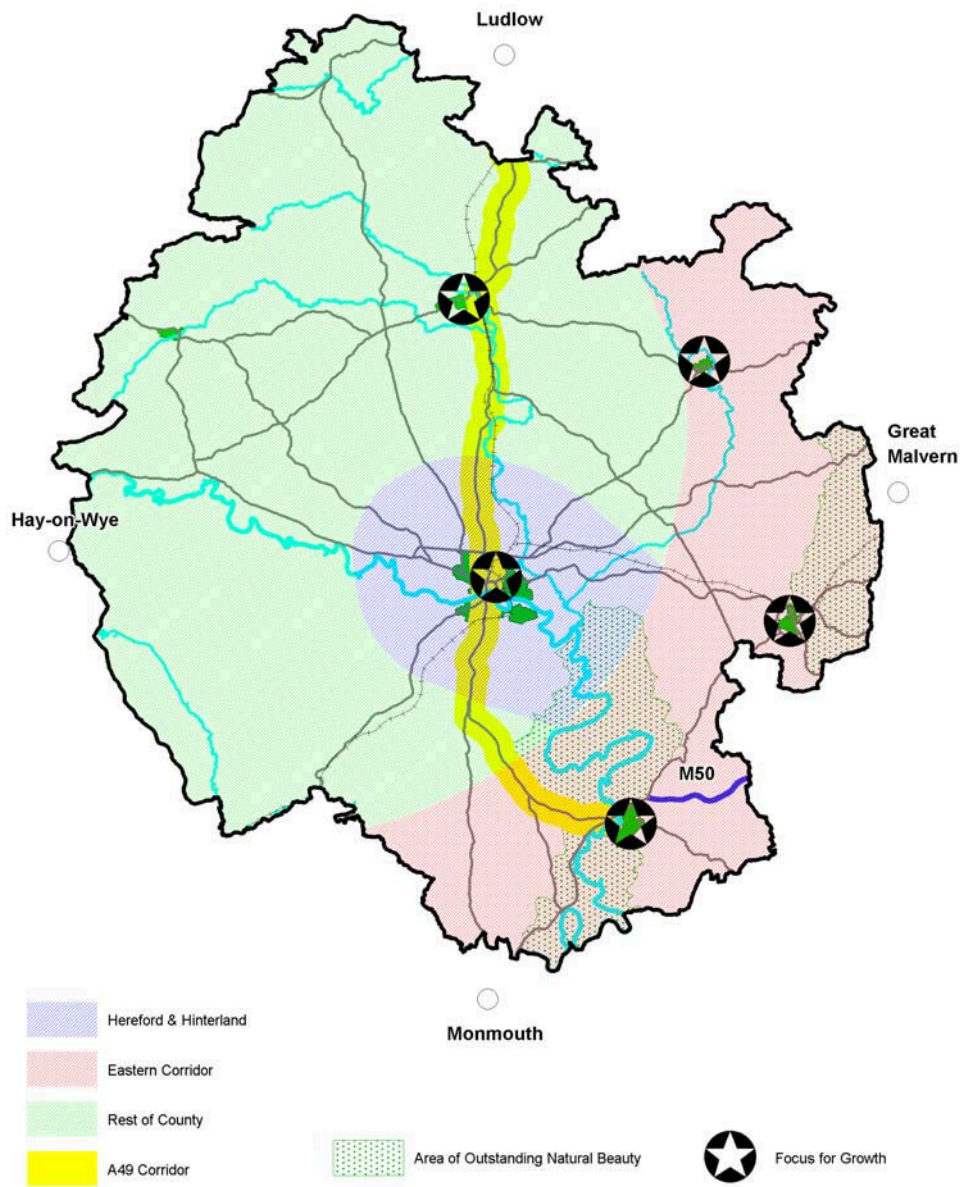
- directs new housing and employment growth to key centres, allowing for a possible reduction in the number and length of travel to work journeys and reduced traffic congestion, emissions and air pollution;
- targets development in more economically sustainable locations;
- provides opportunities for mixed use developments, with a suitable balance of housing, employment, retail and community facilities;
- enables employment land with little prospect of development to be used for other purposes;
- focuses development to areas of the County with highest demand for housing/employment and with greatest potential for delivery;
- would also have emphasis on promoting small-scale businesses for the rural economy;
- development could help provide new community facilities/infrastructure.

Disadvantages:

- some existing settlements in areas where growth would be focused have little surplus brownfield land and new growth might result in the change to valued landscapes;
- expansion beyond the historic limits of existing settlements would impinge on character;

- some settlements are small and have few community facilities and limited public transport and people may still need to travel by car to shops, schools and leisure facilities;
- there is uncertainty, given recent past low levels of employment land take-up that areas of existing high employment demand will continue to be significant employment centres in the future;
- focusing growth around the most accessible parts of the County would also serve the wider sub-regional housing market encouraging commuting both into and out of the County; and
- focusing growth on the east of County may be regarded as neglecting the rural west in terms of providing housing and employment.

Figure 1 showing the main elements of Option A



B Focus on society

This option places emphasis on social objectives or regeneration being the driver for change in the County in accommodating new growth. Regeneration is about addressing the impacts of deprivation, which for Herefordshire means tackling income and employment deprivation in parts of Hereford and Leominster as well as tackling deprivation in terms of access to services and facilities (including housing) across the rest of the County and particularly in rural areas.

The focus for growth would be towards Hereford and Leominster but with a dispersal of development to other market towns and sustainable settlements (yet to be determined). New growth would be focused at these locations at levels appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity. This approach has sub-options, which vary in relation to how we could address the accessibility of services.

The sub-options include:

- (i) Continue to plan by using a ranking of settlements whereby the places with the best level of existing services would generally be the focus for new development (this is similar to the approach taken in the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP)); or
- (ii) Plan for groups of market towns and/or settlements to share services and facilities in a way that keeps travel more local, and plan for better transport links, new housing and employment as part of this approach; or
- (iii) Focus new development to those settlements served by existing or potential sustainable public transport, including railway stations shown as accessible areas on figure 2. There are currently railway stations in Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury and Colwall. In addition there may be potential to develop new facilities elsewhere, for example at settlements located close to railway lines.

If significant elements of this option are preferred, consideration could also be given to incorporating elements of Option D i.e. a new or expanded settlement, depending on the level of growth required by revisions to the housing figures of the regional plan.

This option is illustrated in figure 2 and summarised in Table 1.

Key Issues emphasised:

- Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger generations (KI 2)
- Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability (KI 4)
- Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas (KI 7)
- Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development (KI 8)
- Regeneration of the County (KI 11)
- Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County (KI 10)
- Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
- Improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution (KI 9)

Advantages:

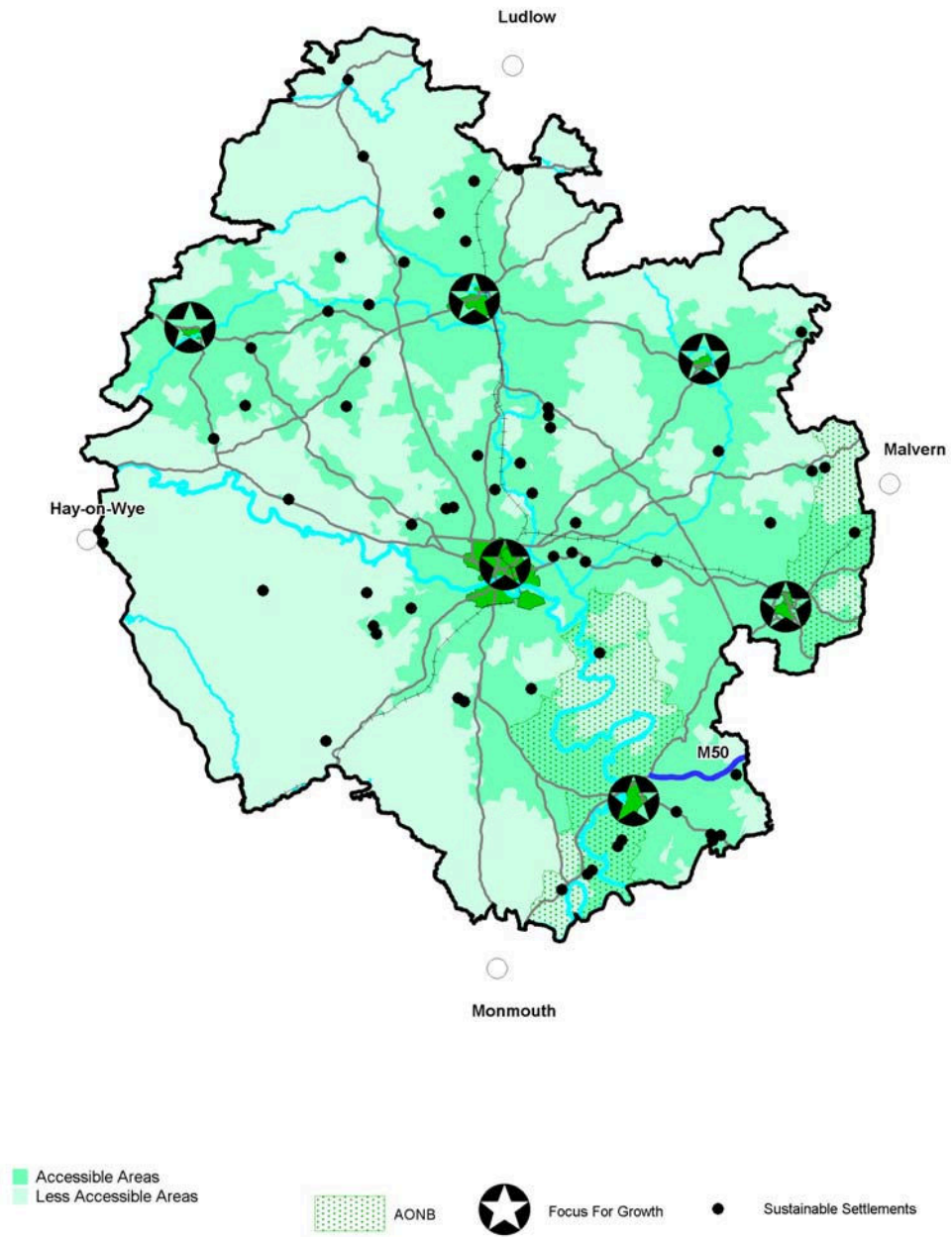
- concentrating resources in established service centres is highly sustainable in terms of reducing the need to travel and cost effective;
- strong emphasis placed on regeneration principles;

- recognises the needs of the whole County;
- would facilitate travel by public transport;
- would still provide significant opportunities for developer contributions towards infrastructure and community facilities which could enhance the range and quality of local services and reduce levels of social exclusion;
- new job opportunities created in rural and urban areas could reduce the need for local people to travel further a field to work.

Disadvantages:

- some existing settlements in areas where growth would be focused have little surplus brownfield land and new growth might result in the change to valued landscapes;
- some settlements are small and have few community facilities and limited public transport and people may still need to travel by car to jobs, shops, schools and leisure facilities, unless enhanced provision could be made locally;
- expansion beyond the historic limits of existing settlements would impinge on their character;
- an emphasis on social regeneration may work against market forces leading either to non-delivery of proposals or reducing opportunities for obtaining community facilities/infrastructure from development;
- in sub option (iii) the rail network may not have the capacity, without significant investment, to cope with the increased demand resulting from growth and car use may still increase;
- could encourage travel out of the County for jobs, particularly if new employment uses could not be delivered alongside housing development.

Figure 2 showing the main elements of Option B



C Focus on environment

This option places emphasis on environmental objectives being the driver for change in the County in accommodating new growth. A key priority of the option would be to use the opportunities presented through growth to invest in the provision, restoration and enhancement of environmental assets ensuring a robust and adaptable environmental framework across the County and beyond. The option reflects the work on priority habitats emerging from the Landscapes for Living Project (2007) undertaken by the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership (which seeks to build upon the foundation of the Biodiversity Enhancement Areas as set out in the regional plan) as well as Strategic River Corridors. It also reflects the Herefordshire Water Cycle and Green Infrastructure Studies (see Appendix 3).

The focus of development in this option would be towards Hereford and the market towns as well as to sustainable settlements (yet to be determined) within areas where growth could help to deliver either:

- protection or enhancement of **priority areas of high value** where single or multiple environmental assets are currently clustered or concentrated as shown on Figure 3, e.g. restoration of wetland areas along the floodplains of the western reaches of the River Wye; and/or
- the creation or retention of a minimum standard of new, restored or enhanced environmental assets in areas of **fewer assets and/or lesser quality** shown on Figure 3, for example a new Country Park or raising air quality levels.

New growth would be focused at these locations at levels appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity and would need to work alongside other mechanisms such as local partnership actions, government incentives and so on, to enable well targeted and lasting environmental gains in a given locality.

As with options A and B if significant elements of this option are preferred, consideration could also be given to incorporating elements of Option D i.e. a new or expanded settlement, depending on the level of growth required by revisions to the housing figures of the regional plan.

This option is illustrated in Figure 3 and Table 1.

Key Issues emphasised

- Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1)
- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as heritage assets, open spaces and designated sites (KI 5)
- Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County (KI 6)
- Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14)
- Environmental regeneration of the County (KI 11)
- Promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County (KI 12)

Advantages:

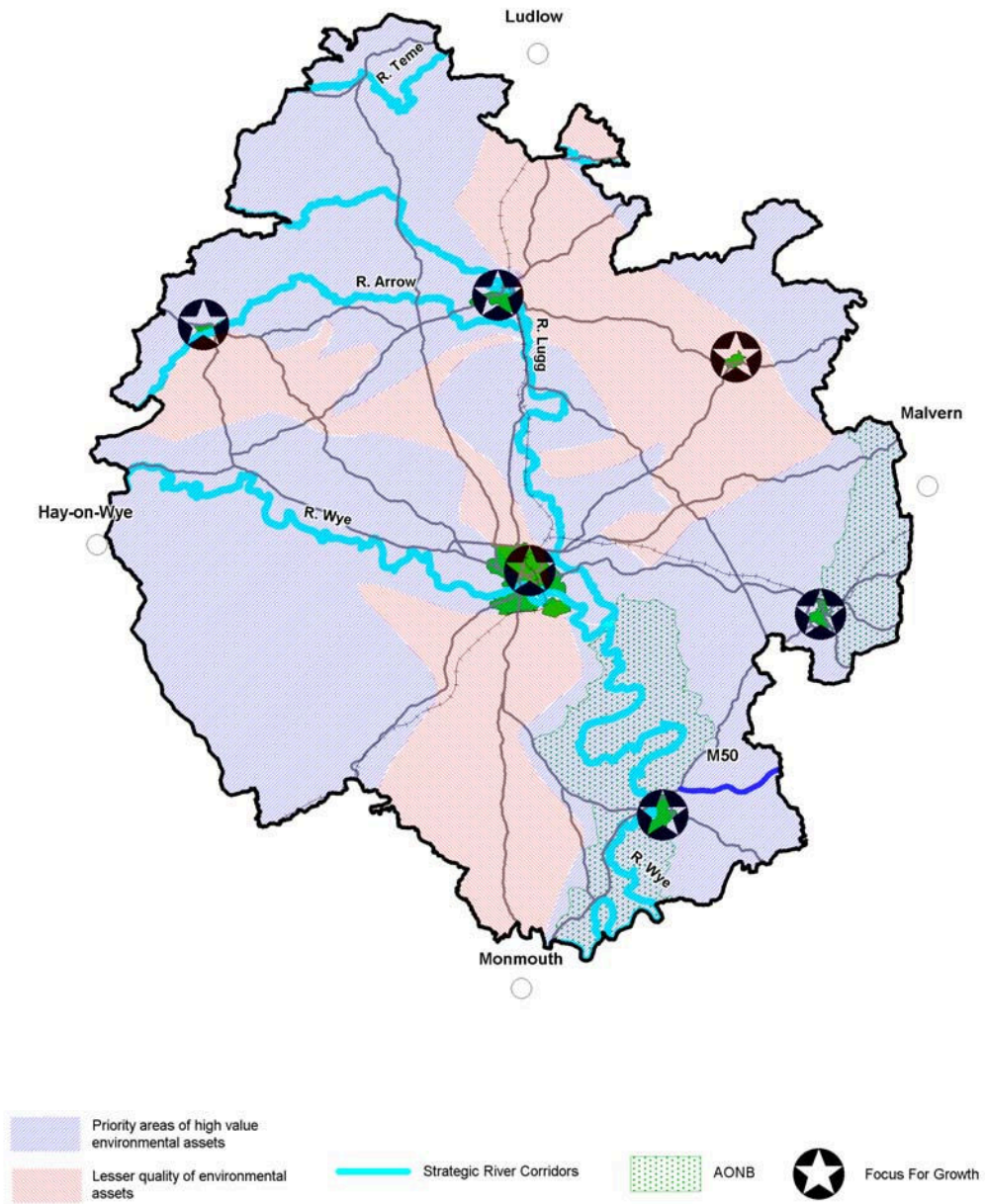
- protects and enhances the environmental assets that are characteristic of Herefordshire;

- focussing development to the selected areas could enhance their character and value with knock on effects for the economy, tourism and well-being;
- enhancing environmental assets within easy access of major areas of population would contribute to health and well-being;
- realise opportunities for environmental enhancement from climate change e.g. adaptation;
- avoid inappropriate development in areas at potential risk from flooding.

Disadvantages:

- would still result in loss of countryside because of level of housing growth required but targeted to ensure environmental enhancement;
- opportunities for obtaining community facilities/infrastructure improvements from development in other settlements would be limited.
- may have more limited impact in terms of reducing the need to travel for the majority of residents of the County;
- may not entirely realize social needs and economic demands;

Figure 3 showing the main elements of Option C



D Focus on a new or expanded settlement

This option places specific emphasis on housing objectives and promotes the distribution of growth to Hereford, the market towns and a new or expanded settlement in the County. Further work would need to be carried out to identify sustainable locations for such a settlement. It is acknowledged that this option would not be in conformity with the existing or emerging regional plan, which generally directs larger scale growth to existing settlements. However, there is continuing uncertainty regarding the regional housing requirement and the option may become more realistic if the housing targets of the regional plan are raised significantly above those that are currently proposed. It is a requirement under national planning objectives to consider all the possible realistic options for development of the County as part of this Options Paper.

No potential areas or locations for a new settlement have been identified at present. It may be that a new settlement could be an element within Option A, B or C. In such a circumstance, the areas of the County identified as being a focus for growth would provide the basis for areas of search to locate a new settlement. However, any new settlement would not be proposed in an area where significant damage to the County's environmental assets would result from the development or within areas at significant risk of flooding. At the same time it would be important to ensure that any new settlement was located in an area which is, or has the potential to be, easily accessible by a range of travel modes, is attractive to the market in respect of employment and housing demand and fits in all other respects with regional sustainability requirements.

Key Issues emphasised

- Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability (KI 4)
- Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County (KI 10);
- Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development (KI 8);
- Regeneration of the County (KI 11);
- Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding (KI 1);
- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites (KI 5);
- Improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution (KI 9)
- Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction (KI 14).

Advantages:

- a new settlement could be developed in a sustainable manner, incorporating the necessary infrastructure and utilising developer contributions effectively;
- it would provide an opportunity to develop significant levels of affordable housing within the new settlement;
- it potentially could reduce the strain on existing infrastructure in the other settlements;
- a focus on one place outside of Hereford and the market towns may help to protect the historic character and distinctiveness of the majority of other, settlements;
- any new settlement would need to include a centre, containing a number of shops, health care facilities and community buildings which would be provided with developer contributions;
- the proposal has potential to improve the provision of public transport in and around the new/expanded settlement itself and to provide links to existing centres;

- the scale of development will better facilitate on site renewable energy generation and adoption of zero or low carbon development and sustainable construction techniques.

Disadvantages

- there would be a significant visual change to the local area;
- the proposal would have little impact in terms of reducing the need to travel for the majority of residents of the County;
- opportunities for obtaining community facilities/infrastructure improvements and affordable housing as part of development in other settlements would be reduced;
- concern that the scale of development required to provide a balanced community may not be able to be delivered within the plan period;
- depending upon its size and location a new/expanded settlement could impact detrimentally upon the role of existing market towns and rural service centres.

Question: Do you agree that this option of a new or expanded settlement in the County is a realistic option for accommodating new housing provision?

Question: If so, do you have any suggestions as to where a new or expanded settlement could be located? Please specify.

Table 1- Summary of growth impact of options on both the County and its places				
Places	Options			
	A	B	C	D
Herefordshire	Focus on Hereford and the eastern side of the County	Focus on Hereford the market towns and sustainable settlements or groups of settlements with existing services or the potential to support new services.	Focus on Hereford, the market towns and specific areas of environmental enhancement	Focus on Hereford, the market towns and a new or expanded settlement
Hereford	Significant growth.	Significant growth	Significant growth	Significant growth
Bromyard	Focus for growth	Focus for growth	Focus for growth	Focus for growth
Kington	Limited growth			
Ledbury	Focus for growth			
Leominster				
Ross on Wye				
The Rural Areas	Levels of growth appropriate to the settlement size, function, character and environmental capacity in the hinterland settlements of Hereford, Ross on Wye, Ledbury and Bromyard.	Levels of growth appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity in sustainable settlements with existing services or those with potential to support new ones	Levels of growth appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity in sustainable settlements within areas on Figure 3, but related to identified needs for environmental enhancement in the local area.	Possible new or expanded settlement in an area yet to be determined.

Key:

Significant growth: Based on regional plan target of 8300 houses to Hereford over the next 20 years

Focus for growth: appropriate to the settlement size and function, character and environmental capacity.

Limited growth: involving current supply, windfalls, conversions and minor settlement infilling only.

Sustainable settlements: - with a level of population, services and public transport yet to be determined.

6 “Shaping our Place” Options

What roles should our places have in the future?

This section outlines ‘place shaping’ policy options. Planning should help to create pleasant and thriving places where people want to live and work, in safe and attractive physical environments with a strong community sense of well-being. ‘Shaping our Place’ in Herefordshire will seek to create or maintain a sense of identity for the places across the County. Herefordshire comprises Hereford and five market towns, each distinctive from each other, and over 200 “settlements” set within a wider rural area. The Core Strategy will include strategic policies for Hereford, market towns and settlements within the rural area. A Hereford Area Action Plan and a ‘Market Towns and Rural Areas’ DPD will be produced to expand upon these strategic policies.

A major part of place shaping will be to define the roles of our places and how they interact together. The regional plan gives a steer on the approach to be taken to the hierarchy of settlements within the County as highlighted within section 5.

The Core Strategy needs to identify where the housing, employment and retail that will be needed by 2026 will be directed. It will need to do this by identifying the amount of additional growth that is right for Hereford, the market towns and the rural areas and providing guidance on any proposed sustainable urban extensions. To guide the distribution of growth within an area, a settlement hierarchy will need to be established. Work is currently being undertaken to establish the level of facilities and services that are available in each settlement – emerging results are available in the Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper available on the Core Strategy web pages.

The following options consider the future role of Herefordshire’s settlements, how they interact together and the distribution of strategic growth in Hereford, the market towns and rural areas. The eventual distribution will be dependent upon the choice of the preferred option for the County (section 5).

An initial assessment of housing sites has been undertaken as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (referred to in the following text as the Housing Land Study) being carried out as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. The Study is at a very early stage but has been used here as a guide as to the potential for new homes in Hereford and the market towns.

Hereford

In considering the role Hereford will play in the County in 2026 and beyond, it is important to recognise the challenges of delivering the likely level of growth required for Hereford. As highlighted within section 5.1 and the regional plan, half the housing growth is targeted towards Hereford. There are options about how we are to accommodate the growth required in Hereford.

Hereford is subject to a large regeneration project, known as the Edgar Street Grid. This area comprises 43 hectares of land and will incorporate retail, leisure, office, commercial and housing development. The Core Strategy will need to take this redevelopment into account and help to ensure that the city benefits from the proposals. In order to provide more detailed policy and guidance to help deliver the growth in Hereford, an Area Action Plan will be produced, reflecting Hereford’s status as a growth point and a settlement of significant development.

The Core Strategy will need to address the strategic policy options for Hereford, including defining its role, directing strategic housing/employment growth, ensuring regeneration taking into account the development of the Edgar Street Grid area, providing for an appropriate level of retail provision and ensuring that the resulting transportation and other infrastructure requirements of further growth to the City are provided for.

The Role of Hereford

Hereford's current role:

Hereford is a cathedral city, which provides the focus for employment, retail, education, health and other services for the much of the County and beyond. It is centrally located and is the administrative centre for Herefordshire. Hereford's current role is as a traditional market and County town.

Hereford has a number of strengths, which include tourism, culture and heritage and food and drink manufacturing. It may be possible for planning policy and growth to be targeted to enable these strengths to be developed further and for Hereford to become nationally renowned for such a specialism and thus enhance its local distinctiveness. In this way growth can be balanced with the retention of the city's character.

In order to address a number of the key issues, objectives and achieve the vision of the Core Strategy, it is appropriate to define whether the role of Hereford in the County and region should remain as at present or whether it is appropriate to define a new role for the City. This will enable policies to be developed and growth to be delivered in a locally distinctive way that can be developed further within the Action Area Plan.

What role should Hereford have in the future?

Options:

- 1) Continue to plan for the City to maintain and enhance its current role as a traditional County/ market town providing a range of facilities and services for the rural hinterland;
- 2) Develop Hereford as a city with a specific role which builds upon its identified strengths whilst at the same time complementing the roles of the market towns, for example, developing a role which specialises in sectors such as retail, employment or education.

Growth in Hereford

Focus for growth:

Hereford is an area of significant growth within all the spatial options. The emerging regional plan revision highlights that half of the current housing growth should be directed to Hereford. This equates to 8,300 homes (415 per annum).

The regional plan does not specify how much of the employment allocation should be targeted specifically to Hereford, but the Core Strategy will need to ensure a balance of housing and employment growth to ensure people have a choice of employment available locally.

This level of development will lead to some difficult choices being made about the directions and location in which Hereford will need to grow in order to provide the number of homes and employment land being considered in the emerging regional strategy and how the infrastructure, services and facilities which will be required to accompany the growth will be delivered.

Statistics:

Hereford has a population of 54, 842 which comprises 23,951 households.

The current build rate in the city is 208 homes per annum over the past 11 years and in April 2007 there were outstanding planning permissions and UDP allocated sites to accommodate around 1,750 homes.

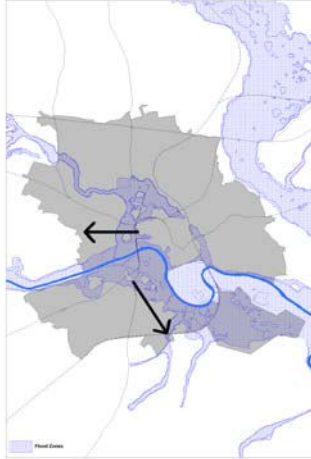
There are a number of employment areas in the city, the largest of which is Rotherwas Industrial Estate to the south.

Where?

National policy continues to promote the use of brownfield land in preference to the release of greenfield land. However, given the emerging regional plan housing figures and the evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study, it is apparent that in order to accommodate the proposed level of housing growth releases of greenfield land around the city are likely to be required. In Hereford, the choice may well be as to whether the growth is accommodated on one or two significant sites capable of accommodating potentially a thousand or more homes, or whether the approach should be to release a greater number of smaller greenfield sites.

In assessing which directions Hereford could grow, we will need to take into account issues such as accessibility to services, constraints such as flood risk and quality of the landscape, plus the capacity of infrastructure such as water, roads and schools. In accommodating the level of housing suggested in the new regional plan it will be essential to ensure that the provision of necessary infrastructure is delivered in association with the housing growth.

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study work indicates the main areas with potential for significant growth lie to the west and south of Hereford.



These are potential areas and do not relate to specific sites. It may be there are additional areas that also offer some potential and that some of the highlighted areas are discounted as a result of considering emerging evidence.

Initial Constraints:

Hereford is constrained by its level of existing transport infrastructure; the regional plan acknowledges that there are limits to the existing transport capacity and that this is a priority to ensuring the delivery of any growth. Transportation options for Hereford are considered later in the section.

Development in Hereford is also significantly constrained environmentally by areas liable to flooding and important ecological designations; these constraints particularly limit significant growth to the east of the City.

How and in which direction should Hereford grow?

Options:

- 1) Allocate growth to the south;
- 2) Allocate growth to the west;
- 3) Allocate growth through a combination of areas to the south and west; or
- 4) Disperse the growth to a number of smaller areas in various locations around the city.

A better range of jobs for Hereford

National / Regional Context:

There is a clear link between the economic prosperity of an area and people's quality of life, choice of housing, environmental quality, and access to service and facilities.

The Rural Regeneration Zone Implementation Plan, 2007-2010 (a daughter document to the regional plan) includes a key objective to develop a strong, diverse and sustainable economy. Indicating that support should be given towards higher waged, knowledge intensive employment whilst continuing to develop the robust aspects of the economy including food and farming, tourism and creative industries.

Hereford Context:

Almost the entire area of Herefordshire falls within the Rural Regeneration Zone as defined by the regional plan. Herefordshire has a relatively fragile economy and needs to improve its economic performance in order to raise incomes and tackle issues of economic inactivity and social exclusion.

One of the key objectives of the Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy (2005-2025) is to increase the business birth rate in the County, both through diversification and entrepreneurship, with a focus on growth sectors such as sustainable development and environmental sectors. As Hereford is the main employment centre in the County, the Core Strategy will need to address the issue of how to assist the Economic Development Strategy to achieve this diversification of the Herefordshire economy.

Planning policy at the national and regional level is aimed at encouraging office development within town centres rather than elsewhere. If the economy of Herefordshire is to diversify it may need to attract more office jobs to the area. Recent work on master planning in Hereford has identified office space at Edgar Street Grid, however it may not be enough to meet all the demand for new offices that is expected over the next 20 years. The regional plan highlights the need for 45,000 m² gross office space within or on the edge of Hereford. The emerging work undertaken as part of the Retail Study (Appendix 3) has highlighted that there is limited amount of office accommodation available in the city.

It is also a commercial reality that higher-value added activities like research and development will seek the spacious environment provided by edge of town commercial areas. Therefore as part of any approach aimed at diversifying the local economy, some key sites may need to be provided as a focus for new inward investment in research and development. These may best be provided as part of sustainable urban extensions.

Key Issue:

KI8, KI11

Core Strategy Objective:

6. Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy

Which type of employment should be Hereford's focus for growth?

Options:

- 1) Continue a policy of supporting a wide range of employment sectors building upon existing strengths; or
- 2) Develop policies to encourage the strengthening of the economy by identifying and focusing on specialist area such as food and drink production or tourism; or

- 3) Develop policies to encourage diversification into new employment sectors such as research and development, offices, high tech industries.

Options regarding the general provision of employment sites in the County, protection of employment land, improving skills and promoting tourism and culture are contained within Section 7- Policy Options of this report.

Regeneration of Hereford

National / Regional Context:

Planning Policy Statement 6 on retail provision highlights that local authorities should actively plan for the growth of, and manage change in, town centres. This may include managing the role and function of existing centres and encouraging specific types of uses in some centres. Any extensions of the town centre should be carefully integrated with the existing.

Hereford Context:

Hereford is subject to a large regeneration programme, known as the Edgar Street Grid. This area comprises 43 hectares of land bounded by Edgar Street to the west, Newmarket Street and Blueschool Street to the South, Commercial Road to the east and the railway line to the north. A Masterplan has been produced to guide the regeneration of this area for the next 20 years. One of the first phases of this redevelopment is a retail quarter on the site of the current livestock market. Current and emerging proposals for the Edgar Street grid are likely to account for a significant amount of the regional plan requirement to 2021. The Masterplan indicated 33,000 m² of retail and leisure to be provided.

The Core Strategy will need to address if the additional retail within this scheme meets the requirements of the regional plan and how to integrate the new retail area with the existing historic retail centre and combat any negative impacts it could have on the current retail area.

The existing UDP plans for the town centre as a whole, however the Edgar Street Grid scheme is being planned in specific quarters, for example retail quarter, office and commercial quarter. An option could be to mirror this approach across all the city centre in order to maintain and enhance its current unique qualities.

Key Issue:

KI 7, KI 11, KI 12

Core Strategy Objective:

7. Improving service centres

How do we want Hereford to improve as a centre?

Options:

- 1) Continue with the current UDP policy stance of planning for the town centre as a whole; or

- 2) Define specific 'Quarters' or areas within the City for example retail, office, commercial, heritage, craft areas to provide a focus for specific activities and improve integration with the Edgar Street Grid redevelopment.

Retail within Hereford

National / Regional Context:

Vitality and viability of a town centre can depend on a wide range of factors, which include the variety, choice and quality of shops and services available within the centre. This range can often depend on the availability of units within the town itself and the ability for local independent retailers and the larger multi nationals to find suitable accommodation.

PPS6 highlights that local authorities should seek to enhance consumer choice by making provision for a range of shopping and local services which allow genuine choice and meet the local needs of the whole community.

The regional plan highlights a non-food retail floorspace requirement for Hereford of 40,000m² between 2006 – 2021 and 20,000m² between 2021-2026.

Hereford Context:

Hereford is characterised by smaller retail units within a historic street pattern, with much of the retail core being located within a conservation area. The Herefordshire PPS6 study has highlighted increasing pressure is being placed in the historic retail centre for larger retail floorplates thus leading to an amalgamation of adjoining units.

The current adopted UDP defines a commercial and shopping area, primary and secondary shopping frontages for Hereford in order to maintain the vitality and viability of the town centre. The Herefordshire PPS6 study has questioned the requirements of defining a commercial and shopping area as the sequential test within PPS6 have superseded this, but has highlighted the benefit of defining a primary shopping frontage for the city.

The retail quarter of the Edgar Street Grid redevelopment offers an opportunity for Hereford to increase its retail offer and provide larger units, which would be attractive to the larger national retailers.

During the Issues consultation, 13% of respondents to the key issue of access to services and facilities highlighted a wish to see more individual / independent shops.

The Core Strategy will need to address the retail floorspace needs for Hereford, how to develop and strengthen existing centres and how to balance the competing requirements for an increased retail offer whilst maintaining and enhancing the independent and local shops, which make Hereford distinctive from many other regional shopping locations.

Key Issue:

KI 7, KI 11

Core Strategy Objective:

7. Improving our service centres

What range of shops should Hereford offer?

Options:

- 1) Protect the existing shopping provision of mixed unit size and frontages which provide a range of smaller independent and specialist shops using primary / secondary shopping frontage policies whilst supporting the Edgar Street Grid development as a preferred location for larger units and provision for larger national retailers
- 2) Devise policies for the city which seek to increase the range and mix of retail offer across the city including the Edgar Street Grid development.

Transport provision in Hereford

National / Regional Context:

An effective transport system is essential for the viability of the County to enable people to access jobs, education, health, leisure and other services. Planning has a key role to play in promoting sustainable development and travel by influencing the location of developments while improving existing transport systems.

PPS1 and PPG13 require new developments to be well located to public transport and key services and facilities in order to create sustainable communities. The regional plan acknowledges the important issue of the existing highway network capacity in Hereford, which results in increasing congestion, while encouraging more sustainable means of travel.

Hereford Context:

The 2003 Hereford Transport Review Local Multi-Modal Study (LMMS) and the existing Local transport Plan (LTP2) acknowledge that the existing highway network is operating at its capacity and that a larger degree of flexibility in the transport system would become increasingly important as pressure on the system increases. The LMMS and regional plan recommended the requirement for a blended package of transportation measures, including cycling and public transport infrastructure and an Outer Distributor Road (ODR) to provide increased flexibility in addressing Hereford's current and future transport needs. This need is based on current regional plan housing and employment figures.

Additional housing growth proposed by the Phase 2 revision would suggest that the blended package of transport measures may be required sooner than envisaged in the LTP to tackle increasing congestion in the city.

The Core Strategy will need to address how to accommodate the future growth of Hereford and the implications of future transport needs. A significant urban extension to Hereford could assist in the early delivery of necessary infrastructure improvements via developer contributions. Additional work is currently being

commissioned to consider the options for the proposed ODR alignment considering the impacts of an eastern or western route.

During the Issues consultation 13% of respondents commented on the key issue of transport and communications highlighting the requirement for a 'by-pass' or ODR for Hereford, with an additional 10% highlighting the need for a second river crossing.

Conversely, 29% of respondents indicated public transport improvements as being key (11% raised improvements to bus routes, 11% highlighted better links between the rail and bus network and 7% the requirement for a park and ride scheme).

Key Issue:

KI10, KI9,

Core Strategy Objective:

- 4. Sustainable locations
- 5. Improved accessibility and movement
- 10. Protecting the environment

What new transport infrastructure is required in Hereford to accommodate growth and how will it be provided?

Options:

- 1) Deliver a blended package of transport improvements including the provision of the ODR, and associated public transport improvements including bus priority and Park and Ride in association with the proposals for growth of the City;
- 2) Develop an enhanced package of public transport measures to enable growth **without** the provision of an outer distributor road.

If option1 is chosen, there will need to be decisions about a preferred route of the Outer Distributor Road whether this is east or west of the city. The questionnaire contains questions regarding potential route of the ODR.

The Market Towns

The Market Towns could play a significant part in assisting with rural regeneration as well as retaining or enhancing local services. These centres could contribute to meeting a range of key issues raised in the Issues consultation i.e. increased growth of local businesses, reducing the need to travel to work and shopping; raising income levels; improving access to services and facilities and rural regeneration.

The Core Strategy will include strategic policies and may include strategic sites or locations for growth for the market towns. It is proposed that a 'Market Towns and Rural Areas' DPD will be produced at a future stage in the plan process to provide a more detailed framework for the Market Towns and rural areas.

The role of the Market towns

Current role of the Market towns:

Herefordshire has five Market Towns, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Kington and Leominster. Each of these towns is equidistance from Hereford and are distinct from each other in size and character although they all provide a range of local services and facilities for their rural hinterlands.

The Core Strategy will need to define whether each of these market towns should continue in their current multi-functional roles or whether they should develop specific and individual roles to assist achieving the overall vision and strategy of the plan but complement each other and the role of Hereford.

Ongoing work being undertaken through the Market Town and Parish Plans process as well as the settlement hierarchy work, will help to further define if there is a distinct role and function for each market town.

Defining a role for the market towns will assist in targeting growth and policy development, which addresses local circumstances and enhances local distinctiveness.

What role should the Market Towns have in the future?

Options:

- 1) To continue to plan for each town based on maintaining and enhancing their current roles, as providing multi-functional roles for their rural hinterlands; or
- 2) Develop each market town as a place with a specialist function/role for instance through heritage, tourism, outdoor leisure, employment or specialist shopping, that is complementary to and doesn't compete with the others or Hereford; or
- 3) Develop better linkages between the market towns and Hereford both in terms of location of services and transport links between them.

Growth in the market towns

Outside of Hereford the regional plan suggests that further development in the County should be focused to the market towns acting as strategic locations for balanced growth whilst continuing to protect the environment and rural character of Herefordshire. The choices about how to accommodate new homes, employment and retail growth in and around the market towns are considered individually. Each of the market towns could be targeted for growth depending on which spatial option is chosen. The choices here are concerned with the levels and directions of growth if the spatial option indicates 'focus for growth' to that market town (Table 1, Section 5). If the spatial option indicates 'limited growth' to a market town, this means current supply, windfalls, conversions and infilling only.

Taking into account the suggested spatial options (Table 1), where should the remaining homes be built?

Growth at Bromyard

Focus for growth?

Bromyard would be a focus for growth under all the suggested spatial options (A, B, C and D). Although the scale of development required for a new settlement in option D may mean that growth in existing centres is more limited.

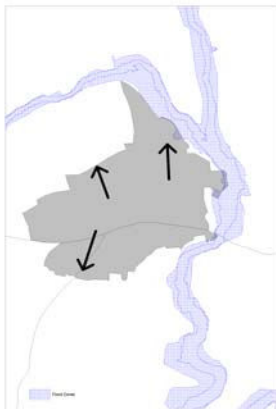
Statistics:

Bromyard is situated on the A44 midway between Hereford and Worcester. It has a population of 4,240 and comprises of 1,832 households. The current build rate in the town is 36 homes per year over the past 11 years, a total of 396.

Where?

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study indicates the main areas with potential for growth beyond the current built up parts of Bromyard lie to the north or south.

In which direction should growth be directed? Should the town develop? Is there capacity within the current development boundary to accommodate an appropriate level of growth?



These only relate to potential directions of growth and not specific sites. It may be that there are additional areas that also offer some potential or following further evidence these directional areas are discounted.

Initial Constraints:

Growth at Bromyard is constrained due to flooding from the River Frome. Topography is also an issue, in particular the rising land to the Bromyard Downs to the east.

In which direction should Bromyard grow?

Options for housing:

- 1) Allocate growth to the north;
- 2) Allocate growth to the south;

- 3) Disperse the growth to a number of smaller sites at various locations around the town; or
- 4) Limit further growth to that falling within the existing built-up parts of the town.

Growth at Kington

Focus for growth?

Kington could be a focus for growth if Options B, C or D are chosen (section 5). However, under option A Kington would see growth limited to current supply, windfalls, conversions and infilling only.

Statistics:

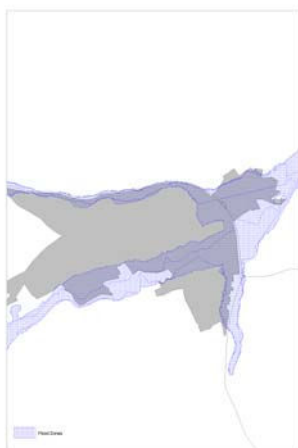
Kington is situated in the north west of the County, with a population of 2,660 comprising 1,149 households. The build rate in the town over the period 1996-2007 years was 12 per annum, which totals 132 homes.

Kington is the only market town which was not allocated any new employment land as part of the Unitary Development Plan.

Where?

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study work indicates limited potential around the town to accommodate growth.

Should the town develop? Is there capacity within the current development boundary to accommodate an appropriate level of growth? If the town develops outside the existing boundary, in which direction should growth be directed?



Initial Constraints:

Kington is constrained by the physical barriers such as the by-pass and its surrounding topography with areas of rising land around the town. To the west lies the historic park and garden of Hergest Croft and the higher land of Hergest Ridge. Any development to the east of the town would require development outside the by-

pass. In addition there are areas of Kington that are prone to flooding from the River Arrow and its tributaries.

In which direction should Kington grow?

Options:

- 1) Limit any further growth to that falling within the existing built-up parts of the town; or
- 2) Allocate limited employment and housing growth to a number of smaller sites in various locations around the town

Growth at Ledbury

Focus for growth?

Ledbury could be a place for growth under spatial options based on economy, social issues and environment. (A, B and C). The market towns are also the focus for development as part of option D (New settlement) although the scale of development required for a new settlement may mean that growth in existing centres is more limited.

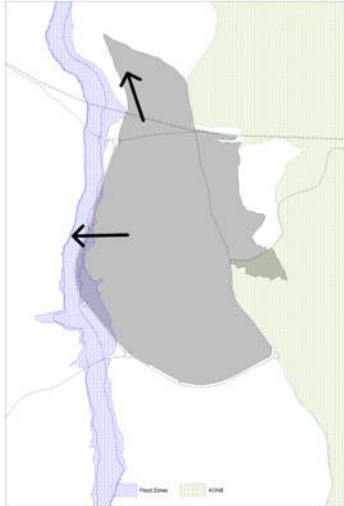
Statistics:

Ledbury is located in the eastern side of the County, close to the M50 and the Malvern Hills. The town has a population of 9,240, which comprises 4,060 households. The build rate between 1996 and 2007 in Ledbury equates to 92 per annum or 1012 homes in total, although in recent years there has been a considerable slowdown in completions in Ledbury.

Where?

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study indicates the main areas with potential growth outside of the current built up parts of the town lie to the north and west of the town.

In which direction should growth be directed? Should the town develop? Is there capacity within the current development boundary to accommodate an appropriate level of growth?



These only relate to potential directions of growth and not specific sites. It may be that there are additional areas that also offer some potential or following further evidence these directional areas are discounted.

Initial Constraints:

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies to the east of the town and the land rises sharply. Any development to the west of Ledbury would involve development outside of the by-pass. Land along the Leadon River to the east of the by-pass is subject to flooding.

In which direction should Ledbury grow?

Options:

- 1) Allocate growth to the northwest on land currently proposed for employment use; or
- 2) Allocate growth to the west, on the western side of the by-pass; or
- 3) Disperse growth to a number of smaller sites in various locations around the town; or
- 3) Limit further growth to that falling within the existing built-up parts of the town.

Growth at Leominster

Focus for growth?

Leominster could be a focus for growth under all the proposed spatial options A, B, C and D. Although the scale of development required for a new settlement in option D may mean that growth is more limited.

Statistics:

Leominster is the largest market town within the County and is situated north of Hereford. It has a population of 11,220 which comprises 4,874 households. The annual build rate between 1996 and 2007 was 45, which totals 495 homes.

In recent years, a 16 hectare Enterprise Park has been opened as an extension to the existing Leominster Industrial Estate.

Where?

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study work indicates the main areas with potential for growth beyond the existing built up parts of the settlement lie to the south and south-west of the town. This is potentially a significant land release which would have the potential to be developed in association with new road infrastructure.

Which direction should growth be directed?



These only relate to potential directions of growth and not specific sites. It may be that there are additional areas that also offer some potential or following further evidence these directional areas are discounted.

Initial Constraints:

Leominster is the least constrained market town environmentally, but there are significant areas around the town which are prone to flooding or are locally valued landscape. The River Lugg, A49 by-pass and railway line provide significant barriers to development to the east of the town.

However, Leominster has transport constraints already identified in the UDP and LTP imposed by the existing infrastructure in the town. The transport implications of any further housing growth will need to be considered.

The UDP highlights the infrastructure constraints of the town on further development and that any significant growth after 2011 would require the construction of a new road from the B4321 (Hereford Road) to the A44 in the Barons Cross area.

In which direction should Leominster grow?

Options:

- 1) Allocate land to the south or south-west in conjunction with a east-west link road; or
- 2) Disperse growth to a number of smaller sites in various locations around the town; or
- 3) Limit further growth to that falling within the existing built-up parts of the town

Growth at Ross-on-Wye

Focus for growth?

Ross-on-Wye could be a focus for growth under all four of the proposed spatial options, economy, social and environment. The market towns are also the focus for development as part of option D (New settlement) although the scale of development required for a new settlement may mean that growth in existing centres is more limited.

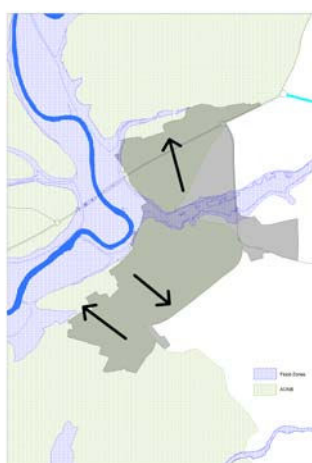
Statistics:

Ross-on-Wye is located to the south of the County at the end of the M50. The population of the town is 10,180 and comprises of 4,471 homes. The build rate in Ross-on-Wye over the period 1996-2007 has been 53 per annum which totals 583 homes.

Where?

Evidence emerging from the Housing Land Study indicates the main areas with potential for significant growth lie to the north, the south-west and south-east of the Town.

Which direction should growth be directed?



These only relate to potential directions of growth and not specific sites. It may be

that there are additional areas that also offer some potential or following further evidence these directional areas are discounted.

Initial Constraints:

Any proposals for growth will need to take into account the significant environmental constraints which impact upon Ross-on-Wye. The town, as well as land to the north, west and south, is contained within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Land to the west is also subject to flooding from the River Wye and its tributaries.

In which direction should Ross-on-Wye grow?

Options:

- 1) Allocate significant growth to the north; or
- 2) Allocate significant growth to the south-east; or
- 3) Allocate significant growth to the south-west; or
- 4) Disperse growth to a number of smaller sites in various locations around the town; or
- 5) Limit further growth to that falling within the existing built-up parts of the town.

Shops in the Market Towns

National and Regional Context:

The balance achieved between retail and other uses within our market town centres can have a great affect on their roles, vitality and viability. PPS6 highlights that primary shopping frontages and the town centre should be defined in order to protect and enhance the retail offer of centres.

Herefordshire Context:

The five market towns of Leominster, Ledbury, Kington, Bromyard and Ross-on-Wye serve a vital role in terms of providing for shopping, social and cultural needs of residents and visitors alike. They are an important source of local employment with attractive historic centres, which contribute to tourism. Their strengths lie in their local distinctiveness and the range of independent shops they provide, however, their vitality and viability is under threat from increasing competition, people travelling outside the County and the internet. One of the priorities of the Core Strategy is to ensure the regeneration of these market towns.

The current UDP defines primary and secondary frontages for the market towns. A primary shopping frontage comprises the main shopping streets where a predominance of retail shops are located. A secondary shopping frontage where a mix of town centre uses are located, such as estate agents, banks etc. A criteria based policy accompanies these defined areas to recognise the need to allow diverse uses within the town centre whilst maintaining a high proportion of retail uses.

PPS6 indicates that it may be appropriate to distinguish between primary and secondary frontages where frontages are realistically defined and having regard to the need to encourage diversification of uses in town centres. Options for the Core Strategy could be to consider continuing with the existing approach in order to retain the widest shopping offer for each town, or to draw back from the existing approach and to protect only the retail provision on primary shopping streets. Alternatively an approach, which does not seek to retain retail uses within town centres, could also be developed on the basis of maximising the range of uses. This approach would risk potentially higher value uses, such as housing, coming to dominate town centres and reducing the number and range of shops and impact upon the viability of the centre as a whole.

Key Issue:

KI 7, KI 11

Core Strategy Objective:

- 7. Improving our service centres
- 8. Promoting Tourism

Options:

- 1) Continue with the current UDP approach of defining primary and secondary shopping frontages and a criteria based policy to encourage a higher proportion of retail uses within the core of each the town centres;
- 2) Define primary shopping frontages only; or
- 3) Do nothing and allow market forces to prevail.

The Rural Areas

Herefordshire is predominately a rural County with numerous villages, hamlets and isolated properties. Agriculture remains a very important source of employment.

Growth in the Rural Areas – Settlement Hierarchy

National / Regional Context:

The regional plan indicates that market towns provide either the existing or potential focus for a balance between employment opportunities and employment provision and in the rural villages development should help meet local housing requirements, particularly needs for affordable housing and promote local regeneration or support the retention or creation of local services. Development should be prioritised in villages that still have a range of services and within these, priority should be given to the reuse of previously developed land and conversion of existing buildings.

Herefordshire Context:

Three of the four suggested strategic options (A, B and C) look at distributing some growth to the rural areas. The potential distribution of this growth varies depending on which spatial option is preferred and has also to be seen in the context of the

regional plan, which suggests that outside of Hereford the focus of remaining growth should be at the market towns rather than the wider rural area. Continuing work upon the Housing Land Study in rural areas and work defining an appropriate settlement hierarchy will also help to determine the scale and distribution of growth. Options for the Core Strategy will need to consider the overall levels of growth and the approach taken to development in and around rural settlements.

The adopted UDP contains a settlement hierarchy based on Hereford, the 5 market towns, 48 main villages and 34 smaller settlements. This settlement hierarchy was based on population/settlement size, availability of public transport, existing facilities/services and employment opportunities. The preparation of the Core Strategy will enable a review of the settlement hierarchy and will address what level of housing development should be directed to the rural areas. Issues related to the provision of affordable housing are included within section 7.

Key Issue:

KI 2, KI 4, KI 11

Core Strategy Objective:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision
4. Sustainable locations
7. Improving service centres
9. Use of resources
10. Protecting the Environment

How should the Rural Areas including all the settlements outside of Hereford and the Market Towns, grow?

Options:

The balance of growth between the market towns and rural areas:

- 1) Focus the a significant majority of new growth, outside of Hereford, upon the market towns with rural settlements limited to affordable housing to meet local needs only; or
- 2) Focus new growth outside Hereford to the market towns but enable some growth in or around a limited number of sustainable rural settlements with the remainder of the rural area limited to affordable housing to meet local needs only; or
- 3) Plan for an equal or similar distribution of growth between the market towns and sustainable rural settlements; or
- 4) Focus the majority of growth, outside of Hereford, to sustainable rural settlements.

Depending on the level of growth distributed to rural areas, development in rural settlements could be:

- 1) Limited to brownfield land inside the existing built up limits of sustainable rural settlements using a criteria based policy; or

- 2) Enabled to provide sufficient growth, including greenfield releases, to retain or provide new rural services or facilities in identified rural settlements based.

Jobs in Rural Areas

National and Regional Context:

The need to protect existing jobs in the countryside and to help create the conditions to attract new sources of employment is important in helping to maintain sustainable communities. The diversification of local farm-based economies into a wider range of non-agriculture businesses can help to boost the rural economy. The provision of small-scale rural businesses within the countryside enables people to have a greater opportunity to work locally.

The regional plan highlights that the economic priorities within the rural areas should be to broaden the economic base and reduce the reliance on traditional employment and provide a wider range of local jobs. The emphasis should be on regenerating local communities but not attracting businesses /jobs away from urban areas.

Herefordshire Context:

Herefordshire has a relatively high percentage of people working in agriculture when compared to the region. The Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy highlights the strengths of the rural areas including unspoilt natural and man-made environment with the potential to specialise in environmental businesses, tourism, food and crafts. The Core Strategy will need to balance the needs of diversifying the rural economy with the need to protect and enhance the rural landscape.

During the Issues consultation, 15% of respondents to the issue of diversifying the economy considered that rural business should be allowed to grow and 9% felt that farm diversification was important.

Key Issues:

KI 8, KI 11

Core Strategy Objectives

6. Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy

How should we encourage the diversification of the rural economy?

Options:

- 1) Limit employment development in rural areas to proposals which support farm diversification and the development of small employment sites for businesses which are required to locate in a rural area; or
- 2) Devise a criteria based policy to diversify the rural economy within and outside of rural settlements by enabling the development of new employment opportunities and enterprises such as
 - a) live-work units;
 - b) environmental technologies, such as the development of biofuels or

- food production; or
 c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure businesses

Rural Facilities and Services

National and Regional Context:

Local shops, post offices and public houses perform a vital economic and social function in sustaining rural communities not only for daily shopping needs but also as a community focus for the local area. These facilities help to ensure the vitality, viability and attractiveness of villages.

In recent years village shops and facilities have diminished in numbers as a result of high costs, competition from larger retailers, increased car ownership and the rationale of the Post Office.

Herefordshire Context:

The Unitary Development Plan contains policies to encourage new, and protect the loss of, rural facilities. Settlement hierarchy work is being undertaken to ascertain the level of services and facilities available within the rural settlements (see Core Strategy web pages).

During the Issues consultation, 11% of respondents commenting on the access to services and facilities felt that more facilities should be available in the rural areas.

Key Issue:

KI7, KI11

Core Strategy Objectives

- 5. Sustainable locations
- 7. Improving our service centres

How should we protect our rural facilities?

Options:

- 1) Develop more robust criteria based policies to protect and/or increase the provision of small-scale, rural services/facilities, including retail e.g. farm shops, in or adjoining settlements;
- 2) Identify particular settlements outside of the market towns and Hereford as Local Service Centres (still within a ranking of settlements) and use criteria based policies to promote/protect facilities/services (similar to the current approach); or
- 3) Do nothing and allow market forces to prevail.

7 Policy Options

As well as the strategic options and place shaping policies, the Core Strategy will need to incorporate important general policies to bring about changes to the way we deal with development. Listed below are some policy options grouped in themes. Responses to these options will give us a strong steer as to the range and emphasis on the policies we include in our “Preferred Options” document.

Sustainable Communities

Delivering sustainable communities across Herefordshire is one of the objectives of the Core Strategy. Ensuring a sustainable community includes the need to protect the natural and historic environment and conserve vital resources for everyone now and for future generations. Planning can play a key role in mitigating the causes and effects of climate change and encourage the prudent use of natural resources through the location, design and nature of new development. If we want Herefordshire to be an increasingly sustainable place and to make a County contribution to reducing the effects of climate change, a number of major changes in practices will need to be achieved – including promoting renewable energy initiatives, a reduction in waste production, encouragement of low/zero carbon homes, minimising the risk of flooding and reducing the need to travel.

The policy areas to be addressed within this section are renewable energy, minerals, waste management, flooding, water use and the design and construction of buildings.

Renewable energy

National/ regional context:

Renewable energy is used to describe forms of energy that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – this includes wind, sun, water, materials from plants or combustible or digestible waste from industrial, agricultural and domestic materials.

The planning system has an important role to play in helping to deliver government target/goals for renewable energy and climate change which are central to achieving sustainable development. In a bid to tackle climate change and its effects, the UK has signed up to the Kyoto Protocol and made a commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The Government is seeking to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below the 1990 levels by 2010 and by 60% by 2050. (Regional Plan).

Core Strategies should provide a framework for promoting and encouraging the use of renewable and low-carbon energy generation whilst not stifling innovation.

Herefordshire Context:

Herefordshire can make a difference and increase the proportion of energy used from renewable sources by the promotion of specific renewable energy schemes or the use of technologies within building design.

The Herefordshire Carbon Management Strategy 2005 – 2012, seeks to achieve a 12.5% reduction in the 2002 carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2012 and

delivers a commitment to securing a 20% reduction by 2020.

Through the Issues consultation, 16% of respondents highlighted more energy efficiency and the conservation of resources as important ways of addressing the impacts of climate change.

The Core Strategy will need to consider whether it is appropriate for Herefordshire to promote a specific renewable energy source scheme, and if so where, or whether a policy promoting smaller individual schemes accompanying larger planning applications would be more appropriate.

Key Issue:

KI 1, KI 6,

Core Strategy Objective:

9. Efficient use of resources

How can Herefordshire increase its usage of renewable energy sources?

Options:

- 1) Highlight specific technologies and locations in Herefordshire where renewable energy sources could be promoted – such as wind turbines, individual turbines, solar energy, waste to energy, combined heat and power plants, biomass, geo-thermal or other; or
- 2) Set targets and design requirements for the inclusion of energy from renewable sources within new developments of a particular scale.

Waste Management

National/regional context:

A new set of waste policies are being developed through the regional plan. These policies aim to drive waste management up the waste hierarchy, address waste as a resource and look to disposal as a last resort.

The regional plan includes minimum targets for the quantities of municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste which need to be diverted from landfill in the period to 2025. There are a number of challenges to enable these targets to be met and to ensure that the County moves towards being self-sufficient for waste by managing the equivalent tonnage of waste to that arising within its boundary.

Herefordshire Context:

The average Herefordshire household throws away approximately 522kg of rubbish per year. The recycling rate currently stands at 30% with a target of 40% by 2010.

Within the Issues consultation, 91% of respondents felt that the management of waste was an important issue to be addressed in the Core Strategy. Although many of the comments raised included more doorstep recycling and less packaging, which

are outside the remit of the Core Strategy, it will need to consider how to manage the waste produced within the County, particularly with the increased housing and employment growth proposed through the regional plan.

The Core Strategy will need to consider whether additional facilities are required and if so where they should be located and what types of facility are needed. It will be necessary to demonstrate how capacity equivalent to at least ten years of annual rates in the regional plan could be provided and identify the type(s) of facility that are appropriate. Any policy would need to consider whether to be proactive and allocate sites for new facilities or devise a criteria-based policy to be used to judge planning applications against.

Key Issue:

KI1, KI6

Core Strategy Objectives

9. Efficient use of resources

How should Herefordshire manage the waste it produces?

Options:

- 1) Identify locations where specific waste management facilities will be required, for example these could be,
 - a. Close to urban centres
 - b. As part of new urban extensions
 - c. Within areas with good transport links
 - d. Existing/proposed employment sites;
- 2) Provide a set of generic criteria in a policy for new waste management facilities which would be used to judge planning applications against; or
- 3) Devise a policy whereby all new developments of a certain size will need to be accompanied by a new local waste facility being built or contributed to.

Minerals

National/regional context:

All building works and some manufacturing processes require minerals in some form. The local extraction and use of minerals reduces construction costs, increases local employment but can have some impacts on the local environment.

Herefordshire Council is obliged to identify sufficient land to meet the County's share of regional production, adjusted to the local availability of different minerals. Government policy for aggregates provision is essentially that an adequate and regular supply of minerals must be provided subject to environmental and sustainability considerations.

Herefordshire's apportionment for aggregate supply is 283,000 tonnes per annum to be provided from its landbank and 424, 000 tonnes per annum of crushed rock. The

regional plan is currently undergoing revision and Phase 3 of this will develop regional policy for aggregate production up to 2026.

Herefordshire Context:

Herefordshire's known mineral resource primarily consists of aggregate – sand and gravel and crushed rock. Recent estimates indicate the County has reserves of about 4.7 million tonnes of aggregates at 31st December 2007. This equates to a 16 year supply based on the regional plan apportionment. In respect of crushed rock, the landbank of permitted reserves at 2004 was estimated at almost 17 million tonnes, equivalent to a landbank of 40 years.

Recent planning permissions have increased the permitted reserves of sand and gravel in the County. However, with increasing levels of housing and other growth emerging through the regional plan revision, there may well be an increased regional apportionment figure for Herefordshire.

Minerals can only be extracted at the locations where they are present. However, any policy will need to ensure that there is a sufficient degree of flexibility to provide an appropriate supply of minerals for the period to 2026. In addition, it will need to ensure that mineral workings are undertaken in a sensitive manner and reclamation and aftercare of the site is undertaken to protect and where possible enhance the environment and also to ensure that the minerals resources of the County are adequately safeguarded and not sterilised.

Key Issue:

KI1, KI6

Core Strategy Objectives:

9. Efficient use of resources

How should Herefordshire address any additional mineral reserves requirement?

Options:

- 1) Identify the current and required landbank of permitted mineral reserves to meet the needs of Herefordshire up until 2026;
- 2) Identify 'preferred areas of mineral extraction' to enable greater flexibility and safeguard potential mineral reserves; or
- 3) Provide a set of generic criteria which would be used to judge planning applications for new minerals extraction.

Flooding

National / Regional Context:

Flooding is an issue that has become more significant in recent years due to the increase occurrence in the County. With climate change likely to lead to milder

wetter winters and hotter, wetter summers, this could also lead to increased and new risks of flooding. Although, flooding can't be wholly prevented, the impacts can be avoided and reduced through planning policy. Planning policy should ensure that flood risk is taken in account in the development process though a risk based approach.

Government guidance is contained with Planning Policy Statement 25 – Development and Flood Risk. A sequential approach to determining the suitability of land for development in flood risk areas is included and an exceptions test that provides a method of managing flood risk whilst still allowing necessary development to occur.

The guidance highlights the need for a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to be undertaken and policies to reflect the need for site specific flood risk assessments at planning application stage.

Flooding is often associated with rivers but can also occur from high groundwater levels, surface water run-off and sewer and drainage capacity issues. The design of new developments and buildings can assist in reducing and conserving the amount of surface run off.

Herefordshire Context:

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been prepared for Herefordshire Council help identify those areas in the County most at risk of flooding and provide the basis from which to apply the sequential and exceptions tests (PPS25) in policy terms and planning applications.

The SFRA makes a number of important recommendations that will help inform the Core Strategy and the subsequent identification of sites for development. The assessment increases the understanding of all sources of flooding, establishes flood risk zones and highlights which mitigation measures would need to be taken if development was to be allowed in areas of lesser risk of flooding. The SFRA also enables a comparison of sites to be undertaken in sequentially testing proposals for new development.

Flooding was seen as an important issue for 90% of those responding to the Issues consultation. As part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked how they saw the future for water use and treatment which included flooding, and 50% suggested that applying flood prevention methods or preventing development in the flood plain was the key.

The Core Strategy can have an impact in varying ways on reducing the risks and the impacts of flooding within the County. This can include restricting the areas in which development is permitted or including elements within the design of developments in order to reduce and conserve surface run off.

Key Issue:

KI 1, KI 6, KI 14

Core Strategy Objectives:

- 9.Preventing flood risk
- 10 Protection of the environment

How should the flooding issues in Herefordshire be addressed with the

increasing needs for future development?

Options:

Development in Flood Risk Areas

- 1) Devise a policy based on the PPS25 sequential test approach using the data from the SFRA. This is similar to the current UDP approach; or
- 2) Adopt a stricter policy, only allowing development in areas with no known flood risk

Design of developments

- 1) Introduce built or natural design approaches to tolerate or adapt to flooding;
- 2) Ensure all new development includes methods to collect, store and reuse rainwater, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) where appropriate to reduce possible non-fluvial flooding; or
- 3) Work with developers to determine the most appropriate design solutions with regards to reducing flooding risks at the application stage.

Water use

National/regional context:

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Delivering Sustainable Development makes clear that the sustainable use of water resources and the use of sustainable drainage systems are important issues for the planning system to consider. PPS12 Local Development Frameworks confirms that the capacity of existing infrastructure and the need for additional facilities should be taken into account in the preparation of all local development documents. Infrastructure in this respect would include water supply and sewers.

Local development documents provide water companies with essential inputs for their own planning. Additional needs for infrastructure such as reservoirs, pipelines or treatment works, often a requirement to meet the needs of new development, and the implications for the environment both from such land use and from the additional water abstraction or discharge associated with that infrastructure will need to be addressed in the Core Strategy. Those implications may extend beyond the boundaries of the authority's own area. It will be important to ensure that new developments are as water efficient as possible and located in ways that will minimise or eliminate the environmental impact of additional demand for water and sewage services, thereby contributing to more sustainable development. The phasing of new development may well be influenced by the availability of infrastructure. Provision of completely new infrastructure such as the development of new water resources can take several years from identification of need to commissioning.

Herefordshire Context:

In Herefordshire, water quality and resources, including infrastructure will be important considerations in ensuring that new growth delivered through the Core Strategy is done so in a sustainable manner. The Rivers Wye and part of the River Lugg have an international designation as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). New development has the potential impact upon both the quantity and quality of water within the River Wye SAC. In addition the impact of climate change could result in longer periods of water shortages and put additional pressure on the amount of water available. In addition the existing infrastructure for water and sewerage in the County may need significant investment in order to accommodate the level of new development proposed over the period up to 2026.

A Water Cycle Study (Appendix 3) commissioned by Herefordshire Council should help to identify infrastructure requirements to be provided in association with growth and inform the preparation of planning policy to encourage more efficient use of water resources

Key Issue:

KI 1, KI 6

Core Strategy Objectives:

9.Preventing flood risk
10 Protection of the environment

How can we balance the growing needs for water and the European status of the Rivers Wye and Lugg?

Options:

- 1) Ensure that all new development incorporates water saving and efficiency measures linked to the Code for Sustainable Homes requirements;
- 2) Incorporate phasing proposals to enable necessary new infrastructure to be put in place prior to the commencement of new development;
- 3) Require developments over a particular threshold to contribute to retrofitting existing properties with SUDs or water efficiency techniques; or
- 4) A combination of elements of 1), 2) and 3)

Design and sustainable construction

National/regional context:

High standards of design and local distinctiveness which builds on the existing character of the local area is important not only on the appearance of the area but can also have an effect on creating safer environments, promoting sustainable developments and the more efficient use of resources and local materials

Herefordshire Context:

19% of respondents suggested the need to celebrate and highlight the distinctiveness of Herefordshire as a further key issue to be addressed. Design has an important role to play in promoting local distinctiveness and the use of local materials. There are many examples in Hereford where good modern design has been successfully accommodated in a historic setting.

Crime is relatively low in Herefordshire but the perception can be different. As part of the Issues consultation, 16% of respondents highlighting other important key issues for the County, pointed to the need to reduce crime as being important. Planning and 'the designing out of crime' can have a role to play in ensuring safer communities.

The Core Strategy will need to address whether a separate design policy is required or whether design criteria be integrated into specific policies and site proposals.

Key Issue:

KI14, KI13, KI6

Core Strategy Objectives

9. Delivery of sustainable communities

10. Protection, conservation and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets.

How can we make Herefordshire distinctive in terms of design?

Options:

- 1) Devise a locally distinctive design policy incorporating all aspects of design and sustainable construction;
- 2) Integrate design elements into the place shaping policies or general core policies such as renewable energy, flooding, housing provision; or
- 3) Rely on the sustainable design and construction policy as set out in the regional plan.

Diversifying and strengthening the local economy

Sustainable communities need economic growth to ensure they are active and thriving. Wealth underpins social and cultural activities and the conservation of our environment. Ensuring a strong and diverse economy will help give people in Herefordshire more opportunities for work within the County. This could reduce the numbers needing to travel outside the County, thus helping to reduce carbon emissions and increasing the prosperity of Herefordshire residents.

The Core Strategy should make provision for a continuous five year reservoir of readily available employment land throughout the plan period as well as making provision for likely longer term employment land requirements. The emerging regional plan highlights that Herefordshire's employment land requirement is 111 hectares with a five year reservoir of 37 hectares.

The location of future employment growth will be determined by the chosen strategic option as outlined in section 5 and the roles of places within the place shaping policy

options in section 6. However there are a number of general employment policies options, which are outlined below.

Provision of employment sites

National / Regional Context:

Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning for Sustainable Economic Development, indicates that authorities should plan for a good range of sites with opportunities for creating new jobs in large or small firms which can respond to changing needs and demands.

The regional plan and the Regional Economic Strategy highlight the regional economic framework and the main focus for economic growth is on the major urban areas. However, growth in the rural areas is promoted where it can meet the needs of rural renaissance and help create more sustainable communities.

Herefordshire is contained within a Rural Regeneration Zone. There is a need to have a balance of employment opportunities available for all new and existing businesses within the County to allow those seeking small start up premises to thrive and other established businesses to expand without the need to leave the County

Herefordshire Context:

The spatial option chosen will determine the strategic focus for the location and distribution of employment land across the County. However, how that land is to be provided still contains a number of choices.

Economic Development Strategy 2005-2025 seeks to bring forward employment land, sites and premise in order to respond effectively to its Vision especially to encourage and attract higher value activities.

According to the Annual Monitoring Report 06/07, Herefordshire had 168.7 hectares of available employment land on 125 sites in April 2007. However much of that land has existing constraints and is not readily available.

The Core Strategy will need to address how future employment growth is allocated in order to assist strengthening and diversifying the local economy.

Key Issue:

KI 8, K I11

Core Strategy Objectives:

6. Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy

What type of employment sites should we be providing?

Options:

- 1) Locate significant employment growth on larger purpose built estates similar to Rotherwas or Leominster Enterprise Park providing a mix of employment uses;
- 2) Locate new employment growth on a number of smaller sites to meet local

needs and start up businesses;

- 3) Expand existing employment areas to accommodate new employment growth;
- 4) Encourage the integration of new employment opportunities in mixed use developments such as live work schemes or working from home opportunities; or
- 5) Locate new employment growth as part of a housing urban extension.

Protection of Employment land

National / Regional Context:

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4 highlights that account should be taken of the need for the most efficient and effective use of land and buildings. Balancing the needs of housing, employment, retail and other uses can lead to competition for land. Together with the need to re-use previously developed land, this can add pressure on existing employment sites when they become vacant.

Encouraging the new uses of some vacant employment sites can contribute to regeneration, environmental improvements, reduce the need for greenfield development.

Over recent years, PPS3 has indicated that employment sites that are no longer needed should be assessed and potential for residential use investigated. However, the need to maintain a range and supply of employment land must be considered as the loss of existing employment land could lead to the need to find further sites elsewhere.

Herefordshire Context:

The Annual Monitoring Report 2007 highlights that 8.31 hectares of employment land has been lost to other uses, 7.79 hectares of which was to residential development.

An employment land review is being undertaken to assess the current availability of employment land across the County and to help ascertain which of the existing employment sites should be retained for employment uses.

During the Issues consultation, 15% of respondents felt allowing rural businesses to grow and 9% felt providing for start up businesses were; important ways of diversifying the economy.

The Core Strategy will need to address whether a protection of employment land policy is required based on the information gathered as part of the employment land review.

Key Issue:

KI 8, KI 11

Core Strategy Objective:

6. Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy

Should we protect existing employment land?

Options:

- 1) Protect all employment land from development for other uses;
- 2) Protect no employment land and allow market forces to prevail; or
- 3) Develop a criteria based policy to protect employment sites on their merit at the time of an application based on sustainable locations, best employment land, quality of site and 5 year reservoir of supply.

Improving the County's Skills base

National and Regional Context:

Having a skilful workforce is the key to having a successful and thriving economy. The skills gap is defined within the Herefordshire Economic Assessment as occurring when employers regard some of their staff as not being fully proficient to meet the requirements of their job role.

Improving the availability of higher education and post 16 facilities can not only improve the skills of individual Herefordshire residents but can provide the skilled workforce to assist in boosting the economy as a whole and improving the prosperity for all.

Herefordshire Context:

One of the key outcomes within the Community Strategy is to create a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce.

The Herefordshire Economic Assessment shows that Herefordshire has a higher proportion of people with level 2 (5 GCSE or equivalent) and level 4 (Degree level) qualifications than the West Midlands average. However, one quarter of the County residents aged between 16 and 74 have no qualifications at all.

Herefordshire has a number of higher education / post 16 facilities but does not have a dedicated university. As a result many young people level the County for higher education and consequently younger people do not move here to study. This can have a knock on effect on the establishment of research, development and high skilled employers, which are normally associated with universities, wishing to locate within the County.

Within the Issue consultation, 28% of respondents to the question regarding the need to capitalise on education achievements highlighted more training in general was required and 20% highlighted the need for more facilities and access to higher education as being important.

The Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy highlights a number of objectives

to improve the skills and workforce development including developing the County's higher education offer and developing the Herefordshire Learning Village.

Key Issue:

KI 3, KI 8

Core Strategy Objectives:

3. Providing for the needs of all generations

How can we improve the skills base in the County?

Options:

- 1) Create a university style campus in Herefordshire to improve skills, retain young people in the area and help to attract new types of development to the area;
- 2) Support the development of new and extended school/college facilities improving skills, learning and performance; or
- 3) Allow market forces and demand to prevail and judge any applications at the appropriate stage.

Tourism and Culture

National and Regional Context:

Tourism and culture can be a key element of the economy and particularly in assisting the diversification of the rural economy, encouraging and supporting local businesses and promoting rural regeneration.

The regional strategy generally encourages the improvement of existing tourism and cultural facilities as well as the creation of new facilities subject to environmental and infrastructure constraints increased visitor numbers would bring.

Herefordshire Context:

Herefordshire's tourism and culture is based on its environment, historic city, market towns and villages. The Herefordshire Tourism Strategy highlights that the tourism industry in the County is comprised of a large amount of small and scattered businesses.

Based on figures at 2007, Herefordshire attracts 4.8 million visitors to the County per year which helps to maintain 7,880 people employed in tourism or tourism related employment. Tourism brings over £290 million spend to the County each year.

During the Issues consultation, 14% felt that tourism was good for the local economy and 10% believed that there should be more green tourism promoted. 15% highlighted the need for improved cycling, walking and riding routes.

Tourism can bring many economy benefits to the County but can also bring with it a

number of issues relating to further development pressures, including increase pressure on infrastructure and impacts on the environment. Should Herefordshire look to accommodate the maximum number of all type of tourists coming to the County or should it build upon the environmental assets of the County to develop the infrastructure for more sustainable or “greener” forms of tourism.

The Core Strategy will require a policy direction which balances the needs of tourism and economy with those of the impact on the environment which is what attracts visitors here initially.

Key Issues:

KI 12, KI 5

Core Strategy Objectives:

8. Developing Herefordshire as a designation for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism.

10. Protecting the environment

How can Herefordshire’s tourism and culture sector grow?

Options:

- 1) Devise a policy to limit the growth of tourism in Herefordshire in order to protect existing environmental assets;
- 2) Devise a policy to strongly promote the growth of tourism across Herefordshire to help create a vibrant local economy;
- 3) Focus tourism development on key assets within Herefordshire for example Hereford, the Black and White villages or Symonds Yat to maximise the growth of tourism and attract more visitors;
- 4) Focus tourism development only to those areas accessible by public transport; or
- 5) Concentrate upon promoting Herefordshire as a centre for “green tourism”

Housing provision

As well as the spatial and place based options regarding housing distribution contained within sections 5 and 6, there are also a number of general policies regarding the provision of housing which have a choice of options. These include affordable housing, settlement boundaries, density, housing mix and gypsies and travellers.

Affordable housing

National/regional context:

The provision of affordable housing is a key consideration. National planning policy

recognises the importance of the issue in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3, while both the approved regional plan (CF5) and the revision to it (CF7) include policies to meet the need for affordable housing.

The Core Strategy will need to provide a County-wide target for the provision of affordable housing up to 2026 (PPS3 paragraph 29). PPS3 highlights a national minimum site threshold of 15 homes. Lower thresholds can be set locally and include varying proportions of affordable housing on a site-size basis.

Account should also be taken of the economic viability of any thresholds and proportions of affordable housing proposed, the impact upon levels of housing delivery and creating mixed communities and the need to deliver low cost market housing as part of the overall housing mix.

At a sub-regional level a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (HMA) has been undertaken for Shropshire and Herefordshire to provide a sub-regional market analysis of housing demand and housing need. Its findings will help to inform the affordable housing policies of the Core Strategy.

Herefordshire Context:

In Herefordshire the provision of affordable housing is already included as a key issue within the Community Strategy. Within the Issue consultation, 47% of respondents strongly agreed that people should have access to a decent home that they can afford. 23% of respondents considered more affordable homes would assist the key issue of an ageing population and the loss of younger people (K12)

The regional plan revisions indicate that within the West Housing Market Area (Herefordshire and Shropshire excluding Telford and Wrekin) a minimum of 700 affordable homes per annum should be completed up to 2026. Debate between Herefordshire and Shropshire will be required to decide on how best to split this figure and help set a requirement for the County.

However, to give an indication of what this target might mean for Herefordshire, the provision of 700 affordable homes per annum equates to 33% of the total housing requirement for the two counties. If 33% of Herefordshire's housing requirement (16,600) needs to fall within the definition of affordable, this equates to 5,500 units over the period 2006-2026. This is an average of 274 per annum. The average annual provision (provided through the planning system) in Herefordshire since 1996 has been 97 per annum (12% of all completions).

To achieve this level of affordable housing consideration would need to be given to lowering the current site thresholds and/or increasing the percentage of affordable homes required on sites. The site size thresholds contained in the adopted UDP are 15 homes or 0.5ha in urban areas and 6 homes or 0.2ha in rural areas. Analysis of the position in the County in April 2007 shows that some 32% of outstanding planning permissions in urban areas and 65% of permissions in rural areas fall below these site size thresholds.

The adopted UDP includes an indicative target which requires 35% of new homes to be affordable housing on sites above defined thresholds. Increasing the percentage of affordable housing on qualifying sites could also impact upon the supply of affordable housing. For example, analysis of the 2007 housing land position in urban areas would indicate that increasing the requirement from 35% to 40% could potentially result in around 80 additional affordable units based on retaining the

existing threshold of 15 homes.

However, in considering changes to site thresholds and/or percentage of affordable housing required, the impact of such changes upon the viability of land for housing, taking account of the level of developer contribution that can reasonably be secured will need to be assessed. The sub-regional HMA suggests that thresholds of 10 dwellings in urban areas and three in villages should be considered with targets of a minimum of 40% should be considered in the West Housing Market Area (Shropshire and Herefordshire).

As well as providing affordable housing as a percentage of affordable housing on allocated sites, an approach could be considered to specifically allocate sites for affordable housing. This could particularly be the case in areas not targeted for growth in the spatial options.

The provision of affordable housing will be a feature in all of the spatial options set out in Section 4. However, the implementation of different spatial options may require different approaches to the provision of affordable housing. For example, an option that suggests a concentration of new development in particular areas of the County may make it easier to address affordability issues in those areas. However, for areas not targeted for growth, meeting local affordable housing needs may prove more difficult.

Key Issue:

KI 2, KI 4, KI 14

Core Strategy Objectives:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision

How should we address the need for affordable housing in the County?

Options:

- 1) Increase the percentage of affordable housing required on housing sites (currently 35%);
- 2) Lower the site size thresholds for affordable housing particularly in rural areas where most housing is completed on sites smaller than existing thresholds;
- 3) A combination of 1 and 2; or
- 4) Identify settlements or areas where new housing development is limited only to affordable housing, this could mean that rural exceptions sites for affordable housing are the subject of specific allocations.

Settlement boundaries

Background Context:

Settlement boundaries are a well-used planning tool for guiding, controlling and identifying the limits to development for individual settlements. They are lines drawn

around defined nucleated settlements to reflect their built form and the area to which a set of plan policies are applied. This may not necessarily reflect the full extent of the village.

Settlement boundaries have added certainty to planning decisions and locally are an understood and generally accepted planning tool, as the 'black line' defines the areas which the settlement and open countryside policies would be applied to. It is also considered that settlement boundaries ensure a more plan-led approach, can assist the delivery of affordable housing and protect the open countryside.

Conversely, settlement boundaries have been criticised for leading to settlement cramming and thus affecting the character of the settlement, being inflexible and increasing land values.

Herefordshire Context:

Once a strategic option has been chosen and a settlement hierarchy has been devised to further this development strategy, a policy for directing development within these settlements would need to be developed.

However, the Core Strategy can only include a list of settlements which development could be directed towards with a criteria based policy. If settlement boundaries are to continue, these could not be defined within a Core Strategy and would need to be defined within a future document such as a Market Towns and Rural Areas DPD.

Although, settlement boundaries can not be defined within the Core Strategy itself, decisions on whether to continue with them will need to be taken at this stage.

Settlement boundaries have been defined within the adopted UDP for Hereford, the market towns and 48 main settlements using criteria outlined within UDP. Any of these existing settlements which fall within a revised Core Strategy settlement hierarchy, will require their existing boundaries to be reviewed, as they have now reached their development limits.

If settlement boundaries were not to continue, an adequate criteria based policy would be required for adjudging development proposals against. The adopted UDP contains such a criteria policy for the smaller settlements within Policy H6. This criteria approach has been successfully defended at appeal.

Key Issue:

KI4, KI5

Core Strategy Objective:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision
10. Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets

Should we continue with settlement boundaries?

Options:

- 1) List the settlements which are focus for growth within the Core Strategy and

devise a criteria based policy for adjudging future development proposals against; or

- 2) List the settlements which are focus for growth within the Core Strategy and define settlement boundaries for those settlements within a future DPD.

Density

Context:

PPS 3 – Housing highlights the importance of using land efficiently. The demand for additional homes by 2026, the limited amount of previously developed land and the competing demand for uses put increasing pressure on land and require innovative approaches to help deliver high quality housing.

Providing for more efficient use of land, means development at reasonable densities that protect valuable open space, respects privacy and maintains the character of the areas.

Housing density is worked out as the numbers of homes per hectare of land (not including open space, roads and services but it does include private gardens). The minimum density guidelines are included within PPS3 of 30 homes per hectare, however local authorities are encouraged to set their own densities.

The density of housing can affect to the local character and distinctiveness of that area. Any densities set should reflect local circumstances. Higher densities can assist in urban and rural regeneration by increasing possible population numbers to support community and social facilities and public transport as well as reduce the amount of greenfield land requirements.

Herefordshire Context:

The UDP contains a set of density requirements. In urban areas of Hereford and the market towns, housing developments will be expected to achieve a net overall density of at least 30 homes per hectare. On town centre and adjacent sites with good accessibility, it is expected that higher densities should be achieved of between 30 and 50 homes per hectare.

The Annual Monitoring Report 06/07 highlights that the 37% of homes built were of a density below 30 homes per hectare. Of the 195 homes completed on sites of over a hectare in the urban areas of Hereford and the market town, the average density was 35 per hectare.

A number of characterisation assessments are planned to be undertaken which will assist in establishing appropriate densities in the urban areas.

The Core Strategy will need to balance the housing requirements with the protection and enhancement of the character of the city and market towns. In order to do this there are a number of choices regarding minimum density requirements.

The capacity of sites to accommodate the housing requirements of each of the

spatial options will be informed by the Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Assessment (Housing Land Study) and through studies such as the Urban Characterisation Assessment.

Key Issue:

KI4, KI14, KI13

Core Strategy Objective:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision
10. Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets

What level of density targets should Herefordshire set?

Options:

- 1) Apply a single standard density to all housing provision across the County;
- 2) Apply different standard densities to different parts of the County to reflect accessibility (highest densities in central Hereford, towns and adjacent areas, lower densities in other parts of urban areas and the lowest densities in rural areas; or
- 3) Densities either set or determined for each site on the basis of an assessment of the character of the surrounding area.

Housing Mix

National / Regional Context:

PPS 3 highlights that the key characteristic of a mixed community is the variety of housing particularly in terms of the tenure and price and the mix of different households.

The Core Strategy should provide guidance upon the range and mix of housing across the County to ensure that the needs of families with children, single person households, older people and other groups such as gypsies and travellers are met as well as aiming to achieve balanced communities.

Herefordshire Context:

A commitment to providing for balanced and sustainable communities in Herefordshire means that we need to look at the existing housing stock and consider what is required in the area to enable the community to change and grow sustainably and provide for all members of the community.

Within the Issues Consultation, the need to create balanced communities and to provide more mixed age group housing were raised by respondents commenting on the key issues of the ageing population and loss of younger generations (KI2) and housing provision and affordable housing (KI4).

The 2001 Census shows that Herefordshire has a larger percentage of detached homes (43%) when compared to the average for England and Wales (23%). Conversely, Herefordshire has a lower average for flats and maisonette than the English and Welsh average, 11% compared to 19%.

A sub-regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment is being undertaken for the Western Market Area (Herefordshire and Shropshire) as defined in the regional plan phase 2 revision. This will identify the existing housing stock and assist in identifying the likely profile of households requiring market housing in the County.

Any Core Strategy policy will need to determine how best to address the needs of balancing our housing growth and communities successfully.

Key Issue:

KI4, KI2

Core Strategy Objective:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision

What types and mix of housing does Herefordshire need?

Options:

- 1) Allow a market led approach to the mix of new house types in new developments;
- 2) Ensure all schemes have a mix of house types in accordance with up to date housing needs information; or
- 3) Devise a policy which gives priority to specific housing types i.e. family homes, single persons, retirement in order to balance the housing types across the County.

Gypsies and Travellers

Context:

Government Circular 01/2006 provides guidance on the planning aspects of finding sites for gypsies and travellers. The circular indicates that the regional plan should specify the number of pitches required in each local authority. However, the existing West Midlands regional plan does not set gypsies and travellers pitch requirements. This is an issue that will be considered as part of the Phase 3 revisions to the regional plan, now underway, which is expected to be completed in Summer 2010. The Regional Assembly to Government submitted an interim policy in March 2007 to cover the period until the regional plan revision is completed.

A key element in setting the requirements for gypsy and traveller needs is the preparation of a gypsy and traveller accommodation assessment (GTAA). The information from GTAA's on gypsy and traveller need for sites will be a component which informs the policies in the regional plan and should enable the number of pitches required to be identified.

Herefordshire Context:

The UDP contains a criteria based policy dealing with the accommodation of Gypsies and other travellers (policy H12). However, the UDP recognises that the LDF would need to take forward the identification of sites for gypsies and travellers. Within Herefordshire it is estimated that there are around 95 pitches on 18 sites (either local authority or private), with a number of other pitches on “unauthorised” sites, some which have been established for a number of years.

Core Strategies should set out criteria for the location of gypsy and traveller sites. These criteria will be used to guide the allocation of sufficient sites to meet the required number of pitches set out in the regional plan in other Development Plan Documents.

A sub regional GTAA is currently being prepared for the west of the Region including Herefordshire. Emerging evidence in the document suggests a significant need for gypsy and traveller accommodation over the plan period. The GTAA also looks at the need for accommodation for travelling showpeople but does not suggest any significant additional requirement in Herefordshire.

The Core Strategy will need to show how the regional plan requirement will be implemented giving an indication of how the future needs will be addressed and what documents will be brought forward to deliver sites.

Key Issue:

KI4

Core Strategy Objective:

1. Providing for appropriate housing provision

How should we make provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers?

Options:

- 1) Develop a County-wide criteria based policy for location of different types of gypsy and travellers sites (residential, transit and temporary);
- 2) Identify areas or locations where gypsy and traveller sites would be unacceptable due to environmental constraints; or
- 3) Provide an indication of specific areas (but not sites) where gypsy and travellers sites are needed and sites will be directed.

Ensuring better health and wellbeing

One of the key themes of the Community Strategy is to improve public health, quality of life and promote independence and well being for disadvantage groups and older people. This has translated into an objective of the Core Strategy to ensure better health, wellbeing and quality of life. People’s health and wellbeing can be influenced by many different factors including the environment around them; the standard of

housing; the ability to find employment as well as the obvious health and social care facilities and services available.

Health care provision

Context:

Primary Care Trusts are responsible for improving the health of people and ensuring they receive the best possible health care. The planning system can assist in this aim in numerous ways. Specific health care facilities could be provided either within new developments or via developer contributions. But benefits can also be obtained by providing open space and leisure facilities to enable residents ready access to exercise and fresh air, encouraging cycling and walking and targeting the location of housing, employment and other facilities within walking or cycling distance.

Recent research (Health, Place and Nature – How outdoor environments influence health and well-being) published by the Sustainable Development Commission highlighted that good planning has a critical impact on the health of communities, planning can be key to tackling obesity, mental health problems and diabetes by ensuring that people have access to green spaces, a clean environment and easily accessible services.

The planning of health care infrastructure is usually undertaken by the Primary Care Trusts on a five year cycle, in comparison to the Core Strategy timescale of 2026, which can make long term planning of new facilities within the plan difficult.

Herefordshire Context:

By 2026, considerable pressure could be placed on the health and social care facilities and services within Herefordshire in order to allow people to live as independently as possible and in their own homes. The rural characteristics of the County, an increasing older population together with further housing growth will bring challenges on the provision and maintenance of any health services.

During the Issues consultation, the need for better access to health care facilities was highlighted by 14% of respondents to Key Issue 7 – Access to important services and facilities.

The Herefordshire Primary Care Trust – A strategy of success highlights a wish to improve the health of all Herefordshire residents and reduce health inequalities.

A Public Service Trust has been created in Herefordshire combining elements of the Primary Care Trust and Herefordshire Council to assist the delivery of health care services in the County.

The Core Strategy will need to address whether new health facilities should be incorporated in new growth areas or whether effects should be concentrated on improving and expanding existing facilities.

Key Issue:

KI2, KI7

Core Strategy Objective:

2. Ensuring better health, wellbeing and quality of life

8. Securing sustainable communities

How can new developments help to make provisions for new and improved health care facilities?

Options:

- 1) Provide new facilities in areas which are a focus for growth or urban extensions in partnership with Herefordshire Primary Care Trust and other health care providers; or
- 2) Seek developer contributions to increase the capacity of existing facilities.

Open Space Provision

Context:

An active lifestyle can improve people's general health and wellbeing. The provision of informal and formal recreation and open spaces can have numerous positive effects. The provision of green spaces and areas to play and enjoy enable an attractive and pleasant environment, giving people access to facilities locally and thus creating a sense of social inclusion and improving people's general health and wellbeing.

PPG17 – Planning for open space, sport and recreation outlines the importance of local authorities undertaking assessments of the local need for quality open spaces which are based on local supply and demand for facilities. Nationally set standards would not be able to cater for local needs, demographics and existing facilities.

Herefordshire Context:

The rural nature of Herefordshire means that a large proportion of the population are not a great distance for some form of open space or countryside access.

The current adopted UDP sets a single standard open space criteria across the County based on population size for new developments and also seeks to safeguard existing facilities.

PPG17 Study and a Green Infrastructure Study are being undertaken to assess the current levels of informal and formal recreation space within the County and the green space between them.

Based on the findings of this study, the Core Strategy will need to address whether future open space requirements should be provided on all developments to one standard or whether a policy should be devised which addresses local shortfalls in

facilities.

Key Issue:

KI5, KI7

Core Strategy Objective:

2. Ensuring the health, wellbeing and quality of life
9. Delivering sustainable communities
10. Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets

What is the best way to provide the required open space and recreation facilities throughout the County?

Options:

- 1) Develop a County-wide standard for the provision of open space and recreation facilities within all new developments, similar to the current UDP;
- 2) Develop area specific standards and needs for the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities based on assessments from the PPG17 Study and the Green Infrastructure Study; or
- 3) Seek developer contributions for open spaces and recreation from all new development to be allocated where there is an assessed need within the area.

Conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment

Conserving, promoting, utilising and enjoying our natural, built, historic and cultural assets is one of the key objectives of the Core Strategy.

Herefordshire's countryside, landscape, rural settlements and the City and market towns are special and play a key role in defining a sense of place. These environmental assets include the range of features and components of the natural, historic and built environment which contribute to the social and economic wellbeing for residents and visitors alike.

Parts of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are located in Herefordshire – the Malvern Hills and the Wye Valley. There are also, 4 Special Areas of Conservation, 75 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 3 national nature reserves, over 750 local wildlife sites and over 5900 listed buildings and 69 conservation areas, an Area of Archaeological Importance and around 260 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and numerous nationally and locally important archaeological areas within Herefordshire.

Some of these designations are protected by national or regional policies contained within various PPS/G's and the regional plan. PPS12 highlights that core strategy policies should not repeat national policy but explain how these can be applied to the local circumstances.

Many features and assets are not recognised by national designation but are very important locally and valuable to the character of Herefordshire. We all have a

responsibility to look after the environment around us for future generations. The Core Strategy will need to address whether specific policies or whether additional criteria to other policies will be required to assist this objective.

Green Infrastructure
<p>Context:</p> <p>Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces and natural elements that fall within and connect to the places in which we live. It includes open spaces, rivers, gardens, woodlands, green corridors wildlife corridors and open countryside.</p>
<p>Herefordshire Context:</p> <p>Green infrastructure planning requires a strategic approach to ensure that environmental assets of natural and cultural value are fully integrated with development and built infrastructure and that all opportunities for protecting, enhancing and creating green space are realised, including on a multifunctional basis. Herefordshire Council intends to place green infrastructure as an important element of it's sustainable development agenda and has commissioned a green infrastructure study to be undertaken.</p>
<p>Key Issue:</p> <p>KI1, KI5, KI6, KI14</p>
<p>Core Strategy Objective:</p> <p>9. Delivering sustainable communities 10. Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets</p>
<p>How should Herefordshire protect and enhance its green spaces?</p> <p>Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure that new developments are designed in a way which enhances Herefordshire's green infrastructure, for example through linking into existing networks; 2) Seek developer contributions for identified green infrastructure proposals, particularly in areas where an identified need within an area has been identified; or 3) Make the most of the benefits of green infrastructure for a number of purposes including flood storage, biodiversity and recreation.

Locally distinctive features / assets
<p>Context:</p>

The Core Strategy has a key role to play in achieving a successful balance between protecting Herefordshire's environmental assets and enabling the further growth required.

Many of the national planning policy statements (PPS1 – Delivering sustainable development, PPS7 – Sustainable development, PPS9 – Biodiversity and geology, PPG15 – Historic Environment, PPG16 - Archaeology) seek to protect, enhance and restore environmental assets.

The Regional plan requires local authorities to conserve, enhance and where necessary restore the quality, diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character, biodiversity and historic environment.

The Core Strategy cannot repeat policies that are contained within national planning documents. However, many distinctive features and assets are not recognised by national designations but are very important locally and are valuable to the distinctive character of Herefordshire.

An objective of the Core Strategy is to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community. The Core Strategy will need to consider the most appropriate way to achieve this which could be either by specific individual policies for each of the locally important environmental assets or by including environmental asset criteria to each general core or place shaping policy as appropriate.

Herefordshire Context:

Biodiversity

The County is host to many important habitats and species. To protect and enhance biodiversity in terms of animals, sites and the spaces between them helps to create a balanced eco-system. Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2005) takes account of the national priorities and local distinctiveness and identifies priority species and habitats in Herefordshire. The Council is also producing a Biodiversity Strategy 2007–2010. During the Issues consultation, 28% of those commenting on protecting and enhancing environmental assets considered the protection of native wildlife species was important.

Landscape

Parts of two nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty lie within Herefordshire. However, the County's landscape has many other distinctive and valued areas, including historic parks and gardens, trees/woodlands and the settings of many rural settlements. Many of which are not protected by any national designations. Herefordshire has produced a Landscape Character Assessment, and is in the process of producing an Urban Characterisation Assessment to review the landscape setting of the City and market towns.

Historic environment

Conservation of the built environment is recognised as important for economic prosperity and local pride and distinctiveness. Listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, buildings and monuments of local importance all contribute to this. Conservation Area appraisals have been undertaken for all Herefordshire's conservation areas.

During the Issues consultation, 14% of respondents to the issue of protecting and

enhancing environmental assets considered that more listed buildings and protecting more trees was important.

Past planning policy has sought to give specific local protection to these locally valued environmental assets.

Key Issue:

KI5, KI14

Core Strategy Objective:

9. Delivering sustainable communities

10. Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built, historic and cultural assets

How should we protect / conserve / enhance our locally distinctive features / assets?

Options:

- 1) Rely on the national and regional policies only to protect Herefordshire's environmental assets;
- 2) Develop specific policies to provide an appropriate level of protection, conservation and enhancement for those locally distinctive and locally designated or recognised features and areas which are important for their biodiversity, landscape and/or the historic/built environment; or
- 3) Ensure that relevant policies of the plan include criteria which provides an appropriate level of protection, promotion and enhancement for all elements of the natural or historic environment.

7 Delivery and monitoring

The Government is keen to ensure that the planning system delivers a flexible, responsive supply of land particularly in relation to housing. Using the principles of 'Plan, Monitor and Manage' local authorities need to develop policies and implementation strategies to ensure that sufficient and suitable land is available to achieve their spatial objectives. The Council proposes to deliver a flexible, responsive supply of land by way of the following actions:

- Working with others such as the Local Strategic Partnership and other service and infrastructure providers, together with the development industry to ensure that there is adequate provision to meet the needs of new development and to ensure that the delivery of land for development is not restricted by inadequate provision or other obstacles. The use of the Community Infrastructure Levy and/or appropriate Planning Obligations will be key instruments in delivering the Core Strategy.
- Ensuring a continuous supply of deliverable housing sites for at least five years by preparing a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in conjunction with the development industry.
- Producing other appropriate and more detailed Development Plan Documents in order to identify site-specific issues and proposals impacting upon their development and set out mechanisms to help implement the proposals. A Hereford Area Action Plan has been identified within the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) and a timetable will be established in a future Scheme review for a DPD addressing the market towns and rural areas.
- Developing an implementation strategy that is sufficiently flexible to take into account changing circumstances such as housing need and supply and any reviews in the regional plan; this may for example entail a strategy whereby housing development is phased over a period of time and certain areas held 'in reserve' should identified sites not come forward.
- Continuing to monitor the implementation of planning policies and the LDS through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process to ensure that the spatial vision, policies and proposals are being delivered on the ground. A new detailed framework for monitoring the impacts of the policies and proposals in the Local Development Framework (LDF) will be developed at preferred option stage.

Question: Is there anything else the Council should be doing to help ensure the delivery of land over the Plan period?

8 What happens next?

Now that we have set out some potential options to deal with the issues raised through earlier consultations, it's your turn to have your say. Once we have received your comments, we will analyse the responses and report the main issues raised by your comments to the Planning Committee and Cabinet as well as feeding back to you. We will also consider the results of other consultations, which are due to take place during the consultation period as well as previous consultations and assess them all together. Once this work is done, we will have to prepare a "Preferred Options" document. The "Preferred Options" document will set out proposals for a spatial strategy and a set of planning policies to implement the overall vision and objectives of the Core Strategy. Again, you will be able to have your say on the "Preferred Options", probably next year in 2009.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Access - This term refers to the methods by which people with a range of needs (such as disabled people, people with children, people whose first language is not English) find out about and use services and information.

Accessibility - This term is used in two distinct ways, its definition depending on the accompanying text (see Accessibility of Principle Centres and Accessibility of the Transport System below).

Accessibility of Principle Centres - This refers to the extent to which employment, goods and services are made available to people, either through close proximity, or through providing the required physical links to enable people to be transported to locations where they are available.

Accessibility of the Transport System - This refers to the extent of barriers to movement for users who may experience problems getting from one place to another, including disabled people.

Affordable Housing - Housing subsidised in some way for people unable to rent or buy on the open housing market. The definition of 'affordable housing' includes key worker housing and shared ownership homes.

Aggregates - Sand and gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used in the construction industry for purposes such as the making of concrete, mortar, asphalt or for roadstone, drainage or bulk filling.

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) - An area which a local authority had designated for action, based upon a prediction that Air Quality Objectives will be exceeded.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - Each year, the Council will produce an Annual Monitoring Report, which will set out its progress in achieving set goals over the previous financial year. The Annual Monitoring Report will cover both the production of documents identified in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and the achievement of targets in those documents.

Area Action Plans (AAP) - An Area Action Plan is a Development Plan Document focused upon a specific location or an area subject to conservation and significant change. This could include a major regeneration project or a growth area.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - A statutory landscape designation, which recognises that a particular landscape is of national importance. The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty of the landscape.

Biodiversity - This refers to the variety of plants and animals and other living things in a particular area or region. It encompasses habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. Biodiversity has value in its own right and has social and economic value for human society.

Biodiversity Enhancement Areas - A regional mechanism that can be used to deliver international, national and regional biodiversity objectives.

Brownfield Land - Both land and premises are included in this term, which refers to a site that has previously been used or developed and is not currently fully in use, although it may be partially occupied or utilised. It may also be vacant, derelict or contaminated. This excludes open spaces and land where the remains of previous use have blended into the landscape, or have been overtaken by nature conservation value or amenity use and cannot be regarded as requiring development.

Capacity - A measure of the volume of traffic that a point or link in transport infrastructure can accommodate, and often an evaluation of the extent to which that infrastructure is coping with the traffic that makes use of it, e.g. underused, at or near capacity etc.

Carbon Footprint - A measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

Carbon Dioxide (CO²) - Carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring gas comprising 0.04 per cent of the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide fixed by plants many millions of years ago, and this has increased its concentration in the atmosphere by some 12 per cent over the past century. It contributes about 60 per cent of the potential global warming effect of man-made emissions of greenhouse gases.

Climate Change - The term climate change is generally used when referring to changes in our climate which have been identified since the early parts of the 1900's. The changes we've seen over recent years and those which are predicted over the next 80 years are thought to be mainly as a result of human behaviour rather than due to natural changes in the atmosphere.

Community Facilities - Land and buildings uses to help meet health, education and social needs in terms of developing and maintaining the health and well being of all.

Community Infrastructure Levy - A mechanism that empowers local authorities to apply a Community Infrastructure Levy on new developments in their areas to support infrastructure delivery.

Community Strategy - This is a practical tool for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area of jurisdiction of the local authority. Such strategies are prepared allowing for local communities (based upon geography and/or interest) to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities.

Congestion - A measure of the level of the traffic against the capacity of the infrastructure carrying it, indicating a point where the route or network can no longer ensure steady flows.

Conservation Areas - An area, as defined in the Town and Country Planning Act (1990), designated as being of special architectural or historical interest and therefore protected from any alterations which would destroy its character.

Core Strategy - The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It is comprised of a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework, with clear objectives for achieving delivery. Once adopted, all other planning must be in conformity with it.

Development Plan - The statutory development plan is the starting point in the consideration of planning applications for the development or use of land. The development plan will consist of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy prepared by the West Midlands Regional Planning Body, and Development Plan Documents prepared by the council.

Edgar Street Grid (ESG) Masterplan - This plan establishes a three-dimensional framework of buildings and public spaces. It is a visual 'model' which can show the following: the relationship between buildings and spaces; the connections between streets, squares and open spaces; the movement patterns; the height, massing and bulk of buildings; the distribution of uses; the location of street furniture and landscaping; and how well the new urban neighbourhood is integrated with the surrounding urban context.

Employment Land - Land which is used for the following purposes – office, industrial and warehousing.

Energy Efficiency - This is about making the best or most efficient use of energy in order to achieve a given output of goods or services, and of comfort and convenience. This does not necessitate the use of less energy, in which respect it differs from the concept of energy conservation.

English Heritage – English Heritage is the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment and is officially known as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. It is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Environmental Assets - Features in the physical environment that are valued for a variety of cultural and scientific reasons.

Environmental Capacity - The limit of acceptable environmental change within a defined area.

Evidence Base - The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the 'soundness' of the policy approach set out in Local Development Documents, including physical, economic and social aspects of the area.

Expanded Settlement – Settlement that can be expanded to accommodate extra dwellings to meet the needs of future generations.

Floodplain - The floodplain of a watercourse is identified as that area of land at risk of flooding when flows in the watercourse channel overtop its banks.

Flora and Fauna - Wild flowers, wild animals and native trees of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

General Scoping Report - The General Scoping Report provides a general framework for the Sustainability Appraisal of future documents being produced as part of a new planning system for Herefordshire. The existing scoping report represents the first stage in an iterative process of sustainability appraisal of the Council's Core Strategy.

Greenfield Land - Land which has not been previously developed, often in agricultural use.

Greenhouse Gases - Gases present in the atmosphere which reduce the loss of heat into space and therefore contribute to global temperatures through the greenhouse effect.

Green Infrastructure - The open environment within urban areas, the urban fringe and the countryside. It is a network of connected, high quality, multi-functional open spaces, corridors and the links in between that provide multiple benefits for people and wildlife.

Green Space - The collective term used to describe all parks, public gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woodlands, nature reserves, allotment gardens, linear and other open space.

Green Tourism - Low impact, environmentally friendly tourism that cherishes, not destroys.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites - These are sites either for settled occupation, temporary stopping places, or transit sites for people of nomadic habit of life, such as travellers and gypsies.

Herefordshire Carbon Management Action Plan - Defines the steps that Herefordshire Council will take to secure its contribution to the carbon dioxide reduction targets as part of the Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy.

Herefordshire Economic Assessment - A comprehensive analysis of the local economy, including future prospects that may generate and attract inward investment into the County.

Herefordshire Learning Village - A purpose-built state of the art learning centre. The Learning Village will provide a co-ordinated range of courses that are specifically targeted to meet the needs of local employers, a business development unit and a high technology engineering and craft workshop.

Historic Parks and Gardens - Gardens, parks and designated landscapes which are of national historical interest and which are included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England.

Housing Completions - Dwellings which have obtained planning permission and have been built.

Infrastructure - Collective term for services such as roads, electricity, sewerage, water, social services, health facilities and recycling and refuse facilities.

Kyoto Protocol - A protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change with the objective of reducing Greenhouse gases that cause climate change. It was agreed on 11 December 1997.

Land bank – A means of implementing proposals that involve the acquisition, leasing or other method of land access, by which required parcels of land are assembled until development can proceed.

Landfill Sites - The place where controlled waste is deposited. References to landfill may also refer to landraising and waste disposal.

Landscapes for Living - An ambitious new initiative, which will develop a 50-year biodiversity vision and opportunity map for the West Midlands.

Listed Buildings - Buildings of special architectural or historic interest included in a list compiled by the Secretary of State and where special protection measures apply. Buildings are sub-divided into the following three categories: Grade 1; Grade 2* and Grade 2.

Local Development Documents (LDD) - The Local Development Framework will be partly comprised of the Local Development Document, prepared by the council. These documents included the Statement of Community Involvement; Supplementary Planning Documents; and Development Plan Documents (being the Core Strategy, Site Allocations, Area Action Plans, Proposals Map, General Development Control Policies).

Local Development Framework (LDF) - The Local Development Framework is not a statutory term, however, it set out, in the form of a 'portfolio/folder', the Local Development Documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for local planning authority's area. These are replacing the Unitary Development Plan.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - This is a public statement of local authorities programme for the production of Local Development Documents. The scheme will be revised when necessary. This may be either, as a result of the Annual Monitoring Report, which should identify whether the local authority has achieved the timetable set out in the original scheme, or if there is a need to revise and, or prepare new Local Development Documents.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) - These are non-statutory, multi-agency partnerships, which matches local authority boundaries. Local Strategic Partnerships bring together at a local level the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors; allowing different initiatives and services to support one another so that they can work together more effectively.

Local Transport Plan 2 - A five-year integrated transport strategy prepared by the council, as a highway authority, in partnership with the community, which seeks funding to help provide local transport projects.

Minerals Development - Development consisting of the winning and working of minerals or involving the depositing of mineral waste.

Mitigation - Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts e.g. changing the way development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing.

Monitoring - Procedures by which the consequences of policies and proposals are checked on a continuous or periodic basis to assess their effectiveness and impact.

Natura 2000 Sites - Network of protected sites will consist of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Nature Conservation - Protection, management and promotion for the benefit of wild species and habitats, as well as the human communities that use and enjoy them. This also covers the creation and re-creation of wildlife habitats and the techniques that protect genetic diversity and can be used to include geological conservation.

New Growth Point - A national initiative to provide support to local authorities that wish to pursue large scale and sustainable growth, including new housing and jobs in partnership with the Central Government.

Ofsted - The official body for inspecting schools.

Open Space - All land in Herefordshire that is predominantly undeveloped other than by buildings or structures that are ancillary to the open space use. The definition covers a the broad range of types of open space within the County, whether in public or private ownership and whether public access is unrestricted, limited or restricted.

Owner Occupation - Term used to describe a person who owns or is in the process of buying the house or flat he lives in.

Park and Ride - Facilities which seek to reduce town centre congestion by encouraging motorists to leave their vehicles at a car park on the edge of town and travel into the centre by public transport, usually buses direct from the parking area.

Plan, monitor and manage - The ability to form a Plan, monitor the performance of its policies and amend if necessary.

Planning Obligations - (see Section 106 Agreements)

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) - These are statements of Government's national policy and principles towards certain aspects of the town planning framework. They are legally binding and may be treated as material considerations in the determination of planning applications. They were introduced under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), and are gradually replacing the old style Planning Policy Guidance Notes.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) - (see Brownfield land)

Primary Care Trust (PCT) - Herefordshire Primary Care Trust is the local National Health Service organisation that plans, provides and purchases health services for people registered with a Herefordshire GP. It is also responsible for improving public health.

Public Service Trust - A new partnership arrangement between Herefordshire Primary Care Trust and Herefordshire Council that will culminate in the joint planning, purchase, design and integration of all local public services around the needs of individual customers and patients.

Public Transport - Generally bus and rail services operated for the carriage of passengers drawn from the general public; also covers taxis and other less conventional forms such as post-buses.

Recycling - The reprocessing of waste, either into the same product or a different material. Wastes that can be recycled include; paper, glass, cardboard, metals and plastics.

Regeneration - The redevelopment of decaying or run-down parts of older urban areas to bring them new life and economic vitality.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – This document provides a long-term landuse and transport planning framework for the West Midlands region. The overarching framework guides the preparation of Herefordshire's development plans and local transport plans. It determines also the scale and distribution of housing and economic development across the region, investment priorities for transport and sets out policies for enhancing the environment.

Renewable Energy - Power derived from a source that is continually replenished, such as wind, wave, solar, hydroelectric and energy from plant material, but not fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Although not strictly renewable, geothermal energy is generally included.

Restoration - The treatment of an area after operations for the winning and working of minerals have been completed by the spreading of any or all of the following: topsoil, subsoil and soil making material.

Retail Hierarchy - Hierarchy of shopping centres ranging from regional and sub-regional centres through town centres, district and local centres.

River Wye - The fifth-longest river in the United Kingdom and forms part of the border between England and Wales.

River Lugg – A river which flows through the border town of Presteigne, Wales, then through Herefordshire, including the town of Leominster, south of which it is met by a

tributary, the River Arrow, then to a confluence with the River Wye, which it joins at Mordiford.

Rural Regeneration Zone – A vehicle for bringing together partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop and implement a programme of economic regeneration for the area.

Section 106 Agreements – An agreement by the local authority with a landowner/developer restricting or regulating the development or use of land either permanently or temporarily in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act (1990).

Sequential Approach - A planning principle that seeks to identify, allocate or develop certain types of locations of land before others. For example, brownfield sites before greenfield sites, or town centre retail site before out-of-centre sites. In terms of employment a sequential approach would favour an employment use over mixed use and mixed use over non-employment uses.

Settlement Boundaries - Settlement Boundaries are intended to define the extent of the existing built-up areas of towns and villages. They highlight a fundamental distinction in terms of planning policy between existing developed areas and the surrounding countryside where land uses are intended to remain for the most part undisturbed. Subject to environmental considerations, development should be contained within Settlement Boundaries during the Plan period.

Settlement Hierarchy - Settlements ordered by their size: hamlets, villages, towns, cities, and conurbations.

Significant Urban Extensions – Large-scale housing growth on the periphery of towns.

Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) - SSSIs form a nationally important series, which contributes to the conservation of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. SSSIs are areas of land that have been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) or the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949).

Social Housing – Subsidised housing provided by a Registered Social Landlord or Local authority allocated on the basis of need.

Soundness - The legislation does not define “sound” but the Planning Inspectorate consider it in this context within its ordinary meaning of ‘showing good judgement’ and ‘able to be trusted’ and within the context of fulfilling the expectations of the legislation. In order to decide whether a document is sound, the Inspector will apply the nine tests of soundness as set out in Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) - SACs are sites designated under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). Together with Special Protection Areas they will form the Natura 2000 network of sites.

Special Protection Areas (SPA) – Sites that are designated under the Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). Together with Special Areas of Conservation they will form the Natura 2000 network of sites.

Stakeholders - Groups, individuals or organisations which may be affected by, or have a key interest in a development proposal or planning policy. They may often be experts in their field or represent the views of many people.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - This sets out the standards to be achieved by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all Local Development Documents and planning applications. The statement is a clear public statement enabling the community to know how and when they will be involved in the preparation of Local Development Documents and how they will be consulted on planning applications.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – A formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the

environment. Local authorities which prepare and adopt such a plan or programme must prepare a report on its likely significant environmental effects, consult environmental authorities and the public, and take the report and the results of the consultation into account during the preparation process and before the plan or programme is adopted. They must also make information available on the plan or programme as adopted and how the environmental assessment was taken into account.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SRFA) - A planning tool that enables the Council to select and develop sites away from flood risk areas. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is being prepared as part of the Council's emerging Local Development Framework process but also sets out the procedure to be followed when assessing new sites that fall within a flood risk area..

Strategic Housing Market Assessment – Periodic survey of local estate and lettings agents carried out in compliance with Government guidance.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (HLAA) – A study that will identify as many potential housing sites as possible for the period from 2006 to 2026, and to explore any constraints that might affect their suitability, viability or availability for development.

Strategic Highway Network - A categorisation of the road network into different categories determined by the functions they perform.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) - These can take the form of design guides or area development briefs. However, each supplementary planning document must be consistent with national and regional planning guidance, as well as the policies set out in the adopted plan. It should be clearly cross-referenced to the relevant plan policy or proposal that it supplements. Public consultation should be undertaken and supplementary planning documents should be regularly reviewed.

Sustainable Development - In broad terms, this means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Government has set out five guiding principles for sustainable development in its strategy 'Securing the Future – UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development'. The five guiding principles to be achieved simultaneously, are: Living within environmental limits; Ensuring a strong healthy and just society; Achieving a sustainable economy; Promoting good governance, Using sound science responsibly.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainability appraisal is a systematic appraisal process. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies set within a Local Development Document from the outset of the preparation process. This will ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) - Statutory plans produced by each borough which integrate strategic and local planning responsibilities through policies and proposals for the development and use of land in their area. These are being replaced by Local Development Frameworks.

Unitary District – A type of local authority that has a single tier and is responsible for all local government functions within its area or performs additional functions which elsewhere in the relevant country are usually performed by national government or a higher level of sub-national government.

Waste Management Facilities - These include facilities for waste treatment and disposal. Most waste management facilities and landfill sites are privately owned. The County Council has contracts with the private companies for the treatment and disposal of municipal waste.

West Midlands Region - An official Region of England, covering the western half of the area traditionally known as the Midlands. It contains the second largest British city, Birmingham, and the larger West Midlands conurbation, which includes the city of Wolverhampton and large towns of Dudley, Solihull, Walsall and West Bromwich.

West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) - A voluntary institution, which is responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for the region through the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.

Zero Carbon Homes – Dwellings that achieve zero net carbon emissions from energy use on site, on an annual basis.

Appendix 1 - Core Strategy and Community Strategy Links.

Draft Core Strategy Objectives	Core Strategy Key Issues	Draft Spatial Option	Community Strategy Outcomes
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Providing for appropriate housing provision.</p>	<p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger people.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate housing provision and affordability.</p> <p>Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.</p>	<p>A B C D</p>	<p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p> <p>Children and young people are safe, secure and have stability.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged.</p> <p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p>
<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Ensuring better health, wellbeing and quality of life.</p>	<p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger people.</p> <p>Protecting and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.</p> <p>Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County.</p> <p>Reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>B C D</p>	<p>Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p> <p>Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Children and young people engage in positive behaviour inside and out of school.</p> <p>Children and young people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged.</p> <p>Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p>
<p>Objective 3</p> <p>Providing for the needs of all generations.</p>	<p>The need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development.</p> <p>Diversification of the economy</p>	<p>A B D</p>	<p>A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce.</p> <p>More and better paid employment.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable</p>

	<p>to higher value added industries such as research and development.</p> <p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger people.</p>		<p>adults to enjoy more independence and choice.</p> <p>Children and young people are safe, secure and have stability.</p> <p>Children and younger people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards.</p> <p>Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged.</p>
<p>Objective 4</p> <p>Ensuring improved transport accessibility and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County.</p> <p>Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding.</p> <p>Improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution.</p> <p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of young people.</p>	<p>A B D</p>	<p>Reduced traffic congestion through access to better integrated transport provision.</p> <p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p>
<p>Objective 5</p> <p>Improving access and movement from rural areas to urban areas.</p>	<p>Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County.</p> <p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of young people.</p>	<p>A B</p>	<p>Reduced traffic congestion through access to better integrated transport provision.</p> <p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p>

<p>Objective 6</p> <p>Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy.</p>	<p>Addressing an ageing population and the loss of younger people.</p> <p>The need to capitalise on education achievements through higher education provision and skills development.</p> <p>Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development.</p> <p>Regeneration of the County.</p> <p>Promoting tourism and culture activities in the County.</p>	<p>A B C D</p>	<p>More and better paid employment.</p> <p>A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce.</p> <p>Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school.</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p>
<p>Objective 7</p> <p>Improving our service centres.</p>	<p>Regeneration of the County.</p> <p>Promoting tourism and culture activities in the County.</p> <p>Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>A B</p>	<p>Reduced traffic congestion through access to better integrated transport provision.</p> <p>Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>More and better paid employment.</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice.</p>
<p>Objective 8</p> <p>Developing Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>Regeneration of the County.</p> <p>Promoting tourism and culture activities in the County.</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.</p> <p>Diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development.</p>	<p>A B C</p>	<p>Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p>
<p>Objective 9</p>	<p>Addressing the impacts of</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Reduced traffic congestion</p>

<p>Securing sustainable communities.</p>	<p>climate change, including flooding.</p> <p>Improving air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution.</p> <p>Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County.</p> <p>Protecting and enhancing environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.</p> <p>Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction.</p> <p>Improving transport infrastructure, choice, movement and communications throughout the County.</p>	<p>B C D</p>	<p>through access to better integrated transport provision.</p> <p>Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged.</p>
<p>Objective 10 Protecting, conserving and enhancing our natural, built and historic and cultural assets.</p>	<p>Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding.</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.</p> <p>Promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County.</p> <p>Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County.</p>	<p>A B C D</p>	<p>Cleaner, greener communities.</p> <p>Reducing levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged.</p>

Appendix 2 Conformity to other Plans, Policies and Strategies

Plan/Policy/Strategy	Key Objectives Relevant to LDF	Draft Core Strategy Objectives
National		
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	<p>Make suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.</p> <p>Ensure high quality development through good and inclusive design.</p> <p>Ensure that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.</p>	<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>
PPS3: Housing (2006)	<p>Prioritise the re-use of previously developed land with urban areas, in preference to greenfield sites.</p> <p>Provide greater choice and a better mix in the size, type and location of housing.</p> <p>Plan to meet the housing requirements of the whole community; including those in need of affordable and special needs housing.</p>	<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 3</p>
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005)	<p>Promote the vitality and viability of town centres by planning for growth and development of existing centres.</p>	<p>Objective 6</p> <p>Objective 7</p>
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)	<p>Raise quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities.</p>	<p>Objective 5</p> <p>Objective 6</p> <p>Objective 9</p>
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)	<p>Promote sustainable development, conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology.</p>	<p>Objective 10</p>

	Contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity.	
PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)	Protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste.	Objective 2
PPG13: Transport (2001)	Promote more sustainable transport choices for people and freight. Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, cycling and walking. Reduce the need to travel by located new development in places that can be served by public transport.	Objective 4 Objective 5
PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)	Protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment, by regulating the development and use of land whilst reconciling the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment.	Objective 10
PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)	Support an urban renaissance by creating local networks of high quality and well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. Support urban renewal and recognise that the countryside can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas.	Objective 2 Objective 3
The UK Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future (2005)	Respect the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity in order to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations. Ensure a strong, healthy and just society meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities. Build a strong, stable and sustainable economy, which provides prosperity and opportunities for all.	Objective 2 Objective 3 Objective 9 Objective 10
Regional		

<p>Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2006)</p>	<p>Develop thriving sustainable communities.</p> <p>Reduce overall energy use and increase use of renewable sources.</p> <p>Promote sustainable consumption and production.</p>	<p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>
<p>West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy (2005)</p>	<p>Create a strong regional economy, which through the provision of “pathways of housing choice” enables people to live near their work in pleasant affordable homes.</p> <p>Redress the failure of the housing markets that have resulted in little or, in some cases no substantial range of choice whether in price or type.</p> <p>Work with the private sector and Registered Social Landlords and to deliver the required new range and types of housing.</p>	<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 9</p>
<p>Rural Renaissance: Advantage West Midlands’ Rural Framework (2005)</p>	<p>Foster the sustainable development and diversification of the rural economy of the West Midlands.</p> <p>Raise skills levels and improve access to skills development opportunities in rural areas, in support of the ten business clusters.</p> <p>Support restructuring in the West Midlands rural economy through development of an accessible, modern, social and economic infrastructure and capacity; through improving access to opportunity.</p>	<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 5</p> <p>Objective 6</p>
<p>West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004)</p>	<p>Secure the regeneration of the rural areas of the region.</p> <p>Retain the Green Belt, but to allow adjustment of boundaries where this is necessary to support urban regeneration.</p> <p>Support the cities and towns of the region to meet their local and sub-regional development needs.</p> <p>Support the diversification and modernisation of the region’s economy while ensuring that opportunities for growth are linked to meeting needs and reducing social exclusion.</p> <p>Ensure the quality of the environment is conserved and enhanced across all parts of the region.</p>	<p>Objectives 1-10</p>

	<p>Improve significantly the region's transport systems.</p> <p>Promote the development of a network of strategic centres.</p>	
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy (2004)	<p>Ensure that business benefits from commercial opportunities to produce energy efficient products and initiatives.</p> <p>Ensure focused and integrated delivery and implementation of energy use.</p>	<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Objective 9</p>
West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan (2004)	<p>Support modernisation of and diversification of West Midlands to ensure economic growth.</p> <p>Pillar One: Develop a diverse and dynamic business base.</p> <p>Pillar Two: Promote a learning and skilful region.</p> <p>Pillar Three: Create the conditions for growth – securing improvements to the region's transport, communication and property infrastructure to support the development of a diverse and dynamic business base.</p> <p>Pillar Four: Regenerate communities in the West Midlands.</p>	<p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 4</p> <p>Objective 5</p> <p>Objective 6</p>
West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy (2004)	<p>Improve accessibility across the region, and reduce the need to travel by expanding upon travel choice.</p>	<p>Objective 5</p> <p>Objective 6</p>
West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy (2004)	<p>Add value to the West Midlands visitor economy by attracting more visitors from outside the region, including more overnight visitors, more business and high-value leisure visitors</p> <p>Attract greater private sector tourism investment and extend the multi-cultural experience of the region.</p>	<p>Objective 8</p>
Local		

<p>Herefordshire Cultural Strategy (2004)</p>	<p>Improve the health and well being of Herefordshire people through the provision of sporting opportunities, which encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Reduce crime and disorder and make Herefordshire safer by helping to divert people away from criminal activity or anti-social behaviour through the use of culture and leisure based initiatives.</p> <p>Reduce poverty and isolation in Herefordshire by promoting free or concessionary activities and run schemes that address rural isolation through mobile services and use of village/community halls.</p> <p>Encourage communities to shape the future of Herefordshire by supporting the work of hundreds of voluntary groups working in culture and leisure to run their own initiatives.</p> <p>Develop Herefordshire as an active, vibrant and enjoyable place to be.</p> <p>Protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinct Environment, and promote the historic and rural landscape, with schemes linked to tourism, distinctiveness and archaeological sites.</p> <p>Meet Herefordshire's accommodation needs and conduct work within the most deprived neighbourhoods, providing facilities such as libraries and leisure centres where appropriate.</p> <p>Support business growth and create more and better-paid work in Herefordshire.</p> <p>Provide excellent education and training in Herefordshire for all ages in order to support both the national curriculum and the County's Lifelong Learning programme.</p>	<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 2</p> <p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 4</p> <p>Objective 8</p> <p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>
<p>Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan 2005/2008 "Action for a better Herefordshire"</p>	<p>Protect the environment by recycling much more waste and significantly reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>Improve transport and safety of roads, including further reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured.</p> <p>Sustain vibrant and prosperous communities by providing more efficient, effective and customer-focused services.</p> <p>Promote diversity and community harmony and strive for equal opportunities for all the people of Herefordshire, regardless of race, religion,</p>	<p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 4</p> <p>Objective 5</p> <p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>

	disability, sex, sexual orientation, geographical location, income or age.	
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-2025	<p>Establish and promote Herefordshire as the leading County for a sustainable and high quality of life.</p> <p>Attract and support entrepreneurial businesses in sustainable high value sectors such as environmental technologies and knowledge-based activities.</p> <p>Enhance the provision of community based training and learning.</p> <p>Maximise the economic impact of competitive locations by improving the land and property offer.</p> <p>Provide flexible business accommodation and other support services in peripheral locations.</p> <p>Provide a sector specific property offer for key sectors (such as mixed use live-workspace for the creative industries sector).</p> <p>Address traffic congestion in Hereford through additional traffic management measures.</p> <p>Enhance access to affordable housing for those on low incomes, or those who are generally disadvantaged.</p> <p>Fully understand and address issues associated with urban disadvantage, particularly in Hereford City.</p>	<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Objective 3</p> <p>Objective 4</p> <p>Objective 7</p> <p>Objective 8</p>
Herefordshire Council Corporate Environmental Strategy 2005-2011	<p>Make efficient use of natural resources such as water, heat and electricity, and promote the use and development of appropriate sources of renewable energy and recycled products.</p> <p>Take action to prevent pollution and minimise environmental risks.</p> <p>Promote sustainable and integrated transport solutions that meet the needs of the County.</p> <p>Implement a waste strategy to reduce the amount of waste entering the waste stream.</p> <p>Respond to the challenges posed by climate change by significantly reducing carbon emissions from its own activities and acting, where possible, to address and mitigate wider potential impacts.</p> <p>Protect natural habitats and species to maintain</p>	<p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>

	<p>and improve the wealth of biodiversity in the county.</p> <p>Promote the benefits of a healthy and attractive environment to community well being.</p> <p>Provide a planning system that ensures that development is sustainable.</p>	
Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2005)	<p>Improve the condition of council owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan complete with an effective monitoring, reporting and review system.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the biodiversity on council owned land.</p>	Objective 10
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2 2006/07 – 2010/11	<p>Reduce congestion and increase the use of sustainable modes of travel to safeguard the environment.</p>	Objective 2 Objective 4 Objective 5
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2004 -2009	<p>Keep the Hills open for the benefit, recreation and enjoyment of the public.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for informal outdoor recreation by the public, both visitor and resident.</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the character and quality of the existing landscape to include all types of natural flora and fauna.</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the existing wildlife of the Hills and Commons.</p> <p>Improve the public's knowledge and understanding for the Malvern Hills.</p> <p>Have regard for the social and economic well being of the people living in the area in a manner compatible with the conservators' other purposes.</p> <p>Ensure that development within this area is consistent with the objectives of the conservators.</p>	Objective 6 Objective 9 Objective 10
Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2004-2009	<p>Conserve and enhance, where necessary, the natural beauty of the landscape in the Wye Valley AONB, with its natural and cultural features and processes.</p>	Objective 6 Objective 9 Objective 10

	<p>Conserve, enhance and restore the characteristic biodiversity.</p> <p>Conserve, safeguarding and enhance the historic environment of the AONB, with its wealth of cultural associations.</p> <p>Foster viable farming enterprises that manage the land in ways that protect the natural resources and distinctiveness of the AONB and to enhance them where need arises.</p> <p>Ensure woodland throughout the Wye Valley AONB is managed sustainably in a way that protects and enhances the outstanding semi natural wooded character of the area, and provides economic, environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>Ensure that sustainable tourism, based upon the natural beauty and local distinctiveness of the AONB, continues to enrich the lives of visitors, operators and employees while contributing positively to the conservation and enhancement of the area.</p>	
Tourism Strategy for Herefordshire 2002 – 2007	Improve the value of tourism to Herefordshire, bringing benefits to the economy, the community and the environment of the area, and to the region as a whole.	Objective 8
Herefordshire Partnership Climate Change Strategy 2005/6 - 2011/12	<p>Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Decrease emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per head of population per year.</p> <p>Reduce the fossil fuel and electricity consumption of operational council properties.</p> <p>Support and promote energy efficient measures.</p> <p>Reduce the average street lamp circuit wattage.</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of all housing sectors.</p> <p>Reduce the energy consumption of operational council properties.</p> <p>Support the use of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Objective 9</p> <p>Objective 10</p>

Appendix 3 Background Studies (Evidence Base)

Title	Current position (June 2008)
Housing Land Availability Assessment (in-house study)	Initial report covering Hereford and the market towns prepared.
West Sub-regional Housing Market Assessment (prepared for Shropshire and Herefordshire)	Final draft report prepared.
Water Study, comprising assessment of water supply, treatment, infrastructure and flooding (PPG25 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) (Growth Point study)	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed. Water cycle element report to be completed by June
Employment Land Review (external consultants)	Review paper prepared as background information for Options consultation.
Retail study (PPS6 Assessment) (external consultants)	Review paper prepared as background information for Options consultation.
Green Infrastructure Study (Growth Point study)	Completed
Open space study (PPG17)	Completed
Transport Study	Highways Agency taking lead role in this work. Discussions to be had regarding scope of work and funding arrangements
Waste/Minerals study (external consultants)	Study being commissioned.
Sub-regional Gypsy/Travellers Assessment (prepared for Shropshire and Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin and Powys).	Final draft report published.
Characterisation Assessment (in house study)	First Phase expected October 08



Shaping our Place 2026

Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal

April 2008

Local Development Framework

If you need help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call the Forward Planning Team on 01432 260000 or send an email to: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk



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Table 1 - Sustainability issues addressed through Core Strategy identified issues

Non-Technical Summary

In accordance with European legislation and UK regulations a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Development Framework was approved in June 2007. The purpose of the LDF Scoping Report is to provide a general framework for the Sustainability Appraisal of future documents being produced as part of a new planning system for Herefordshire. It was the first stage in an iterative process of Sustainability Appraisal of predominantly, Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. The Scoping Report has been used as the foundation of this report and where necessary updates and reviews of the processes and information available within it have been amended to reflect new information and best practice, where applicable and changes outlined within this document. This report then continues with a focus on Stage B of the SA process.

The role of the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy is to create a spatial plan to guide growth and change in the County over the next 20 years, replacing the current adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP), March 2007. The Core Strategy will set out a spatial vision; objectives; core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework to guide the sustainable development of the County up until 2026. The Sustainability Appraisal will aid this process by ensuring that the principles of sustainable development are integrated and based on a clear understanding of economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of the County and identify constraints in meeting these requirements.

Herefordshire Council has decided to take a volume approach to the required SA reports needed at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. This methodology will show how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development in an integrated way into its Core Strategy. This first volume of the SA Report sets out the background to Sustainability Appraisal and is effectively an audit trail of the process to date in developing the Core Strategy. Details of a series of organised SA workshops on issues; development of the Core Strategy Objectives; compatibility of SA Objectives with the Core Strategy Objectives; and predicting the effects of the Strategic Options are all set out in the main report and Appendices. The following gives a brief summary of the SA findings:

At the issues workshops in May 2007 the SA identified a variety of issues that the Core Strategy Issues Paper, consulted on in September 2007, should include, please refer to Appendices 1-01 to 1-05. The main issues identified were climate change; affordable and appropriate housing; better air quality requirements; less congestion; waste; flooding; water resources; local facilities for thriving communities; sustainable modes of travel including better walking and cycling routes; and the natural environment. These were used to develop the issues consulted on in September 2007 and integrated as part of the amended issues following consultation into the objectives that would seek to address the issues and help shape Herefordshire up until 2026.

Following consultation on the Issues Paper SA workshops were held on the compatibility of the Draft Core Strategy Objectives January 2008 to test them for their reasonableness and compatibility with the principles of sustainable development. The results were used in the development of the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options. The reasonableness and compatibility test for the January 2008 workshop can be viewed in Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 6-10. Following the incorporation of these results from the SA workshop, early task group and other key stakeholder involvement, the Core Strategy Objectives as at April 2008 were assessed again for their reasonableness and compatibility with the SA Objectives. These results can be viewed in Appendix B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and Appendix B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 6-10 and the conclusions and recommendations from this assessment will be integrated into the Core Strategy prior to identifying a Preferred Option and reported on at Preferred Options Stage.

Appendix B2 shows the results of the SA workshop held in January 2008 on the development of the Strategic Options. It was based on where all the new housing, employment and other growth should be located and what the reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability appraisal early assessment was for each of the emerging Strategic Options.

Following integration of amendments from further task group and key stakeholder involvement and the results from Appendix B2 the new Strategic Options, April 2008 were assessed to predict what the effects of the four Strategic Options would likely be in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and Sustainability Appraisal. The conclusions and recommendations of Appendix B3 will be integrated following consultation in June 2008 and be reported on at Preferred Options.

Following the forthcoming consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper further stages of the SA process will be undertaken and reported on in the Preferred Options Paper. It will include any additional assessments needed on tasks already completed on any significant changes, for example significant plan objective amendments, a new emerged option or a significant change to an existing option identified in the Developing Options Paper. The next stages of the SA will also be undertaken, for example putting the sustainability framework to the preferred option.

Consultation Arrangements

The consultation of this document is being undertaken in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the “assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”: the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), the SEA Directive, that is transposed under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to ensure the views of key stakeholders and members of the public help inform a more inclusive Development Plan Document (DPD).

Consultation will take place over an eight-week period from 16th June 2008 to the 8th August 2008. We would welcome your comments.

Any comments or suggestions you have on this document should be returned in writing to Emma Lawrence, LDF Community Involvement Officer at the address below. A copy of this document can be found on our website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk following the Planning, Forward Planning, LDF, Core Strategy links or is available from:

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1.0 Appraisal Process

1.1 The Final General Scoping Report for the SA of the Local Development Framework was approved in June 2007. It has been used to guide the process for the SA of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy and it includes:

- A review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and their relationship with the LDF and SA;
- Relevant baseline information to inform the current environmental, social and economic characteristics and likely evolution thereof;
- The likely sustainability issues for the LDF – based on assessment of the baseline;
- Sustainability objectives; and
- An outline of the appraisal process and SA Report.

1.2 Herefordshire Council has decided to take a volume approach to the required SA reports needed at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. This methodology will show how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development, in an integrated way, into the development of the Core Strategy; in particular the inter-relationships between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1, Delivering Sustainable Development.

1.3 The Scoping Report has been used as the foundation of this report and where necessary updates on Stage A, as set out in paragraph 1.1 and reviews of the processes and information available within it have been amended to reflect new information and best practice and incorporated within this document. This report then focuses on Stage B of the SA process, developing and refining options and predicting effects. Guidance identifies these tasks as testing the Core Strategy Objectives against the SA framework (Task B1); Developing Core Strategy Options (Task B2); and predicting the effects of the Core Strategy (Task B3).

2.0 Background

2.1 In accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the "assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment": the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), (the SEA Directive), that is transposed under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the responsible planning authority must carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) OF Local Development Documents. The Government have produced guidance on undertaking SA: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents which has been utilised in producing this report. In addition, guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and Scott Wilson, Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal for Development Plan Documents (Draft) and Local Development Frameworks Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, December 2007 have also been used in conjunction with training seminars and workshops held by PAS that have assisted with the Core Strategy SA process.

2.2 The main purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. Essentially the SA process goes beyond the environmental issues (the SEA Directive) to include social and economic issues as well. It has been designed so that by carrying out SA the responsible authority can satisfy the requirements of both SA and the SEA Directive. In this report, SA should be taken to mean that the SEA Directive has been incorporated. (Appendix i identifies how this report complies with the SEA Directive).

3.0 Purpose of the Report

3.1 This report establishes the first volume of the SA of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. As previously mentioned the General Scoping Report covered the early stages of the SA process,

stage A and amendments have been made as necessary including new information and incorporation of best practice. This report mainly covers Stage B of the SA process.

- 3.2 Stage B involved developing and refining options and predicting effects, and in particular the following tasks have been undertaken and reported on in this volume of the SA for the Core Strategy:
- Identification of issues and developing Plan Objectives, Appendix 1-01 to Appendix 1-05 covering the economy, housing, infrastructure, services and the environment;
 - Compatibility Test - Developing Plan Objectives, January 2008 against selected SA objectives, Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and 6-10 including the reasonableness test;
 - Compatibility Test - Plan Objectives, April 2008, Appendix B1-April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and 6-10 including the reasonableness test;
 - Developing Plan Options, Appendix B2; and
 - Predicting the effects of the Strategic Options, Appendix B3.
- 3.3 The remaining tasks of Stage B, evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy; considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects; and proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy and the remaining Stages C to E of the SA process, as set out in the General Scoping Report, will be covered in future volumes of the SA for the Core Strategy, likely to be at Preferred Options and Submission stage.

4.0 Review of General Scoping Report, June 2007

Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 4.1 Appendix A1 of the General Scoping Report, June 2007 contains a comprehensive review of all plans, policies and programmes that relate to the sustainability of the LDF. These are therefore not repeated in this document. However, this SA report has had regard to their objectives in order to incorporate the sustainability elements.
- 4.2 Appendix A1 in this report provides the additional local plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Core Strategy and the SA since the approval of the General Scoping Report, June 2007 and are listed below. These additional highlighted plans, policies and programmes objectives have been considered through the process of developing the Plan Objectives and Strategic Options through identifying what their relationship is with the SA process and integrating with them to ensure the Plan does not contradict their aims and objectives. A similar task was also undertaken in the main Core Strategy Developing Options Paper and the outcomes can be viewed in that document. More importantly it enables the identified plans, policies and programmes to be delivered through the planning system.

Additional Plans, Policies and Programmes – Appendix A1

- Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy 2007-2010 (Draft)
- Sustainability Strategy 2006-2009, published January 2007
- Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
- Growing Older in Herefordshire, A Strategy for Older People in Herefordshire, August 2007
- Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009
- Social Enterprise in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (under review)
- Highway Maintenance Plan, April 2007

Review of baseline data – Appendix A2

- 4.3 A review of the baseline data was not considered appropriate at this stage of the Core Strategy preparation, as elements of the evidence base are still outstanding and may have additional

impacts on the SA. It was therefore considered, at this strategic level, to undertake the current assessment work with the information as reported in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 and to review the baseline at a later date when further information would be available, preferably by preferred options stage but certainly by submission stage.

- 4.4 The baseline data has however been reviewed in terms of identifying the indicators as, contextual, local, core, core output, or local output. It was clear from this exercise that the majority of the indicators were considered to be contextual and as such would not be appropriate for the purposes of monitoring the Core Strategy. It is acknowledged however, that in addition to the review of the baseline as mentioned in 4.3 above, once more information becomes available, significant effects indicators will also start to be identified through the SA process. An update of these is likely to be in the next SA report for preferred options.

Sustainability Key Issues

- 4.5 The General Scoping Report, June 2007 in Section 5 highlights key sustainability issues for Herefordshire. These issues are relevant for the Core Strategy as it is a strategic document covering the whole County. In addition to these, SA issues workshops were held in order to identify some initial broad principles for the Core Strategy Objectives to establish if there were any other issues associated with the 5 topic focussed areas of the economy, housing, infrastructure, services and the environment that the Core Strategy would need to have regard for. The results from these workshops are discussed later in this report and were used in the development of the Core Strategy Issues Paper.
- 4.6 Table 1 below shows the final set of Core Strategy issues, post consultation, that address the identified key sustainability issues as identified in the General Scoping Report, June 2007, demonstrating how sustainability is being incorporated into the Core Strategy.

Table 1: Sustainability issues addressed through Core Strategy identified issues,

Key sustainability issues	Core Strategy issues that address the key sustainability issues
Population Change	Providing for the needs of all generations.
Provide decent and affordable housing for all	Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction.
Reducing poverty and social exclusion	Providing for the needs of all generation; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; reducing the opportunities for crime and anti social behaviour; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; and regeneration of the County.
Crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	Reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; and the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; and regeneration of the County.
Health and well-being	Providing for the needs of all generations; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; improving air

	quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Economic activity/employment	The need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; regeneration of the County; and promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County.
Education and Skills	Providing for the needs of all generations; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; and diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development.
Transport and Accessibility/Air Quality	Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; regeneration of the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensure high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Regeneration	Providing for the needs of all generations; regeneration of the County; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Land use and stewardship	Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; regeneration of the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.
Climate change and flood risk	Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and improving transport, infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County.

Biodiversity	Regeneration of the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; and protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.
Reduction in waste/increase in recycling	Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban areas and rural areas; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Water usage and quality	Addressing the issues of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Energy Efficiency	Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Environmental assets and resources	Regeneration of the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the issues of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; and better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County.

Sustainability Objectives

4.7 A review of the sustainability objectives, as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 was undertaken following recommendations made at the January 2008 Plan Objectives compatibility workshop that minor amendments were needed to the wording of some of the sustainability objectives for clarity. Some of the Sustainability Framework questions (Appendix A3) have been refined and moved from one SA Objective to another ready for later stages in the production and assessment of the Core Strategy. The main changes are as follows:

- Removal of “suited to the changing needs of the local workforce” from sustainability objective 1 under the Economic Development and Enterprise section;
- Removal of questions 1.3 and 1.4 from objective 1 and replaced into objective 2 (section, as above);
- Removal of questions 2.1 and 2.2 from objective 2 and replaced in objective 8 under the Children and Young People section;
- Replacement of the reference to “household waste” to “municipal waste” in objective 12 under Protecting Environmental Assets and Resources section;
- Addition of the indicator “amount of energy recovered from burning of waste” to question 12.3 of objective 12 (section, as above) since this measure was included in the last Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2006/2007¹.

¹ The AMR is a document produced annually that reports on the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents (LDDs) under the LDF are being achieved. The current AMR reports on the achievement of policies in the current Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report Volume One Developing Options Paper

5.0 Key Sustainability Issues

5.1 In line with the latest guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), Herefordshire Council is aiming to integrate a variety of methods at various stages in the production of its Core Strategy to be innovative, as far as is possible with time and resource constraints. The Council is also working with external statutory consultees such as Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and comments and advice are integrated as necessary.

5.2 In the early stages of identifying issues and developing objectives internal workshops were held to raise the profile of the Core Strategy and establish a group of people from cross cutting Council Departments to share their knowledge and experience in their professional areas to assist in the SA process. The first issues workshops were conducted in May 2007 using broad topic based Core Strategy Objectives, these were worded as follows:

- Diversify the Herefordshire economy;
- Improve the choice in housing;
- Provide better infrastructure links within urban areas and between urban and rural areas;
- Improve health, education, skills training, social, shopping, community and other services; and
- Ensure the sustainable use of environmental assets and the prudent use of natural resources.

5.3 Each of the topic areas had individual workshops, with a relevant officer(s) providing their initial assessment of issues with each of the broad topic areas appraised against the 20 sustainability objectives, as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007. The following represents the general information provided, on each of the topics, to workshop attendees for assessment of the issues.

- **Diversification of the Herefordshire economy**
To diversify the existing base away from a dependency on large single manufacturers through increasing the opportunities for promoting growth in high value sectors such as food and drink, tourism, creative industries and health and care. This should also seek to protect the County's existing strong rural economy while also encouraging farm diversification in sustainable sectors distinctive to Herefordshire.
- **Improve the choice in housing**
It is important in planning the future of the County that people have a greater choice in housing and can afford to live within the County if they choose to. There is a high demand for affordable housing across the County and a need to provide an appropriate mix of housing to meet the needs of the population.
- **Better infrastructure links within urban areas and between urban and rural areas**
New growth will need to be supported by appropriate infrastructure both in urban and rural areas. New infrastructure may comprise new roads and rail facilities where appropriate but could also include the provision of more sustainable modes of transport such as cycle networks, footways and public transport. Infrastructure provision will also include green infrastructure such as parks, green corridors, community facilities and sports and recreational facilities.
- **Improving health, education, skills training, social, shopping, community and other services**

It is essential that with economic and housing growth within the County that important services and facilities are also provided and are not subject to overburdening demands. Hereford City and the Market Towns should provide a network of centres that provide important facilities and services including community and leisure uses. The health and education provision within the County are vital to the prosperity of the County and need to be supported.

- **Sustainable use of environmental assets and the prudent use of natural resources**

The environment is one of Herefordshire's most important assets and needs to be protected and enhanced in association with the economic and population growth of the County. The environment also has the opportunities to contribute greatly to growth, capitalising on the County's strong heritage and natural environment, making Herefordshire an attractive place to work, live and invest.

5.4 The results of the workshops can be viewed in Appendices 1–01 economy, 1–02 housing, 1–03 infrastructure, 1–04 services and 1-05 environment.

5.5 The results, along with identifying early on potential issues, assisted the Plan writers in the development of the Plan Objectives, but also allowed the SA internal working group to become familiar with the SA process and terminology and have an initial input from the beginning of the Core Strategy preparation.

6.0 Developing Objectives

6.1 The General Scoping Report, June 2007 identifies 20 sustainability objectives in the framework and all these have been identified as being relevant to the Core Strategy. At the developing Plan Objectives stage that took place in January 2008, a representative set of SA Objectives covering the economy, social and environmental sustainability areas were selected. This allowed the development of the Objectives to incorporate the main themes of sustainable development at the most appropriate level and to be fit for purpose. The SA Objectives used in developing the Plan Objective were 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 20 (refer to column 1 of the Appendices B1 Jan 2008 1-5 & 6-10 compatibility tests).

6.2 An SA workshop group was organised comprising some of those group members who had been involved at the issues stage and others whom would continue to be the established SA workshop group assisting throughout the process of developing the Core Strategy. The group is comprised of appropriate Herefordshire Council officers with expertise in a variety of areas, for the example the economy, housing and education. Guidance from the Planning Advisory Service was utilised prior to and during the organisation of the workshop to discuss the development of the Plan Objectives. The group firstly discussed whether the emerging Plan Objectives were reasonable and if found to be reasonable where assessed for their compatibility against the selected SA Objectives as set out in paragraph 6.1 above. Appendix B1 Jan 2008 – Objectives 1-5 compatibility test and Appendix B1 Jan 2008 – Objectives 6-10 compatibility test show the results of the workshop and also identifies the conclusions and recommendations made to the Plan writers at this early developing Plan Objectives stage.

6.3 The Plan writers preparing the document considered the outcomes from the workshop and integrated these into the development of the Objectives as they appear in the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008. This was forwarded to some key external consultees for their comments and as a result further changes were made. The main comments were that; the Plan Objectives were not considered to be locally distinctive enough for Herefordshire or "smart" in terms of being easily monitored once adopted. A further compatibility test was conducted on the April 2008 Draft Objectives, which incorporate these comments. The results, conclusions and recommendations of this later compatibility and reasonability test can be found in Appendix B1 April 2008 – Objectives 1-5 Compatibility Test and Appendix B1 April 2008 – Objectives 6-10 Compatibility Test. The results from this latest assessment will be integrated

following consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper and reported on in the next SA report, at Preferred Options.

7.0 Appraisal of the Options

7.1 Similarly to the process undertaken for appraising the emerging Objectives, a workshop was organised with the same internal SA working group with a representative from the PAS, the group considered the Herefordshire Strategic Options. The group were asked to consider a set of questions when assessing each of the emerging Strategic Options along with known factors such as the latest housing figures in the West Midlands RSS, however they were informed of the review being undertaken at the regional level on potential housing figure increases. The questions considered were

- Are the options distinct and clear? (Reasonable)
- What are their likely adverse effects, can they be prevented, reduced, offset? (SA)
- Can positive effects be enhanced? (SA)
- Can the effects be quantified? (SA)
- Who are the winners and losers? (Community Engagement)

In other words the group considered “How do the Options perform?”

7.2 The options discussed were:

- Option A - Concentrate the development of new homes within the Market Towns
- Option B - Focus on one or more of the Market Towns and if so, which ones?
- Option C - Split development of new homes between the Market Towns and larger rural settlements (yet to be defined – but similar approach to the UDP)
- Option D - Focus only on a greater number of larger rural settlements to promote services and facility retention in the rural areas, outside of the Market Towns
- Option E - Focus on a new settlement
- Option F - Focus on an expanded settlement.

7.3 The outcomes from the tests of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability can be viewed in Appendix B2. The workshop group identified some of the issues to be cross cutting for all Options, these were climate change and environmental protection and enhancement. These are critical for a sustainable spatial strategy and fundamental to all of the identified emerging Strategic Options. Option C reflects the extent to which new development could be used to enhance existing or provide new environmental assets.

7.4 As the above emerging Strategic Options were a first attempt at spatially focussing patterns of general growth for developing the Options, it is acknowledged that the approach was not specific enough in aiding development of place shaping policy options and did not integrate fully with the emerging Objectives as per the January 2008 version. The comments and recommendations made from the assessment in the workshop were integrated into the development of the emerging Strategic Options, as part of the SA iterative process. There are now four emerging Strategic Options that are set out in the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper as at April 2008, these are:

- Option A - The desire to promote Herefordshire’s economy (an economic option) with an eastern focus for development; or
- Option B - The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation (a social option) with a dispersed focus for development; or
- Option C - The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets (an environmental option) with a concentrated focus of development; or
- Option D - A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C above, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.

7.5 Comments from external consultees have also been integrated into the development of the Options and the above April 2008 emerging Strategic Options have now also been tested in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability.

8.0 Predicting the Effects

8.1 Similarly to the assessment of the emerging Objectives the four emerging Strategic Options, as set out above, were tested in terms of how the Options would perform using the same set of questions as a guide. However, this time during the SA appraisal assessment the predicted effects were weighted in relation to whether the Options were moving towards sustainability, moving away from sustainability or were neutral for the economy, social and environmental themes. The results, conclusions and recommendations of the assessment can be viewed in Appendix B3 and will be integrated into the Core Strategy following consultation and reported on in the next SA report at Preferred Options.

9.0 Sustainability Integration

9.1 In addition to the above SA process each of the versions written by the Core Strategy Plan writers was reviewed in terms of sustainability and suggestions and recommendations for changes to wording was made. The following lists the changes that were made to the March 2008 Developing Options Paper for the Internal Working Group as a result of this sustainability integration into the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper:

- Reference to Habitats Regulation Assessment included
- Reference to “reducing waste through reuse, recycling, composting”... changed to “managed through reduce, reuse, recycling, composting” ...
- Objective one “securing sustainable communities” changed to “delivering sustainable communities”
- Reference to “by 2026” deleted
- The key issue of housing included in the delivering sustainable communities objectives
- Reference to “aims” in community strategy changed to “outcomes”
- Infrastructure such as sewage, gas, electricity and water supplies other than roads now included in a separate section under sustainable communities
- Clarity given to what was meant by green barriers, changed to “valued landscapes”
- Reference to public transport included in one of the disadvantages to Option A on Focus on the Economy

9.2 Similar exercises will continue through the production of the Core Strategy to ensure that principles of Sustainable Development are integrated.

10.0 Uncertainty and Risks

10.1 When identifying issues, assessing compatibilities and effects of Objectives and Options against the principles of sustainable development and specific identified sustainability objectives, professional judgement has been used along with workshop group consensus to what the overall effect might be and as a result errors in judgement may exist. Possible inaccuracies in the discussion based assessment process also have the potential to create uncertainties and risks in the assessment outcomes. However, it is considered that these risks are negligible since the process is iterative and will be regularly reviewed and updated. It is considered that the integration and incorporation of the SA process into the writing and assessment of the Core Strategy and involvement of key stakeholders will enable the inaccuracies, any uncertainty and risk to be reduced, as far as is possible.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to set out the effects of the plan in terms of environmental, social and economic aspects. Throughout this process many conclusions and

recommendations have been made and these are noted in the appendices attached to this report. The appendices set out in full the recommendations made at various stages in the process and taken into account in preparing the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper. It is also intended that the latest assessments on the Objectives April 2008 and Strategy Options, April 2008 will be integrated into the preparation of the Core Strategy following consultation. These recommendations can be viewed in Appendices: B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 compatibility and B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 6-10 compatibility and B3 predicting the effects.

11.0 Further work

- 11.1 Following consultation on the Developing Options Paper the comments made regarding this report will be reviewed and taken account of, where appropriate. There will also be a review of significant changes to be made to the Core Strategy Options paper to establish if any additional SA assessments are needed as a result of the consultation changes. Following this further Sustainability Appraisal stages will be undertaken going into more detail with available evidence base. It is envisaged that a similar format for assessment will be used in terms of workshops and officer appraisal with continued advice from PAS and engagement with key stakeholders. The framework that will be used to assess the Preferred Option and this can be viewed in Appendix A3, Sustainability Framework.

Appendices

Appendix A1 Review of Additional Local Plans, Programmes and Policies

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
<p>Local</p> <p>Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy 2007-2010 (Draft)</p>	<p>There are 6 main objectives, 4 of which are relevant: Objective 3 To guide sustainable development through planning policy and development control; objective 4 to apply a best practice approach when managing council land; objective 5 to collect and maintain data and ensure its effective use; and objective 6 to secure the protection, management and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest through assisting other land managers and owners.</p>	<p>Objective 3's target – no net loss in priority habitats or species only habitat or species gain; no net loss to designated sites; objective 4's target – the percentage of council owned or managed land without a nature conservation designated, managed for biodiversity to rise to 4.4% by 2011 from the current 2.5%; objective 5's target – the creation of GIS layers on council's system of the location of records of legally protected and BAP priority species by 2008; and objective 6's target – commencement of a wildlife sites project in 2007 to encourage conservation and appropriate management of wildlife sites and seek council and partner funding to ensure continuation until at least 2012.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy will have to integrate biodiversity into the principles of spatial planning.</p>	<p>The strategy will assist in providing evidence from data gathered through its set targets and indicators and guide the direction that the Core Strategy should take when dealing with biodiversity issues.</p>
<p>Sustainability Strategy 2007-2006-2009, published January 2007</p>	<p>Over-arching objectives is to "guide the council in integrating and co-ordinating the principles of sustainability across its strategies, plans, policies and actions. It's strategic aims are to: support and co-ordinate council activities that further</p>		<p>Although this document is most relevant for those plans which co-ordinate council activities it is</p>	<p>The objectives, indicators and targets set out in the SA framework need to be as aligned as far as is possible with council</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	<p>sustainability objectives; increase awareness and provide a point of reference for all interested in maximising sustainable development within their work for the council; build a framework for streamlining sustainability objectives across the council's plans, policies, budgets and strategies. The framework will identify and encourage shared, quantified outcomes that contribute to a sustainable Herefordshire; and communicate the council's commitment to sustainable development to the public.</p>		<p>acknowledged that the Core Strategy should be in conformity with its aims. Objectives should not contradict Council policy and indicators should be aligned in order for information sharing, evidence gathering and monitoring to be more coherent.</p>	<p>objectives, indicators and targets for ease of information gathering, sharing and monitoring reducing duplication around the authority. However, it is noted that elements of the planning system require additional information or depth of detail than for Council purposes. A watching brief is needed here as a monitoring framework is developed and later reported in Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs).</p>
<p>Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010</p>	<p>The supporting people programme focuses on enabling vulnerable and disabled people to live as independently as possible and has the following objectives: A programme that promotes independence; the provision of strategically planned, high quality services that are cost effective; a needs led approach to the planning and development of services; effective working partnerships of local government, probation, health, voluntary sector organisations, housing associations, support agencies and service users. (There are also links with the</p>	<p>The targets are to deliver preventative services that will: Reduce the level of homelessness and repeat homelessness; Reduce the risk of offending and drug misuse; Promote independence and social inclusion of vulnerable and disabled people through the provision of enabling housing, related support services; delay an individual's need to access more intensive services</p>	<p>The Core Strategy is to represent all members of the community and therefore this strategy will give details of the aims for vulnerable and disabled persons so to ensure that any planning relevant elements can be incorporated into the</p>	<p>The SA should have regard for the objectives of this strategy when looking into infrastructure, health, quality of life, housing etc in considering this group(s) strategic requirements.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
<p>Growing Older in Herefordshire, A Strategy for Older People in Herefordshire, August 2007</p>	<p>Herefordshire Plan, Herefordshire Partnership Community Strategy to deliver a number of the key ambitions. Links also with council's Draft Corporate Plan 2005-2008)</p> <p>Aims of the strategy: Communication and information (e.g. community involvement; access to information and services, activities and education; and contributing to local community); Community safety (e.g. being able to enjoy town centres in the evenings; having information about incidences of crime; and being less vulnerable to crime); Employment and retirement (e.g. avoid social isolation; develop positive attitudes towards employing older people; having sufficient income and wealth to provide security in retirement; and being able to use resources to best effect); Health and dependance (e.g. services should be equitable and not discriminate on the basis of age; access to and receipt of health services; having more services provided close to or at home; and being able to access a range of services and activities that promote a healthy and active lifestyle); transport and access (e.g.</p>	<p>due to a deterioration in health or ability; improve the spectrum of choice in the supported housing sector; seek to ensure equal access to services maximise the use of all available resources to best meet the housing needs of vulnerable and disabled people.</p>	<p>development of the Plan.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will have to integrate the needs and aspirations of an ageing population into the principles of spatial planning.</p>	<p>The SA will have regard for all members of society and therefore includes the ageing population. This will be incorporated into any sustainability assessment.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	<p>having services that do not seek to segregate older people from the rest of society; having more services provided in one place; being able to get out and about with the resources to enable this; improve public transport; maintaining the County's highway network; and having more mobile services visiting rural communities).</p>			
<p>Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009</p>	<p>The DES hopes to achieve a number of things: promote equality so that disabled people who live or work in the County can enjoy their full human, social and political rights free from discrimination; embrace Herefordshire's diversity as a source of strength and opportunity; meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and make sure that we are taking the needs and views of disabled people into account at all times; continuously monitor and improve the ways in which we deliver services to disabled people.</p>		<p>The Core Strategy will need to ensure that regard for the disabled has been made by complying with this strategies aims and objectives and will need to show how it has taken the views of the disabled into account.</p>	<p>The SA will need to ensure that it has incorporated the needs of the disabled into its sustainability assessment of the Plan, e.g. access, infrastructure, employment opportunity etc., so far as the spatial planning system can assist.</p>
<p>Social Enterprise in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, previous strategy out of date and is under review and therefore the objectives listed are for guidance only.</p>	<p>The PSE (Partners for Social Enterprise) Vision for Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire is drafted as: "To support a growing, sustainable social enterprise community throughout the rural West Midlands." The social enterprise in the 3 counties is likely to reflect the PSE rural west midlands 2008-2011 objectives which are to: foster a culture of social enterprise; ensure</p>	<p>As the document has not been written yet there are no targets to report.</p>	<p>As a document in production its drafted broad vision should be acknowledged and incorporated into the development of the Plan as far is possible.</p>	<p>The SA should have regard for its vision so far as is possible with the limited information available at the time of the assessment.</p>

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
<p>Highway Maintenance Plan, April 2007</p>	<p>the right information and advice are available to social enterprises; enable social enterprises to access appropriate finance; and enable social enterprises to work with government.</p> <p>Core objectives: Safety, sustainability and serviceability. All aspects of highway maintenance contribute to at least one of these objectives. Standards of Highway infrastructure depend upon prioritising; available funding and risk assessment. A number of policy standards are highlighted under various tasks: carriageway; footways, cycleways; drainage; embankments, cuttings; landscaped areas and trees; fences and barriers; traffic signs and bollards; and road markings and studs. Wherever possible it is attempted to achieve a balance between the core objectives but the inventory type, maintenance need and available budget generally determine the relative priorities.</p>	<p>The plan has a variety of indicators however two were identified for safety and sustainability, the percentage of the principal road network with a skid resistance above the investigative level and to have 30 members of staff by April 2008 trained in the assessment of the impact of works on the environment, in advance of any proposed works, where they involve a change to the natural environment, especially those areas adjacent to sites of environmental importance.</p>	<p>This strategy should be viewed as the enabling Plan that will deliver whatever infrastructure requirements result from the Core Strategy process. Therefore an understanding of its current aims and objectives may be necessary in order to identify if the deliverability of aspects of the Core Strategy, in particular infrastructure requirements, are realistic and achievable.</p>	<p>There are aspects of this Plan, which may provide information on indicators and targets such as road safety and minor elements of the natural environment when developing a monitoring framework to assess the success of the Core Strategy policies later in the process.</p>

Appendix A2 - Baseline Data, Indicators, Trends

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Population						
Contextual	Herefordshire population total and local area breakdown	Herefordshire 177,800 Hereford 54,850 Leominster 11,100 Ross-on-Wye 10,100 Ledbury 8,850 Bromyard 4,150 Kington 2,600	Although national population growth is expected to slow down between 2003 and 2011, Herefordshire's population is expected to increase to 182,475 between 2003 and 2011 (an increase of 5,600 people)	West Midlands population increased by 0.98% from the 1991 census and is projected to increase to 5.39m (1.9%) by 2010	Population increase in Herefordshire is higher than for West Midlands but similar to that for England and Wales at 3.4%. Herefordshire has a high proportion of the population living in rural areas. Issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005-2006
Contextual	Migration	65% migrants from London and the south east, 24% from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire, 13% from West Midlands region and the remainder from other areas of England. (More people migrated from Herefordshire to Wales than vice versa between 1998 & 2004 giving a net loss).	65% migrants from London and the south east, 23% from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire, 12% from West Midlands region and the remainder from other areas of England. (More people migrated from Herefordshire to Wales than vice versa between 1998 & 2004 giving a net loss).	In trend comparison, England and Wales had grown by 3.6% and the West Midlands by 1.9% over the same period (1998-2005).	Despite a low birth rate, population has grown between 1998 and 2004 due to inward migration, by a net increase of 7000 people. Issue identified.	Trend data from Herefordshire Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 Current status data from State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Age profile	2004 0-14 17.3%, 15 – 24 10.3% 25-59 46.3% 60-74 16.5% 75+ 9.6%	2003 0-14 17.6% 15-24 10.1% 25-59 46.7% 60-74 16.2% 75+ 9.4%	West Midlands (England and Wales) 0-14 18.7 (18.2) 15-24 13.1 (12.9) 25-59 46.7 (47.9) 60-74 13.9 (13.4) 75+ 7.6 (7.7)	The number of people at the age of retirement is predicted to grow by 17.3% compared with that nationally at 10.4%. With a significant larger decline in the under 14's, 25 -34 and 35-44 year age groups also expected. Most significantly the number of people aged over 85 is expected to rise by 35.9% compared with nationally by 19.4%. Issue identified.	Current status, trends and comparators - State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Issues and constraints data - Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Economy						
Local?	Employment rate	2003/2004 87,000 This equates to 78.6% of the working age population.		(78.6% of working age, higher than in West Midlands region [73.4%] and nationally [74.3%], Corporate Plan target 2005-2008 – 80%	No issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Employment by sector (*1 Please see footnote)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing 4,091 (5.9%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 100 (0.1%), mining & quarrying (primary) 100 (0.1%), manufacturing industries 11,685 (17%), construction 4,136 (6%), transport, storage & communications 2,794 (4.1%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 13,679 (19.9%), Hotels & restaurants 4,164 (6%), real estate, renting & other business activities 6,671 (9.7%), financial intermediation 813 (1.2%), other community, social & personal service activities 2,829 (4.1%), education 6,103 (8.9%), health & social work 9,512 (13.8%) and public administration & defence 2,204 (3.2%) Total 68,906.	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing 5,445 (7%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 138 (0.2%), mining & quarrying (primary) 86 (0.1%), manufacturing industries 12,108 (18.8%), construction 3,828 (6%), transport, storage & communications 2,382 (3.7%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 13,023 (20.3%), Hotels & restaurants 5,262 (8.2%), real estate, renting & other business activities 6,738 (10.5%), financial intermediation 820 (1.3%), other community, social & personal service activities 3,278 (5.1%), education 5,167 (8%), health & social work 8,705 (13.5%) and public administration & defence 2,743 (4.3%) Total 69,723. 2001 Census data stated 17,119 people as self employed	West Midlands and (England & Wales) figures are as follows: Agriculture, hunting, forestry, 0.8% (0.8%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 0.5% (0.4%), mining & quarrying (primary) 0.1% (0.1%), manufacturing industries 16.6% (11.9%), construction 4.3% (4.4%), transport, storage & communications 5.4% (6%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 18.5% (18.1%), Hotels & restaurants 6.2% (6.8%), real estate, renting & other business activities 14.2% (16.5%), financial intermediation 3% (4.1%), other community, social & personal service activities 4.5% (5.1%), education 9.6% (9.1%), health & social work 11.3% (11.3%) and public administration & defence 4.9% (5.3%).	Some specialisation into specialised manufacturing and service sector in Hereford and the market towns has already taken place. Outside agriculture, more employment is in declining sectors and less in growth sectors than the national economy, reflecting the provision of small-scale farming. Data excludes the self-employed and under estimates those in the agricultural and fishing sectors. Issue identified – greater reliance on agriculture than region as a whole. Key Issue – 20% (based on 2001 census) of population are self-employed.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 (Original source Annual Business Inquiry [ABI] 2003)

*1 For purposes of accuracy and current information the data for the current status for employment by sector has been amended to use a different original source (ABI 2003) than that used in the first round of consultation, now in the trends column following a data review. Please also note that comparator data has been updated using the same original data source for consistency with that for the current status. *2 Data for 2005 is absent due to a change in the source used for better accuracy and consistency of data reporting.

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Unemployment rates of working age population (*2 Please see footnote)	Herefordshire 2006 1.7%	Herefordshire 2001 2.2%, 2002 1.9%, 2003 1.7%, 2004 1.7%, 2005, 1.4%	West Midlands (Great Britain) 2001 3.9% (3.3%), 2002 3.6% (3.2%), 2003 3.0% (2.6%), 2004 2.9% (2.4%), 2005 data missing, 2006 3.4% (England 2.6%)	Unemployment rates in Herefordshire are much lower than regionally and nationally and have been falling steadily over the last 5 years with a slight increase in 2006 in line with regional and national trends. No issue identified.	State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005
Contextual	Gross Value Added (GVA) (per capita)	Herefordshire 2002 £11,875	Herefordshire 1998 £10,182, 1999 £10,282, 2000 £10,535, 2001 £10,872	West Midlands (Nationally) 1998 £11,799, 1999 £12,175, 2000 £12,642, 2001 £13,031, 2002 £13,803 (£15,633)	GVA is a measure of the economic activity within an economy. GVA has remained lower in Herefordshire than other neighbouring authorities, such as Gloucestershire (15,940) and the gap is widening. – issue identified.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Median weekly earnings	Herefordshire 2005 £351.20	Herefordshire 2000 £289.70, 2001 £317.70, 2002 £328.50, 2003 £326.50, 2004 £361.20	West Midlands(England) 2005 £402.50 (£436.30) Corporate Plan target 2006-2009 – continue to reduce the gap in wage levels between Herefordshire & the West Midlands & nationally	Weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than regional and national figures. Between 2004 and 2005 a decrease was noted for Herefordshire, whilst both the Region and England saw increases. Issue identified.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Corporate Plan 2006/2009

*2 Data for 2005 is absent due to a change in the source used for better accuracy and consistency of data reporting.

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Core	Employment land developed by type in square metres	In 2005/6 1,615 of floor space was completed for B1a uses, 1,072 for B1c uses, 6,685 for B2 uses, 5,214 for B8 uses and 0 in other employment uses, a total of 14,586(8.58ha)	In 2004/5 2,216sqm of floor space was completed for B1a uses, 7,129sqm for B1c uses, 5,107sqm for B8 uses, 10,404sqm for B8 uses and 1,131sqm in other employment uses, a total of 24,856sqm (6.53ha) 2004/05, 55% A significant fall of 38.5% in the use of PDL between 04/05 and 05/06 reporting period.	In line with the Inspectors recommendation the UDP has been amended to relocate 100ha of employment land.	A steady climb to 11 hectares in 2002/3 with a fall seen in 2004/5, which picked up again in more recently in 05/06.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005, Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan
Core	Percentage of employment land on previously developed land	2005/06 16.5%	2004/05, 55% A significant fall of 38.5% in the use of PDL between 04/05 and 05/06 reporting period.	No specific target, but reusing previously developed land before Greenfield is central to the aims of sustainable development and endorsed under the UDP.	No data by type on previously developed land is monitored. Future AMRs should have a breakdown included	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Percentage population in knowledge and technology intensive employment sector	2004 15.2% (9,865)	2002 14.7% (9,162), 2003 14.6% (9,356)	West Midlands (England) 2004 24.2% (25.3%)	Herefordshire has a much lower percentage of employees in these fields compared with the region and nation.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 (Original source Annual Business Inquiry, ONS)
Local output	Number of VAT registered businesses and percentage change in Herefordshire	Overall, Herefordshire 2004 stock 8,340 (-0.7% i.e. decrease on 2003 data)	Overall stock 2000 8,250 (1.1% increase on 1999), 2001 8,250 (0% increase on 2000), 2002 8,375 (1.5% increase on 2001), 2003 8,400 (0.3% increase on 2002)	2004 West Midlands (England)percentage change from previous year -0.1% decrease (0.2% increase)	Issue identified	State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Skills						
Contextual	Estimated numeracy levels in Herefordshire	Low 10.3%, Lower 7.5%, Very Low 6%, Total 23.8%		West midlands (England) low 13.7% (12%), lower 8.6% (7%), very low 7.4% (5%), total 29.7% (24%)		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Estimated literacy levels in Herefordshire	Low 17.7%, Lower 3.5%, Very Low 4.2%, Total 25.5%		West Midlands (England) Low 15.8% (15%), Lower 5.9% (5%), Very Low 6.1% (4%), Total 27.9% (24%)		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local output	Percentage of working age adults qualified to at least NVQ or equivalent level 3	Herefordshire 2004/05 43%	Herefordshire 1996/97 37%, 1997/98 38%, 1998/99 37%, 1999/00 38%, 2000/01 41%, 2001/02 46%, 2002/03 43%	West Midlands (England) 2004/05 41% (45%) The target of 58% for 2004/05 was not realised. Target for beyond 2005 is to improve/increase the proportion of working age population with higher qualifications.	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local output (contextual?)	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including Maths and English	Herefordshire 2005 45.4%	Herefordshire 2003 53%, 2004 46.8%	Corporate Plan target 51% by June 2008	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local output	Percentage of 16-18 year olds in education, employment and/or training	Herefordshire 2005 94%	Herefordshire 1999 88%, 2000 88%, 2001 84%, 2002 87%, 2003 86% (these figures do not include those in employment)	West Midlands 2005 91% England 2005 92% Herefordshire target for 2005 90%		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Housing						
Local and core	Actual housing completions on previously developed land	2005/2006 on former residential land 162, former employment land 141, former other brownfield land 261, total 564 (71%) (Percentages are approx)	1996/97 saw 45% of completions on previously developed land, 1997/98 34%, 1998/99 50%, 1999/00 25%, 2000/01 29%, followed by a steady rise from 2001/02 at 56% through to 2003/04 to 70% (percentages are approx). In 2004/05 completions on PDL continued to rise, slightly, to 71%.	The UDP target is to achieve approx 6,100 new dwellings on previously developed land, under used and vacant land and buildings over the plan period. The Corporate Plan 2005-2008 target is 60%. RSS target was 68% for 2004/05 and regionally in 2004/05 the target was 76%.	Although since 1996 the proportion of new dwellings on previously developed land has increased significantly, it has not always been consistent. Development on Greenfield land between 1999 and 2001 in Hereford and Ledbury resulted in a decline on new builds on previously developed land during this period. However, a gradual and consistent increase since 2001 has been noted, with results over the past two years exceeding the regional target of 68%.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 The Corporate Plan 2005-2008 West Midlands Spatial Strategy Annual Monitoring Report 2005

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local and core	Development on Greenfield land	2005-06 227 (29%)	2004/05 162 (28%)	To build on 60% of PDL		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005-2006
Core	Percentage of new dwellings completed at i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare; ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare.	2005/06 30ha 295 (37%) 30-50ha 305 (39%) 50ha+ 191 (24)	2004/2005 density of completions: less than 30 dwellings/ha 258 (44%), 30-50 dwellings/ha 135 (23%), over 50 dwellings/ha 194 (33%)	New site densities for sites of 1ha or over in Hereford and the market towns: - Revised Deposit UDP Town centre and adjacent sites, at least 50 dwellings per ha and other sites, at least 30 dwellings per ha. This will be revised in the Proposed Modifications to the plan to be between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare on town centre and adjacent sites.		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Local and core output	Number of affordable home completions per annum (p/a) 2004/05	Social rented 55, Intermediate 59, Total 114	Between 1996 and 2005/6 961 affordable homes have been completed. At a 96.1% completion rate per year the UDP target will not be met by 2011. 2004/05 Housing Association /Local Authority 62, Affordable Low Cost Private 8, Total 70p/a NB: 05/06 data – Social rented = 04/05 data Housing Association/Local Authority and 05/06 data - Intermediate refers to 04/05 data for Affordable Low Cost Private	2,300 affordable dwellings to be provided under the UDP policy S3 within Herefordshire over the plan period 1996-2011.	However, the provision of affordable housing in both urban and rural areas of the county is an issue of concern. Right to buy scheme is resulting in a net loss of 168 affordable homes over a 6-year period (2000-2006), averaging at 28 per year. The last 2 years have seen greater gains than losses. Issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual/local	Number of people applying and accepted as homeless & towards whom the council has full statutory duty	2004/05 719 applicants, 510 accepted.	1998/99 411 applicants (254 accepted), 1999/00 556 (304), 2000/01 480 (277), 2001/02 543 (357), 2002/03 608 (417), 2003/04 591 (490)	To reduce the number of people accepted as homeless to 321 by 2008/09	An increase in both applicants and acceptances year on year. Issue identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Number of unfit dwellings made fit or demolished as a direct result of action by the council	2004/05 131 dwellings (Estimated in 2005 that 39 houses in 1,000 are unfit.)	2000/01 60, 2001/02 92, 2002/03 121, 2003/04 95	No target set	The council have rectified more dwellings in 2004/05 than in any of the previous 5 years	State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Number of people on the Home Point waiting list in Herefordshire	1 st Oct – 31 st Dec 2006 Gold – 1552 Silver – 2817 Bronze – 2344 Total - 6713	1 st Jan – 31 st Mar 2006 Gold waiting list 1,335, Silver 2,229, Bronze 1,813 Total 5,377		Key issue identified.	The Home Point Quarterly Monitoring Statistics 1 st Jan – 31 st Mar 2006, Jamie Burns, Home Point Manager
Local	Average house price by type in Herefordshire Oct-Dec 2005	Detached £292,534, Semi-detached £ 168,296, Terraced £146,035, Flat/maisonette £135,093, overall average £185,489.	Apr-Jun03 Detached £215,136, semi-detached £129,657, terraced £106,751, flats/maisonettes £79,770, (overall average £152,041), Jan-Mar 2004 detached £240,814, semi-detached £147,477, terraced £120,906, flats/maisonettes £92,694 (overall average £172,511). Apr-Jun 04 Detached £261,845, semi-detached £155,699, terraced £126,978, flats/maisonettes £128,026 (overall average £187,542)	Average for West Midlands £148,060, England & Wales £175,774. Average for England & Wales detached £262,137, semi-detached £159,081, terraced £135,741, flats/maisonettes £167,708	Key issue identified.	West Midlands Regional Assembly 2005 Regional Housing Market Summary Trends Data - Herefordshire Partnership Quarterly Economic Report November 2004 (Herefordshire Council website)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Transport						
Local	Index of annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes in Herefordshire	Radial routes into Hereford 04/05 9,409 (102.1) Principal rural road network 04/05 8,092 (99.8)	Radial routes into Hereford 2001/02 9,218 (Index 100), 2002/03 9,269 (100.6), 2003/04 9,428 (101.7) Principal rural road network 2001/02 7,856 (100), 2002/03 7,971 (101.5), 2003/04 8,060 (102.6)	Target 2001-2010 restrict growth to 1% per year (Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to control the annual average traffic volumes to no more than 5% compared to 2003/04) Corporate Plan 2005-2008 target – 106	Index number facilitates trend analysis from additional automatic traffic counts (ATC). 2001-2002 is the baseline year with an index of 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Core and local	Public transport patronage volumes based on the percentage of working age population	Bus – 2005/06 3,248,935 per year Rail – 2005/06 3,079 per day Pedestrian 2005/06 150,635 per day	Bus – 2003/04 3,947,000 per year Rail – 2003/04 2,638 per day Pedestrian 2003/04 130,107 per day	Bus - 1% increase by 2010/11 based on 03/04 figures (4,052,000p/yr) Rail – 15% increase by 2010/11 based on ¾ figures (3,034 per day) Pedestrian – 10% increase by 2010/11 based on 03/04 figures (143,118 per day) By 2010/11 35% (10,378)	Key issue identified	LTP2
Contextual	Percentage of workforce (Hereford City) covered by a travel plan	2003/04 14.8% (4,387 employees)				LTP2
Core and local	Number of cycle trips per day	2005/06 1,317	2000/01 1,115, 2001/02 1,167, 2002/03 1,299, 2003/04 1,189, 2004/05 1,215	18% increase by 2010/11 on 03/04 figures (1,473)	Figures are based on annual average figures from 4 automatic monitoring sites around Hereford and 2 12hour manual counts (one off's) in Ledbury and Leominster Snap shot, one days monitoring per year. Limited monitoring range.	LTP2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Recreation and Leisure						
Local	Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award status Change to: Percentage of residents satisfied with quantity of open space		1,463ha of open space is managed. 747ha of this is managed to Green Flag standard (51%)		Green Flag standards are currently being scrutinised with only partial review complete. An update will be provided in later revisions although early indications show an increase in the percentage of sites achieving the green flag standard.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005
Local	Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport	2005 – Doctor 79%, Local hospital 57%, Library 70%, Sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 55%	2003 - Doctor 77%, Local hospital 56%, Library 69%, Sports/leisure centre 66%, cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 53%			State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Percentage of population that are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas - by walk; rural areas - by car) of a range of three different sports facility types, of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard	2006 68.75%			Indicator is monitored every 3 years	Sport England website via Research dept

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Minerals						
Core	Production of primary won aggregates	Sales of sand and gravel 2004 equalled 250,000 tonnes and crushed rock 460,000 tonnes, totalling 710,000 tonnes	<p>Sales of sand and gravel between 01/01/03 and 31/12/03 equalled 254,000 tonnes and crushed rock 420,000 tonnes, totalling 674,000 tonnes.</p> <p>Extraction over the county has been stable and follows national trends and no significant local development has affected this.</p>	<p>7 years production should be maintained. West Midlands, 162 million tonnes (mt) of sand and gravel, 93mt of crushed rock between 2001 and 2016. Between 2001-2016 the Regional Aggregates Working Party allocated the county to be capable of producing 283,000 tonnes pa of sand and gravel and 424,000 tonnes pa of crushed rock. We were not far from achieving this for sand and gravel and exceeded this target for crushed rock in 2004. (Figures based on current land banks up to 2025 for sand and gravel and 2044 for crushed rock).</p>		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Core	Production of secondary/recycled aggregates	2 sites (Leinthall Earls Quarry and Wellington Gravel Pit in Herefordshire) have specific planning permissions for production, at an estimate of 3,000 tonnes from 01/01/04 – 31/12/04	Other sites, where production takes place in association with other recycling activities, is likely to produce much more than the 3,000 estimated at permitted sites.	<p>No specific targets set out under UDP. Policy M6 encourages production, processing, treatment and storage of alternatives.</p>	<p>Figures based on 2003 since a lack of data has materialised from the industry</p>	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Environment						
Contextual	Historic Assets	Listed Buildings (Grades I, II* & II) 5,918, Conservation Areas 64, Scheduled Monuments 262, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens 24, Registered Battlefields 0, Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) 1 (Hereford City Centre)	Listed Buildings (Grades I, II* & II) 5,866, Conservation Areas 64, Ancient Monuments 262, Registered Parks and Gardens 24*, Registered Battlefields 0		*The AMR 04/05 noted 19 Registered Parks and Gardens, this was incorrect, the figure should have been recorded as 24.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Percentage of conservation areas with up to date character appraisal Note: Do we need this one?	2005/06 – 1.6%	15% up to Dec 2006	Over a 2 year period from 2006/07 a target of 20% of all conservation areas requiring a review to be completed. The end of 2006 completed 9 character appraisals, in line with the target. 2007's timetable is to complete 7 character appraisals to meet the target of 20%.		Programme for the review of Conservation areas, Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager
Contextual	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals Note: Do we need this one?	2005/06 – 0%	0% up to Dec 2006	Target to produce 9% of the total number of management proposals required by the end of 2007. Preparation of Colwall, Weobley, Almeley, Hampton Park, Aylestone Hill & Mordiford has begun with completion due by the end of the 1 st quarter in 2007.	Programme for the review of Conservation areas, Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Number of buildings and monuments on at risk register & condition of building	January 2007 - Scheduled monuments – 24 (17 are both scheduled and listed) Grade II* - 14 Grade II – 11 Grade I – 6 Total – 31 (excluding scheduled monuments) Condition – Very Bad 14, Poor 15, fair 5.	April 2006 - Scheduled monuments – 3 Grade II* - 13 Grade II – 11 Grade I – 6 Total - 33			English Heritage website www.english-heritage.org.uk (accessed 08/02/07)
Contextual	Number/area of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	2 (Area TBC) (Wye Valley & the South and Malvern Hills AONB)				Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire	05/06Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's) 4, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) 77, National Nature Reserves (NNR's) 3, Special Wildlife Sites (SWS's) 709, Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation 56, Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) 7, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG's) 87.	04/05 Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's) 4, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) 75, National Nature Reserves (NNR's) 3, Special Wildlife Sites (SWS's) 750, Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) 8, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG's) 40, Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) 1 (Hereford City Centre)		Key issue identified SINCs have been included for 05/06 to separate the local designations of SWSs & SINCs. The total however, is greater overall in 05/06 than 04/05.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Core and local	Change in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority habitats.	21 UK BAP priority habitats in Herefordshire (plus 1 traditional orchid, identified as locally important.). 2005/06; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, planning permission (p/p) approved- 20m loss; Eutrophic water planning permission approved – loss of a pond 25mx25m (625m ²)	2004/5; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, planning permission (p/p) approved- 635m loss; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, p/p allowed on appeal – 20m, lowland meadow and pasture p/p approved 0.025ha unimproved neutral grassland.	No specific targets see AMR for general objectives.	Key issue identified Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds data on some individual sites (priority species, primarily for SSSI's) but data is limited.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Core and local	Change in area and population of biodiversity in importance in priority species (by type);	Local BAP has 156 priority species, 59 being UK BAP priorities, 18 legally protected under European and national law. (Some species within designated sites)			Records are held by English nature, although some data is historic whilst others more recent. There is also a lack of consistency in data type e.g. specific nest locations and casual observations of a species. Further collation and analysis of HBRC data is needed. There is also no mapping of either species or habitats on the council's GIS system; the only exception is Black Poplars for the county BAP. AMR 2004/5 sets out additional monitoring requirements for priority habitats. Key issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	(ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including special areas of conservation (SACs), sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), national nature reserves (NNRs), local nature reserves (LNRs), special wildlife sites (SWSs), sites of importance to nature conservation (SINCs) and section 39 agreement sites.	05/06 SACs – 4 (1,119ha), SSSIs – 77 (5,060ha), NNRs – 3 (216ha), SWSs – 709 (18,862ha), SINCs - 56 (88ha), LNRs – 7 (243ha), Total 858 (25,588ha)	04/05 SACs – 4, SSSIs – 75, NNRs – 3, SWSs – 750 (likely that SINCs were included in this figure), LNRs – 8, Total 840 SSSI Wellington Wood, first planning application (withdrawn), loss of 0.6ha. SINC Land adj. To 68 Hampton Park Road, Approved 2002 completed 2004, loss of 20% of sites unimproved grassland (0.05ha)		Key issue identified An update of all sites is due.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Local (Contextual?)	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition	Herefordshire 2005 19% NB: Natural England altered the data therefore comparator data is different. This new monitoring format places Herefordshire in the bottom quartile of all English Authorities.	Herefordshire 2001 39.7%, 2002 41.4%, 2003 32.6%, 2004 20.3%	Top English Authority Quartile 72%, Median Quartile 48%, Bottom Quartile 23% Bring 95% of SSSI's into favourable condition by 2010 and reverse the decline of farmland birds.	Issue Identified – Herefordshire is in the bottom Quartile for English Authorities Herefordshire is way behind the national picture with a continual drop since 2002 (12% in the last year). However, the significant decrease in Herefordshire reflects the greater rigour of assessment methodology through the application of national monitoring standards.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan habitat restoration & expanded	No data available at present, following review information will be available on BARS. Currently the Habitats covered in the BAP are: Lowland Acid Grassland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Cereal Field Margins, Lowland Heathland, Purple Moor Grass, Blanket Bog, Upland Heathland, Upland Calcareous Grassland, Upland Heathland, Upland Oak Woodland, Upland Mixed Ashwood, Lowland Oak & Mixed Woodland, Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland, Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland, Mesotrophic Water, Fens, Orchards, Quarries, Ancient Species Rich Hedgerows	2003 Orchards 44%, Parkland 57%, Woodland 66%, Boundary features 0%, Uplands & commons 50%, Farmland 22%, Rivers & floodplains 33%, Quarries & gravel pits 60%. 2004 Orchards 56%, Parkland 86%, Woodland 78%, Boundary features 12%, Uplands & commons 75%, Farmland 33%, Rivers & floodplains 50%, Quarries & gravel pits 80%.	Since the BAP was formulated in 2000, all the habitat type areas have continued to achieve an increase in the percentage of them being expanded. By 2010 the range of habitats to be maintained, restored or created are to be addressed, each with specific targets. See the BAP for full details.	BAP classifications have changed. And in addition the BAP is currently under another phased review and updates will be made when available.	Herefordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan Nicky Davies (Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator)
Contextual	Percentage of river length in very good or good biological quality	Herefordshire 2003 88.2%	Herefordshire 1999 78.6%, 1995 79.3%, 2000 88.4%, 2002 87.5% The Environment Agency now compares using quartiles. Herefordshire over a 3-year period (2000-2003) are in the top quartile of all English Authorities.	To achieve good ecological status by 2015	Annual Environmental Agency report available to provide trends to protect / enhance "water quality"	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target - Water Framework Directive – Environment Agency

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of river length in very good or good chemical quality	Herefordshire 2003 83%	Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8% The Environment Agency now compares using quartiles. Herefordshire over a 3-year period (2000-2003) are in the top quartile of all English Authorities.	To achieve good ecological status by 2015		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target - Water Framework Directive – Environment Agency
Contextual	Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship agreements (hectares)	<i>Newly monitored – awaiting data from Natural England</i>				SoHR may cover this new indicator as they did for Countryside Stewardship Scheme indicator above, but this has yet to be confirmed by research
Local	Annual mean nitrogen dioxide levels in traffic congestion hotspots in parts per billion (ppb)	2004 Edgar St. Hereford 26.2, Victoria St. Hereford 23.5, Gloucester Road Ross-on-Wye 19.4, Bengry's Lights Bargates Leominster 22.9, Site in Kington 7.7, Site in Bromyard 16.4, Site in Ledbury Town Centre 15.9	Edgar St. Hereford 2000 23.1, 01 26.1, 02 22.8, 03 25.4, Victoria St. Hereford 2000 22.9, 01 23.8, 02 23.7, 03 24.9, Gloucester Road Ross-on-Wye 2000 15.1, 01 17.1, 02 17.4, 03 19.8, Bengry's Lights Bargates Leominster 2000 19.9, 01 21.3, 02 23.4, 22.7, Site in Kington 2000 6.0, 01 7.1, 02 8.8, 03 8.3, Site in Bromyard 2000 13.4, 01 12.4, 02 13.9, 03 15.1, Site in Ledbury Town Centre 2000 13.4, 01 12.9, 02 12.1, 03 13.5	Targets for all locations is less than 21ppb Edgar St Hereford, Victoria St Hereford and Bengry's lights Bargates Leominster have all exceeded the target of 21ppb in 2004 as in previous years.. Edgar Street and Victoria Street in Hereford have both been designated Air Quality Management Areas. An AQMA for the Bargates area was declared March 2006	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Carbon dioxide emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per head of population/year	Experimental – 9.5 tonnes per head Total figure – 1,679 kilo tonnes Sources of carbon dioxide – Industry & commercial – 28%, Domestic 30%, Road transport 33%, Land use change 9%		West Midlands – 20.3 tonnes per head, 43,061 kilo tonnes total UK – per head N/A, total emissions 568,105 kilo tonnes Sources of carbon dioxide – Industry & commercial – WM (UK) 36% (46%), Domestic 34% (29%), Road transport 28% (23%), Land use change 2% (2%) Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims for a reduction in carbon dioxide from 14.5 to 11.25 tonnes per head of population per year. The Government target is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050		State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual Local?	Loss of Ancient Woodland	Herefordshire 5.93% Ancient Woodland		No loss of existing ancient woodland resource	Herefordshire data excludes woods less than 2ha and therefore is likely to be an under estimate	UK & England data from Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk (accessed 21/04/06) Herefordshire data English Nature website www.english-nature.org.uk (accessed 20/04/06)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local	Number of residential properties in an AQMA	Hereford – 115 Leominster 22(excluding self contained flats)		To reduce the number of properties to 0 in any AQMA by 2025	Key issue The A40 (T) corridor is awaiting declaration as an AQMA and the figures for the number of residential properties within this area has yet to be confirmed	Annual Reports, Action Plans and Bargates show this information annually. Ben Watts, Transport, supplied this current data
Core	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of the Environment Agency (Flood defence grounds or water quality)	1 Planning permission granted.	No monitoring under taken to date, AMR for 2006/7 should have a full years data set available.		Key issue identified Lack of data/monitoring requires improvement.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Rights of way that are easy to use and signposted in Herefordshire	2006/07 49%	2005/06 52%	2006/07 target 48% 2007/08 target 49% Although a drop was seen between 05/06 and 06/07 over the past years a general increase has been recorded.	Methodology in line with County Surveyors Society (CSS) of a random sample of 5% of total network over 2 months, in Herefordshire conducted in May and November. Key issue identified	Public Rights of Way Manager – Rob Hemblade Ext 1981. Original source - MRU – Modern Records U?
Local	Water consumption litres per person per day	148 litres per person per day		Malvern Hills DC 138, South Shropshire DC 138, Forest of Dean DC136		www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk
Core and local	Amount of derelict land	0 ha				Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Waste						
Local	Amount and percentage of municipal waste recycled, composted, landfilled, (management type)	Municipal waste recycled 16,231 tonnes (17%) Municipal waste composted 6,148 tonnes (7%) Municipal waste landfilled 170,602 tonnes (76%)	Municipal waste recycled 14,058.30 tonnes (15.05%) Municipal waste composted 6,277.20 tonnes (6.72%) Municipal waste landfilled 73,075.15 tonnes (78.23%)	No specific targets are set under the UDP what follows are national targets: Boost the national recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015. Recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 and 33% by 2013. Restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill.	Shortfalls in data collection. 2008 will see a new collections contract and the implications for this are not yet known. Key issue identified	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 The council reports data to DEFRA as figures are BVPIs so information is also available by county on their website.
Contextual Note: Location element requires a map!	Number and location of recycling sites	5 Household waste sites (facility locations where the community bring their own waste) Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford waste at these sites recycled in 2005/06 6,626tonnes (7.13% of total waste) Landfilled 2005/06 11,727tonnes (12.61% of total waste). 85 Bring sites throughout the council (e.g. glass recycling point at a community car park) – 2005/06 recycled 3,979tonnes (4.28% of total waste)	Household waste sites (facility locations where the community bring their own waste) Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford waste at these sites recycled in 2004/05 2,377tonnes (2.54% of total waste) Landfilled 2004/05 14,469tonnes (15.49% of total waste). 85 Bring sites throughout the council (e.g. glass recycling point at a community car park) – 2004/05 recycled 5,839tonnes (6.25% of total waste)	To reduce the amount of waste being landfilled	Key Issue Identified	Mick Clark – Senior Contracts Officer – (Waste Management)
Local	Amount of household waste collected per head	2005/06 522.95Kg	2004/05 529.24Kg	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 limit the increase of the amount of household waste collected per head/per year to 530.87kg from 528.03kg		Mick Clark – Senior Contracts Officer – (Waste Management)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Energy						
Local	Average annual Herefordshire domestic consumption of gas in kwh/per person	2004 18,190kwh	2001 18,152, 2002 18,163, 2003 17,863	Achieve carbon cuts of between 15-25 million tonnes of carbon in 2020.	Key issue identified.	Current Status data – www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk Target - Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Local	Average annual domestic consumption of electricity in kwh	2004 5,432	2003 5,467	Achieve carbon cuts of between 15-25 million tonnes of carbon in 2020.	Key issue identified	Current Status data – www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk Target - Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Crime and the fear of crime						
Contextual	Total number of recorded crime	2004/05 12,034	2003/04 13,181. Crime rates have steadily reduced over the last 4 years (2004/5 19% decrease between 01/02 and 04/05.	Reduce crime locally by 15% by 2008 from 12,034 baseline (04/05)		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of domestic burglaries (per 1,000 households)	Herefordshire 2004/05 7.6 (total 613)	Herefordshire 1999/00 11.6, 2000/01 9.9, 2001/02 12.0, 2002/03 13.3, 03/04 9.8 Total number: 99/00 - 738, 00/01 - 625, 759, 02/03 – 989, 03/04 728 Domestic burglaries have continued to drop significantly over the last year due to intervention programmes.	Lower quartiles of English Authorities 14.2, median quartiles of English Authorities 9.7, Higher quartile of English Authorities 6.9. Herefordshire are performing well at 7.6 and improving year on year. Restrict burglaries to 7.9 offences per 1,000 households until 2007-2008. Target is to be reviewed in 2008. Target for Herefordshire 2004/05 7.4, not quite met, but improvements continue.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Number of vehicle crime (per 1,000 population)	Herefordshire 2004/05	Herefordshire 1999/00 11.9 (total 2,002), 2000/01 12.5 (2,095), 2001/02 10.5 (1,787), 2002/03 8.0 (1,371), 2003/04 7.1 (1,255) Vehicle crime is steadily decreasing. LPSA targets being met over the last 2 years. Herefordshire is significantly lower than national figures of bottom quartile 15.0, medium quartile 10.1 top quartile 7.8	2004/05 target of 8.75 was well achieved at 6.0. Herefordshire's target for the next 3 years is 6.1		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of violent crimes (per 1,000 population)	Herefordshire 2004/05 2,752	Herefordshire 1999/00 1,179, 2000/01 1,508, 2001/02 2,686, 2002/03 2,850, 2003/04 2,844	There has been a decrease in the number of violent crimes of the last 2 recording years. Although still higher than 2001/02 figures. To reduce the number of violent crimes to 2,553 by 2007/08 a 7.8% reduction from 2004/05.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Quality of life / Involvement						
Contextual	Percentage of Herefordshire respondents who were satisfied with their local community as a place to live	2005 80%	2002 83%, 2004 84%	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to increase by 2007-2008 the proportion of adults satisfied with their community as a place to live to 87%.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hours per week or more over the previous year	2005 17%		To increase by 5% the number of volunteers engaged in at least 2 hours per week by 2008 on 2005 figures.	Herefordshire residents provide 25% of unpaid voluntary work to some degree; regionally the figure is only 17%.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Percentage of Herefordshire respondents who felt that they can influence decisions that affect their local area	2005 35%	2002 32%, 2004 37%	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to increase the percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local community by 5% on 2005 figures.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Health						
Contextual	Life expectancy (years)	2002/04 Herefordshire Males 77.5 Females 82.5	1991-1993 Herefordshire Males 75.2 Females 80.1. 2000/02 Herefordshire Males 77.3 Females 82.2	England Males 76.6 Female 80.9	Over the last 10 years Herefordshire's life expectancy has increased broadly in line with national trends. However, expectations are now that Herefordshire's life expectancy is likely to be on average longer than the population of England. Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of people (all ages) killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads	2005 147 (% change -2.7%)	1999 179, 2000 172 (-3.9%), 2001 179 (4.1%), 2002 150 (-16.2%), 2003 141 (-2.7%)	Target for 2006 - 2008 no more than 129 people killed or seriously injured.		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Mortality rate from circulatory diseases for people under 75 (per 100,000 popn)	2002-2004 data: Herefordshire 83.5	2001-2003 data: Herefordshire 90.1 Since 1995 there has been a steady decline in the rate of mortality in the under 75's for circulatory diseases.	West Midlands 103.1 England 96.7 Target: Reduce the death rate from coronary heart disease and stroke and related diseases in people under 75 by at least two fifths by 2010		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target from Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White paper, DOH 1999
Contextual	Mortality rate from cancer for people aged under 75 (per 100,000 popn)	2002-2004 data: Herefordshire 105.4	2001-2003 data: Herefordshire 106.7 Since 1995 there has been a steady decline in cancer mortality in the under 75's.	West Midlands 123.0 England 121.6 Target: Reduce the death rate from cancer in people under 75 by at least a fifth by 2010.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target from Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White paper, DOH 1999
Access to Services						
Local	Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport	2005 – Doctor – 79%, Local Hospital – 57%, Library 70%, Sports/leisure centre – 69% and cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 55%	2003 - Doctor – 77%, Local Hospital – 56%, Library 69%, Sports/leisure centre – 66% and cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 53%	Herefordshire Council's Local Area Agreement aims to improve the percentage of residents finding it easy to access a doctor, their local hospital, a library, a sports/leisure centre and a cultural/recreational facility.		State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Deprivation						
Contextual	Number of people / households living in fuel poverty	<i>Not currently monitored</i>		Nobody in Britain should be living in fuel poverty by 2016-18.		Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Contextual	Percentage of population of working age claiming key benefits such as job seekers allowance	<i>Not currently monitored</i>				Research to provide

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of population who live in areas that rate within 20% of most deprived areas of the county	<i>Not currently monitored</i>				

Appendix A3 – Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets <u>Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets</u>	SEA Topics
Economic Development and Enterprise					
1	To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	<p>1.1- maintain or increase current employment rates in knowledge and technology intensive sectors?</p> <p>1.2 - provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?</p>	<p>Percentage population employed in knowledge and technology intensive industries</p> <p>Percentage of employment land built within 30 mins of Hereford or market towns</p>	<p>Increase the number of people employed in knowledge and technology intensive industries from 9339 to 10,286 by 2007/8</p>	Population Human Health
2	Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	<p>2.1 – encourage fair and decent work conditions and increase median weekly earnings?</p> <p>2.2 – help to increase diversity of job opportunities?</p> <p>2.3 – promote the voluntary sector, lifelong learning and life/environmental skills?</p>	<p>Median weekly earnings</p> <p>Employment by sector</p> <p>Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hrs or more per week over the previous year</p>	<p>Close the gap between Herefordshire and the rest of the West Midlands and nationally (Community Strategy)</p>	Population Human Health
3	Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	<p>3.1 – improve the resilience and/or diversity of business and the economy?</p> <p>3.2 – provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?</p> <p>3.3 – encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise or the voluntary sector?</p> <p>3.4 – encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with county organisations leading by example?</p> <p>3.5 – promote and support the development of new high value and low impact technologies, especially resource-efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives?</p> <p>4.1 - reduce the need to travel?</p>	<p>GVA per head</p> <p>Employment land developed by type</p> <p>Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hrs or more/week over the previous year</p> <p>Accessibility to Broadband</p>	<p>To raise GVA per head above the national average (RSS)</p> <p>All business and 97% of households with access to Broadband (RSDF)</p> <p>Reduce car use from 43 to 35% (LTP2)</p>	Air Soil Water Climatic factors Fauna Flora Biodiversity Population
4	Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution				Human Health

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
	and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	4.2 - promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion? 4.3 - improve the quality and/or provision of integrated transport options, particularly in areas of need and that are accessible to all? 4.4 - increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking? 4.5 - secure the implementation of green travel plans? 4.6 - minimise risks associated with car travel? 4.7 – promote a shift of freight from road to rail?	Index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network NO2 concentrations Public transport patronage volumes Number of cycle trips per day Travel Plan coverage (Hereford City) Number of people killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire's roads (Number of HGV's on main transport routes?)	<u>Restrict annual growth to 1%</u> <u>Reduce to below 21 ppb</u> Increase by 16% the no. of <u>passenger bus journeys per year</u> Increase by 18% by 2010/11 (<u>LTP2</u>) By 2010 – 35% (<u>LTP2</u>) Reduce by 30% (from 154/yr to 108/yr by 2010 (<u>LTP2</u>))	Landscapes
Healthier Communities and Older People					
5	Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 - help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport? 5.2 - help to reduce inequalities in health? 5.3 - encourage healthy lifestyles? E.g. reduce car use and maintain or enhance access to physical sports, green space and recreation?	Percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services Mortality by type Life expectancy	To reduce heart disease, stroke and related illnesses amongst people under 75 by at least 40% by 2010 (QLI) To reduce cancer amongst people under 75 by at least 20% by 2010 (QLI)	Population and human health

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
6	Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 - maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport? 6.2 - promote Herefordshire's facilities to local people and tourists encouraging appreciation of the heritage of the county and participation by all? 6.3 – promote the use of inland waterways for leisure, recreation, telecommunication, freight transport and/or as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration? 7.1 - support viability or develop services and facilities appropriate to the community, function, character and scale of the centre and existing facilities using sustainable, resource-efficient designs? 7.2 - help create an appropriate range of independent, competitive and national retailers? 7.3 - help reduce the number of vacant properties and business premises and support vitality? 7.4 - support or create high quality public realm and community/amenity space that is safe and encourages positive community interaction?	Percentage of population within 20mins travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard Quality of open spaces – Green Flag scheme Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport		Population Cultural Heritage Material Assets Biodiversity
7	Sustainable regeneration				Material Assets
Children and Young people					
8	Raise educational achievement levels across the county	8.1 - ensure that education infrastructure meets projected future demand and need? 8.2 - provide or facilitate through investment, appropriate training and learning to help build, attract and retain a highly skilled workforce that meets existing and future needs?	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSE's or equivalent at grades A* - C Number/percentage of working age adults achieving NVQ Level 3 or equivalent	<u>Increase from 93% to 95% by 2008</u> <u>Increase from 851 to 922</u>	Population

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
		8.3 - reduce inequalities in skills across the county? – (See JR - what is meant by inequalities in this Q?)			
Safer and Stronger Communities					
9	Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county	<p>9.1 - enhance community safety, security and reduce crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour?</p> <p>9.2 - help improve quality of life and address the opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour through design measures?</p> <p>9.3 - encourage respect for people and the environment?</p>	<p>Total number of recorded crime</p> <p>Domestic burglaries per 1000 households</p> <p>Violent crimes per 1000 population</p> <p>Vehicle crimes per 1000 population</p>	<p><u>Decrease from 2844 to 2533</u></p>	Population Human Health
10	Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	<p>10.1 - ensure easy and equitable access to and provision of services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, and avoid negative impacts on different groups of people because of their ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexuality or age?</p> <p>10.2 - enable the involvement of all affected parties?</p> <p>10.3 - promote equality, fairness and respect for people and the environment? (see JR – this Q is identical to 9.3 above, do we need to inc it here?)</p> <p>10.4 - address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantages?</p>	<p>Percentage of people satisfied with their community as a place to live</p> <p>Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport</p> <p>Percentage of population of working age claiming key benefits such as job seekers allowance</p> <p>Percentage of Herefordshire residents who felt that they can influence decisions that affect their local area</p> <p>Percentage of young people who feel that the council does enough to give young people the opportunity to influence important decisions</p> <p>Percentage of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of most deprived areas in the county</p> <p>Proportion of children under 16 who live in a household claiming income support</p>	<p>Increase proportion of adults satisfied with their community as a place to live</p> <p><u>Increase from 19 to 30%</u></p>	Population Human Health

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
11	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	<p>11.1 - increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?</p> <p>11.2 - increase the supply of affordable housing?</p> <p>11.3 - reduce the percentage of unfit homes and empty homes?</p> <p>11.4 - improve the energy and resource efficiency of homes and reduce fuel poverty and ill health?</p> <p>11.5 - increase the use of sustainable design techniques, improve the quality of housing and use sustainable building materials in construction?</p> <p>11.6 - improve the wider built environment and sense of place?</p>	<p>Average property price against median weekly earnings</p> <p>Number of people accepted as homeless (statutory duty)</p> <p>Number of affordable housing provided in the County each year</p> <p>Number of unfit dwellings made fit or demolished</p>	<p>2300 to be provided up to 2011 (UDP)</p>	<p>Material Assets</p> <p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>
Protecting Environmental Assets and Resources					
12	Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	<p>12.1 - minimise the use of non re-usable materials?</p> <p>12.2 - minimise household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste, including hazardous waste? (check with JRI)</p> <p>12.3 - promote reduction, re-use, recycling and energy recovery from waste?</p> <p>12.4 - deal with waste locally and/or through the Best Practical Environmental Option?</p>	<p>Amount of municipal waste collected per head</p> <p>Amount/percentage of all municipal waste that is recycled</p> <p>Amount/percentage of municipal waste landfilled</p> <p>Amount/percentage of municipal waste composted</p> <p>Amount of energy recovered from burning of waste</p> <p>Number and location of waste facilities, including recycling sites</p>	<p>Limit increase p.a to 530.87kg per head (compared to baseline of 528.03 kg)</p> <p>Reduce from 78.28% to 71.8%</p> <p>Recycle or compost 25% of household waste by 2010 and 33% by 2013 (Waste Strategy 2000)</p>	<p>Material Assets</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Soil</p>

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
13	Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity	<p>13.1 - protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance – is an Appropriate Assessment required?</p> <p>13.2 - protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species – is an Appropriate Assessment required?</p> <p>13.3 - maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces?</p> <p>13.4 - manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value?</p> <p>13.5 - create new appropriate habitats?</p>	<p>Number, area of international, national, regional and locally designated sites</p> <p>Percentage of SSSI's in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition</p> <p>Changes in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority habitats</p> <p>Loss of ancient woodland</p> <p>Changes in area and population of protected species</p> <p>River quality</p> <p>Percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats restored and expanded</p>	<p>By 2010 to ensure that 95% of SSSI's are favourable or recovering condition (<i>National PSA target</i>)</p> <p>To halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 (<i>EU Sustainable Development Strategy</i>)</p> <p><i>No loss of existing ancient woodland resource</i></p> <p>By 2010 achieve a sustained increase in the regional wild bird population (<i>DEFRA 2004</i>)</p> <p>All inland waters to reach good biological and chemical status by 2015 (<i>Water Framework Directive</i>)</p>	<p>Biodiversity Flora Fauna</p>
14	Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	<p>14.1 – maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels</p>	<p>Average annual domestic consumption of gas and electricity in KWH per person</p>	<p>30% reduction in energy consumption by 2011 (<i>Energy White Paper 2003</i>)</p>	<p>Soil Air Landscape Water Climatic Factors Human Health</p>

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets on previously developed land (RSS 2004)	SEA Topics
		14.2 – minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, and materials? (<i>During the appraisal, each of these resources should be considered separately</i>).	Percentage of homes built on previously developed land Amount of derelict land Water consumption per person per day in relation to demand Production of primary/secondary/recycled aggregates	68% of new dwellings to be built on previously developed land (RSS 2004)	
15	Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	14.3 - encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build? 15.1 - value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings? 15.2 – encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management? 15.3– ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised? 15.4 - promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access and accommodate the needs of all users?	Number and area of designated landscapes Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award status Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship Agreements		Landscape
16	Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	16.1 - reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources? 16.2– increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including energy crops, micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation? 17.1 - reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change? 17.2 - prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain and include flood protection systems?	Percentage of Public Rights of Way Network that is easy to use and clearly signed Co2 emissions per head per year and in total	<u>Reduce carbon emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year</u>	Water Soil Population Human Health Climatic Factors
17	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the		Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency		Water Soil Population Human Health

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
18	environment Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	17.3 - include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate?			Climatic Factors
		18.1 - minimise (or reduce – see JR) water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution? (<i>During the appraisal, each of these resources should be considered separately</i>).	Water quality (chemical and biological)	All inland waters to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015 (<i>Water Framework Directive</i>)	Air Quality Human Health Biodiversity Climatic Factors Flora Fauna
		18.2 - protect and enhance the quality of watercourses?			
19	Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	18.3 – provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land?			
		18.4 - help achieve the objectives of Air Quality Management Plans through for e.g. increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking?	Number of residential properties within Air Quality Management Areas Annual mean NO2 levels in traffic congestion areas		
		18.5 - encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques?			
		19.1 - ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel?	Percentage of homes and employment built on previously developed land		Soil Climatic factors Human Health Biodiversity
		19.2 - encourage an appropriate density and mix of uses using sustainable resource-efficient design?	Percentage of new dwellings completed at : - less than 30 dwellings per hectare - Between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare.	Minimum 30 dwellings per hectare (<i>PPS3, 2006</i>)	
		19.3 – promote ways of meeting local needs locally by encouraging local sourcing of food, goods and materials?			

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal...)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
20	Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	<p>20.1 – preserve, protect and enhance Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?</p> <p>20.2 - prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area?</p> <p>20.3 – encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place?</p> <p>20.4 - encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area?</p>	<p>Number of conservation areas</p> <p>Percentage of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal</p> <p>Number of listed buildings and those on “at risk” register</p> <p>Number of Ancient Monuments and those at risk</p>		

Appendix 1 – 01 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives

Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Diversification of the Herefordshire Economy

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 5, 6 and 7: Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy; improving our service centres; developing Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism

SA Objectives	Summary of workshop
<p>To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>The group agreed that in order to support this SA objective the provision of employment land and diversification within the economy were important positive issues. However, they felt that environmental issues may result, such as effects on developing Greenfield land.</p>
<p>Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>The group concluded that in order to secure the workforce higher wages would be important however, this might lead to a loss in competitiveness. There may be a loss of people willing to do the lower skilled jobs leading to higher unemployment and skills shortages. The group were unsure what would result from a migration in high skilled business and although infrastructure links were a positive outcome they felt the issue of good infrastructure was dependant on its proper implementation.</p>
<p>Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>A sustainable economy was felt by the group to give certainty to employment and business for a diverse range of businesses, however they were concerned that environmental issues ns may arise since the Counties competitive edge is based on its green character. They were unsure how the wider economic impacts, such as policies at central government level would affect Herefordshire and they were also unsure what house prices would do in the future and the impact of this on a sustainable economy.</p>

<p>Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>The group concluded following a debated that this objective could positively be met with live-work units and inner city living, including a mix of uses, i.e. issues around appropriate housing. However they also believed this may create more traffic and therefore air pollution and thereby wasting business time and money in congested areas. They believed that infrastructure was the key, however its end result was dependant on implementation. Likewise they were unsure about what type of business would be attracted to the area, were they going to be appropriate for Herefordshire. Location of infrastructure and businesses was also an issue raised.</p>
<p>Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>Issues surrounding health across Herefordshire were thought to be achieved by a more affluent population and provision of awareness opportunities and activities. However health was likely to be negatively affected by more pollution from more employment (transport), place more strain on existing services and would not necessarily assist in improving the health of the non or low waged. The group were also unsure what the health implications would be if the economy was focussed around the main urban areas and again the infrastructure was important and was dependant on its good implementation.</p>
<p>Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>Access to communities activities was believed to bring employment generation, partnership opportunities, more leisure time as the population got wealthier, more culturally based employment, population aspirations, education through diversification and or specialism opportunities within the County. However, the group did think that these uses would conflict with other land uses; such as for housing and employment, location was therefore an issue. The group were unsure whether deficiencies in certain sectors would arise from in migration, i.e. a cultural effect. They were also unsure what issues would occur for section 106 agreements e.g. on open space.</p>

<p>Sustainable Regeneration</p>	<p>On discussing sustainable regeneration the group concluded that there would be a positive focus created, that it would assist in diversifying the economy, may attract external funding, retain wealth by encouraging local purchases and jobs, tourism, shopping and a place to live would thrive and an increase in land values (which could have negative issues associated with it too). However, sustainable regeneration may lead to a loss of historic assets and local distinctiveness and there may be disparities in regeneration projects. It was unknown to what issues could arise from management.</p>
<p>Raise educational achievement levels across the County</p>	<p>The group agreed that entrepreneurship and choose and awareness of educational facilities where positive outcomes from educational achievement in Herefordshire. However, they were unsure what the aspirations of young people, mainly, are and would be in the future, what types of courses would be needed, and whether S106 agreements could enable provision.</p>
<p>Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County</p>	<p>The group believed that with more jobs would come more people and the potential for a reduction in the fear of crime however also accepted that percentage wise this could also increase the potential for crime and they felt that more security would be beneficial. Unemployment was seen to be an issue with its relationship to crime but it was acknowledged that patterns of crime, fraud and computer crime were unknowns.</p>
<p>Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county</p>	<p>The group felt that by increasing wages the issue of poverty could be reduced and through rural diversification opportunities for choice and higher waged employment were possible. However, they also highlighted the issue of the wider gap between the wealthy and the poor as the poor come out of poverty but the wealthy get wealthier.</p>
<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>The group believed that with higher wages more people could get onto the property ladder. However they also considered house price rises may result in a gap remaining between market priced properties and affordability. They also concluded that if a higher economic base was achieved that this might not be complementary to present land uses.</p>

<p>Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>It was felt that there was a market niche potential for the issue of waste, that there was a link between producer and user of waste, that business could benefit from cost reductions in a reduced waste environment, and that waste issues could bring environmental ethical businesses into the area. However it was acknowledged that more waste would be produced from new development and that business types into Herefordshire are an unknown.</p>
<p>Conserve and enhance Herefordshire's habitats and biodiversity</p>	<p>The group considered that business would be attracted by Herefordshire's biodiversity status and in deed may attract and promote biodiversity of the County. However, habitats may be destroyed in development phases and diversification may not be fully able due to environmental constraints. The group were not sure how S106 might be used as an improvement for biodiversity.</p>
<p>Use natural resources and energy more efficiently</p>	<p>Natural resources and energy was discussed by the group and it was considered that new businesses may use energy efficient technology, limiting their contributions to climate change but also that achieving live work units and encouraging working from home may also reduce vehicle trips. The cost of natural resources was seen as a negative issue as prices rise and new methods of energy production such as wind farms were considered to have the potential for negative landscape issues.</p>
<p>Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>This landscape objective was considered to have similar positive effects to the energy objective above but the group also felt a reduction in traditional employment types and therefore traditional methods of working may be lost which may affect the landscape character.</p>
<p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>The group felt that by moving away from agricultural practices that were inherent to Herefordshire and contribute significantly to carbon dioxide emissions that reductions may be possible. More businesses however would mean more pollution for the area although it was acknowledged by the group that they did know what types of business would evolve in the County.</p>
<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>The group discussed flooding and they considered that with development increases in hard standing would be inevitable and likely to negatively impact on flooding issues, as would improvements in agricultural practices, greater and faster runoff for example. It was unknown by the group how S106 agreements may be used to enable flood defence.</p>

<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources</p>	<p>The group discussed pollution and considered that renewable energy, home working reducing commuting and attracting green businesses would be beneficial. New development would however affect issues of water, soil and air more negatively. The group did not know what types of business would be attracted to the County and therefore the potential pollutants from them.</p>
<p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>He group believed that balanced well integrated land use would encourage brownfield development, provide housing, rural economic development could reduce the need to commute to the main urban areas for employment and existing buildings could be adapted. However, there would be pressure on the planning system to provide for economic development. The group were unsure whether appropriate business use in relation to location for example urban = industrial units and rural = home working would be an issue.</p>
<p>Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>The considered Herefordshire's historic heritage and felt that it would increase vitality, more money would bring more renovated buildings and design and quality would be heritage lead. However, there was a potential for a loss of character and built quality if regard for heritage was not considered.</p>

Appendix 1 – 02 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives

Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Improving the Choice in Housing

Revised Plan Objective: Objective 1: Providing for Appropriate Housing Provision

SA Objectives		Summary of workshop
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce		The group considered this employment based objective and felt that opportunities for urban live work units existed with it, locating different types and mixes of housing with employment requirements, allowing employers a potential choice from a diverse local workforce. There is tourism potential here but the rural economy may become fragile and therefore housing these locations would need to be supported. Examples include recent housing in Ledbury (a tourist area) and similar builds in Bromyard, Kington, Ross and Leominster may allow these locations to thrive. However, there is a need for the right type of housing as increases in house prices may have a knock on effect for the economy. Business type is not necessarily dependent on the urban area. The group commented on how purchasers of properties had a choice of employment and home location and that these may not be in the same location i.e. live in Hereford but work in Worcester, potentially losing employee opportunities for businesses in the County.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce		The group considered that better housing and live work units might attract higher skilled workforce. Choice may also attract the retention of younger newly qualified people for these service sectors. However the higher skilled may out price those on lower incomes therefore the right type of housing is needed. The group felt that existing population skills were unknown as people may be skilled in one area but work in another.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment		The group discussed a sustainable economy and concluded that more houses would equal more people coming into the job market sustaining the economy and also considered that by mix of housing they believed a mix of 4-6 dwellings of each type scattered amongst each other would be most beneficial. However, they also felt that those working in the County may not choose to spend their money here, especially if they live outside the area. They also acknowledged that location of housing is dependant on location of employment availability, but what are the employer needs?

<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>The group considered congestion, pollution and sustainable modes of travel and concluded that the location of housing in relation to existing facilities needed greater control and therefore the greatest possibility for walking and cycling, car free zones and improvements to public transport journey times, destinations etc was also considered necessary. However, rurally located housing may have issues on accessibility to services increasing the need to use the private car, resulting less walking and cycling and potentially more accidents. Greater housing numbers is likely to result in more cars and therefore more pollution and congestion on the roads.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>The group discussed health and concluded that new housing gives the opportunity to negotiate sports facilities for the local community, mixed housing (including affordably units) provide more choice including the elderly that will enable them to stay at home longer, single persons and live work units too and locating housing and key services such as health provisions near each other could improve geographic distribution. However, high-density housing would generate more people in one location and potentially create social problems including a lack of garden space. Rural housing need may mean housing development in areas that are not well served by health services such as GPs and dentists.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>The group considered community facilities and felt that by providing housing the opportunity through developer contributions could provide for activities and associated access, that an opportunity existed to incorporate parish plans and community consultation on what they need and want engagement in, public transport links would be needed close to the housing development and government targets on healthy lifestyles would be supported. No negative issues were highlighted.</p>

<p>7. Sustainable regeneration</p>	<p>The group discussed sustainable regeneration and concluded that housing assists in regeneration, may incorporate renewable sources of energy e.g. solar panels, can benefit from good design, layout, form and materials using sustainable sources, they also felt that more people would bring more money and therefore more shopping to support the vitality and viability of town centres, more people creates more potential to provide employment opportunities. However, more people may place more strain on existing facilities and demand on jobs.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county</p>	<p>The group looked at education and agreed that more housing would potentially bring more children therefore support the education network. It may also support the possibility of a new higher education facility meeting the needs of the wider community too. In rural communities new housing would bring the opportunity for local schooling for ease of walking and cycling. Improved housing would reduce poverty and improve educational achievement. However, if job security is not improved this raised educational achievement could be lost to other areas with better job prospects.</p>
<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county</p>	<p>The group discussed crime and felt that by design and layout opportunities existed to open up routes and discourage crime, e.g. avoiding the use of subways in new developments and that better mix of housing in more deprived areas may help social inclusion and thereby reduce anti-social behaviour. However, they also acknowledged that more houses would equal more people and statistically increase the potential for more crime. The group did not know how the planning system could assist in built in measures such as CCTV to assist in crime prevention.</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county</p>	<p>The group discussed poverty, social inclusion and deprived areas and considered that delivering affordable housing may reduce poverty, that demand may promote equality, give provide regeneration opportunities and that better infrastructure links may help to include towns and villages currently poorly linked. However, rural housing was seen to increase the likelihood of building on Greenfield and social exclusion would be likely in town and villages not well connected with new links.</p>
<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>The group discussed housing of all types and concluded that this plan objective would improve the choice in housing and would met the strategic need for housing with new links being created. However, they highlighted that more housing may have adverse impacts on the environment and that all local needs being met was unlikely, as the infrastructure could not be brought to the rural locations in need of it.</p>

<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>The group discussed waste and felt that facilities for separating waste would be needed as more recycling and on site composting grew. Opportunities to reduce construction waste, use recycled products and materials and during occupation encourage recycling with separation and storage facilities fit for purpose. However, increases in housing will increase waste volumes and the cost of technology and design can have a negative effect on implementation. The group were unsure about lifecycles of build products and technology and legislation changes.</p>
<p>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity</p>	<p>The group discussed biodiversity and felt that developer contributions may provide an opportunity to restore and expand on biodiversity. However, brownfield sites may have important species such as bats that need to be valued and maintained and land identified for housing etc may result in an extensive loss of Greenfield land, losing important habitats and species and encourage habitat fragmentation.</p>
<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently</p>	<p>The group discussed energy and natural resources and they agreed that alternative sources of energy were a good thing and that design was important, as was the better use of water. However, housing type may increase energy usage during construction and after use of the development and potentially increase the use of Greenfield land, more hard surfaces would be inevitable; costs of technology can be high. Construction techniques for some renewables may destroy large areas of landscape and eco systems from disturbance and compaction (e.g. wind farms) and impacts on landscape may also result. The group were unsure about technology advances and legislation changes.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>The group discussed landscape issues and concluded that appropriate locations were needed for housing so not to detract from an areas distinctive character, housing may improve the use of open space with the choice in housing and improvements could be achieved through residential development. However, housing may contribute to the loss of landscape character and a lack of public open space in villages as set out in many parish plans.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>The group discussed climate change and concluded that better designed housing may minimise energy consumption through using alternative energy sources, on site composting facilities and or storage, housing in urban areas could reduce the need to travel by car and methane captivation opportunities from agricultural practice and old landfill sites. However, increases in housing numbers is likely to result in more pollution and more energy use, agricultural methane production is the largest source of emissions in the County and is likely to continue to e the case and more housing is likely to create more waste contributing to methane emissions and other releases impacting on climate change.</p>

<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>The group discussed flooding and considered that reed beds incorporated into sustainable drainage systems could reduce flood incidences that would normally adversely affect business and residential properties and appropriate location of development away from the functional flood plain was required. However, with the constraints in mind it may not be possible to place choice of housing in the areas of need, more housing generally means a greater supply and demand of water is needed, secondary adverse effects on biodiversity are likely and increased run-off may follow a storm event. It was also noted that mitigation of development located in flood zone 1 and 2 e.g. by use of SUDS, appropriate floor levels, materials used etc may reduce development contributions to flood risk.</p>
<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources</p>	<p>The group discussed pollution and concluded that urban areas can contribute to its reduction by providing high-density housing within central urban areas reducing the need to travel by the private car. All essential facilities being provided within the vicinity easily reached by walking, cycling or public transport. Good housing design could reduce pollution, appropriate recycled and recyclable materials used for building (ethical building), renewable sources of energy and alternative energy types such as energy crops and combined heat and power opportunities could all assist in positive outcomes. However, rural areas tend to have fewer facilities increasing the need to use the private car to reach essential services. More housing generally means more cars and therefore more pollution. The group were unsure about issues for Herefordshire from global pollution changes.</p>
<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>The group discussed land use and agreed that mixed use schemes and at high density would use land more efficiently, that housing needed to be located appropriately, above shop development in town centres was a good idea and that good links between housing, employment and retail would ensure the ease of access for all. However, housing need may not be where the most integrated, balanced, efficient land is located e.g. in rural areas. These high-density principles are often more likely to occur in urban areas leaving the rural communities lacking in their need for housing, employment etc. Conflict with different users such as HGVs, cars and pedestrians if infrastructure is not integrated appropriately.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>The group discussed historic heritage and believed that by developing brownfield sites enhancement of the appearance of the area may be achieved, that new developments could build on existing features of importance, historic buildings should be utilised, community facilities could be provided with money from developers to develop cultural heritage and improvements to existing infrastructure should minimise impacts on the environment. However expansion of settlements may not necessarily be in conformity with the local distinctiveness, modern design may not be utilised because of constraints of existing heritage quality and there is an environmental risk with the introduction of a new route for any new infrastructure. The group were unsure how development affecting the environment could be mitigated.</p>

Appendix 1 – 03 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives

Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Better Infrastructure Links Within Urban Areas & Between Urban & Rural Areas

Revised Plan Objective: Objective 4 Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure

SA Objectives	Summary of Workshop
<p>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed employment and agreed that movement of people around the County and between employment areas e.g. Kington to Leominster, would enable infrastructure growth in that location; good infrastructure links would encourage business into the area providing a range of employment opportunities; Ross would be the preferred location for business because of the motorway link; and park and ride schemes on the outskirts of Ross and Hereford could reduce congestion in these centres. However, Ross is not on the rail network preventing movement by rail between Ledbury and Ross including the restriction of employment links to the rest of the region; between Ledbury and Hereford the rail network is single track only; potential adverse environmental effects, e.g. business type and pollution emitted; multi national companies may drive smaller local businesses away, e.g. local produce sellers. The group did not know how much traffic and population would change.</p>
<p>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed a secure skilled workforce and agreed that this objective would have employer potential; that the electronic age is enabling virtual education possibilities, allowing for smaller dispersed colleges; and with 95% of the County on broadband, a connected County would be more appealing to an outside population for living and working. However, it was highlighted that WiFi is associated with unclear health implications and security issues; that a commuter County could be triggered with improved infrastructure; a possible shortfall in people to do less skilled work; and difference between rich and poor may grow. The group also agreed that an efficient public transport would encourage greater use of it and as such may off set any concern there would be for the County developing as a commuter area.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>On discussing a sustainable economy the group agreed that there was a need for a global market to be business sustainable and that economic growth is needed to maintain any housing growth. Rural business growth may enable home working and therefore live/work units with broadband connections. Ledbury, Ross and Rotherwas could accommodate the larger businesses e.g. distributor businesses. Good links can sustain a supply of available workers, suppliers and consumers for continued investment. The group did not identify any negative issues with this SA objective.</p>

<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>The group discussed congestion, pollution and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that the Core Strategy Plan Objective would seek to deliver this; park and ride schemes could accommodate outside County commuter traffic; electronic development may increase home working reducing the need to travel and improve congestion; electronic road boards and real time info boards could inform road, rail and bus users of expected arrival times to increase reliability and reduce waiting times; improvements to the public transport network are essential if uptake is to be successful; and promotion of short journeys to be taken by bicycle or walking to assist in reducing congestion, pollution and accidents. However, without sufficient and well connected footpaths and cycleways an increase in accidents may be likely following greater take up of these more sustainable modes of travel for shorter journeys; and new roads will potentially mean more cars. The group also concluded that with inward business investment these could be a neutralisation of any positive reduction in congestion as people move away from the private car to be replaced by business traffic. The group did not know what the level of reduction, neutral outcomes would be.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>The group discussed health and concluded that a green infrastructure may enable quicker times and access to facilitate a healthier lifestyle; and provision of outreach community hospital would be beneficial. However, centralisation of health services to the urban areas may create outreach community hospital/health service issues (how will those people in more rural areas reach these new centralised services, the private car?)</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>The group discussed community services and concluded that public transport services for local festivals, tourist attractions on existing infrastructure links e.g. Hereford first then Ross to Leominster would be most beneficial; although it was highlighted that demand for these activities is dependant on housing allocations; and improved links to these activities may improve the accessibility to them. However, increases in volumes of visitors and residents could mean additional vehicles adding to the congestion and pollution issues. The group discussed the centre park scenario but were unsure about what that type of establishment would bring to the county? - Hypothetically, locate at South Wye, eastern corner of County, typically lower waged, may bring more job opportunities. Typically the centre park developments are landscaped sensitively and could bring a variety of visitors (families, singles, groups). However, these groups may just base themselves around the centre and not contribute to the economy in other areas of the County.</p>

<p>7. Sustainable regeneration</p>	<p>The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that the distinctiveness of the County should be maintained; maximise the assets and work with the constraints e.g. environmental constraints may bring tourism opportunities, other benefits may come to local business, schools, services and housing. However, increased prosperity may increase crime rates, particularly car and burglary related criminal activity.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county</p>	<p>The group discussed education and concluded that rural opportunities with smaller more dispersed colleges with electronic/virtual learning may exist; engagement in 6th form education may lead to increased interest in a County university and this provision may also attract countryside student interest, both potentially improving retention levels of young people in the County; and live/work units. The group could not see the relationship between infrastructure and educational achievement levels, although improvements in access to establishments may create the opportunity.</p>
<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county</p>	<p>The group discussed crime and concluded that it would appear that there were distorted crime figures when compared with population; design better links, open up routes discouraging crime e.g. avoid use of subways in new development; green routes need to be visible and well lit and CCTV use may reduce fear of crime and deter it. However, the Western Way, southern area, is unattractive and encourages a lack of use and a sense of fear. The group did not know whether the planning system could build in crime prevention measures such as CCTV, or whether its possible to identify specific areas where infrastructure links relate to crime?</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county</p>	<p>The group discussed poverty and agreed that additional infrastructure may increase job availability and engagement with the rest of the County and decrease poverty; aesthetically soft landscaping can give a sense of pride in place and encourage more respect and potentially lower crime; and better infrastructure links will help include towns and villages that are currently more isolated. However, the most deprived areas (as reported) in Leominster and South Wye in Hereford already has the infrastructure in place and yet it is still deprived; the younger population have less opportunity to get onto the property ladder; better links may attract more people to the area and potentially increase densities and pressures on services such as doctors surgeries and housing availability; and high density housing may result in deprived areas forming if there not well designed with appropriate links. The group were unsure about who, what and where population and business will be attracted within the County; and that its difficult to establish a direct casual link.</p>

<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>The group discussed housing and agreed that infrastructure will enable housing; improvements in communication links were needed; mixed used developments were ideal; visual improvement was important; green infrastructure, such as new cycleways were important; linkages between places were vital; and that roads, businesses, mixed uses, and integrated land uses were imperative. However, housing competition and supply may drive prices above affordability; and the likelihood of all local needs being met is unlikely, as infrastructure cannot be brought to all rural locations. The group did not know the number of people in need of affordable housing (emerging evidence base may be useful here).</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>The group discussed waste and agreed that the SA objective would guide developers into cleaning up contaminated land; the best and most accessible appropriate locations for waste facilities are needed; and the use of secondary, recycled aggregates in infrastructure construction where necessary. However, better infrastructure may attract more people, business and households creating more waste, including commercial and industrial and construction and demolition waste streams. The group were not sure about volumes of waste expected although figures are available from the review of the RSS (2008 note - these now have to be used with caution as changes to housing figures may occur following consultation during the spring/summer of 2008). The group were also unsure about what technology advances may be available or being developed.</p>
<p>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity</p>	<p>The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that a green infrastructure would create biodiversity opportunities; and that financial gain through S106 agreements for improvement and enhancement schemes would be beneficial. However, land use changes may result in a loss of biodiversity. The group felt that a net change through use of S106 agreements i.e. loss through development with equal or more replacement through the S106 would create a neutral effect on the issues. The group did not know how the long term enhancement and replacement schemes compare to the natural untouched environment for certain types of habitats and species.</p>

<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently</p>	<p>The group discussed natural resources and energy and agreed that: development should maximise cut and fill techniques; recycled materials, recycled glass for roads should be optimised; wastes to be dealt with in the County to reduce transportation and landfill need; buses should be more eco friendly; that a rail stop at Pontralis should be introduced on the line that runs from Cardiff to Manchester optimising the cross border potential for money to flow from outside the County into the County; rail and ride potential should be optimised; and reliability of service is important. However, better infrastructure may attract more vehicle use and therefore a less efficient use of natural resources.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>The group discussed Herefordshire's landscape and agreed that the landscape of County is an asset and it is for that reason that people live here; maximise green infrastructure links; smaller footprints of buildings; disallow buy to let to enable housing opportunities and potentially assist in lowering house prices to more realistic levels and therefore more affordable; and through section 106 agreements gain financial resources for restoration and enhancement of the landscape. However, change in land use may result in a loss of landscape areas of importance.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>The group discussed climate change and agreed that air quality is generally good when compared with other built up areas in the region, as Herefordshire is a rural County; and an opportunity to integrate sustainable modes of travel, public transport, walking and cycling are beneficial. However, it's not possible countywide due to time and expense constraints; and a growth in improvements to infrastructure may increase vehicle use increasing pollution and congestion issues. The group added that the outer distributor road versus park and ride scheme may create a neutral status. They were unsure about the unpredictability of natural changes, e.g. the weather caused by climate change and therefore the type of infrastructure needed to cope with such changes.</p>
<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>The group discussed flooding and agreed that mitigation opportunities for relief from the city centre, e.g. flood alleviation schemes; SUDS; and new infrastructure has the potential to place electricity cables and other technology underground to reduce communication loss assisting the economy were beneficial. However, more hardstanding and surfaces may add to flash flooding incidents; reduction of flood risk is key to the building of the distributor road and is more expensive due to the flooding possibility; and rural areas may be adversely affected if mitigation is put in place inappropriately, including associated loss of life and property as well as flora and fauna from both the flooding and inappropriate mitigation.</p>

<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources</p>	<p>The group discussed pollution and agreed that an eastern distributor route would reduce HGV movements in central areas; yellow school bus scheme services for children to reduce the congestion and traffic volumes caused by the school run; park and rides north and south of Hereford City; and cycle and walk routes would be ideal. However, Leominster AQMA is worse than Hereford's; and better infrastructure may result in additional vehicle use causing potentially more pollution and congestion hot spots. The group concluded that this would be dependant on location and also confirmed that they were unsure about the technological advances in vehicle emissions; and the Global response to the protection and enhancement of the environment.</p>
<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that Leominster's industrial estate has potential for growth; a Hereford focus creates housing potential and growth in other urban areas catering for commuters wishing to work in Hereford; a County focus may create a balance across the locations rather than Hereford and the market towns, creating opportunities in the Golden Valley and other currently less accessible rural areas, if good links are made between housing, employment and retail land it will ensure more ease of access for all. However, new infrastructure inappropriately located, may result in a loss of land suitable for other more beneficial land uses, e.g. housing or employment or for conservation; and conflict with different users e.g. HGVs, cars and pedestrians. The group agreed that this was dependant on housing locations e.g. Ross and they we unsure what future land use needs would be.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>The group discussed the historic heritage of the County and agreed that Hereford's distinctiveness should be maximised and thereby seeing it as an asset; and improvements to existing infrastructure should generally avoid any further adverse environmental impact. However, the outer distributor road conflicts with environmental objectives, e.g. when the eastern link was created the Lugg Meadows were destroyed, more respect is needed for these protected environmental assets in the Core Strategy; new infrastructure may not be compatible with the historic and cultural areas of the county (style and design will be important); and environmental risks with the introduction of new routes should be considered and mitigated against if avoidance is not possible. The group were unsure of the type of development affecting the environment that could be mitigated.</p>

Appendix 1 – 04 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives

Date: June 2007

Original Plan Objective: Improving Health, Education, Skills Training, Social, Shopping, Community & Other Services

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8; Ensuring Better Health, Well-being and Quality of Life; Providing for the Need of all Generations; Improving our Service Centres; Developing Herefordshire as a Destination for Quality Leisure Visits and Sustainable Tourism; and Delivering Sustainable Communities respectively.

SA Objectives	Summary of Workshop
<p>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed employment and agreed that improvements in available services will create more jobs and associated services; and more easily accessible services may require smaller facilities spread evenly between rural and urban areas creating a decrease in centre focussed services, decreasing the need to travel. The group did not identify any negative issues.</p>
<p>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed a skilled workforce and agreed that improved services may attract doctors, dentists, leaders/academics, etc. to the County. However, the services required are not necessarily highly skilled and therefore don't attract a high wage; and the loss of traditional agricultural trades and associated services as other more skilled jobs develop.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>The group discussed a sustainable economy and agreed that improved services would contribute to a sustainable economy and attract inward investment. However, there is a potential for the County to lose its distinctiveness as traditional trades are replaced.</p>

<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>The group discussed traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that community focussed services would reduce the need to travel and encourage walking and cycling; for those services located further away the opportunity exists to create enhanced public transport network; joint venture with local communities to reduce traffic speed through developing local services; and mixed use development could incorporate social activities and car free zones with good links for walking and cycling. However, services may attract higher traffic flows if not appropriate located. The group did not know how the planning system could deliver an integrated healthy lifestyles.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>The group discussed health and agreed that improved health, education and community services located in areas of need may improve disparities demographically and geographically. The group did not identify any negative issues.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>The group discussed community activities and agreed that this SA objective would be met by the plan objective through the provision of services; and the engagement in such activities could enhance the sense of place and give health benefits. However the point was raised that depending on location of the activity some rural communities may not be included and increase the need to travel. The group also concluded that planning could not guarantee engagement in activities.</p>
<p>7. Sustainable regeneration</p>	<p>The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that service provision could assist by regenerating run down areas. However, traditional services in the County, such as the local markets may be lost through regeneration programmes resulting in a loss of local distinctiveness.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county</p>	<p>The group discussed education and agreed that provision of educational/ community services may assist in providing the facilities that aid better learning environments. However, higher achievement may raise life expectations and create an outward movement of young people from the County unless job opportunities are also created.</p>

<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county</p>	<p>The group discussed crime and agreed that Activities that engage people, particularly young people, may assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and assist in reducing crime, and the fear of crime. However, more people attracted to a locality may encourage opportunist crime to those areas.</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county</p>	<p>The group discussed poverty and agreed that services, particularly education, skills and community activities will encourage social inclusion, bringing people from all varied backgrounds together. However, clubs may require membership fees, which those from the poorest areas are unlikely to be able to afford.</p>
<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>The group discussed housing and agreed that services are likely to be provided where housing need is, suitable to the local demand. New services are likely to attract soft landscaping that will add to the local character creating a more pleasant environment. The group did not identify any negative issues.</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>The group discussed waste and agreed that services have an opportunity to engage in waste minimisation and recycling by integrating facilities into their development. However, providing more services will generally result in more waste and pollution being generated.</p>
<p>13. Conserve and enhance Herefordshire's habitats and biodiversity</p>	<p>The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that services may attract funding to conserve and enhance biodiversity and services in areas of biodiversity importance may raise awareness of wildlife issues. However, services may be located in biodiversity sensitive areas resulting in a range of adverse effects on the protected sites.</p>

<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently</p>	<p>The group discussed natural resources and energy and agreed that new services offered the opportunity to provide highly energy efficient premises; and should be located so to reduce the need to travel. However, more services will generally result in more energy usage.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>The group discussed landscape quality and concluded that services will attract funding that should support restoration projects; and some of the community services are likely to have open space and rural areas incorporated into their developments. The group did not identify any negative issues.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>The group discussed climate change and concluded that new services may enable the inclusion of the latest technologies to reduce emissions and thereby the County's contribution to it. However, as the services are likely to raise energy use and create more waste and potentially more traffic, they may also contribute to the problem. The group did not know what controls or influence the County would have over other areas, both neighbouring authorities, the region and the rest of the UK and world and therefore how it could reduce vulnerability, a local focus was therefore thought to be most realistic for achievable outcomes.</p>
<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>The group discussed flooding and agreed that improving services may provide the opportunity to raise awareness; be located appropriately/ and sensitively, whilst benefiting financially through tourism and by creating the environment that visitors, homeowners, etc., require. However, inappropriately located development may exacerbate localised flooding issues and potentially move the problem elsewhere in the river network.</p>
<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources</p>	<p>The group discussed pollution and concluded that by utilising the opportunity to be energy efficient, reducing waste and providing recycling services, minimisation of local pollution and enhancement of environmental resources are likely. The group did not identify any negative issues.</p>
<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that services are likely to be located close to other community needs such as housing, employment, transport routes and therefore utilise land more efficiently. However, if services are only located in the urban areas, the rural communities would miss out on these services.</p>

20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage

The group discussed the Counties historic heritage and agreed that development should be built sensitively, with regard to the existing character of the area and therefore value, protect, and enhance it; and the facilities themselves may be developed within an existing historic environment and cultural heritage, valuing and protecting it. The group did not identify any negative issues.

Appendix 1 – 05 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives

Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Sustainable Use of Environmental Assets & the Prudent Use of Natural Resources

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 8 and 9; Delivering Sustainable Communities; and Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets.

SA Objectives	Workshop Summary
<p>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed employment and agreed that there was potential for environmental orientated business to be created in the County; remote and home working; extensive farming would create employment opportunities; the County has an aging population whom not only may need carers but are also often the most wealthy with a disposable income, for garden equipment, eating out etc. However, a focus on knowledge and technology sectors may adversely affect the character of land usage and be of detriment to traditional employment types in the County; new road and/or rail links may also adversely affect the environment; and new development will increase the population and associated waste, pollution and energy use. The group did not know what types of business would be attracted to the County and therefore types of waste and other pollutants from new businesses.</p>
<p>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>The group discussed a skilled workforce and agreed that this plan objective could bring environmental asset management skills and environmental education opportunities into the County. However, as a skilled workforce earn more money and have more disposable income the potential is that the community will be encouraged into a throw away society.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>The group discussed a sustainable economy and agreed that an unspoilt landscape attracts investment and potentially wealthy people to the County; and an ageing population have skills to offer such as volunteering, unpaid carers etc. However, young people priced out of the housing market that live and work in the local area; population is dominated by an ageing community restricting diversity; and continued growth may mean continued and increased resource use. The group did not know what type of business would be attracted to the County and therefore any potential adverse environmental impacts.</p>

<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>The group discussed traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that this plan objective could encourage walking and cycling if verges were cut less and left wilder on C roads slowing traffic for safer usage and would also benefit wildlife; the creation of more cycle ways; walkways, improving the populations health; additional sustainable modes of travel reducing pollution and congestion; and fewer private cars on the road frees up the road network for essential business users. However, inefficient public transport network or not enough quick and safe cycle paths and walkways may cause these sustainable alternatives to be less attractive than the private car, a sea change in attitudes is needed. The group did not know how much improvement was possible with predicted growth.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>The group discussed health and agreed that Herefordshire was an attractive County that could be utilised for access to open countryside for health improvements for all e.g. the Wye Valley, especially those in urban areas or from low incomes, as access to it is free; prevalent services in urban areas; there are some existing good sports centres in urban areas; and cleaner environment may benefit respiratory disorders as more people use sustainable modes of travel and pollution reduces. However, older people in rural locations may not have easy access to health services and there are poverty stricken areas in rural areas which would have similar issues with accessibility.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>The group discussed community activities and agreed that urban areas are generally well catered for, such as walking, cycling, community (council) gatherings, race for life etc.; the Rivers Wye, Mono and Arrow all have good fishing; and shooting and equestrian sports are all County important; an opportunity to raise environmental awareness through activity; and S106 financial contributions could provide the investment needed to benefit community activities. However, more rural areas are less well catered for; Hereford lacks cultural activities, although the Beer Festival is an International occasion and is well attended; also lacks in art galleries; theatres and other activities tend to rely on people arriving by the private car; engagement in activities is low, e.g. people walk the ridge of the Malvern Hills 80% but the bulk of the AONB is not accessed; and greater involvement in these activities may adversely affect sensitive areas by increasing water pollution, littering, tramping, disturbance and air quality. The group did not know what the potential increase in community involvement would be and therefore could not quantify the potential effects; and they also identified that planning cannot increase or decrease the general population activity chooses, it can only provide for such facilities, hence there was no relationship found between this element of the objectives.</p>

<p>7. Sustainable Regeneration</p>	<p>The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that an opportunity existed to think beyond the urban areas and to consider development requirements in terms of rural renaissance; environmental sustainable regeneration involves low air miles, traditional land uses, e.g. agriculture, local traders, locally sourced materials and local produce; and the Plan objective would also support an environment conscious business. However, the County has an ageing rural population; and economic sustainable regeneration may result in intensive agriculture, leading to environmental problems, mass production, higher food miles to supply the demand, etc. The group did not know what type of business would be attracted to the County.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the County</p>	<p>The group discussed education and agreed that the need for skills in environmental management areas and agriculture and education in what valuing environment assets means. However, young people are leaving the County in search of work; and travelling to destinations providing educational facilities not available in the County.</p>
<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County</p>	<p>The group discussed crime and agreed that fly tipping and other environmental, anti social behaviour aspects may be reduced by providing, in new development, integrated resources, such as appropriate waste facilities for recycling and the separation of wastes. However, environmental crime is not well dealt with by the police; fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime rate; and rural and urban crime may vary in type. The group did not know what the inherent level of crime for the County was and considered this to be relatively important; and also were unsure about future crime rates and type of crime.</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county</p>	<p>The group discussed poverty and agreed that a more diverse agricultural sector may create employment opportunities; potential to reduce poverty by building a second crossing over the River Wye to bring both physical and economic benefits; an emphasis on the environment may create jobs to help reduce poverty; the use of renewables will help keep living costs down thereby helping to reduce poverty; and an improved environment may encourage the local community to take ownership of their local area and have pride in the place where they live, reducing the negative appearance of these potentially otherwise deprived, rundown areas. However, the River Wye, a natural asset in Hereford, is causing the deprivation in the southern area of the City; the County is also isolated from the region by the River; a fear of the unknown; renewable energy may be expensive to install; some areas are linked such as Hereford & Worcester, whilst others aren't, e.g. Bromyard and Worcester; and an environmental lead Plan objective may put housing and employment into urban areas at high densities, causing pockets of deprivation.</p>

<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>The group discussed housing and agreed that not all Greenfield or intensively farmed land has good environmental assets, e.g. baron land; location of affordable housing should be guided by demand, particularly in relation to distance from the work place to reduce commuter distances; and an environmental lead Plan objective would require excellent energy efficiency levels, local sustainable materials and design being in the forefront to make these changes attractive. However, not necessarily being provided where it is needed; layout and design can be quite poor; and state of the art housing may be expensive when affordable housing is most in need, therefore social housing should also have to be built to the highest environmental standards.</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>The group discussed waste and agreed that there should be on-site opportunities for local waste facilities in development; reduction in waste to landfill sites was needed and improvements in recycling provisions were required; opportunity to raise consumer awareness on such things as packaging, local sourcing of food stuffs, materials etc. and of the waste hierarchy; innovations from around the County and Region should be optimised; business waste management; and establishing businesses that use the end products of other businesses waste to create a recycled usable product. However, little is available for the disposal of construction and demolition waste and commercial and industrial waste; and public perception on environmental and human health aspects of facilities such as auto claving, (incineration) is negative. The group did not know predicted quantities of industrial and commercial waste and construction and demolition wastes However, the RSS revision should assist in later appraisal stages.</p>
<p>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand the county's biodiversity</p>	<p>The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that to use the natural resources to their strengths would enable biodiversity to flourish; the environment and economy should be dealt with hand in hand to benefit biodiversity; and educate that a flourishing environment is a massive benefit to all, business, home, quality of life and schooling. However, there is a need to accept some biodiversity losses but the robustness of the environment systems sets the losses at a minimum; intensive monoculture; if development were focussed in urban areas no new build would occur in rural areas to support the rural economy; and no new road schemes would be provided either, resulting in under maintained rural areas creating an even less accessible resource. The group acknowledged that detailed evidence of species and habitats and their condition was limited.</p>

<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently</p>	<p>The group discussed natural resources and energy and concluded that transport improvement was important; local stone, sustainable wood sources and there was a need to respect capacity supply; traditional building techniques should be encouraged with a modern twist and given that black and white houses are features of the County and do not require bricks this should be promoted in design; and good tree growth capacity in the County perhaps for energy crops. However, high-energy costs on producing bricks should be discouraged; and may prove expensive in the short to medium term.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>The group discussed landscape quality and agreed that its linked with agricultural uses; a fluvial system vision is needed rather than a one River approach; tourism should be encouraged; and rural areas and open spaces could be secured through the provision of funding through S106 agreements. However, bio fuel production may lead to a one crop economy; local perceptions on how the County will look may vary between communities and community members; and there may be limited potential for housing, employment, farm diversification due to landscape impacts caused by such development. The group did not know what was understood by landscape management; and what future growth rates would be.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>The group discussed climate change and agreed that the requirement for more property development will require higher targets for the County in meeting carbon emission reductions; the County has a lot to offer to the tourism industry and this should have a greater emphasis and in addition local people should be encouraged to holiday more locally; and finally a shared approach with other Local Authorities could link initiatives and Plans and help assess vulnerabilities. However, new technologies are generally expensive and changing rapidly and may take time to implement and establish new processes, technology; tourism although a positive asset may mean more private car use, more tourist attractions and more carbon; and climate change will cause rises in sea levels and more extreme weather events, as a result the County needs to adapt to these changes, e.g. a change in crop variety but also the protection of important environmental assets from degradation.</p>
<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>The group discussed flood risk and agreed that flooding can be an asset to the environment, such as wetlands for tourism; water table rises and falls are natural, simple fluvial system in the County, we should use this as a resource to create natural flood defence systems; and a more strategic approach to the flooding regulations is needed. However, there is a history of flood defence schemes being implemented at development sites across the County where flooding issues have been prevalent, these schemes often exasperate problems further up and down stream of development, the issue needs to be looked at more holistically; agricultural loss; and inappropriate use of sewage treatment as excessive run off from storm events currently goes into the sewage systems instead of more appropriately placed storm drains or ditches for natural absorption, the use of sustainable drainage systems, where appropriate may a reasonable alternative.</p>

<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources</p>	<p>The group discussed pollution and agreed that on-site treatment of wastes for new development; highest possible energy efficiency; and flash flood reductions would be ideal. However, agriculture is the biggest polluter due to nitrate pollution; there is a lack in septic tank maintenance; and growth in housing will likely result in greater pollution.</p>
<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that the County is not short of space; high density may be beneficial in urban areas to encourage cycling and walking; density is dependant on location, both high and low densities could be beneficial and detrimental to environmental assets; and on-site waste water treatment and use would be beneficial. However, higher densities in urban areas may not consider the integration with the wider rural area and land uses maybe more associated with these rural areas; and high-density development may reduce the capacity for biodiversity.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>The group discussed the historic heritage of the County and concluded that each settlement should be treated in its own right and development should have regard for there individualism e.g. Longtown, allowing local distinctiveness to be a key factor; by recognising the role of sustainability in the Counties heritage, benefits may be had in securing viable uses for these historic buildings and assets. However, Higher densities may lead to a lack of consideration and difficulty in dealing with existing built qualities and protection of environmental assets; and a sense of place and space may be lost with higher density development.</p>

Appendix B1 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with emerging Plan Objectives 1-5

Key:

- ☺ = Compatible
- ☹ = Possible conflict
- ☺ = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

<p>Reasonable Test</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 1: This objective is thought not to be reasonable because it is seen as more of a goal or vision than an objective. Therefore no further SA assessment of this objective is necessary at this stage.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 2: This objective is reasonable. It is suggested that the word ensuring is changed to enabling.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 3: This objective is similar to objective 4. It was agreed that objective 3 would look at urban renaissance within Hereford, and objective 4 would look at renaissance in more rural areas. Both are considered to be reasonable.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 4: Refer to comment on objective 3. This is considered to be reasonable in terms of a rural renaissance focus.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 5: It is reasonable, however the wording needs to be changed to something less lengthy. It should also emphasise the built environment as well as the more rural environment.</p>
<p>Core Strategy Objectives</p>	<p>Objective 1: Ensuring a sustainable future for Herefordshire</p>	<p>Objective 2: Ensuring sustainable economic growth</p>	<p>Objective 3: To deliver key urban renaissance projects in Hereford to strengthen its role as a sub-regional centre and deliver a renaissance in our rural areas</p>	<p>Objective 4: Improving our service centres to develop Hereford town centre as a strong sub-regional shopping, leisure and cultural focus for Herefordshire and support and develop thriving service centres in our market towns and improve key rural services in our villages.</p>	<p>Objective 5: To develop Herefordshire as a quality visitor and sustainable tourist destination by building on the opportunities provided by our high quality environment, including our landscapes and countryside, culture and history.</p>
<p>SA Objective 1. To support,</p>	<p>☺ To have economic</p>	<p>☺ This promotes</p>	<p>☺ This promotes</p>	<p>☺ This promotes</p>	<p>☺ This could be a</p>

<p>maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>		<p>growth requires high quality local and easily accessible employment.</p>	<p>employment opportunities.</p>	<p>employment opportunities.</p>	<p>double edged sword. There could be a potential conflict surrounding the growth of the agricultural sector around Polytunnels in particular, but however in general the group agreed the objectives were compatible.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>The group agreed that this SA objective was not necessary and should be removed from this assessment stage as it was felt that it had been covered in SA objective 1.</p>				
<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and</p>		<p>? Sustainable transport in Herefordshire is not realistic due to the rural nature of the County; more information on transport proposals are needed and modelling would also be helpful, such as</p>	<p>☺ You cant regenerate Hereford without first addressing the need for more sustainable transport.</p>	<p>☺ If this is tailored to meet the needs of smaller villages, it avoids the need for travel around the County.</p>	<p>☹ Tourism will have a negative impact on traffic volumes and congestion around Herefordshire and therefore is not compatible with this SA objective.</p>

<p>walking</p> <p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>		<p>congestion modelling.</p> <p>☺ Being in employment was generally considered to be compatible with improved well-being and healthy lifestyles. However, work related stress and average working hours were highlighted as an adverse issue for the County.</p>	<p>☺ General amenities will be closer under this Core Strategy Objective enabling improved disparities in health geographically and demographically encouraging healthy living for all.</p>	<p>☺ If essentials such as GP's are provided then there should be no incompatibility with the Objectives.</p>	<p>☺ Health improvements may occur if destinations with tourist potential are improved.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>		<p>☺ There is a loose link between the Objectives, but it was argued whether all the activities mentioned in the SA objective would encourage growth.</p>	<p>☺ This is an important element to ensure a strong urban focus.</p>	<p>☺ This is an important element to ensure a strong rural focus.</p>	<p>☺ All of the elements within the SA Objectives are important in attracting tourists to the County.</p>
<p>7. Sustainable Regeneration</p>		<p>☺ It was agreed that the Objectives would support each other. No reasons were given.</p>	<p>☺ Regeneration would help in more deprived urban areas.</p>	<p>☺ Regeneration would help in more deprived rural areas.</p>	<p>☺ The regeneration of features will help attract tourism.</p>
<p>11. Provide everyone</p>		<p>☺ The delivery of a</p>	<p>☺ Good quality</p>	<p>☺ The delivery of</p>	<p>☺ or ? Some</p>

<p>with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>		<p>mix of housing types and tenure will support a diverse employment base.</p>	<p>housing will provide life and animation to the extended City Centre (e.g. the Edgar Street Grid Regeneration Project).</p>	<p>appropriately scaled housing with affordable provision will support existing communities and services (e.g. in market towns).</p>	<p>conflict here. Local homes for local people or second (holiday) homes for tourists? How will house building protect / enhance the wider landscape which attracts the tourists? Scale and careful selection needed and the outcome is dependant on implementation.</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>		<p>☹ Reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste causes conflict.</p>	<p>☹ Reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste causes conflict.</p>	<p>☺ Opportunity to increase access to recycling services to minimise local residents waste, although it is acknowledged that there is some conflict in the need to reconcile the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste.</p>	<p>☺ or ? Any increase in people is likely to result in an increase in waste, however potential exists in limiting the amount of waste that visitors will create, if proposals are implemented appropriately.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect,</p>		<p>☹ Growth</p>	<p>☺ A focus on urban</p>	<p>☹ Rural renaissance</p>	<p>☺ There is a good</p>

<p>enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>		<p>encroachment on rural areas and open spaces may result in some potential conflict between the inevitable expansion of businesses in the higher quality environments potentially on offer.</p>	<p>renaissance is unlikely to put unnecessary pressure for growth in rural areas with a high quality environment and landscape.</p>	<p>may cause some potential conflict between expansion of businesses and housing growth in the higher quality environment and landscape that are associated with the rural areas.</p>	<p>link making it entirely compatible. Looking after the environmental asset will attract visitors.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>		<p>? It is unknown how economic growth will be vulnerable to climate change and limited in terms of its contribution to it as it is dependant on sustainable implementation through an assurance that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.</p>	<p>? Urban renaissance may create the potential for adverse effects and these are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.</p>	<p>? Rural renaissance may create the potential for adverse effects and these are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.</p>	<p>☹ or ? An increase in people is likely to impact adversely to contributions to the causes of climate change such as pollution however, outcomes are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the</p>		<p>☺ Generally economic growth may</p>	<p>☺ Urban renaissance may</p>	<p>☺ Rural renaissance may contribute to and</p>	<p>☺ Visitors will be attracted by the</p>

<p>character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>		<p>contribute to the built environment, however some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.</p>	<p>contribute to and improve the built environment, however some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.</p>	<p>improve the built environment however, some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.</p>	<p>Counties heritage assets on offer and will contribute to improvements to the built environment by visiting.</p>
<p>Conclusions and recommendations from the test of reasonableness</p>	<p>Delete this Core Strategy Objective, as it was not found to be reasonable. The wording was considered to be vision orientated and as such recommended to form part of the Core Strategy Vision rather than a separate key Core Strategy Objective.</p>	<p>Although the Core Strategy Objective was found to be reasonable it was considered appropriate to advice the removal of the word "ensuring" and replace with "enabling" as it was felt that the planning system could not ensure development but could guide and deliver development, i.e. enable it.</p>	<p>It was felt that it was not clear what objectives 3 and 4 were looking at and it was therefore agreed to consider objective 3 in terms of urban renaissance alone. Improved objective wording is needed, as is a clearer definition of urban renaissance in the description of the objective. In highlighting Hereford in the title of the objective for urban renaissance it is considered that the other urban areas</p>	<p>It was felt that it was not clear what objectives 3 and 4 were looking at and it was therefore agreed to consider objective 4 in terms of rural renaissance. Improved objective wording is needed, as is a clearer definition of rural renaissance in the description of the objective. A focus on the services in these rural areas in relation to how they link with the urban hubs is still considered a relevant element from the</p>	<p>A tourism based objective was considered reasonable however, it was recommended that the wordiness of the original objective be made more clear and concise. It was also recommended that a balance should be reached in emphasising both the built and rural environment.</p>

<p>Conclusions and recommendations from Sustainability Appraisal compatibility test</p>			<p>(the market towns) of the County could easily be forgotten. Removal of Hereford and consideration of all urban areas, i.e. the market towns, under this urban renaissance objective is therefore recommended. However, it is accepted that Hereford should still be included here in terms of its added importance as a sub regional foci. A urban renaissance based objective was considered reasonable.</p>	<p>original objective wording and is recommended to be incorporated when rewording the Plan objective. In terms of an objective based on rural renaissance this was considered reasonable.</p>	
<p>Conclusions and recommendations from Sustainability Appraisal compatibility test</p>	<p>As Core Strategy objective was considered to be unreasonable no assessment on compatibility was conducted.</p>	<p>Generally this Core Strategy Objective was compatible with the Sustainability Objectives. However, a potential conflict may exist between the economy and</p>	<p>This Core Strategy Objective is mainly compatible with the SA Objectives. However, there is potentially conflict between the urban renaissance Plan</p>	<p>This Core Strategy Objective is mostly compatible with the SA Objectives. However, conflict has been identified between rural renaissance and</p>	<p>There were slightly more compatible SA Objectives with the Plan Objective however conflicts between tourism and traffic and congestion; housing; waste and</p>

<p>Outcome of reasonableness and sustainability compatibility test</p>	<p>The Plan writers in reviewing the recommendations from this workshop reviewed what they wanted from the original objective and changed the Objective to "Delivering Sustainable Communities". The main focus changing from a more general sustainable development approach for the</p>	<p>waste growth and landscape quality. Unknowns also require further investigation in particular, how economic growth may impact on traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and on climate change.</p>	<p>Objective and waste production. Unknowns with respect to climate change require further investigation for consideration on how this Objective could contribute to and be vulnerable to climate change.</p>	<p>landscape quality. There was considered to be neutral compatibility between the Objective and waste but further information was required necessary for consideration on how this Objective could contribute to and be vulnerable to climate change.</p>	<p>climate change were highlighted. Most of these also were considered in need of further information before a conclusion on compatibility could be reached.</p>
	<p>The Plan writers reviewed the Objective wording in light of the SA recommendations and changed the objective to "Providing Opportunities for Diversifying and Strengthening the Local Economy". The workshop group concluded that the meaning of a sustainable economy needed to be clarified as it may not always</p>	<p>Through the reasonable test it was recommended that this objective be clarified and was assessed in terms of its urban renaissance. The Plan writers developed the Objective in response to this test and the SA recommendations by clarifying the Objective. The Plan writers incorporated their thinking behind the original Objective</p>	<p>Through the reasonable test it was agreed that this Objective was very similar to the original Objective 3 and therefore, likewise, this Objective's recommendation was for clarification and was only assessed in terms of its rural renaissance. In order to clarify the writers thinking behind this original Objective they</p>	<p>The reasonable test highlighted the wordiness of the original Plan Objective and the lack of reference to the built historic heritage of the County. Therefore the Plan writers reworded the Objective in light of these recommendations into two separate Objectives. They covered the tourism element in the newly</p>	

	<p>County to a sustainable communities approach concentrating sustainable development at the local community level to shape the places of the future. This objective will require reassessment in terms of reasonableness and if found to be reasonable will need to be subject to sustainability appraisal in terms of compatibility. This re-assessment will form part of the next stage of Sustainability Appraisal, likely to be reported at Preferred Options Stage.</p>	<p>be possible to have sustainable growth in terms of the economy, but a balance was needed between the environmental issues and the need for economic growth. The new wording attempts to provide that clarification, i.e. opportunities for diversification and strengthening of the local economy.</p>	<p>into existing Objective's and by creating a new one. The Plan Objectives reworked involved the original Objective 7 on health and well-being and Objective 10 on transport and infrastructure. These have been reworded as follows and will be discussed in matrix, Appendix B1 6-10: "Ensuring Better Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life; and Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure". The new Objective created to cover the urban renaissance element discussed in this assessment has been changed to "Improving Our Service Centres".</p>	<p>considered it necessary to incorporate elements of this original Objective into two other original Objective's. The Plan Objectives reworked involved the original Objective 9 on a high quality built and natural environment and Objective 10 on transport and infrastructure. These have been reworded as follows and will be discussed in matrix, Appendix B1 6-10: "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural Built, Historic and Cultural Assets; and Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure". The Plan writers considered that these</p>	<p>worded Objective "Developing Herefordshire as a Destination for Quality Leisure Visits and Sustainable Tourism" and the built historic heritage element into the newly worded Plan Objective "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets". The new wording attempts to incorporate the suggested amendments.</p>
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					<p>newly reworded Objective's respective descriptions, give an understanding of the rural renaissance idea that the original Objective was trying to create.</p>	
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Appendix B1 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with emerging Plan Objectives 6-10

Key:

- ☺ = Compatible
- ☹ = Possible conflict
- ☺ = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

<p>Reasonable Test</p>	<p>Objective 6: This is considered to be reasonable. The text should be changed to read 'providing for appropriate and affordable housing'</p>	<p>Objective 7: This is reasonable. Promote instead of ensure health etc was suggested.</p>	<p>Objective 8: It was felt that the wording needs to be changed on this objective, however it is still considered to be reasonable.</p>	<p>Objective 9: This is reasonable. It was suggested that the wording "highly attractive and safe places in which to live or visit" be removed from the background text to this objective as Herefordshire is already considered to be a safe and attractive environment to live.</p>	<p>Objective 10: This is reasonable. It was felt that the background text to this objective could include more on infrastructure.</p>
<p>Core Strategy Objectives</p>	<p>Objective 6: Providing appropriate housing provision</p>	<p>Objective 7: Ensuring better health, wellbeing and life chances</p>	<p>Objective 8: To develop a Higher Education sector in Herefordshire to attract high quality jobs, encourage business investment and secure the retention of our young people</p>	<p>Objective 9: Ensuring a high quality built and natural environment</p>	<p>Objective 10: Ensuring improved transport movement and infrastructure</p>
<p>SA Objective</p>					

<p>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>☺ If accessible employment is provided in the County to encourage people to work in Herefordshire, then the provision of housing will also be required.</p>	<p>☺ People's health and wellbeing are aided by having high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities available to them.</p>	<p>☺ A population with a highly qualified younger population encourages employment opportunities within the County.</p>	<p>☺ There could be a potential conflict applying it to Herefordshire. There could be issues surrounding the building of industrial sheds, and what this could potential do to the natural environment.</p>	<p>☺ It is important to maintain links between improved transport links and jobs.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>The group agreed that this SA objective was not necessary and should be removed from this assessment stage as it was felt that it had been covered in SA objective 1.</p>				
<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>? This would depend on where the housing is situated.</p>	<p>☺ If traffic is reduced then it ensures better health, wellbeing and life chances.</p>	<p>☺ It is felt that young people are better able to make use of the more sustainable transport modes available to travel.</p>	<p>☺ As part of developing a high quality built and natural environment traffic congestion needs to be addressed, as obviously it has a negative impact on the environment and health, if not controlled therefore,</p>	<p>☺ There is a clear link between improving transport movement and the reduction in road traffic, congestion and pollution.</p>

					<p>there is potential for conflict however the outcomes are dependant on implementation.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>☺ Good quality housing will help maintain peoples health.</p>	<p>☺ Both objectives are the same and are therefore entirely compatible.</p>	<p>☺ Both objectives are compatible but no reasons were given.</p>	<p>☺ Encourage people to use bikes or walk instead of using the private car to improve air quality and ensure a better environment.</p>	<p>☺ Less traffic and less congestion may improve health.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>☺ If you provide community activities to encourage people to live in or visit Herefordshire, then you need to provide housing.</p>	<p>☺ With more things to do, it helps promote better health, well-being and life chances.</p>	<p>☺ It was agreed that there was compatibility between the objectives, but no reasons were given.</p>	<p>☺ It was agreed that these would be compatible, however it was acknowledged that as disturbances to some species may occur some conflict was likely.</p>	<p>☺ Both objectives go hand in hand and are therefore entirely compatible. The Edgar Street Grid development was used as an example.</p>
<p>7. Sustainable Regeneration</p>	<p>☺ Compatible as sustainable regeneration incorporates the need for well designed affordable housing.</p>	<p>☺ This is only compatible if it is genuinely sustainable, integrating principles for healthy lifestyles and providing services. It will also aid a higher quality environment</p>	<p>☺ It is neither compatible or causes conflict but it would also depend on what was regenerated.</p>	<p>☺ This is compatible if implemented properly.</p>	<p>☺ This is heavily dependant on implementation and what is regenerated, but in principle these objectives are compatible.</p>

		aiding better well-being.				
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	☺ Both objectives are fundamentally the same and therefore are entirely compatible.	☺ Good quality homes for all are clearly compatible with a positive influence on health and well-being.	☺ A diverse mix of housing (including affordable housing) is likely to support the needs of students and young people.	☺ This is compatible, however there is some potential for conflict on the basis that the likely need for Greenfield sites to fulfil demand for housing, of all types, will impact on rural fringes.	☺ or ? Infrastructure and housing are closely linked. E.g. water supplies. However, conflict could occur if appropriate provisions to support the housing growth are not implemented.	
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	☺ The provision of housing will use resources and create waste during construction and whilst in occupation. Therefore it is likely that there will be some conflict here in reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste.	☺ In general terms less waste will improve the quality of the environment for everyone's benefit.	☺ This is not directly compatible, any increase in people would likely cause a conflict in the desire to reduce waste output.	☺ Although not directly linked, less waste will be compatible in terms of its effect on the built and natural environment.	☺ Compatible in terms of the infrastructure that is needed to enhance and provide facilities to deal with recycling and the reduction of waste.	
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality	☺ Some conflict as any increase in people is likely to	☺ Compatible, as an attractive managed landscape will be of	☺ Compatible, as an attractive environment will be a reason why	☺ These objectives are essentially the same and therefore	☺ If solution to movement is road building then there	

of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	cause adverse effects, the right balance between growth and protection of the landscape quality would be necessary.	benefit both to good health and the environment.	business may locate to Herefordshire and it will help encourage people to the County and to remain here.	are entirely compatible.	will be a conflict with the quality of the environment, green spaces may be used, to implement the Plan Objective.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	☺ Cautiously compatible, any increase in housing provision is likely to increase the Counties carbon footprint contributing to the causes of climate change, however depending on implementation carefully controlled expansion with appropriate policies in place with set standards, compatibility may be achievable.	☺ A greener approach is clearly compatible with providing a more secure future that will benefit health and well-being.	☺ Cautiously compatible, depending on an assurance that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring standards to be achieved.	☺ Compatible as to achieve high quality development in Herefordshire impacts of climate change need to be responded to.	☹ Conflict here if the future involved road building and potential for greater car use. These are not compatible unless it can be demonstrated that this would reduce carbon emissions.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements	☺ High quality residential schemes, avoiding like for like developments that	☺ A high quality built environment integrated into a historic and cultural setting is likely	☺ Compatible as the quality of the built environment will positively influence	☺ These are entirely compatible objectives.	☺ or ☹ Compatible with improved transport movement and infrastructure as

<p>and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>could conflict with the historic heritage character, should enhance our built environment.</p>	<p>to be compatible as benefits to health and well-being are likely.</p>	<p>choices about investing in Herefordshire, encouraging people to live, visit and stay in the County.</p>	<p>it may protect the character of the built environment by moving traffic out of town centres. However, equally the improvements could conflict with protecting the built character. The outcome is dependent on implementation, location and type.</p>
<p>Conclusions and recommendations from the test of reasonableness</p>	<p>Although this Plan Objective was considered to be reasonable it was felt necessary to advice a change in wording to reflect the affordability element of the housing issue. It was suggested to change it to "providing for appropriate and affordable housing".</p>	<p>An objective of health was considered reasonable however it was agreed that the planning system could not really ensure something but could promote health etc and therefore its recommended that the Plan Objective be changed to "Promote better health, well-being and life chances".</p>	<p>Although the Plan Objective was considered to be reasonable it was considered that the wording was trying to achieve a number of things and for clarity it was felt that the wording needed to be changed to reflect more what the Plan writers wanted to achieve from it.</p>	<p>This Objective was considered to be reasonable however, it was felt that the background text could include more on infrastructure, including water, electricity, broadband etc as well as the conventional infrastructure network of roads, cycleways and pathways.</p>

<p>Conclusions and recommendations from Sustainability Appraisal compatibility test</p>	<p>The Plan Objective was mainly compatible with the Sustainability Objectives however possible conflict was highlighted between providing housing and the creation of waste, effects on landscape quality and where inappropriate development in historic built environments conflicted with new build. Further information was needed in respect to any potential unknown conflict with traffic and congestion.</p>	<p>This Plan Objective is 100% compatible with the principles of sustainable development, using the selected sustainability objectives. Therefore there is great opportunity to enhance upon the predicted compatibilities to ensure sustainability is delivered through quality of life principles of good health and well-being.</p>	<p>The majority of the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. Although it was recommended to enhance the wording, through the reasonable test, it was unclear how further education could aid sustainable regeneration. It was also noted that any increase in development would conflict with the desire to reduce waste, causing possible conflict. Both are dependant on what is regenerated and how it is achieved.</p>	<p>The majority of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Plan Objective. However, it was considered that the built and natural environments would be neutrally compatible with the economy and cause conflict with traffic and congestion.</p>	<p>Most of the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. However, it was considered necessary to get more information on housing and the effects on transport movement and infrastructure and that landscape, climate change and the built historic environment could conflict with this Plan Objective. The historic built environment in particular was assessed as potentially being either compatible or causing conflict. Implementation of appropriate development, location and type of infrastructure solution are also therefore</p>
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<p>Outcome of reasonableness and sustainability compatibility test</p>	<p>The Plan writers considered the affordability recommendation but considered that the word appropriate in the objective included the affordable housing element and therefore, apart from the addition of the word "for" no changes were made to the initial Plan Objective.</p>	<p>The Plan writers acknowledged the importance of the reference to quality of life and replaced life chances with this reference. They accept the planning system can only go so far but are striving through the new spatial planning system to "ensure" more benefits of holistic living through good planning.</p>	<p>The Plan writers took on board the comments on the reasonable test and reworked the objective for greater clarity. It has been changed to "Providing for the Needs of all Generations" and in its explanatory text expands on the initial Plan Objective wording to focus on higher education, skill development, career progression, economic benefit and delivery and access to facilities and services for all. It addresses a number of key issues but in particular retaining young people in the County.</p>	<p>The Plan writers reviewed the comments on reasonableness and SA appraisal and concluded to revise the wording of the initial Plan Objective to "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets". It was felt that this would clarify what the Plan Objective is trying to achieve.</p>	<p>going to be very important. The Plan writers accepted the comments from the reasonableness and SA assessment but at this stage of the Plan making process where unable to do much, further information would become available on housing and various infrastructure as the evidence base material becomes available. They did however decide that the word "movement" should be replaced by "accessibility" as this is seen to be more important in terms of a sustainable development than movement itself.</p>
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Appendix B1-April 2008 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with Plan Objectives 1-5

Key:

- ☺ = Compatible
- ☹ = Possible conflict
- ☺ = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the emerging Core Strategy Objectives in terms of their reasonableness and their sustainability using the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 – See Council's website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forwardplanning. This assessment follows the assessment under Appendix B1-Jan 2008 on the developing of the Plan Objectives, as these have evolved through consultation with the internal and external Options working groups i.e. comments related to the objectives not being locally distinctive enough; not "smart" in order to realistically enable monitoring; that generally they should also reflect what the vision was saying. Hence the vision has also been amended in line with these new objectives. It is considered they now reflect more fully the Strategic Options and the Sustainability Appraisal methodology themes of the economic, social and environmental factors.

<p>Reasonable Test</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 1: It is reasonable to ensure sufficient homes and housing type and tenure as an objective for the Core Strategy and appropriate to relate this to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 2: It is reasonable to have an Objective that covers all aspects of well-being.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 3: It is reasonable to consider education and skills development in order to retain young people and also appropriate to consider life long learning for everyone.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 4: It is reasonable to cover the reduction in the need to travel in an objective and to associate this with sustainable locations, quality of life and improvements to the environment.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 5: It is debatable whether “throughout Herefordshire” better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices is reasonable. This is because it is considered that the landscape of Herefordshire may make some rural areas, undoubtedly in need of such provision, inaccessible and if access was achieved may well be expensive and not frequent. Recommend rewording to be changed to “through much of Herefordshire”.</p>
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<p>Core Strategy Objectives</p>	<p>Objective 1 (Social): To ensure sufficient homes, with a mix of housing types and tenures, are built in sustainable locations in the period to 2026, to meet the housing needs of all sections of the population of Herefordshire in accordance with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Phase 2 Revision).</p>	<p>Objective 2 (Social): To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of Herefordshire residents by improving access to, provision and use of, improved public open spaces, recreation and health facilities in urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>Objective 3 (Social): To meet the needs and aspirations of all generations through the provision and/or improvement, throughout the County, of higher education, skills development and training facilities to retain young people in the County and ensure life-long learning for all generations and support the economy.</p>	<p>Objective 4 (Social): To locate development in sustainable locations where access to employment, shopping, education, health, leisure, recreation and other services are available by public transport, walking, and cycling in order to reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car, and thus lessen the trend of growing harmful impacts from traffic growth and promote active travel to improve quality of life and protect the environment.</p>	<p>Objective 5 (Social): To ensure improved accessibility and movement from rural areas to urban areas and within urban areas to key services, places of work and recreation through the better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices throughout Herefordshire, plus the provision of an outer distributor road for Hereford, in order to improve the quality of life for County residents, businesses and visitors alike.</p>
<p>Sustainability Objectives</p> <p>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</p>	<p>☺ Sufficient housing provision will need to be matched with sufficient new employment provision.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatible link between employment opportunities and provision of open spaces, recreation and health facilities in terms of developer contributions towards open space provision</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as meeting the educational needs of the population of the County will also maintain and support the provision of employment opportunities.</p>	<p>☺ This Plan Objective is seeking to locate development in sustainable locations where access to such facilities and services is available and is therefore compatible.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible, as improving accessibility and movement will benefit access to employment opportunities.</p>

	<p>X The provision of housing can only assist in the supply of a local workforce if it has no relationship with whether the supply of housing would secure a high skilled workforce.</p>	<p>and leisure facilities gained from new employment uses.</p> <p>X There is no relationship between these objectives.</p>	<p>☺ Compatible as the provision of training facilities to develop skills locally is likely to retain and provide the higher skilled workforce needed by higher value added businesses.</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between these Objectives since location of development in accessible places does not guarantee that the people living and working in these areas will have the adaptability and higher skills needed.</p>	<p>☺ The outer distributor road in Hereford could make the City a more sought after destination for business potentially attracting the higher skilled adaptable workforce they need.</p>
<p>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>☺ Housing provision is likely to contribute to the conditions needed to enable a sustainable economy by providing a boost to the building industry, further population and demand for goods and services.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatible link between these objectives as by providing good access to public open space and health facilities, new business is likely to be attracted to the County.</p>	<p>☺ Securing the provision of educational establishments to help retain younger generations and retrain or improve the skills of other generations is compatible with the maintenance of a sustainable economy.</p>	<p>☺ Provision of infrastructure, facilities and services in sustainable locations is compatible with creating the conditions needed to sustain the local economy as businesses and investors will be attracted by the accessibility around the County and between regions.</p>	<p>☺ A sustainable economy and investment is partly governed by accessibility to key services, places of work and recreation and the provision of the outer distributor road is likely to form part of the success of maintaining and enhancing conditions to enable a sustainable economy, these Objectives are therefore compatible.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>					

<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>☹️ The new supply of more housing is likely to produce additional traffic and congestion and thus more pollution and the risk of more accidents. However, new development is also likely to contribute to new cycleways and pathways encouraging physical activity.</p>	<p>☺️ Improving access to open spaces and recreational areas by public transport is compatible with the SA objective to improve health through physical activity through cycling and walking for example.</p>	<p>? It is unclear as to whether a possible conflict with the need to reduce congestion, traffic and accidents exists with the provision of training facilities to support the economy. Appropriate sustainable locations accessible mostly by sustainable modes of travel would be the ideal to reduce any conflict.</p>	<p>☺️ These Objectives are compatible since the Plan Objective is aiming to locate facilities and services in areas where most people can access them by public transport, walking or cycling, assisting in improving health, reducing traffic volumes, congestion and pollution and risk of accident.</p>	<p>☺️ This Plan Objective is seeking to provide better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices in the County including an outer distributor road and therefore these Objectives are compatible with reducing road traffic, congestion and accidents, although it is accepted that improvements may also encourage greater use of the private car.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>☺️ New housing is likely to attract developer contributions for health services, which may assist in improving geographical disparities in the County.</p>	<p>☺️ Improving access to improved open space, leisure and health facilities is compatible with reducing health disparities geographically and demographically.</p>	<p>✗ There would appear to be no clear relationship between education and health disparities.</p>	<p>☺️ This Plan Objective is aiming to improve the health of those people in sustainable locations, as they are encouraged to cycle and walk more to reach employment, shops and other services and facilities.</p>	<p>☺️ Provision of better access to key services under this Plan Objective will include health facilities and will aid reductions in health disparities geographically and demographically, potentially resulting in compatibility between these Objectives.</p>
<p>6. Improve equality of access to and</p>	<p>☺️ Housing provision may attract</p>	<p>☺️ Improving health, well-being and quality of</p>	<p>☺️ These objectives are entirely compatible</p>	<p>☺️ The plan Objective is aiming for provision of</p>	<p>☺️ Improved accessibility and</p>

<p>engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>contributions towards community facilities such as leisure and educational centres, improved access and encouraging engagement in such activities.</p>	<p>life is compatible with improving equality of access to and engagement in a range of community activities such as access to cultural and leisure facilities.</p>	<p>with one another, particularly with regards to access and engagement in educational activities.</p>	<p>these types of community activities in sustainable locations and is therefore likely to improve the accessibility to them.</p>	<p>movement to key services, places of work and recreation will assist in the equality of access to community and leisure activities and therefore these Objectives are compatible.</p>
<p>7. Sustainable Regeneration</p>	<p>☺ Housing can contribute towards urban and rural regeneration.</p>	<p>☺ Providing such facilities will contribute towards well-being and health benefits and sustainable regeneration, particularly through retention of facilities in rural areas.</p>	<p>☺ These objectives are considered compatible, as without provision of improved educational training facilities, sustainable regeneration would be unlikely.</p>	<p>☺ If sustainable locations turn out to be Hereford, the Market Towns and some larger villages it would be acceptable to say that these areas would be sustainably regenerated, however sustainable regeneration of the rural areas within Herefordshire is just as important for this County.</p>	<p>☺ Sustainable regeneration is only likely with improved accessibility and movement therefore these Objectives are compatible.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county</p>	<p>✗ Generally there is no relationship between providing housing and educational achievement.</p>	<p>☺ Academic success is compatible with the well-being and quality of life aspects of this Plan Objective.</p>	<p>☺ These objectives are entirely compatible, it would be expected that educational achievement would rise as improvement to accessibility to higher</p>	<p>✗ Although this Plan Objective is creating access to education there is no guarantee that it will raise educational achievement across the</p>	<p>? It is unclear as to whether there is a relationship between educational achievement and improved accessibility and movement around</p>

			<p>education, skills development, training and life long learning facilities were utilised.</p>	<p>County, therefore there is no relationship between these Objectives.</p>	<p>the County. Further information is needed on where the demand for access to educational facilities is apparent.</p>
<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County</p>	<p>☺ Housing provision is compatible with this SA objective as the design of new development is important in reducing crime and anti social behaviour.</p>	<p>☺ To aim to improve health, well-being and quality of life through providing access to and improvements to open space and recreation areas it's likely to be compatible with the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour as more people engage in their use.</p>	<p>? It is acknowledged that engagement in education and training is likely to lessen the risk of vulnerable people potentially committing crime.</p>	<p>✗ There does not appear to be a relationship between crime and locating development in sustainable locations.</p>	<p>✗ There is no clear relationship between the objectives to ensure improved accessibility and movement from rural areas to urban areas and within urban areas and to reduce crime.</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the County</p>	<p>☺ Providing housing of good quality and the right type and tenure for local needs is compatible with reducing poverty and social exclusion.</p>	<p>☺ Provision of and improving accessibility to open space, recreational areas and health facilities to aid well-being and quality of life is compatible with the SA Objective to reduce poverty and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.</p>	<p>☺ Engagement in educational and training facilities and skills development is compatible with reducing poverty as it has the potential to raise expectations and aspirations.</p>	<p>☺ Evidence suggests that the most deprived areas in the County are concentrated in areas of Hereford and Leominster. This Plan Objective is indirectly likely to regenerate such areas by creating access to facilities and services needed to restore the areas, reducing poverty and</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives since affordable, frequent travel choices will promote equality and social inclusion and link all areas in the County to assist in reducing poverty.</p>

<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>☺ This SA objective is entirely compatible with the Plan Objective for providing the right type and tenure of housing in sustainable locations.</p>	<p>☺ Providing health facilities and open areas is compatible with providing a pleasant environment in which to live.</p>	<p>? It is unclear what relationship there is between education and good quality affordable housing. Further information will be needed to assess this Plan Objective in relation to retention of young people and any potential compatibility with regards to provisions for first time buyers and affordable housing.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to provide development in sustainable locations and is therefore compatible with the SA Objective to provide good quality affordable housing.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to make a more pleasant environment to improve quality of life for residents, partly through the provision of the outer distributor road and better provision of public transport.</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>☺ Generally this Plan Objective is likely to conflict with this SA Objective, as any additional homes will create more waste. However, possible compatibility is achievable through mitigation measures that should ensure new development minimises the use of non-reusable</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between waste and the provision of public open space and health facilities, although such buildings may produce waste which may conflict with this SA objective.</p>	<p>☺ There could be possible conflict between provision and improvement to education facilities and reducing waste, as any new development is likely to create waste.</p>	<p>☺ Any new development, even if in sustainable locations, is likely to conflict with the need to reduce waste however, new development could incorporate the use of recyclable materials and encourage recycling through appropriate provisions to divide waste streams for end</p>	<p>☹ There is likely to be a possible conflict between these Objectives as the outer distributor road and other potential construction improvements to accessibility is likely to produce construction and demolition wastes. There is potential for the use of recycled</p>

<p>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand County biodiversity</p>	<p>materials during construction and provides facilities within the development to encourage recycling at end use.</p>	<p>☺ There is likely to be some conflict as new homes will result in some loss of biodiversity value depending on the location of any new housing, however new development may also restore, maintain or create new areas.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatible link with biodiversity and provision of open areas as these areas could be used to value, maintain, restore and expand the Counties biodiversity assisting in well-being and quality of life.</p>	<p>✗ There is no clear relationship between the objectives for education and biodiversity.</p>	<p>users.</p>	<p>materials in construction, reducing the need for non-recyclable materials and the wastes produced to be recycled.</p>
				<p>☺ In the event that sustainable locations means Hereford and the Market Towns and some appropriate larger villages in the County then areas of biodiversity around the rest of County are likely to be unaffected as a result of the concentrated focus of development. Developer contributions may assist in maintaining, expanding and restoring sites. These Objectives are therefore generally compatible.</p>	<p>? It is unclear what compatibility issues there are with improving accessibility to key services and biodiversity. Location of new accessibility and important biodiversity areas is necessary. If biodiversity rich areas are affected then potential conflict could occur.</p>	

<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</p>	<p>☺ There is possible conflict here during construction and end use; natural resources and energy will be used at both stages. However, it is possible to limit their use and integrate energy saving measures in new build to lessen the effects.</p>	<p>X There is no clear relationship between these objectives as providing access to health facilities and recreational open areas has limited effect on resource efficiency.</p>	<p>☺ The buildings constructed for education and training may cause conflict since they are likely to use energy and natural resources during their construction and end use.</p>	<p>☺ Making public transport and walking and cycling more readily accessible is compatible with this SA Objective however, development of new services and facilities such as new employment sites, shops and education buildings are all going to use natural resources and energy in their construction and during their end use, causing conflict between these Objectives. These Objectives are therefore overall neutral in their likely outcome.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are generally neutral in their outcome as improved public transport provision and accessibility could be offset by increased car use of the outer distributor road.</p>
<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>☺ Whilst new development may provide contributions to enhance and restore, areas of landscape value new development may involve the loss of areas of good landscape quality and value.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is entirely compatible with enhancing and restoring landscapes in terms of open areas.</p>	<p>X There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives for education and skills development aspirations and landscape quality.</p>	<p>☺ If sustainable locations mean Hereford, the Market Towns and some larger villages then development, with a concentrated focus for development in these locations, is unlikely to affect other more rural areas of the County</p>	<p>☺ There could be possible conflict between these Objectives as creating improved accessibility and movement between urban and rural areas might adversely affect the landscape quality of the County.</p>

<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>☹️ There is possible conflict here, as new homes will produce emissions through energy use, which will contribute to the effects of climate change unless carbon neutral design is well integrated. It may also be vulnerable to the effects of climate change if development is inappropriately located, such as within an Air Quality Management Area.</p>	<p>☺️ Any improvements to open areas is compatible with reducing the Counties vulnerability and contribution to climate change, as these green areas will absorb greenhouse gases and encourage access by walking and cycling reducing the need to travel by the private car.</p>	<p>✗ There is no direct relationship between the objectives of education aspirations and climate change.</p>	<p>protecting their landscape quality. Developer contributions in the more urban areas could contribute to restoration and enhancement schemes in other areas. These Objectives are therefore compatible.</p>	
<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being,</p>	<p>☹️ Possible conflict here as new development places extra demand on the</p>	<p>☺️ Compatible as the green open spaces will capture water and reduce rapid run off</p>	<p>✗ There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives for flood</p>	<p>☺️ The Plan Objective is seeking to reduce the need to travel by the private car by providing access to public transport, walking and cycling to reduce impacts from growth in traffic and pollution and therefore this objective is compatible with the need to reduce the Counties vulnerability and contribution to climate change.</p>	<p>☺️ Overall these Objectives are neutral in their outcome as improvements to access and movement will decrease congestion, reducing concentrated areas of pollution. However, the improvements will also have the potential to increase the use of the private car to access the key services.</p>
				<p>☺️ These Objectives are compatible as sustainable locations will be in places, which</p>	<p>☹️ Location of improvements is important as inappropriate</p>

<p>the economy and the environment</p>	<p>fluvial system of Herefordshire with sewage treatment and water supply need. The inappropriate location of new homes may also have detrimental effects in terms of increased risk of flooding on both the environment and public well-being.</p>	<p>from built up areas reducing flood risk to homes and business. Location of health facilities would need to be away from high flood areas to be compatible.</p>	<p>risk and education.</p>	<p>will endeavour to be away from flood risk areas, support well-being, the economy and protect the environment.</p>	<p>development in flood risk areas could exasperate the current flood risk issues. New improvements could incorporate flood management but have the potential to move the flooding issue from one area to another. A holistic approach to the fluvial system in the County is needed.</p>
<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>☹️ Any new development is potentially going to create pollution such as carbon emissions, dust, noise and contaminated runoff from the storage of materials such as cement and other lime containing building materials, detrimental to the natural environment, during construction phases and at end use. However, there are opportunities to build in energy efficient principles into development to</p>	<p>☺️ Generally these Objectives are compatible, however it should be acknowledged that improving access to open areas might result in more pollution generation such as littering, as well as protecting the environment through the provision of such areas to benefit well-being.</p>	<p>✗ There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives on educational and minimisation of pollution.</p>	<p>☺️ Any new development is likely to create pollution at construction and end use, however this Plan Objective is aiming to develop in sustainable locations, which might offset some of the effects through encouraging people to use public transport, walk and cycle to their destinations and protect environmental resources.</p>	<p>☹️ Overall these Objectives are neutral as the Plan Objective seeks to provide choice of movement, possibly through more sustainable modes of travel (public transport, walking and cycling). However, the improvements to infrastructure in general could also encourage people to use the private car more as the road network becomes less congested.</p>

<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>minimise the effects at after use.</p> <p>☺ Building new homes in sustainable locations, at appropriate densities will ensure that land is efficiently used and well integrated and balanced with its surroundings.</p>	<p>☺ By integrating the provision of open space and health facilities into development it is considered compatible in terms of efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<p>☺ By incorporating the provision and improvement of higher education facilities in sustainable locations for all generations it is considered compatible with ensuring integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are generally compatible as sustainable locations will be aiming to use land efficiently and will ensure integration with other areas with the provision of services.</p>	<p>☺ The integration of improved accessibility and movement, including the provision of the outer distributor road are potentially efficient uses of land, as it will assist in the freer movement of traffic around the County and Hereford, respectively. These Objectives are therefore compatible.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>☺ New homes could conflict with this objective harming the historic environment of a settlement through inappropriate development or be compatible with it through excellent design measures and sympathetic location of new buildings.</p>	<p>☺ Existing settlements may have a history and pattern of open space within their confines and therefore provision and/or access to open spaces is compatible with this SA Objective. However, care is needed to avoid any conflict that might occur with any new build for a leisure or health facility.</p>	<p>☺ There could be potential conflict between development of education and training facilities and the historic character and built quality of settlements.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral overall as both have equal compatibility and conflict potential. Sustainable locations are likely to have a built quality worthy of protection and enhancement whilst the sole focus for development in these sustainable locations might result in over development which could detract and</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are neutral overall as the outer distributor road to Hereford is likely to reduce the amount of through traffic, restoring the character of the historic City. However, these new improvements to accessibility and movement could also place pressure on the built environment for new roads, bus stops and stations, rail links</p>

<p>Conclusions and recommendations</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Plan writers identify what a sustainable location means in the Plan Objective wording. Where are these sustainable locations likely to be in the County? See recommendation for Plan Objective 4. In terms of compatibility the majority of the SA objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. Possible conflicts were highlighted with traffic, congestion and road safety; waste minimisation and the use of non-reusable materials; use of natural resources and energy; climate change; flood risk; and pollution.</p>	<p>Nearly all the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. It is therefore recommended that opportunities for enhancement are recognised early on and integrated into the Options to ensure the most is obtained from this well-being and quality of life Plan Objective. For example, excellent infrastructure to provide the links necessary to make this Plan Objective deliverable; biodiversity should be enhanced to the fullest by incorporating new wildlife areas within new provisions, such as ponds, wetlands, grasslands, bat and bird boxes and tree planting to name but a few. This could assist in climate</p>	<p>Many of the SA objectives have no relationship with the Plan Objective. However, equally there were a lot of compatible issues that could be enhanced and developed through the implementation of this Plan Objective. Such as, ensuring the facilities are appropriate to the needs of the local businesses to sustain the economy, integration of educational facilities into regeneration schemes, and ensuring equal access to all to the facilities provided assisting in lowering poverty and social exclusion. However, some conflicts were highlighted and therefore the areas of waste minimisation and</p>	<p>overshadow the existing cultural, historic heritage of an area. It is recommended that where sustainable locations are identified as "where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation and other services are available by public transport, walking, and cycling" that this be used in Plan Objective 1 to describe sustainable locations in that Objective too. It will be necessary through preferred options to identify where these sustainable locations are in Herefordshire. The Plan Objective is predominately compatible with the SA Objectives. It will be important to secure developer contributions for protecting and enhancing our areas of biodiversity to</p>	<p>etc, which could alter the appearance of the location affected. The reasonable test recommended that the Plan Objective wording be changed from "throughout Herefordshire" to "through much of Herefordshire". The Plan Objective was mostly compatible with the SA Objectives. Potential conflict was highlighted with reducing waste and minimising the use of non-reusable materials; and adverse affects on the landscape quality of the County. Construction phases of new improvements should ensure that waste is reused where possible and recycled wherever possible. Any materials used in the build should be sourced from recycled materials in the first instance. It is</p>
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	<p>change alleviation, flood risk and pollution minimisation.</p>	<p>the use of non-reusable materials; the efficient use of natural resources and energy; and the protection of the built quality of historic settlements are in need of further work to ensure this Plan Objective does not adversely affect these factors. In addition it is recommended that further information is obtained on how this Plan Objective is likely to affect traffic congestion, road safety and sustainable modes of travel in order to assess its compatibility with the SA Objective.</p>	<p>safeguard them for the future. Construction techniques should be sort that reduce carbon emissions and use natural resources more efficiently, such as energy and water. It is essential that sustainable locations mean the avoidance of developing in the functional flood plain and that significant appropriate mitigation is developed for development in flood zones with the agreement of the Environment Agency. Although it is important to focus development in the most sustainable locations it should be acknowledged that some land uses will not be appropriate in urban areas and therefore the proposed development should be sustainable not only in terms of location but also after</p>	<p>essential that biodiversity assets are mapped and used in the identification of areas to be improved for movement so that predicted impacts of this Objective (and others) can be considered further. The green infrastructure study is likely to provide the necessary information. However, Council Departments will need to continue to work together to choose appropriate locations for improvements under the Strategic Options, given the results of any study. It is important to ensure that any new improvements are located, designed and implemented sympathetically to the landscape in which they are constructed and serve. Proper workable solutions to get people to walk and cycle and</p>
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				<p>use - taking, noise, dust and other pollution emissions into consideration. It will be important to ensure that development is in keeping with its existing built environment in terms of character and density in order to enhance local distinctiveness. Conflicts are likely with the need to reduce waste and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling. There are opportunities here to lessen the conflict through appropriate design to integrate the latest green technologies into development, use recycled materials in construction and provide good facilities for end users to recycle and compost. The integration of renewable sources of energy</p>	<p>use public transport more often is needed if a reduction in the use of the private car is to be achieved. The appropriate location of new infrastructure is necessary if new improved movement around the County is to be delivered. Flood risk areas need to be avoided and if mitigation is necessary this should be implemented in terms of looking at the whole fluvial system that exists in the County as an appropriate solution. Finally, the design and integration of new improvements needs to be appropriate to the built historic environment in order not to detract or harm the existing historic character of the areas affected.</p>
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					generation would also be ideal, as would the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems, where these are appropriate.	
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Appendix B1-April 2008 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with Plan Objectives 6-10

Key:

- ☺ = Compatible
- ☹ = Possible conflict
- ☺ = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the emerging Core Strategy Objectives in terms of their reasonableness and their sustainability using the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 – See Council's Website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forwardplanning. This assessment follows the assessment under Appendix B1-Jan 2008 on the developing of the Plan Objectives, as these have evolved through consultation with the internal and external Options working groups i.e. comments related to the objectives not being locally distinctive enough; not "smart" in order to realistically enable monitoring; that generally they should also reflect what the vision was saying. Hence the vision has also been amended in line with these new objectives. It is considered they now reflect more fully the Strategic Options and the Sustainability Appraisal methodology themes of the economic, social and environmental factors.

<p>Reasonable Test</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 6: It is reasonable to have an Objective that seeks to widen the Counties employment base but it is also important to allow existing business to diversity and grow and allow traditional businesses to start.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 7: Although considered reasonable to have an Objective that seeks to enhance service centres and hence the economy it is not considered necessary to name ESG, as it draws attention away from any potential development of other economic centres around the County.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 8: It is considered reasonable to include tourism as an Objective, however it is debatable as to whether sustainable tourism is fully achievable and reference to this should therefore be reconsidered. With regards to the theme it has been associated with, it is considered that tourism brings largely economic benefit for the County and it is therefore recommended to refer to this Plan Objective as an economic theme rather than a social one.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 9: An Objective that seeks to use land efficiently, reduce the use of natural resources and integrate sustainable methods in construction is entirely reasonable. Although regard needs to be given to cost of techniques and the deliverability by developers as other planning contributions from them may be reduced in order to pay for these other requirements. It is necessary to consider adaptation to climate change and flood risk and therefore it is recommended that the wording "taken account of" is replaced with "adapted to" in both instances.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Objective 10: It is reasonable to consider the promotion, conservation and utilisation of the natural, built, historic and cultural environment of the County. However, reference to "reversing current trends" should be revised as some current trends are positive. The wording "reverse negative trends" would be more appropriate.</p>
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<p>Core Strategy Objectives</p>	<p>Objective 6 (Economic): To diversify and strengthen the existing employment base by attracting higher value added industries and environmental technologies to the County and enable local businesses to start, grow and diversify in order to raise resident incomes.</p>	<p>Objective 7 (Economic): To enhance the County's service centres and thus the economy, by implementing the Edgar Street Grid Masterplan in Hereford City, providing better linkages between the market towns and their catchment villages and improving the economic resilience and integration of village-based services.</p>	<p>Objective 8 (Social): To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by utilising the opportunities provided by, and contributing to the maintenance and restoration of, our high quality natural and built environment through increased provision of tourist accommodation in urban areas and visitor information / facilities in rural areas.</p>	<p>Objective 9 (Environmental Quality): To work with partners to deliver well designed places, spaces and buildings which use land efficiently, reduce the consumption of natural resources through sustainable construction methods, increase the use of renewable forms of energy, reduce waste and pollution and take account of the wider impacts of climate change including flood risk and take account of the availability of water supply and sewerage facilities.</p>	<p>Objective 10 (Environmental Quality): To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, reversing current trends and ensuring best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space.</p>
<p>SA Objective 1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of</p>	<p>☺ This Plan Objective is entirely compatible with providing high quality, local employment, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to provide better links between the Market Towns and other areas and will therefore support accessibility to employment opportunities to these</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is likely to maintain and enhance the provision of local and easily accessible employment opportunities through tourism and are therefore compatible.</p>	<p>☺ These objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to provide well-designed places and buildings that are likely to provide the high quality environment needed for employment opportunities.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is likely to attract business into the area through the conservation, promotion and utilisation of the built, historic and cultural assets in the</p>

<p>the local workforce</p> <p>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to attract a higher skilled workforce through attracting higher value added industries and is therefore compatible with the SA Objective.</p>	<p>service centres.</p> <p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between better links to service centres and securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce, as better linkages will encourage business and the workforce to an area to meet the demand.</p>	<p>☹ There is potential for conflict here, as the tourism industry it unlikely to require a high skilled workforce.</p>	<p>✗ There is no relationship between securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce and well designed places, spaces and buildings that incorporate the best in sustainable techniques.</p>	<p>County.</p> <p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is seeking to promote and enjoy the built, historic and cultural assets of the County and it is considered that these factors might attract a skilled workforce into the County.</p>
<p>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective aims to diversify and strengthen existing and attract new business into the County and as such is compatible with maintaining conditions needed for a sustainable economy.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible, as provision of better linkages to the service centres will enhance conditions to enable a sustainable economy.</p>	<p>☺ Utilising the County's high quality natural and built environment for developing the County's tourism industry is compatible with enabling a sustainable economy.</p>	<p>☺ It is considered that development that is built with the most sustainable practices in mind are likely to maintain and enhance conditions that enable continued investment in the economy and therefore these Objectives are compatible.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is aiming to safeguard the County's current stock of environmental capital and it is acknowledged that the County has the opportunity to benefit economically from its environmental assets, thus sustaining the economy.</p>
<p>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and</p>	<p>☹ There could be a possible conflict as businesses are attracted to the area</p>	<p>☺ Better linkages will encourage walking and cycling and provide quicker and easier</p>	<p>☹ These Objectives are likely to be neutral overall, as some tourism activities may</p>	<p>☺ It is possible that well designed places will encourage more walking and cycling and</p>	<p>☺ The Core Strategy Objective is seeking to enjoy the County's built, historic and cultural</p>

<p>accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</p>	<p>and businesses grow, more vehicles on the road could result.</p>	<p>routes for public transport reducing pollution and congestion and improving health, improving economic resilience, making these Objectives compatible.</p>	<p>improve health through walking and cycling, however additional pressure on the use of the private car for transportation to reach the areas of interest, particularly the more rural spots will conflict with reducing traffic and congestion.</p>	<p>might reduce congestion through better laid out roads, but its unknown whether reductions in traffic volumes are likely with the Plan Objectives aim. Nevertheless, the Objectives are considered to be compatible as any lack of reduction in use of the private car will be off set by the integration of renewable energy and reductions in pollution assisting improvements in health.</p>	<p>assets and this would be compatible with reducing traffic and congestion. Health might be improved as people walk and cycle utilising, enjoying and capitalising on the natural environmental assets of the County.</p>
<p>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between health and business development Objectives.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible, as the provision of better linkages will encourage more people to walk and cycle. These links may also be to places of recreational space, leisure or health facilities aiding an improvement in health disparities.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective aims to develop Herefordshire for quality leisure visits and thus this is compatible with improving health for local people and those visiting as tourists.</p>	<p>☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible as any reduction in natural resource consumption, use of renewable energy, reduction in waste and pollution are likely to improve health across the County.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility as the Core Strategy Objective is aiming to promote and enjoy the natural environmental assets of the County and this may encourage people to become healthier through activity.</p>

<p>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between business and community activities, as the businesses started and diversified in the County could be associated with culture, education, leisure etc, improving access to such facilities.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as better links will improve equality of access to cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities as these are likely to be located in the service centres.</p>	<p>☺ By developing Herefordshire as a tourist amenity it is compatible that such development will improve equality of access and engagement in community activities.</p>	<p>X There is no clear relationship between the SA Objective to improve access to community activities and the Plan Objective to deliver well designed places, spaces and buildings.</p>	<p>☺ The Objectives are compatible as the Core Strategy Objective is aiming to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County to its fullest benefit for the whole community and therefore access to community activities will be likely.</p>
<p>7. Sustainable Regeneration</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective by seeking to diversify and attract business is compatible with sustainable regeneration.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as sustainable regeneration will be achieved through the provision of the access between Market Towns and their catchment villages and integration of services centres with village based services.</p>	<p>☺ Tourism is compatible with the sustainable regeneration of the County. Tourism will bring financial benefits to the local community.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to integrate many sustainable practices in new development and therefore it is compatible with sustainable regeneration.</p>	<p>☺ It is considered that safeguarding the County's environmental capital is part of the sustainable regeneration of the County and therefore these Objectives are compatible.</p>
<p>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the County</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between raising educational achievement and attracting business to the County, as business will be attracted and</p>	<p>X There does not appear to be a relationship between educational achievement and service centres and better linkages.</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between the education and tourism objectives.</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between educational achievement and delivery of well designed places, spaces and buildings.</p>	<p>X There is no clear relationship between safeguarding the County's environmental capital and educational achievement objectives.</p>

<p>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County</p>	<p>encouraged to start, diversify and grow if the local workforce is educated to required levels.</p> <p>☺ There is a loose compatibility between reducing crime and diversifying and strengthening employment base in the County as, opportunities to gain employment may raise aspirations and reduce the amount of crime and anti social behaviour being committed.</p>	<p>✗ There does not appear to be a relationship between reducing crime and service centres and better linkages.</p>	<p>✗ There is no relationship between the crime and tourism objectives.</p>	<p>☺ There is a loose compatible relationship between reducing crime and well-designed places, spaces and buildings as it is possible to design out crime in new development.</p>	<p>☺ The Objective is aiming to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy the County's natural, built, historic and cultural assets and it is considered that this is compatible with reducing the fear of crime, crime and anti-social behaviour as it gives a sense of place and community to local people.</p>
<p>10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County</p>	<p>☺ Diversifying the business base in the County will create a greater opportunity for employment, aiding reductions in poverty and social exclusion and therefore these Objectives are generally compatible.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as, provision of better linkages is likely to close the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County by improving the economic resilience of the Market Towns and surrounding villages.</p>	<p>☺ Although it is accepted that tourism jobs are generally relatively low paid positions, it is considered that these vacancies could allow the gap between the richest and poorest areas in the County to start closing as wealth comes into the County</p>	<p>✗ There is no clear relationship between delivering well designed places, spaces and buildings and reducing poverty by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are loosely compatible as the Objective is seeking to benefit the whole community through capitalising on the County's environmental assets. By conserving, promoting, utilising and enjoying the natural, built, historic and</p>

<p>11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments</p>	<p>X There does not appear to be a relationship between housing provision and diversification of the economy.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as housing provision is likely to be most appropriately located in areas where centres are well serviced and linked.</p>	<p>X There is no relationship between provision of housing and tourism objectives.</p>	<p>☺ The Objective is aiming to deliver well-designed buildings and is therefore compatible with providing everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality housing.</p>	<p>cultural assets there might be improvements seen in social cohesion, closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.</p> <p>☺ The Objective is aiming to conserve and utilise the built and historic environment and as such is loosely compatible with providing the safe and pleasant environment needed for good quality housing.</p>
<p>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</p>	<p>☺ Attracting, diversifying and growing a business base is likely to produce waste rather than reduce it. However, an overall neutral outcome is possible as the Plan Objective also aims to attract environmental technologies into the County. These could be associated with waste composting and</p>	<p>☺ There is possible conflict between these Objectives as any development is likely to create waste. Opportunities exist with the development of better linkages to develop recycling centres and composting facilities close to the service centres where appropriate and therefore meet the</p>	<p>☺ Growth in tourism in the County is unlikely to assist in the reduction in waste and therefore a possible conflict is likely.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to reduce waste and pollution through well-designed places, spaces and buildings, integrating sustainable methods.</p>	<p>X There is no clear relationship between reducing waste and minimising the use of non-reusable materials and safeguarding the County's environmental capital from loss and damage.</p>

<p>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand County biodiversity</p>	<p>recycling schemes to assist in waste reduction to landfill.</p> <p>☺ Some of the businesses in this Objective are likely to be associated with rural areas and therefore have the potential to contribute to maintaining and expanding biodiversity. Therefore these Objectives are potentially compatible.</p>	<p>proximity principle for dealing with waste.</p> <p>☹ These Objectives have compatibility and potential conflict as improved links will maintain access to and potentially restore areas of County biodiversity supporting tourism economics, however equally the improvements themselves could cause adverse effects to biodiversity areas, creating an overall neutral outcome.</p>	<p>☺ The Counties high quality natural environment is likely to attract tourists and this plan objective is aiming to maintain and restore this, assisting in valuing, restoring and expanding biodiversity and thus the Objectives are compatible.</p>	<p>☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible, as reductions in pollution will benefit biodiversity across the County, particularly through improvements in water and diffuse air pollution.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, and (if as recommended) "reverse the negative trends" and ensure the best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space, biodiversity will be valued, maintained, restored and expanded.</p>
<p>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</p>	<p>☺ Higher value added industries might use large quantities of energy, however some of the environmental technologies may be in renewable energy production and recycling, creating a possible neutral outcome.</p>	<p>☹ These Objectives are overall neutral in their effect, as enhancement of the service centres and creation of linkages will use natural resources during construction, whilst better links will potentially aid energy efficiencies as more</p>	<p>☹ Tourism attractions, transportation and accommodation are going to require the use of natural resources and energy and hence there is likely to be possible conflict with the need for efficiency savings.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to increase the use of renewable forms of energy and reduce the consumption of natural resources.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve the natural assets of the County and in doing so will seek to use natural resources more efficiently.</p>

<p>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</p>	<p>☺ Development could have detrimental effects on landscape quality, however with developer contributions restoration and enhancement of the landscape is possible, creating a neutral overall outcome.</p>	<p>people are encouraged to use public transport and walk and cycle. ? It is unknown what the compatibility of these Objectives is as it is unclear what impacts may be placed on landscape quality from the enhancement of County service centres and provision of better linkages.</p>	<p>☺ The Counties high quality natural environment is likely to attract tourists and this plan objective is aiming to maintain and restore this, assisting in the protection and enhancement of landscape quality and thus the Objectives are compatible.</p>	<p>☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible, as well designed places, spaces and buildings will benefit landscape quality across the County.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, and (if as recommended) "reverse the negative trends" and ensure the best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space, landscape quality will be valued, protected, enhanced and restored.</p>
<p>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are neutral, as new business could equally add to the Counties contribution to climate change and provide the types of business that help in its stabilisation.</p>	<p>☺ Overall these Objectives are neutral as new development is likely to contribute to the effects of climate change and is equally likely to assist in minimising the effects as the Plan Objective to aiming to provide better links between Market</p>	<p>☺ There are likely to be possible conflicts with these Objectives as developing the County as a tourism destination is likely to result in carbon emissions from transportation and accommodation that will contribute to climate change.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to amend the wording of the Plan Objective is implemented) to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>☺ The Conservation of the County's natural environment will aid reductions in reducing the impacts of climate change and therefore these objectives are compatible.</p>

<p>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>X There is no direct relationship between flood risk and diversifying and strengthening the business base of the County.</p>	<p>Towns and catchment villages. This is likely to encourage self-sufficiency within a local area reducing climate change impacts.</p> <p>? It is unclear what the impacts on flood risk are likely to be as a result of enhancement to service centres and provision of linkages between Market Towns and catchment villages, more information is needed.</p>	<p>☹️ There could be possible conflicts with these Objectives, depending on location of development, as developing the County as a tourism destination places greater pressure for transportation and accommodation that will contribute to climate change.</p>	<p>☺️ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming (if the recommendation to amend the wording of the Plan Objective is implemented) to adapt to the impacts of climate change including flood risk.</p>	<p>☺️ The Conservation of the County's natural environment will aid reductions in reducing the effects of flooding and therefore these objectives are compatible.</p>
<p>18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>☺️ Business is likely to create pollution, however the environmental technologies also encouraged into the Counties economy, by this Plan Objective, may off set or minimise pollution creating a neutral outcome.</p>	<p>☺️ These Objectives are likely to have a neutral outcome as new development in the enhancement of service centres is likely to create pollution whilst better linkages will encourage more people to use public transport, walk and cycle reducing car use and local pollution.</p>	<p>☺️ The Plan Objective is likely to cause conflict and compatibility as tourism will create localised pollution e.g. from transportation, whilst it will also protect and enhance the environmental resources. Therefore the overall compatibility is likely to be neutral.</p>	<p>☺️ These Objectives are entirely compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to reduce pollution by reducing the consumption of natural resources through the increase in use of renewable energy and sustainable construction methods.</p>	<p>☺️ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to conserve, natural assets by safeguarding environmental capital from loss or damage. It is considered that this will contribute to minimising local pollution and protect and enhance environmental</p>

<p>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</p>	<p>☺ Diversification of the existing business base demonstrates efficient and balanced land use. Whilst new businesses are also likely to be integrated into the Counties economic centres creating compatibility between the Objectives.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the enhancement of the County's service centres and better linkages are an integrated, efficient and balanced way of using land.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to locate tourist accommodation in urban areas and visitor information/facilities in rural areas, which appears to be compatible with integrated and balanced land use.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are considered to be compatible as well designed places, spaces and buildings are likely to include the assurance of integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<p>resources. ☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve, promote and utilise the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County and as such it is considered that this will ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>
<p>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral, as the existing employment base and character of the County is likely to attract business, which may also enhance the built environment. However, as business development is strengthened, the historic environment and cultural heritage of the County could be undervalued and not sufficiently protected from over-development.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral, as the enhancement of the County's service centres will value, protect and enhance the character of the built environment, whilst over-development of the service centres or inappropriate development is likely to adversely affect the historic and cultural heritage of the County.</p>	<p>☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to maintain and restore the high quality natural and built environment of the County through tourism and thus this is compatible with valuing, protecting and enhancing the character of the historic environment and cultural heritage of our settlements.</p>	<p>☺ It is considered that sustainable construction methods will blend with the historic settlements of the County but it is accepted that design of such buildings will need to be in keeping with the existing area to ensure the protection and value of the area to ensure enhancement.</p>	<p>☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve, promote and utilise the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County and as such it is considered that this will value, protect and enhance the character of the built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>

<p>Conclusions and recommendations</p>	<p>The Objective was considered reasonable but it should be noted that existing business and local historic trends in employment should be maintained and used in starting, diversifying and growing new business. This Objective is mostly compatible with the principles of sustainable development. Only one conflict for reducing traffic, congestion and pollution was highlighted and as such efforts will be needed to ensure that reductions are achieved as this will have benefits for incoming and continued investment and growth in the County. Many of the SA Objectives had neutral compatibility with the Plan Objective and therefore it is necessary to review the aspects on reducing waste and use of non</p>	<p>The Objective was considered reasonable however it is recommended that the Objective be reworded to place more of an emphasis on how the service centres will be delivered, for example "Providing better linkages between the market towns and their catchment villages and improving the economic resilience and integration of village-based services, to enhance the County's service centres and thus the economy (e.g. in Hereford City, the implementation of the ESG project)". Reference to the Masterplan should be omitted, as this is not the Council's responsibility. In terms of sustainability most of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective. A conflict</p>	<p>The Objective is considered reasonable, however it is recommended to make reference to it being an economic theme rather than a social theme, as tourism has more to offer the Herefordshire economy than socially. Reference to sustainable tourism should be reconsidered, as strictly speaking tourism cannot be sustainable due to transport and activity pressures. Most of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective on tourism. Conflicts were highlighted with securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce; waste; use of natural resources and energy efficiency; climate change; and flood risk. Opportunities should be sort for enhancement whilst</p>	<p>This Objective is considered reasonable however, the plan writers should be aware of the possibility of lower planning contributions under Section 106 agreements being achieved as costs of development rise as a consequence of more expensive environmental friendly construction techniques. Furthermore it is recommended that the words "take account of" within the Objective be removed in both instances and replaced with "adapt to" as climate change/flood risk and availability of water supply and sewage facilities is essential for a sustainable development. Apart from the 4 SA Objectives that were predicted not to have</p>	<p>The Objective is considered reasonable, however reference to "reversing current trends" should be reworded to "reverse the negative trends" as some current trends in the County are positive. All the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective all except 2 of the SA Objectives, which were considered to have no relationship with the Objective. The compatible Objectives should be looked at in the next stages of the Core Strategy's preparation to ensure that opportunities for enhancement are written into developing the Options.</p>
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	<p>reusable materials; use of natural resources and energy; landscape quality; climate change; pollution; and the historic, cultural and built heritage of the County to ensure that any conflicts are reduced and any compatibilities are enhanced in later stages of the Plan.</p>	<p>was noted with the need to reduce waste and minimise the use of non-reusable materials; whilst more information was needed on the effects on landscape quality and flood risk. Particular consideration to biodiversity; natural resources and energy use; climate change; pollution; and the historic built heritage of the County will be necessary to ensure that the possible conflicts are reduced and the opportunities are maximised.</p>	<p>conflicts should be reduced to a minimum in developing the Core Strategy further in later stages. Likewise the predicted neutral outcomes for traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and minimisation of pollution, should be considered for their compatibility to enhance these aspects and conflicts to reduce their effects.</p>	<p>any relationship with the Plan Objective the remaining 16 SA Objectives were compatible with the Plan Objective. It is recommended that these compatibilities are enhanced and opportunities harnessed in the later stages of developing the Options and preferred Option and in developing the core policies.</p>	
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Appendix B2 – Developing Options

Herefordshire Spatial Options

Questions considered during the appraisal of the Options in the workshop:

- Are the options distinct and clear? (Reasonable)
- What are their likely adverse effects, can they be prevented, reduced, offset? (SA)
- Can positive effects be enhanced? (SA)
- Can the effects be quantified? (SA)
- Who are the winners and losers? (Community Engagement)

i.e. - How do the options perform?

Where should all the new housing, employment and other growth go?

The workshop on Developing the emerging Plan Options considered all types of growth in general terms looking at spatial planning issues that could be incorporated into each of the Options as they were developing. The group had each of the questions set out above in mind when assessing each of the emerging Options along with the following known factor.

If half of all the new homes, according to the latest Revision to West Midlands RSS, are to go to Hereford, where should the remaining half be built, given the principles of sustainable development?

Option A	Concentrate the development of new homes within the Market Towns		
The Reasonableness Test	Most at the workshop group saw this Option as reasonable. Although it was asked whether there were any villages that were on the threshold of becoming a Market Town. It was suggested that the wording be changed from 'within a Market Town' to 'in and around Market Towns'		
The Community Engagement Test	There was a feeling that there may be objections from rural areas such as the Golden Valley, as it would seem as though they will be forgotten. Rural areas may feel neglected, although parts of rural areas may not want development. Would the existing levels of infrastructure within market towns be able to cope? Some rural areas will see this as a missed opportunity. Some villages may diminish without some development.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic It was generally agreed that jobs follow housing. Although it was pointed out that Herefordshire, as largely an agricultural County, farmers generally don't commute to work, albeit they have	Social In the Market Towns, most have a Primary School, and some have a Secondary School. It was felt that development solely within the Market Towns would help with roll call for these, but it was pointed	Environmental This Option has the least impact on the environment. Although it was pointed out that there are some environmentally sensitive sites around the Market Towns.

	<p>different jobs to other sectors.</p>	<p>out that it would also have a detrimental effect on the more rural schools. It was felt that if housing was located in the more rural parts of the County, then they run the risk of being spread too far apart and will then no longer be affordable housing. Affordable housing my need to be primarily based within the Market Towns.</p>	
<p>Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability</p>	<p>Although the Option was considered to be reasonable further information was considered necessary to establish if any of the current villages were on the threshold of becoming towns, the results of the settlement hierarchy work should be taken on board when considering this point when it is available. The wording of the Option was suggested to be altered to reflect development “in and around” the Market Towns, as these are likely to be the most realistic locations of land, after brownfield, which are available for housing development. It is recommended that throughout the process of the Core Strategy all areas of the County and in particular the more remote rural areas are engaged fully in the process to allow them a feeling of ownership over what happens in their local community. Environmentally by concentrating development in the Market Towns, limited damage is likely to be made on the more sensitive habitats and species, generally but not exclusively, found in the rural areas. Serious consideration of the location of schooling is needed to ensure the right balance is struck for provision requirements in both urban and rural areas and the link with appropriate housing (including affordable). Not enough housing and schooling in the rural areas runs the risk of, unevenly spread housing creating exclusive country housing unaffordable to the majority and those most in and unsustainable commuting distances for those in rural areas to Market Town schools if rural schooling is not provided. This later point is also true for employment opportunities.</p>		

<p>Option B</p>	<p>Focus on a one or more of the Market Towns and if so, which ones?</p>
<p>The Reasonableness</p>	<p>Focussing development on only some of the Market Towns may result in others only having limited development; this</p>

Test	<p>may cause difficulties in the other towns if their needs are not met. The transport links to Ledbury, Leominster and Ross are very good. Ross and Ledbury are also situated near the Motorway. It was felt that it was reasonable to focus on Leominster due to the infrastructure and also due to good links to both Hereford and Ludlow in Shropshire. Housing needs should be taken into account, although not everyone wants to live in the same town. There are housing needs across the entire County.</p>		
The Community Engagement Test	<p>If one Market Town is left out it may be seen as a missed opportunity. Towns like Kington may have opportunities for development but don't necessarily want it, whereas Ross may want development but has environmental constraints and may cause conflicts of interest as a result.</p>		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	<p>Economic Although this may seem like it is neglecting the rest of the County, it may not necessarily be.</p>	<p>Social There are no problems with school spaces etc with this Option. Similarly to Option A, it was felt that if housing was only located in Market Towns what little housing development did occur in rural areas would likely to be wider spread and therefore by its very nature, unaffordable.</p>	<p>Environmental As Ross is located within an AONB it was considered to have significant constraints. All of the Market Towns are within Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings exist within them. It is felt that of all the Market Towns Leominster is the best Option as it has the least environmental constraints.</p>
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	<p>It was concluded that Leominster was the most reasonable town to be focussed on for new development, as it had good infrastructure links with Hereford and Ludlow in Shropshire and had the least environmental constraints. Ross was also mentioned due to its links with the M50 Motorway, however it has constraints on both its location in terms of the AONB and amount of available land due to flooding and existing development. Further evidence from the housing and employment land studies are needed before a judgement can be made on which locations would be most appropriate for significant development to reduce the possibility of missed opportunities. It should be ensured that wherever economic growth is generated in the County, it should benefit the entire Counties economic success. Local businesses supporting each other by supplying each other and providing resources and products for one another is one way of securing a self sufficient Herefordshire economy. Affordable homes would be more easily achievable in the Market Towns, however those rural areas in need would be ignored by this Option, which may result in a loss of rural communities and sense of place. Schooling issues would be minimised by this Option</p>		

	as housing growth would be nearby the schooling network, however schooling needs in rural areas would still be an issue.
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Option C	Split development of new homes between the Market Towns and larger rural settlements (yet to be defined – but similar approach to the UDP)		
The Reasonableness Test	How do you define what a larger settlement is? This Option is reasonable, but it would depend on which settlements were chosen. It is also similar to the current UDP and is felt to work well. There may be some issues with sustainability due to movement, as jobs and homes are not necessarily in the same place.		
The Community Engagement Test	Everyone would feel included, particularly rural areas. Smaller rural areas however, may feel left out, although they may prefer this. It will help find out which rural areas want development.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	<p>Economic This is the weakest Option so far. Businesses require accessible Broadband and IT, however rural areas lack adequate access to these.</p>	<p>Social This will benefit the schools, as there will be a more even spread across them. It would work well for affordable housing, although it may be spreading housing to thinly and opportunities may be missed for increased levels of affordable housing.</p>	<p>Environmental This option is considered to be ok environmentally.</p>
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	It is recommended that this Option obtain more information from the settlement hierarchy study, currently being undertaken, to inform the assessment made. With the information available at the time of the workshop this Option was considered reasonable. All communities would hopefully feel included and greater community involvement may be possible as a result. Good communication at consultation stages is vital to ensure inclusive place making with local people. Economically this Option needs to demonstrate that businesses would be able to have access to broadband and IT services, as currently a lot of rural areas lack this essential business need. The Option would benefit the schooling system. The best achievable levels of affordable housing would be needed as housing provision may be thinly and evening spread over rural and urban areas. There were no distinct environmental impacts highlighted but it was acknowledged to be ok in this respect. It is recommended that as this Option develops further consideration be given to the enhancement opportunities for the environment under this		

	Option, such as water and energy usage, household and commercial waste and sewage disposal, and habitat creation.		
Option D	Focus only on a greater number of larger rural settlements to promote services and facility retention in the rural areas, outside of the Market Towns		
The Reasonableness Test	This is considered not to be reasonable as it is felt that the rural settlements would still be dependant upon the Market Towns. Many larger villages may consider them to be Market Towns and may not take too kindly to being referred to as villages.		
The Community Engagement Test	It is thought that this Option would get more resistance than the other Options.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic	Social	Environmental
	An SA test was not carried out on this Option, as it was not found to be reasonable.		
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	As this Option was considered to be unreasonable it is recommended that the Plan writers either drop this Option or reword it more appropriately to reflect what they wanted to achieve. This may be enhancing on the aspect of services and facility accessibility in rural areas by different means. Any future Option would need to take into account the reaction that could be expected by local community engagement. A Sustainability Appraisal was not carried out on this Option, as it was not found to be reasonable. However, any new Option or significantly reworded Option will need to be assessed and reported on in the next SA Report.		

Option E	Focus on a new settlement		
The Reasonableness Test	A new settlement would be against the current West Midlands RSS profile for the County. The economic profile of the County relies on tourism and this Option may not support this vision.		
The Community Engagement Test	There are not many sites around Herefordshire to choose from. As the idea is to build a completely new settlement, there isn't any community to ask, although surrounding communities may not like it. This Option focuses development in one location and therefore those residences that are against development in their area would probably like this Option.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic	Social	Environmental
	It would dilute economic efforts elsewhere, but again it would depend on where the settlement was to be located.	With regards to schools, a new settlement could be a help, or a hindrance. A new settlement would have to be rather large before it could have its own school. There	This Option has enormous potential, by concentrating all development in one area of the County rather than spreading it around damaging smaller pockets of

	<p>would be no issues surrounding affordable housing as the provision could be entirely integrated into the new settlement. However, being provided in one location and not spread around the County may lead to a clustering effect and historically this has created social issues such as anti social behaviour. A good mix of housing type and tenure is needed. Requirements in other areas of the County would not be fulfilled under this Option.</p>	<p>habitat/species over a much wider area. A new settlement would therefore create the potential to create a nature reserve as mitigation for land take. There is also potential to be innovative with water supply, waste and construction techniques, although not exclusively.</p>
<p>Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability</p>	<p>It was debatable at the workshop as to whether this Option was reasonable, as it was going against the current West Midlands RSS. However, it was considered sensible to include this Option, as it was uncertain at the time of the workshop what would happen at the regional level with regards to the central government review of the housing figures for the West Midlands. The group considered that by including this Option flexibility and transparency was being worked into the development of the Options at this early stage of the production of the Herefordshire Core Strategy, and hence was considered a reasonable Option. It is recommended that once a shortlist of sites is found, through the evidence gathering process, that extensive community engagement it undertaken to ensure full community participation to obtain views and work with them on choosing the most appropriate location. This should aid a reduction in the amount of objections to this Option as ownership is given to the local community (communities), which may be affected by any potential new settlement. Economically the Option may dilute efforts for business elsewhere in the County and therefore the need for good business and infrastructure links between any new potential settlement and existing employment and retail centres will be vital for the Counties sustainable economic growth. Although a new school could be created in a new settlement it is not necessarily a given as there is no guarantee that the new homes and businesses will attract sufficient children to the area to fund the building of a new school. This would therefore lead to unsustainable commuting issues. Although the entire need for affordable</p>	

	<p>housing may be possible in any newly created settlement regard will have to be given to historic patterns of anti social behaviour and deprived areas created by ineffective social cohesion due to a lack of appropriate mix and tenure of properties. Avoidance of social isolation and a lack of even wealth distribution is needed. Consideration for affordable housing need, in other areas of the County, will also need to be planned for. The environmental benefits are clear and should be enhanced to the full.</p>
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Option F	Focus on a expanded settlement		
The Reasonableness Test	Depends on which settlement is identified. There tends to be pressure in attractive settlements such as Weobley and Pembridge to expand.		
The Community Engagement Test	The residents of the settlement may not like the idea.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	<p>Economic Similarly to Option E, it would dilute economic efforts elsewhere, but again it would depend on where the settlement was.</p>	<p>Social Schools situation similar to Option E, an expanded settlement could help, or be a hindrance. The newly expanded settlement would have to be rather large before it could have its own school. Similarly, there are concerns that affordable housing wont be able to meet the needs of the whole County if this Option was to be selected.</p>	<p>Environmental If it is the right location and can have minimum impact it could make a major contribution to safeguarding and creating natural environments.</p>
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	This Option is similar to Option E as it is seeking to solely expand upon one existing settlement. This could create similar issues on the economy by diluting efforts elsewhere in the County and therefore links between any expanded settlement for business would need to be established to ensure property for the whole County; housing would need to consider social impacts of type and tenure located in the expanded settlement; and environmental benefits should be maximised as much as possible. The description in Option E's conclusions and recommendations should be referred to.		

Outcomes of Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability

The workshop group identified some of the issues to be cross cutting for all Options, these were climate change and environmental protection and enhancement. These are critical for a sustainable spatial strategy and fundamental to all of the identified Options. Option C reflects the extent to which new development could be used to enhance existing or provide new environmental assets.

As the above Initial Options were a first draft used for the PAS workshop and focussed mainly on patterns of general growth for developing the options further, it is acknowledged that the approach was not specific enough in aiding development of place shaping policy options and did not integrate fully with the Initial Objectives as they were in January 2008. Therefore, the outcomes of each Option, as set out above, have not got individual outcomes. Instead the comments and recommendations made above have all been used in the development of the emerging Strategic Spatial Options, which now appear in the Draft Developing Options Paper. There are now four emerging Strategic Options that have been developed as at April 2008, these are:

- A The desire to promote Herefordshire's economy with an eastern focus for development (an Economic Option);
- B The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation with a dispersed focus for development (a Social Option);
- C The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets with a concentrated focus of development; or
- D A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.

Comments from the external working party have also been integrated into the development of the emerging options and have now also been tested in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability and the results, recommendations and conclusions can be viewed in Appendix B3, predicting the effects. A summary of the Habitat Regulation Assessment, which is set out in a separate document attached to this SA Report is also included in Appendix B3.

Appendix B3 – Predicting the Effects

Herefordshire Spatial Options

Questions to consider:

- Are the options distinct and clear?
- What are their likely adverse effects? (Can they be prevented, reduced, offset?)
- Can positive effects be enhanced?
- Can the effects be quantified?
- Who are the winners and losers?

i.e. - How do the options perform?

Key

- ☺ = Moving towards sustainability
 ☹ = Moving away from sustainability
 😐 = Neutral

Strategic Options

Option A	The desire to promote Herefordshire’s economy (an economic option) with an eastern focus for development		
The Reasonableness Test	An economic focus for Herefordshire is reasonable considering the requirements from the RSS and the prospect that it would assist in the Counties growth up to 2026.		
The Community Engagement Test	Rural residents, particularly those in the western areas of the County, may see this Option as focussing growth in the market towns and larger settlements and feel that if growth was needed in their community and could be accommodated, that it would not be planned for under this Option.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic The road and rail network within the east of the County provides a sustainable area for economic growth to be achieved, however it is uncertain as to whether these areas will continue to be significant employment centres, as recent take up has been slow. Under used areas of land ideal for employment	Social Economic growth may help in keeping younger people in the County as more employment opportunities arise. Mixed-use developments and general growth in these areas would provide for new housing, community facilities and infrastructure. Existing smaller settlements in this	Environmental Focussed growth in employment centres would assist in reducing traffic congestion, pollution and aid sustainable modes of travel. Existing settlements in the east have little surplus brownfield land and new growth places pressure on valued landscapes potentially resulting in possible loss.

	<p>use are likely to be promoted and developed for this purpose under this Option. Although the Option focuses economic growth in the east of the County, it is possible that growth achieved here could be spread to the rural west benefiting these more isolated areas too. Generally - 😊</p>	<p>eastern arch have few community facilities and even with additional growth may still require the private car to access schools, shops and leisure facilities. This eastern arch of the County is most easily accessible by the rest of the region and growth in this area may create a sub regional housing market providing commuting opportunities, presenting both benefits and constraints. Overall - 😊</p>	<p>Many existing urban areas have high quality historic areas and excessive growth could damage the character of these locations. Overall - 😞</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>	<p>Overall this Option was considered to be moving towards sustainability. Economic sustainability is to some extent reliant upon securing the business interest in the area, it is therefore recommended that plan writers liaise closely with relevant council departments and private companies. It is also advised that measures are taken to ensure that under this Option the rural west don't become deprived and do benefit from the wealth created in the eastern arch as proposed. It is recommended that the mixed use developments are maximised in this Option to ensure integrated sustainable land use. Integrated public transport will be essential if movement between proposed growth areas and the rest of the County is to be successfully achieved. Integrated green spaces providing walkways and cyclepaths will aid the success of reductions in car use and cleaner air and less congestion and therefore good design is essential in any growth areas. It is recommended that countryside is assessed in terms of its landscape value and the least environmentally beneficial areas be developed first. Likewise an assessment of the historic nature of the area will also be important in setting thresholds for appropriate development and design requirements.</p>		

<p>Option B</p>	<p>The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation (a social option) with a dispersed focus for development</p>
<p>The</p>	<p>To have an Option that focuses on regeneration and in</p>

Reasonableness Test	particular in more deprived areas of the County is reasonable. Their successful renewal will hope to provide good housing and employment opportunities with associated infrastructure and facilities.		
The Community Engagement Test	There could be mixed responses as it may be seen that only those deprived areas are benefiting from new growth and those areas not deemed to be deprived but in need of housing and investment and better infrastructure links and more community facilities may be forgotten.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	<p>Economic</p> <p>Regeneration projects generally do attract investment into an area. However, this option would not be based upon responding to market demand but rather would focus development potentially in areas where the economy has traditionally been weaker which may mean delivery is more uncertain.</p> <p>Overall - ☹️</p>	<p>Social</p> <p>Levels of growth appropriate to the size, character and environmental constraints in other market towns and settlements deemed to be sustainable could contribute to the needs of the whole County. The growth proposed would likely provide contributions from developers; this should ensure adequate community services and facilities reducing social exclusion. However, if costs of development increase developers are unlikely to have the finances to contribute more significantly to community facilities and infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Generally - 😊</p>	<p>Environmental</p> <p>By providing and enhancing employment opportunities and services centrally in Hereford and Leominster and under sub-option (iii) in Ledbury and Colwall it is predicted that a reduction in local car usage in these growth areas may be possible. However, other areas such as more rural hinterlands potentially less well served may still require dependency on the private car. New growth has the potential to provide a well-integrated public transport, which may assist further in lowering car usage. Existing settlements in the east have little surplus brownfield land and new growth places pressure on valued landscapes potentially resulting in possible loss. Many existing</p>

			<p>urban areas have high quality historic areas and excessive growth could damage the character of these locations.</p> <p>Development of the rail network under sub-option iii would likely bring benefits for movement around the County and possible congestion and pollution alleviation.</p> <p>However, it is uncertain as to how much growth could be expected and therefore unknown if the network could cope with increases in capacity without significant investment. Any improvements may also encourage outward movement of people seeking employment.</p> <p>Marginally - 😞</p>
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Conclusions and Recommendations	<p>Overall this Option is moving towards sustainability. Maximisation of investment opportunities is needed if regeneration projects are to bring economic benefits into the County. It is recommended that it is made clear by plan writers what they mean by a sustainable settlement in the Option. Any growth proposed under this Option should be appropriate to the locality by means of scale and design ensuring the built and landscape character is not adversely affected. Mixed-use developments may allow community facilities and infrastructure to be incorporated more easily within a scheme and reduce the possibility of services and facilities not being provided due to excess developer costs. Excellent public transport, rail and bus links as well as well designed green infrastructure routes for safe cycling and walking will be essential here if this eastern arch of new growth proposed is to be successful for the whole County. Research is therefore likely to be needed to establish capacities of the existing rail network and if necessary, through modelling, what investment may be needed and how to deliver this through development proposals. It is recommended that countryside is assessed in terms of its landscape value and the least environmentally beneficial areas be developed first. Any new development would have to avoid detrimental effects and respect the surrounding historic heritage.</p>
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Option C	The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets (an environmental option) with a concentrated focus of development		
The Reasonableness Test	It is considered reasonable to develop new growth in such a way as to protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinctive environment and in doing so focus, what is likely to be concentrated development, in existing urban areas and places with limited environmental value.		
The Community Engagement Test	The community may not fully understand what locations would be targeted under this Option aside from Hereford and the Market Towns mentioned in the Options background description. Rural communities may see this Option as not addressing the issues in their area. The environment may be protected but where are the jobs, facilities and services needed for everyone going to be located?		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	<p>Economic</p> <p>Enhancement of the environmental character of the County may well have good knock on effects for business investment into the proposed growth</p>	<p>Social</p> <p>Well being and quality of life are often determined by your surroundings, with improvements to environmental assets, including access for urban</p>	<p>Environmental</p> <p>New development built with good environmental practice and enhancement in mind will generally make this Option environmentally beneficial.</p>

	<p>areas and beyond. Tourism is already an important economic source for Herefordshire through its environmental assets and appropriate improvements would allow these areas to thrive under new growth. Climate change adaption may enable new business investment into the County to promote, manage and enable new schemes. The Option has a concentrated focus and as such may not deliver economic benefits to the whole County where need may exist, such as in rural communities for farm diversification schemes or small scale industry.</p> <p>Overall - 😊</p>	<p>areas to such sites, social, mental and physical well being are likely to improve as a result. The Option for new growth is generally for focussed concentrated development and although these areas will benefit from improved community facilities, services and infrastructure, new growth opportunities for settlements outside this Option may be minimal.</p> <p>Overall - 😊</p>	<p>However, levels of growth expected will still result in a loss of countryside in Herefordshire. By capitalising on the County's environmental assets, in terms of providing connections to such areas, increases in pressures from visitors may potentially adversely affect habitats and species from trampling and disturbance in these important areas. Visitor management in these areas will therefore be important. Climate change should be viewed not only with regards to its negative outcomes but seen as a real opportunity to create change and adaptation to be ready for the climate expected in the future, ranging from materials used in building, water storage techniques, renewable energy supplies and self sufficiency and crop variations, for example there may be potential for increased grape growing for wine production. Placing new built development away from identified flood risk areas will</p>
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			<p>enable the natural system to deal with flood events more successfully.</p> <p>A concentrated focus for new growth may not reduce car use for those living in more rural areas due to the resulting location of services and facilities under this Option.</p> <p>Generally - 😊</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>	<p>This Option proved to be moving towards sustainability on the economic front, neutral on the social side and moving away from sustainability marginally for the environmental theme. However, the Environmental Option should be seen as an opportunity to harness investment into green technologies in the County by using its green credentials as a selling tool. Likewise these assets should be maximised for responsible tourism growth in the County potentially bringing significant amounts of wealth into the County. Adaptation to climate change should be considered and phased implementation started now so that by the time significant changes in our climate, as research suggests, are evident in Herefordshire we have planned and developed technologies to cope with it, harnessing its opportunities, growing crop alternatives, for example and preparing for the harsher reality of additional flood and storm events by incorporating excellent well protected built environments. The Option should also ensure that appropriate growth outside of the concentrated areas is not banished completely but controlled by policy to allow appropriate development where demand proves viability and conforms to the principles of sustainable development. Infrastructure is key to ensuring that the new growth areas are sustainably connected to the other settlements not highlighted as benefiting from the improved community facilities and services under this Option. The centralised approach may result in more private car usage to access these facilities if good networks are not provided. It is recommended that the Plan writers identify the areas in the County with limited environmental value (likely through the green infrastructure study) and explain what this means. This Option has the most opportunity to harness all that is green; enhancing and providing green spaces important for nature conservation; developing the latest green initiatives; and development of County self sufficiency, eco homes and eco villages, truly enabling a sustainable County. Maximising these opportunities in this Option is therefore vital.</p>		

<p>Option D</p>	<p>A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C above, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.</p>		
<p>The Reasonableness Test</p>	<p>It is considered reasonable to consider, at this early stage, the Option for a new or expanded settlement due to the uncertainties with the phase two revision of the RSS. This approach should enable an element of flexibility to be worked into the Options.</p>		
<p>The Community Engagement Test</p>	<p>Those communities that do not want growth in their area will likely support such an option. Those communities struggling to keep local shops and schools open and would welcome growth, particularly affordable housing, would object to such an option just focussing on one area of the County as they would feel they were missing out on potential opportunities to keep their local community alive.</p>		
<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Test</p>	<p>Economic A new settlement may attract people to live in Herefordshire and therefore bring new skills and investment for jobs and business. Provision and frequency of bus and rail services would need to be provided and increased in order to connect any new settlement with Hereford and the Market Towns benefiting the economy as people move more freely for work and leisure. A new settlement could compete with existing larger settlements in the County and potentially have an adverse impact upon their roles and levels of service provision. Generally - 😊</p>	<p>Social A new settlement could make a considerable contribution to the provision of affordable housing in the County. However, affordable housing need in other areas of the County would not be met, and it would be unrealistic to expect all those in need of affordable housing across the County to locate to a specified new settlement. Any new settlement would have a centre incorporated into it providing shops, health care facilities and community buildings, which would be provided for with developer contributions. However, other</p>	<p>Environmental A new settlement concentrated in one locality would reduce the negative environmental effects of wider spread development, such as loss of habitat and general countryside across the whole County. A new settlement would also enable developer contributions to be used effectively incorporating the latest sustainable technology and necessary infrastructure. Existing infrastructure would also benefit, as the strain at other settlements with existing development commitments would be relieved from additional growth. Existing settlements in</p>

		<p>existing settlements would have minimal opportunities of obtaining community facilities and infrastructure improvements from development. Generally - 😊</p>	<p>Herefordshire have great historic heritage and a new settlement would allow these existing areas to be protected from new development. A new settlement has the great advantage of being able to integrate a renewable energy scheme on site effectively making it a low carbon development. With sustainable construction techniques used the settlement could in fact become an eco village. However, development of this scale may not be delivered within the Plan period. In the localised area chosen for such a development there would be significant visual change. Those residents living in the rest of the County would benefit least from the reductions in the need to travel. Overall - 😊</p>
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<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p>	<p>This Option is generally moving towards sustainability. However, further work is needed to establish what the effects of a new settlement would have on the Herefordshire economy. Investment in one location may prove not to be as economically viable as spreading the investment across the whole County. A neutral outcome is likely as benefits from the new settlement are outweighed by the lack of provisions in the rest of the County. An appropriate balance would be needed with this Option to ensure that other areas of the County in need of affordable housing and community facilities are given the opportunity to achieve their needs. Clustered affordable housing without an appropriate mix may result in social issues of anti social behaviour and crime as living conditions over a period of time become as such to raise these risks. Good design is essential to reduce such factors. This option appears to provide the best opportunity to protect the environment of the whole County. Any environmental scheme used, whether it be a renewable energy scheme to power the new settlement, sustainable urban drainage systems to control flooding, diffuse pollution and water use, or an ecological build to produce a low carbon footprint development, the success of such a development is totally reliant on implementation and this needs to be clearly thought out and appropriate before any development starts to ensure the benefits would be delivered and any negative issues overcome. Well incorporated infrastructure will also be essential to deliver such a scheme. Although concentrating significant new growth in a new settlement could help reduce pressure and therefore, protect the Counties historic heritage, consideration could be given to creating the heritage of the future with this Option. Radical ideas for eco settlements should be explored, these could be the historic heritage of the future.</p>
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Appendix i - Compliance with the SEA Directive

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
SEA Directive	Core Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear 	Sections 2.0 and 3.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives are considered in developing indicators and targets 	Section 4.5, 4.6. International and EC objectives and targets are identified in Appendix A1 and A2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate 	Section 4.7 and Appendix A3 details the relevant objectives, indicators and targets identified at this stage and for later SA stages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained 	Section 4.1 and 4.2 and Appendix A1
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report 	Consultation with various organisations including the statutory consultation bodies has been carried out. This will be ongoing as the appraisal process continues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The appraisal focuses on significant issues 	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in section 4.5 and 4.6 and table 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed, assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit 	These are made clear throughout the report where appropriate and in section 10.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration 	These are made clear throughout the general scoping report, June 2007 where appropriate
Baseline Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relevant aspects of current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described 	See the general scoping report, June 2007 Section 4 and Appendix A2 and Appendix A2 of this report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable. 	See the general scoping report, June 2007 Section 4, 5 and A2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficulties such as deficiencies in method or information are explained. 	These are made clear throughout the report, particularly Sections 10.0 and 11.0.

STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County wide.

Purpose

To receive and agree for publication and further technical assessment, the emerging findings of an initial study of land with potential for housing development within Herefordshire.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT the initial mapped survey findings of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in respect of Hereford and the market towns be approved as a basis for further technical work in support of the Local Development Framework, with publication of initial survey findings being carried out alongside the Core Strategy options consultation.

Reasons

To ensure that emerging evidence base work is publicly available to support the Core Strategy options consultation.

Considerations

1. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is a study of the potential availability of land for future housing development within Herefordshire for the period up to 2026. The requirement to produce such an assessment is contained within PPS3 Housing with accompanying practice guidance (July 2007). Its purpose is to demonstrate that the future housing requirement identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) can be fulfilled.
2. The study is a key component of the Local Development Framework's evidence base and contributes to the preparation of the Core Strategy. The study's initial report will be made available as a background paper for the Core Strategy options, which are proposed to be published for consultation in June. It will help to establish whether the Core Strategy options for possible broad directions of growth are feasible by indicating whether sufficient land is potentially available to achieve the levels of growth suggested. The assessment will also inform the Hereford Action Area Plan

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Chris Botwright, Team Leader: Local Planning on 01432 260133

and any other development plan documents. Land identified will contribute to overall RSS requirements including those for affordable housing.

3. The technical information contained within the assessment will therefore inform policy. However it is important to emphasise that the identification of any site does not indicate that it will successfully obtain planning permission or will be allocated for housing development. Consequently it is also important to note that not all the sites identified will be either necessary or acceptable. It is not the role of the study to make final judgements about individual sites.
4. Finally, it needs to be noted that the assessment is currently being undertaken with the knowledge that the housing figures proposed in the current review of the Regional Spatial Strategy have been challenged by the Government as being too low. Any addition to the future housing provision for Herefordshire will need to be considered further within the context of the Core Strategy and consequently this assessment.
5. In accordance with the practice guidance and as agreed with stakeholders, a Methodology Statement sets out the context and the scope of the assessment. For Herefordshire, the study is to cover Hereford, the five market towns and the main villages/smaller settlements as identified within the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan. These represent the areas where the vast majority of housing development is expected to be focussed.
6. The assessment is not yet complete. The initial study has considered land in/around Hereford and the market towns where plans have been compiled and these are attached. These will also be on display at Cabinet. The initial report will include plans of each settlement and all land assessed along with a more detailed schedule of the potential of each site for future housing development. This will set out a site description and known constraints. All land assessed within the initial report will then be the subject of a further technical assessment.
7. Assessments of land in the rural areas are to be completed. As the Core Strategy moves towards its preferred option stage the assessment will provide similar information for the rural areas.
8. A two fold process is being followed:
 - a. completions and commitments. The RSS/Core Strategy plan period is 2006 – 2026. Data from the 2006/7 Housing Land Study establishes that as at 2007 around 4,900 houses were either completed or committed and could therefore be deducted from the RSS requirement of 16,600. Based upon the RSS preferred option this has left a residual amount of around 11,700 dwellings to be found for the period up to 2026 with sites for around 6200 dwellings being required within Hereford, and the remainder of 5500 being sought in the market towns and the rural areas.
 - b. comprehensive site surveys. Given the above, then potential sites need to be identified which are reasonable candidates to enable a delivery of housing sites to meet the residual 11,700 dwellings and so demonstrate a potential supply of housing land. This will initially identify more land for consideration than is necessary to meet the residual amount. This acknowledges and allows for some sites being eliminated as a result of the technical assessment and ultimately to enable an eventual choice to be made through the plan making process.

9. Desk top site identification, together with a request for sites to be made known to the local planning authority in 2007, has led to comprehensive site surveys within Hereford and the market towns and settlements in the rural areas. Most sites around settlement boundaries have been assessed as well as any remaining potential sites within the settlement itself.
10. When surveying, information was sought to establish whether sites were developable and deliverable. To be considered developable a site should be in a suitable location for housing development and available at the appropriate time. To be considered deliverable a site should be:
 - Available – the site is available now.
 - Suitable – the site offers a suitable location for development and would contribute to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities.
 - Achievable – there is a reasonable prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within 5 years and beyond within the timescale of the Plan ie by 2026.
11. The initial assessment has categorised land and sites as either land with no potential, land with significant constraints or land with minor constraints. All previous Unitary Development Plan urban capacity sites have been included and reviewed, which took account of many brownfield opportunities. Notwithstanding this, the study has also identified large amounts of greenfield land that could offer an urban /settlement extension. Most of these sites are with significant inherent constraints. Further examination is likely to rule out some or parts of these sites.

Conclusions

12. The SHLAA is an important part of the emerging evidence base for the LDF. Overall, the work will provide an early indication of possible housing land and broad locations of growth to support the options stage of the Core Strategy, which is proposed to be published for consultation purposes in June.
13. Identified sites within Hereford and the market towns will be subject to a technical consultation in early summer to further assess their suitability for development and to identify any mitigation measures where necessary and appropriate. As previously stated this will likely result in currently identified sites being deleted from the assessment. In addition all remaining sites will also be subject to a viability assessment.
14. It is proposed, subject to Cabinet approval of the overall approach, to compile an initial technical report to provide further information for the sites identified on the attached maps, in particular in respect of factual information on constraints. This report will be subject to the approval of the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing) prior to publication. As the study progresses additional sites may become available and so the initial report will not be definitive.
15. Alongside this, further work will also be undertaken in the rural areas where identified sites will also be subject to the same assessment. Site details for the rural areas will be made available as the Core Strategy moves towards its preferred options stage.

Financial implications

Costs of undertaking the assessment as part of evidence base work required for the Local Development Framework (LDF) is being met from approved budgets.

Risk Management

Preparation of the Local Development Framework is a statutory requirement. The various risk factors to successfully completing the preparation of the SHLAA are the availability of staff resource and funding.

Alternative Options

The preparation of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment is a required part of the Local Development Framework and a key part of the evidence base.

Consultees

Local members have been consulted on the emerging SHLAA findings for Hereford and the market towns in a series of six member briefings in April and May 2008.

Planning Committee 23rd May.

Appendices

Survey maps for Hereford and the market towns as follows:

Appendix 1 – Bromyard

Appendix 2 – Kington

Appendix 3 – Ledbury

Appendix 4 – Leominster

Appendix 5 – Ross – On- Wye

Appendix 6 – Hereford

Please note that the maps will appear in the Cabinet agenda in black and white print. However, colour copies will be available at the Cabinet meeting.

Background Papers

None.

STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Maps referred to in this report will be forwarded separately to the Cabinet Agenda

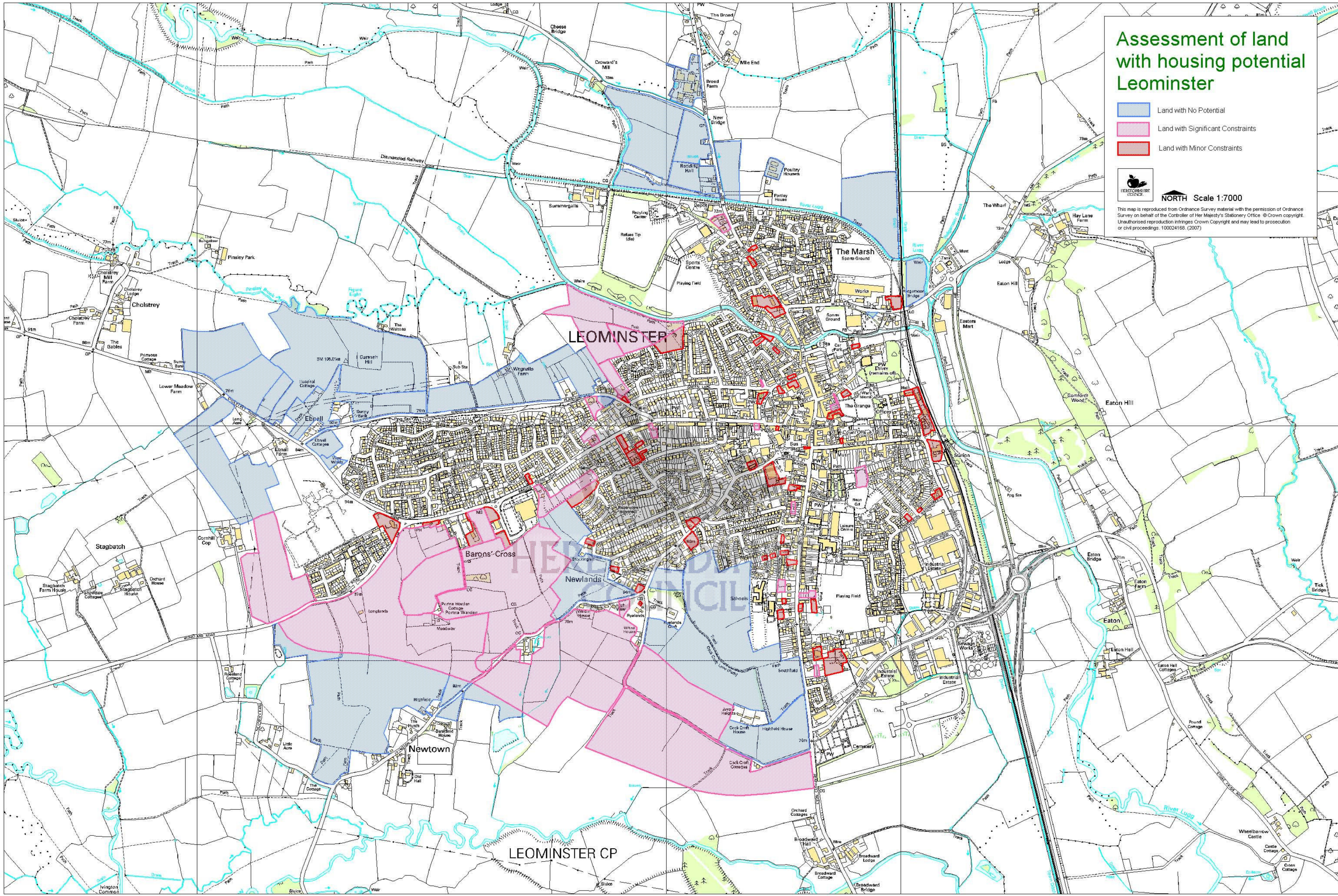
Assessment of land with housing potential Leominster

- Land with No Potential
- Land with Significant Constraints
- Land with Minor Constraints



NORTH Scale 1:7000

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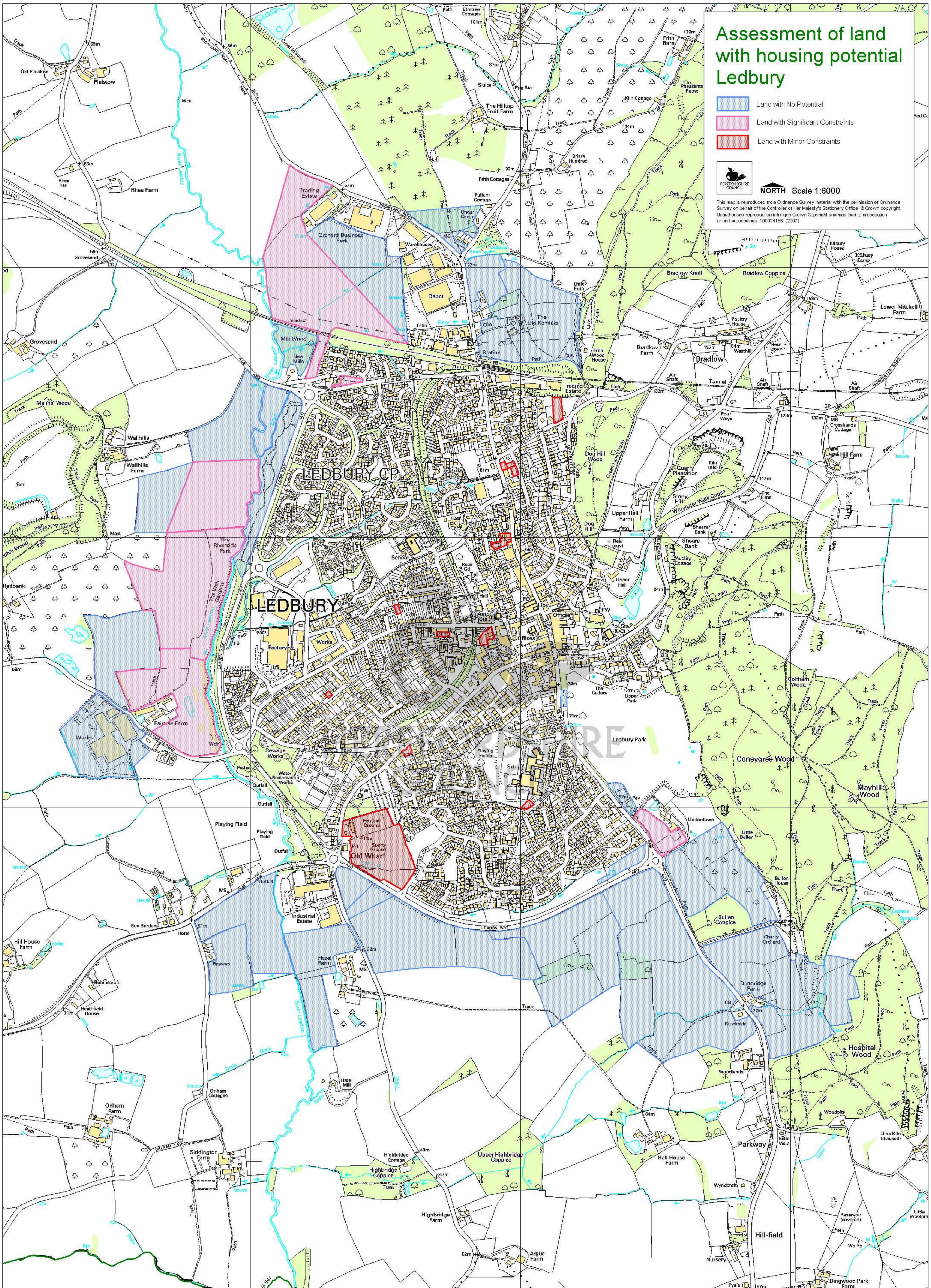
Assessment of land with housing potential Ledbury

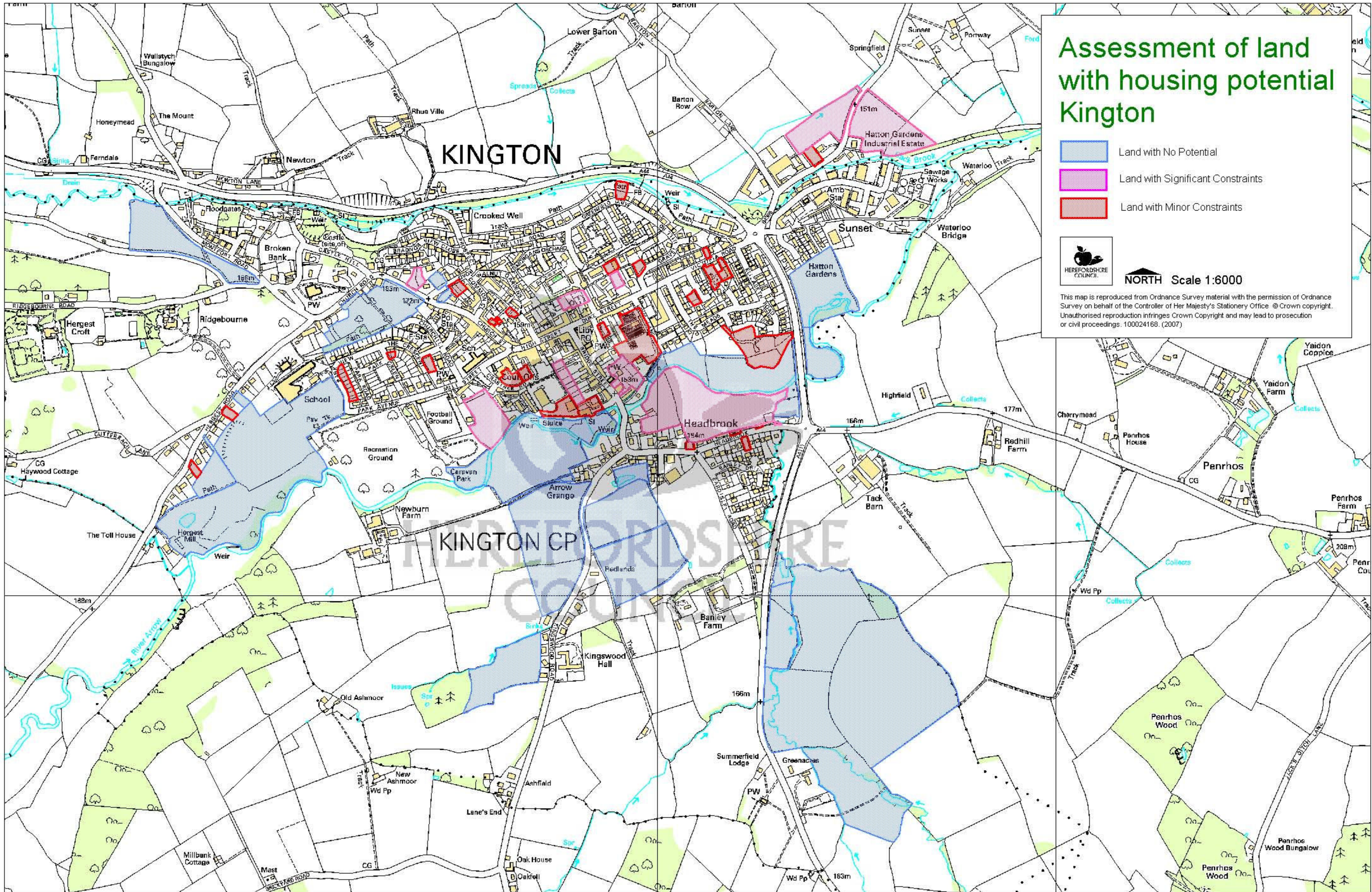
- Land with No Potential
- Land with Significant Constraints
- Land with Minor Constraints



NORTH Scale 1:6000

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Assessment of land with housing potential Kington

- Land with No Potential
- Land with Significant Constraints
- Land with Minor Constraints

NORTH Scale 1:6000

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KINGTON

KINGTON CP

HEREFORDSHIRE
 COUNCIL

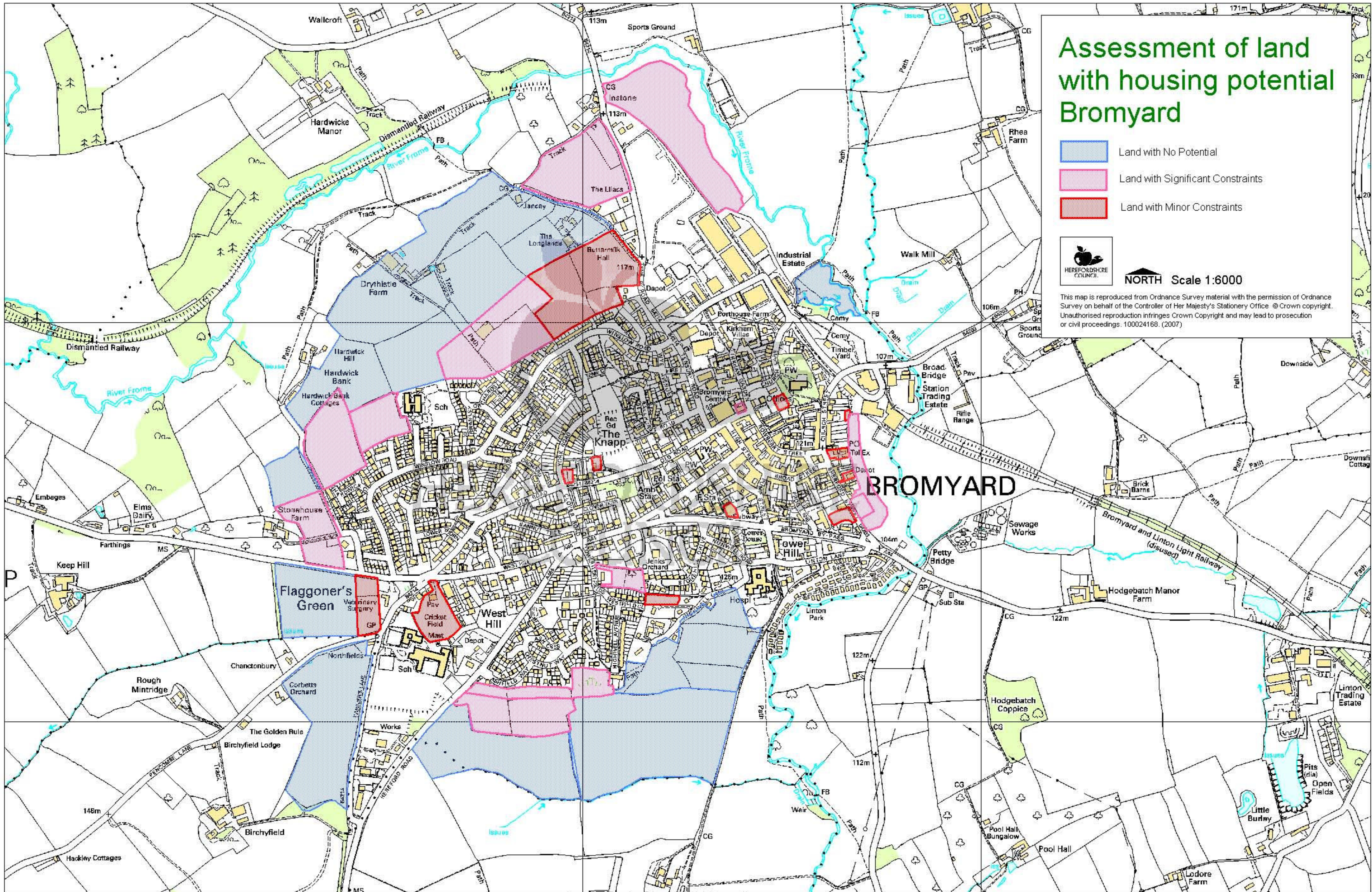
Assessment of land with housing potential Bromyard

- Land with No Potential
- Land with Significant Constraints
- Land with Minor Constraints



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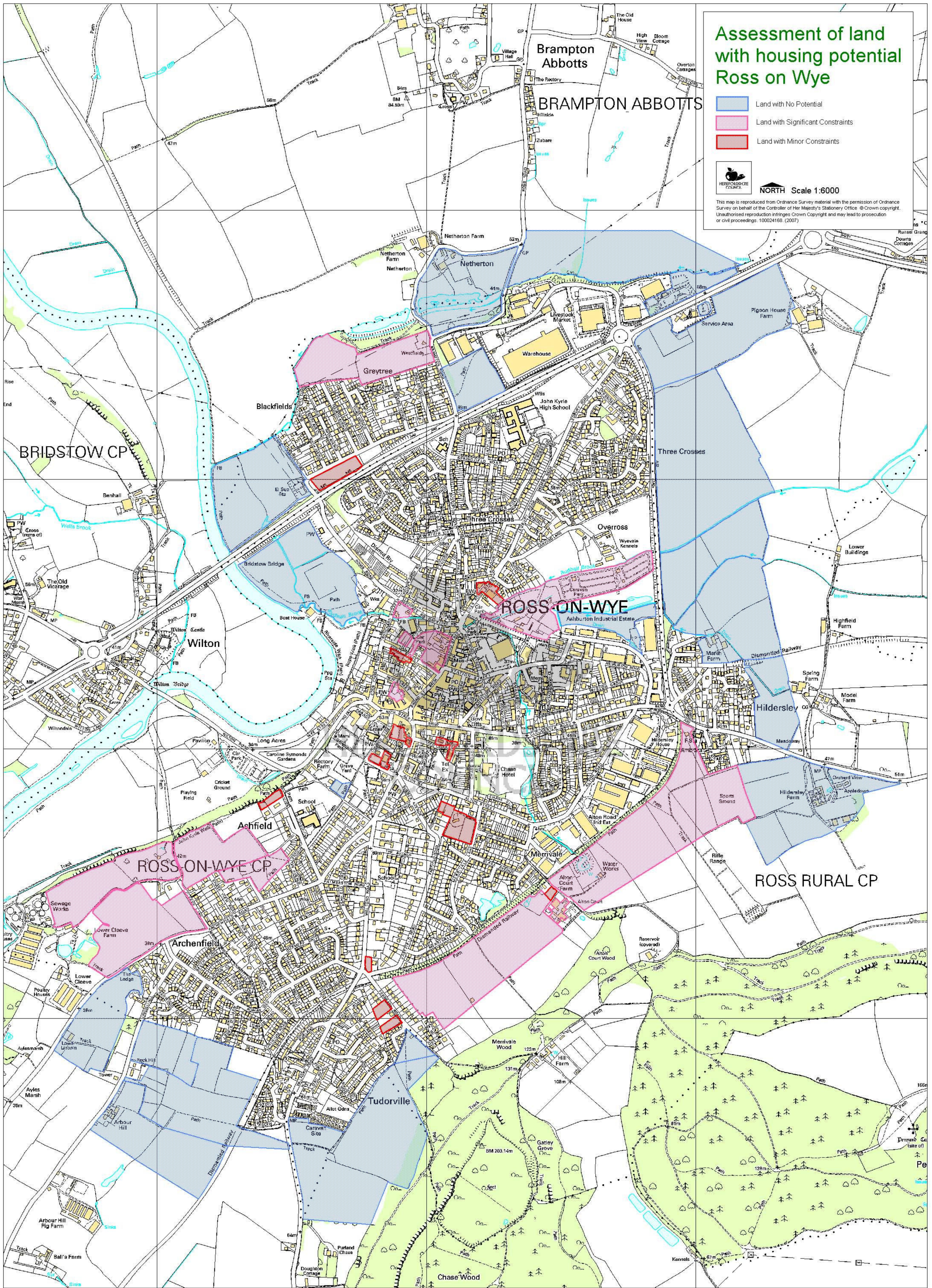
Assessment of land with housing potential Ross on Wye

- Land with No Potential
- Land with Significant Constraints
- Land with Minor Constraints



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Highway Network Management Plan 2008 to 2017

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To adopt the Highways Network Management Plan 2008 to 2017 as Council policy.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included in the Forward Plan.

Recommendation(s)

THAT the Highway Network Management Plan be adopted as Council policy.

Reasons

In adopting the Highway Network Management Plan, Herefordshire Council will be better able to demonstrate and evidence that the Network Management Duty, imposed by the Traffic Management Act 2004 is being fulfilled as part of the Council's overall transport strategy.

Considerations

1. The Traffic Management Act 2004 was introduced to augment existing powers under which local authorities maintain, improve and manage the highway network. It is intended to provide the basis for better conditions for all road users through proactive management and control of the road network.
2. The Act imposes a major new duty on Local Authorities, the Network Management Duty. This Duty requires that, so far as it is reasonably practical, all traffic on the authority's road network and neighbouring networks should be kept moving.
3. The Traffic Management Act enables intervention by the Secretary of State should the authority be seen to be failing to meet its Network Management Duty. The Traffic Management (Guidance on Intervention Criteria) (England) Order

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Clive Hall, Highway Network Manager.
on Tel: (01432) 260786

2007 sets out the criteria for deciding whether to issue an intervention notice or make an intervention order.

4. To comply with the Network Management Duty and avoid intervention the Traffic Authority has a duty to; identify congestion and disruption to traffic flow, monitor the effectiveness of actions and assess their performance in managing the network.
5. In order to be able to demonstrate and evidence that this new duty is being fulfilled, it is recommended that a Highway Network Management Plan is adopted setting out the approach to be taken in the context of the Council's overall transport strategy.
6. The network management operations in Herefordshire have been reviewed in light of the Traffic Management Act. The Highway Network Management Plan has been developed and outlines the organisation, procedures, monitoring and key actions needed to fulfil the Council's responsibilities in relation to the Network Management Duty.
7. The State of Herefordshire Report identified that traffic congestion is the top aspect in terms of quality of life and the issue that most people felt needed improving most. The Council's Local Transport Plan recognizes the importance of tackling traffic congestion and sets the overall transport strategy for the County. The Highways Network Management Plan has been developed to set out in detail the approach that will be taken to managing the network, contribute to addressing traffic congestion and meet the requirements of the Traffic Management Act.
8. The Plan covers the period to 2017. It is a living document that will develop during the period. The Plan includes an initial action plan to tie in with the current Local Transport Plan period to 2011. The overall aims of the Plan are to:
 - Achieve an easy to use, consistent and functional road network which links well with its neighbours
 - Facilitate the efficient and safe movement of people and goods whilst protecting the quality of life within communities.

Risk Management

The adoption of a robust Highway Network Management Plan will clearly demonstrate the Council's approach to meeting the new Network Management Duty. The effective delivery of this plan will reduce the risk of intervention by the Secretary of State.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options as the Council has a statutory duty to produce a Highways Network Management Plan.

Consultees

Extensive consultation with stakeholders was undertaken during the development of the Council's Local Transport Plan. This identified the importance of effectively managing the highway network and reducing congestion. As a result a statement in relation to the new Network Management Duty was included in the Local Transport Plan and has led to the development of the Highway Network Management Plan. In taking forward the implementation of the Highway Network Management Plan, it will be necessary to work closely with partner agencies such as the Highways Agency and emergency services to meet the overall aims of the plan.

Appendices

Appendix A – The Highway Network Management Plan 2008 to 2017

Background Papers

The Traffic Management Act 2004
The State of Herefordshire Report
The Local Transport Plan 2

**Herefordshire Council
Environment Directorate**

**Highway Network Management Plan
2008 to 2017**

**Michael Hainge
Director of Environment
Brockington, Hafod Road, Hereford**

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Appendix A Transport Strategy background and current Progress

Appendix B Action Plan

Appendix C Regional Framework

Appendix D Summary of the national framework “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) – The policy framework for the roads sector” published by Department for Transport November 2005.

Appendix E Contribution ITS can make to the Network Management Plan

Appendix F Not used.

Appendix G Contact Details

Appendix H Herefordshire Congestion Assessment

1 Executive summary

The Highway Network Management Plan forms the basis for operation and development of the highway network to deliver the Local Transport Plan network management targets. The overall aim is to:

- Achieve an easy to use, consistent and functional road network which links well with its neighbours.
- Facilitate the efficient and safe movement of people and goods whilst protecting the quality of life within communities.

Congestion is frequently cited by the public and local businesses as a serious problem. There appears to be an impression that travel on the Herefordshire network, particularly in Hereford is unpredictable. Indeed there is evidence that drivers are taking long diversions to cross the river Wye using bridges to the east and west of the city. The development of more sustainable transport modes is also constrained by the lack of capacity in the network, highlighting the need for innovative solutions that can be accommodated within the existing road space.

An assessment of the causes of congestion and potential for improvement indicates that the priorities for intervention are increased capacity to move people and goods along the A road network and improved traffic control and emergency response in relation to accidents and other incidents on these roads. A slightly lower priority but still worthy of improvement is the traffic control and response to incidents on B roads and the management of known periods of higher than normal traffic flow. There is some scope for local road improvements but the main focus for the network management plan will be prevention of delays through development control, streetworks management and intervention through traffic control strategies and emergency response.

Herefordshire Council is acutely aware of the importance of managing the road network with its partners and other agencies to minimise disruption and reduce congestion. To facilitate this, a Network Management Team has been established and a Highways Network Manager appointed to directly support the Traffic Manager.

There are already the seeds of a strong congestion busting culture internally which will be developed and expanded to cover partners, key stakeholders and eventually the wider community. Once improvements start to take effect more information will be made available about current conditions and a communication plan implemented to gain public confidence about the reliability of the journey times on the main roads.

2 Introduction

Safe and efficient movement of people and goods is an essential element in the delivery of Herefordshire Council's corporate objectives. Major road improvements require huge investment and are regarded by many as an unsustainable approach. New road schemes will be pursued where it can be demonstrated that they will provide significant benefits. However the main aim will be to make best use of the existing highway network. There is scope to achieve more capacity through better control of the network and through initiatives to change peoples travel behaviour.

The purpose of this document is to translate the transport strategy statements in the LTP2 into actions that will contribute to achieving the overall aim which is to:

- **Achieve an easy to use, consistent and functional road network which links well with its neighbours.**
- **Facilitate the efficient and safe movement of people and goods whilst protecting the quality of life within communities.**

The network management plan will set out a 10 year vision with a 4 year delivery programme to tie in with the LTP period to 2011.

The plan includes a review of the activities, procedures and organisation. Its purpose is to ensure compliance with the network management duty of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and link with the regional framework developed by the West Midlands Shire and Unitary Authorities Traffic Managers Group.

3 Scope

This document sets out the network management plan to 2017 and the action plan to 2011 to coincide with Local Transport Plan 2. It provides the foundation for improved traffic and street works management and the exploitation of new technology to deliver the targets.

Transport is not an end in itself but is one of a range of factors that can help to maintain and improve the quality of life for local people and help them access key services, leisure and recreation opportunities. Herefordshire Council has developed a transport strategy in partnership with local stakeholders that helps address wider local priorities and establishes a clear vision for; delivering accessibility, tackling congestion, safer roads and better air quality. The network management plan is primarily focused on tackling congestion and compliance with the network management duty. It will of course support delivery of the other three shared priorities.

This plan does not cover the maintenance requirements to keep the network in a good state of repair. Herefordshire Council's current approach to maintenance is set out in its Highway Maintenance Plan, and the Council's longer term approach to maintaining and improving its highway assets is being developed through transport asset management planning.

4 Vision

Our vision is:

A sustainable and integrated transport system which recognises the distinctive characteristics of Herefordshire's rural and urban areas and provides for the transport needs of residents, visitors and the business community.

Our aim is that Herefordshire will continue to improve and remain a high performing authority, exercising control over the local transport infrastructure to support the delivery of local and national objectives.

5 Background

The corporate plan sets out what the council intend to do to play a full part in realising the strategic partnership's ambitions contained in the Community Strategy. It covers the period 2005 to 2008 and includes a wide range of service targets which will help focus the work of the Council in achieving these goals. The corporate plan recognises the importance of transport and includes it amongst its top priorities:

- to improve transport and the safety of roads, including further reductions in the numbers of people killed or seriously injured.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a new network management duty on the council, as local traffic authority, in particular section 16(1) states:

'It is the duty of a local traffic authority to manage their road network with a view to achieving, so far as is reasonably practicable having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives, the following objectives:-

- a) Securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network; and***
- b) Facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.'***

Herefordshire Council is acutely aware of the importance of managing the road network to minimise disruption and reduce congestion.

A summary of the current elements of the transport strategy related to network management is contained in Appendix A.

6 Partners

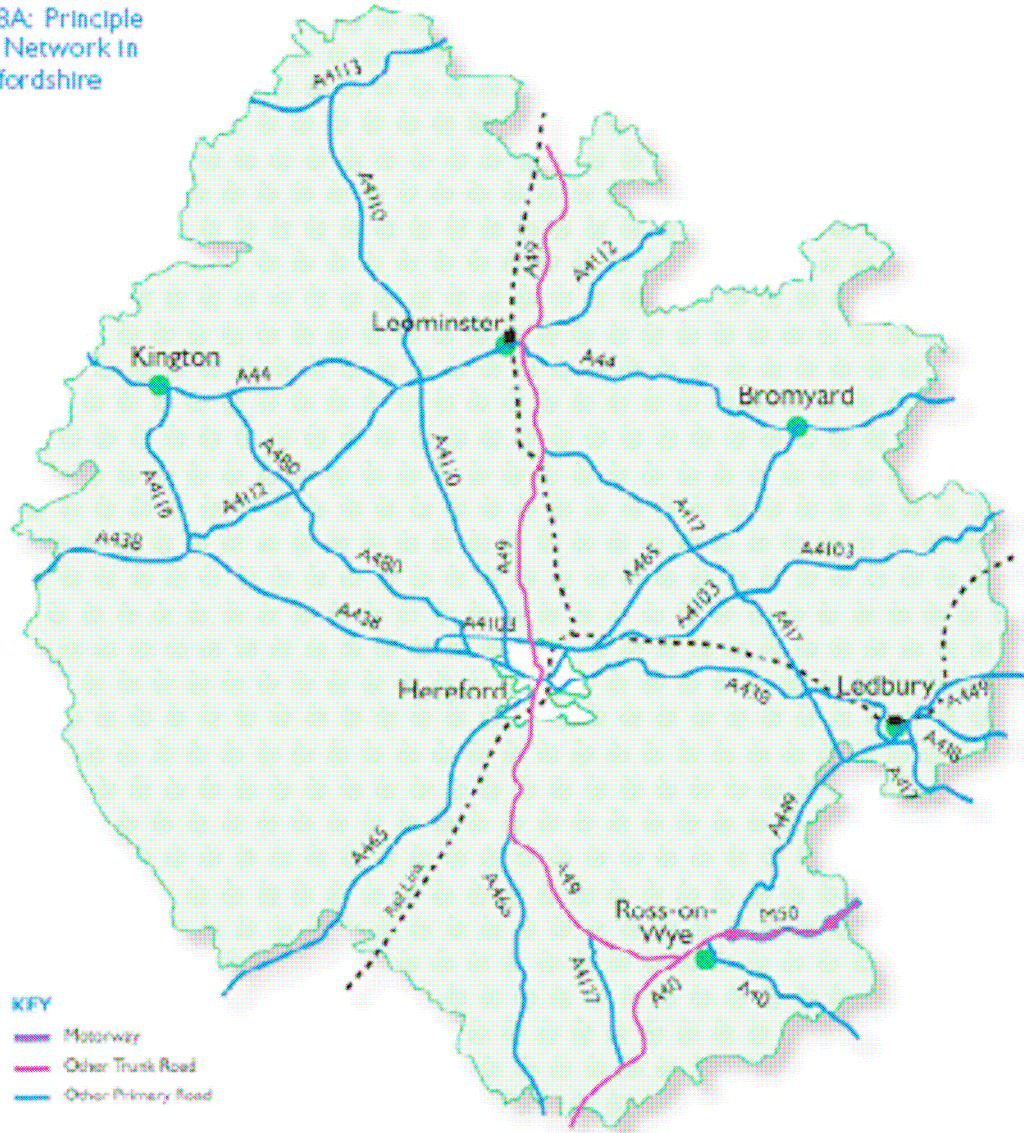
For the management and operation of the highway network the Council works in partnership with:

- The Amey Group and in particular Amey Wye Valley Ltd - carry out maintenance and improvement works on the highway within the strategic service delivery partnership (SSDP).
- Owen Williams Consultants (part of the Amey Group) – provider of technical consultancy support within the SSDP.
- Traffic Signals UK – maintenance and improvement of traffic signals.
- The Police – incident management, enforcement of road traffic law, crime prevention and emergency planning.
- The Fire and Rescue Authority – incident response and emergency planning.
- The Highways Agency and their Agents AmeyMouchel– Traffic authority for the trunk road and motorway network (M50, A40(T), A465(T), A449(T) and A49(T)).
- Neighbouring authorities – surrounding traffic authorities; Shropshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire and Powys County Councils.
- Parish Council's.
- User Groups.
- The Statutory Undertakers.

Key contact details for the Council and its partners are contained in Appendix G

The network management plan will be discussed with each partner to secure their commitment and support for deliver of the actions that will achieve the targets. A summary of their supporting statements will be added as an appendix to the plan in due course.

Map 8A: Principle Road Network In Herefordshire



7 Objectives

7.1 Network Operation

The network management plan forms the basis for operation of the network and how it should be developed. The overall aim is to:

- **Achieve an easy to use, consistent and functional road network which links well with its neighbours.**
- **Facilitate the efficient and safe movement of people and goods whilst protecting the quality of life within communities.**

The Council will continue to implement innovative, value for money solutions that get more out of the existing transport network without compromising road safety. These solutions include stepping up our behavioural change initiatives to reduce traffic volumes, improving the attractiveness of commercially operated public transport services through partnership with bus operators, developing park and ride, improving walking and cycling facilities, targeted demand management through parking control and replacement and upgrading of the current urban traffic control system to provide route guidance and journey time information.

There is a need to minimise the impact of road freight, while ensuring the needs of local businesses are met. Heavy goods vehicles will be encouraged to use the most appropriate access route to reach their destination. Such routes will be adequately signed and maintained, consequently reducing congestion and maintenance costs, improving air quality, accessibility and safety.

Although the proportion of the road network that is susceptible to routine congestion is relatively small, there are several key locations where incidents can lead to substantial delays and disruption. Peak hour congestion is common in Hereford City, and to a lesser extent, at Bargates in Leominster. These areas coincide with the two air quality action areas of the county.

There are few route choices in the central area and south of Hereford due to only one main road crossing of the River Wye. There are appropriate route choices to the north of Hereford both in an east/west and north south direction. There is some scope for local road improvements but the main focus for the network management plan will be prevention of delays through development control, street works management and intervention through traffic control and emergency response.

We will:

- Build and retain the existing strong culture throughout the highways and transportation service and centrally, within the network management team, to minimise delays at street works and seek to extend this culture to all staff within the strategic service delivery partnership (SSDP).

- Extend street works management practices to include the authority's own work and works undertaken by developers.
- Continue to operate effective parking regulation and control, regularly reviewing our policies and procedures to ensure that they support the delivery of the network management duty.
- Work to ensure that all regulatory features, such as double yellow lines and other such parking restrictions are maintained to a standard that enables their enforcement.
- Review the awareness of works programmes and congestion implications within the SSDP.
- Strengthen the partnership with the Highways Agency and establish shared objectives for street works management to ensure consistent standards between the authorities.
- Create a network management hierarchy through the identification of priority routes for each different modes of travel.
- Develop a high quality cycle and walking route network with priority given to Hereford and the market towns and links to surrounding settlements which generate commuting journeys.
- Integrate cycling with public transport to facilitate cycle use as part of longer journeys.
- Work with all stakeholders, through the mechanism of Freight Quality Partnerships, and discourage the use of unsuitable rural roads and residential routes by heavy goods vehicles.
- Communicate the requirements of the Traffic Management Act throughout the authority and the SSDP and promote the way in which wider services could be delivered differently to support compliance with the network management duty.

7.2 Development Control

There is likely to be significant new development within the next 10 years. As a result of previous development and the associated growth in traffic, delays have increased significantly along corridors to the south east and north of Hereford. The aim will be to produce clear objectives so that the performance of the network can be protected through private sector investment in transport solutions.

Key development including the Edgar Street Grid area, in the centre of Hereford, will be covered by the supplementary planning document (SPD). The Edgar Street Grid project is an initiative seeking to promote, through a partnership with Advantage West Midlands and private developers, a comprehensive regeneration of an area to the north of the city centre and adjacent to the A49(T). It is anticipated that such initiatives will present opportunities for developer contributions to network capacity improvements, park and ride, bus priority and offer better penetration of bus services into a re-defined central area.

Journey times must be protected along the priority routes for all modes of travel. Therefore a stronger challenge of development proposals will be essential linked to the authority's network management performance targets.

We will:

- Make full use traffic impact assessment modelling to identify the need for transport improvements.
- Encourage developments within the County that provide appropriate facilities for heavy goods vehicles, such as lorry parking facilities with full amenities.
- Where able encourage development in locations with good road access. If appropriate developers may be required to contribute financially towards improving access roads and transport facilities to protect journey time reliability.
- Ensure that development does not sever routes used by cyclists or pedestrians or prejudice accessibility by walking or cycling and to require developers to provide through routes across sites where these will deliver improvements to the cycle network.

7.3 Hereford Intelligent Transport System

One of the key challenges in tackling Hereford's congestion problem is getting greater efficiency out of a network which is already operating at and beyond its capacity, particularly during peak periods. During these periods relatively small incidents at critical locations can have significant impacts on the whole network. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) can contribute significantly to the reduction of these problems by increasing the effective capacity of the network, improving efficiency of public transport, monitoring road conditions to detect incidents when they occur and proactively managing demand and controlling traffic flow. A summary of the contribution ITS can make to delivering the network management plan is contained in Appendix E.

The level of congestion within Hereford does have some adverse impact on the potential for economic expansion, with new development constrained by the ability of the network to cope with additional traffic generation. Congestion is cited by the public and local businesses as a serious problem in Hereford City. The development of more sustainable transport modes is also constrained by the lack of capacity in the network, highlighting the need for innovative solutions that can be accommodated within the existing road space.

In addition to enabling bus priority an ITS can incorporate and share data between a number of applications such as; urban traffic control (UTC) which control traffic signals, real time information on public transport, road conditions

and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) to improve overall management of the network. A summary of the Department for Transport (DfT) framework for ITS is contained in Appendix D. National guidance indicates that ITS can achieve reductions in traffic delays of 10- 40%, 30% reductions in time taken to find parking spaces and 20-30% reductions in delays to public transport.

We see the development of the Hereford ITS as forming a core component of our strategy to tackle congestion and improve air quality in Hereford and regard ITS as providing us with the key tools required to comply with the network management duty. We also feel that Hereford ITS fits with the objectives set out for the development of the Edgar Street Grid, which include the management of access by car and improvement in quality and convenience of alternative modes of transport to the car.

We have reviewed our system that controls traffic signals (SCOOT) and have upgraded it so that it is fully compatible with other ITS systems. This is already showing benefits and has produced a more robust system to better managed traffic flows. We will undertake a detailed assessment with a view to developing a system that will provide:

- Urban traffic control
- Bus priority
- Traffic and traveller information
- Car park guidance

However, we will not be able to deliver Hereford ITS on our own. The system must be compatible with the needs of several partner organisations including the Highways Agency, bus operators and the emergency services and it must also help deliver the objectives for the development of the Edgar Street Grid area.. We will ensure that the proposal takes full account of the operational management of the whole city transport network which includes local and trunk roads.

We will:

- Seek to Implement and fully utilise an Intelligent Transport System for Herefordshire that enables us to manage the network, detect problems, intervene when necessary, provide travel advice and report on performance.
- Give priority to signal maintenance and traffic flow on the key routes identified in the LTP for journey time reliability.
- Make full use of existing and future network performance data to inform road users and hence reduce unnecessary delays
- Ensure funding for future operating costs, power supply and communications is known and secured when new systems are purchased.
- Prepare a lifecycle management plan, as part of our Transport Asset Management Plan, for all ITS and traffic signal equipment including a

planned replacement programme assuming a maximum life expectancy of twenty years and a typical life expectancy of six years for IT and electrical components of the asset.

- Improve communication links with the travelling public through local radio and with neighbouring authorities.
- In the longer term, review how demand management mechanisms could be delivered in tandem with proposals for the Hereford ITS.

7.4 Passenger Transport

The council will establish a punctuality improvement partnership (PIP) with bus operators with a view to monitoring and improving performance. The function of the PIP will be to monitor the punctuality of services, identify the causes of delay and, in partnership with operators, seek to implement measures to improve performance.

The PIP will adopt the traffic commissioners' standard definition of punctuality as being 'no more than 1 minute early and no more than 5 minutes late'. Work will be undertaken in the first year to agree the methodology and establish a baseline of current performance. Methodology will be agreed between the signatories to the PIP and is likely to take the form of one, or more, of the following methods:

- Reports derived from GPS positioning data in ETM (bus ticket machine) systems;
- Continuous monitoring programme at terminals; and
- Structured programme of spot-checks throughout the area.

Ultimately the data collection will be an integrated part of the Herefordshire ITS.

The PIP will include a statement outlining the percentage of services to be monitored, the proportion of observations to be recorded at terminals and timing points en-route. It will then set a single, area-wide target for improvement against the baseline. The network management plan will compliment and where appropriate give priority to achieving the punctuality targets.

The Council and the Highways Agency have assessed the feasibility of providing bus lanes into the city centre. These studies have looked at routes on the A49(T) Edgar Street and the A438 Eign Street. Unfortunately, the studies have indicated the provision of bus lanes on these routes is not achievable in terms of reduced traffic capacity, public acceptability and in the case of Eign Street due to the need to acquire additional land outside of the highway corridor. As both routes were initially identified on the basis of their contribution to improving attractiveness of the bus network and their deliverability we have had to reconsider the merit of undertaking further feasibility studies of bus lanes given the cost involved and the findings of these studies. Consequently, we believe that it will be more realistic to

achieve bus priority through providing priority through signals rather than through road space re-allocation and hence this will be a key element of our assessment of the Hereford ITS.

We will:

- Facilitate a greater understanding and ownership of shared objectives between council and bus operators.
- Explore the potential for infrastructure investment to provide bus priority, interchange improvements, real time information and automatic data collection.
- Encourage bus operators to invest more in new vehicles, routes and improved service frequency.

8 Organisation and Resource Management

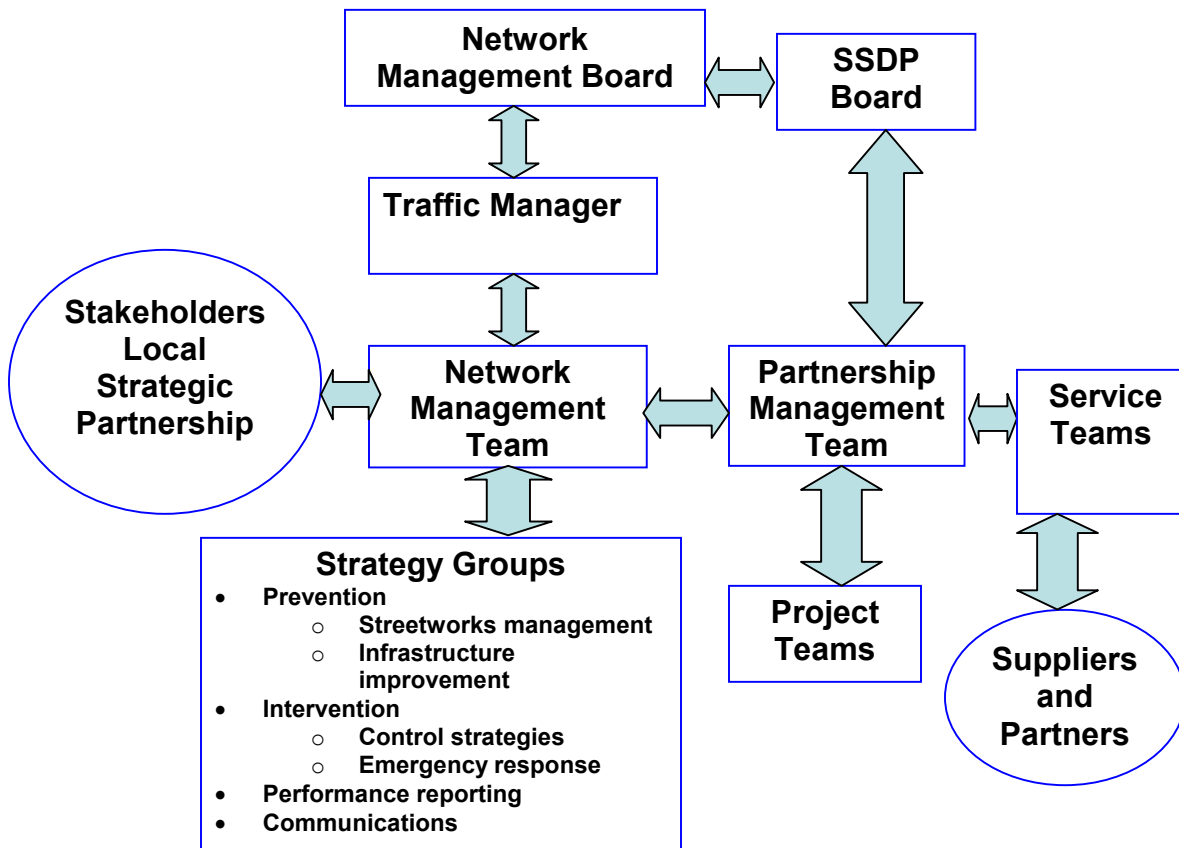
The network management duty requires an authority to appoint a traffic manager and the network management guidance suggests that the traffic manager should set up a core team. Herefordshire has appointed the Head of the Highways & Transportation Service as the Traffic Manager. The traffic manager will provide leadership for implementation of the network management plan and assume responsibility for compliance with the network management duty.

The network management team will be the focal point for engagement with key stakeholders. The traffic manager through the network management team will coordinate network management and direct activity to deliver the plan. The network management team will be headed by the Highways Network Manager who will act as a champion for compliance with the duty. The potential to share this role with neighbouring authorities will be explored.

Compliance with the network management duty will require strong and effective partnerships with the Highways Agency, Police and other emergency services. In order to secure shared ownership of the objectives and targets, a network management board will be established. It will take an overview of performance and any resource issues and risks. The board will meet twice a year to receive performance and strategic issue reports from the traffic manager. It is proposed that the board will include:

- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
- Director of Environment
- Highways Agency, Divisional Director
- West Mercia Police, Divisional Commander
- Member of the West Mercia Police Authority
- Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Senior Officer
- Member of the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority
- Senior Officer from West Midlands Ambulance Service

- Traffic Manager



The highway network manager will review resource requirements and where necessary manage change in order to deliver the objectives and targets in the most efficient and effective way. Some initial resource priorities to be considered are:

- To ensure that the Council's works programme is developed to the desired quality and then delivered to agreed timescales, that support the objectives of this plan.
- To ensure that the resources are clearly identified as part of the network management team to effectively coordinate the delivery of Winter Service and other emergency response functions, as supplied through the wider Highways & Transportation Service.
- To review winter service and emergency response activities in advance of each winter season to ensure that they fully support the delivery of the network management duty.
- To assist in the development of a stronger service delivery partnership which utilises the individual strengths, provides strong leadership and innovation to achieve shared network management objectives.

- To promote the integration of regulatory, improvement and maintenance activities to support the ongoing achievement of these shared network management objectives.
- To develop proposals for more efficient use of energy and reduced communication costs to offset the potential increase in the size of the traffic control system asset and its subsequent maintenance costs.
- To undertake a review of the need for existing traffic control systems and create a database of geographically reference asset data together with an assessment of residual life.
- Develop proposals as part of a lifecycle plan within the Transport Asset Management Plan for a planned replacement programme of traffic signals and other traffic control systems, which can be considered for inclusion in the capital programme.
- To deliver a service that strives to meet customer expectation and develop the means of regularly monitoring customer satisfaction.
- Creation of a continuous improvement culture with a drive to deliver more for less.
- Review the SSDP contract performance incentives with a view towards a increased focus on network management outcomes such as journey time reliability.

9 Communications

The communication strategy is divided between service management and travel information. Internally the highway network manager will develop and implement a programme to ensure the whole authority including its suppliers is aware of the traffic management act and its implications. Each service group will be encouraged to examine what part it can play in reducing congestion. This could for example range from more flexible working hours or location to minimising the miles travelled by suppliers. The level of awareness will be monitored through the process of annual performance / staff review and development appraisals.

Externally the authority will complete and sign a local operating agreement with the national traffic control centre and highways agency regional control centres which will include the exchange of relevant information. There will continue to be quarterly meeting with the highways agency to discuss service issues at a strategic and tactical level.

There will continue to be monthly SSDP coordination meetings on an area basis and quarterly local coordination meeting with the utilities. Herefordshire Council will fully participate in the regional HAUC. The present weekly exchange of a schedule of all planned works will continue between the Highways Agency, Police and other emergency services and all neighbouring authorities (Shropshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire and Powys). All highways and transportation service managers, the local media, travel

information centres and bus companies also receive the same notification of works.

A list of key contacts is contained in Appendix G.

Although there is regular liaison with the West Mercia Police one of the future priorities is to develop stronger links at a strategic level and a greater sense of partnership for network management.

The council will continue to play a strong role in regional network management through participation in the West Midlands (Shire and Unitary) Traffic Managers Group, which ensures an exchange of strategic best practice and explores the benefits to be gained from regional research and service delivery proposals. The authority is also represented on the West Midlands Traffic Officers Group which explores best practice at a tactical level.

As far as road users are concerned the authority will publish information to explain how the network is managed and promote the relevant contact numbers to report traffic flow problems. As part of the Herefordshire ITS travel information signs will be provided at bus stops displaying real time departures and service updates and at key locations on priority traffic routes to display warnings and advice on alternative routes. Once more live information is available about performance of the network, closer links with the media will be developed. Where possible all relevant information will be available on the council's website.

10 Action Plan

This section forms the Herefordshire Network Management Action Plan to 2011. The individual actions are detailed in Appendix B. Appendix C summarises the actions in the format of the regional network management plan framework developed by the west midlands shire and unitary authorities traffic managers group.

There is some scope for local road improvements and integrated transport schemes will be implemented where appropriate to increase the capacity for the movement of people and goods. However the main focus for the network management plan will be reduced congestion through development control, street works management and intervention through reactive control and emergency response. Traffic control strategies will be prepared which identify the actions and diversions for specific links in the network and the conditions that will trigger intervention. Priority will be given to improvements in traffic flow on key traffic routes which contribute to the journey time reliability targets in LTP2.

There appears to be an impression that travel on the Herefordshire network, particularly in Hereford is unpredictable. People frequently ask "What is the traffic like?" when travelling to or from the city. Indeed there is evidence that drivers are

taking long diversions to cross the river Wye using bridges to the east and west of the city. The roads leading to the bridge to the west are suffering overuse and extensive verge erosion. Once improvements start to take effect more information will be made available about current conditions and a communication plan implemented to gain public confidence about the reliability of the journey times on the main roads.

Where appropriate use will be made of the existing transportation model for Hereford to assess the impact of new development and impact of planned improvements including new traffic control strategies to manage incidents and planned events such as football matches.

The Council has good procedures and protocols for coordinating streetworks and an excellent relationship with utilities. It has systems for the coordination and management of all works on the highway. All highways and transportation teams play a key role in managing and improving the network. Regular inspections are undertaken to control the quality of all street works including those undertaken by for the Council itself.

The requirements of the traffic management act and the Herefordshire approach to compliance with the network management duty will be communicated throughout the authority, the strategic service delivery partnership, key stakeholders and the community.

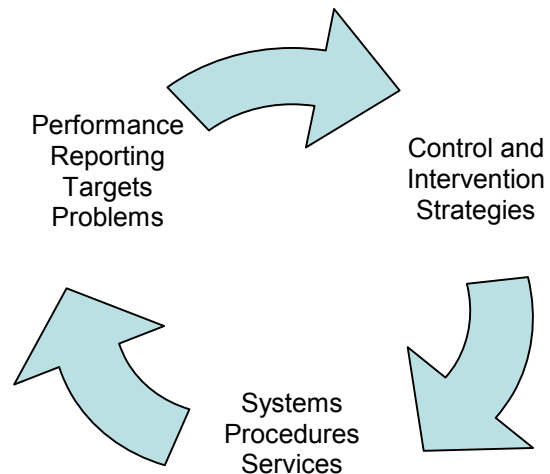
Herefordshire Council will continue to consider the potential for the introduction of a street works permit scheme. The authority receives about 8000 street works notices which result in about 5000 pieces of work for inspection. These figures will double with the inclusion of in-house works. However, the number of notices on type 1 and 2 roads is relatively small and Section 74 (overrunning of works) has been successfully applied and enforced in Herefordshire. Given this and the authority's good relationship with utilities, the current view is that it is unlikely that large benefits will be gained from the initial introduction of a permit scheme. The funding of any such a scheme in the future will have to be carefully assessed in light of the proposed charges and the restrictions on income use in the regulations. It should be noted that there is a regional proposal which is being developed by the traffic managers group for a permit scheme covering type 1 and type 2 roads. The viability and potential benefits from this joint scheme will be a matter for ongoing consideration.

Presently travel information is provided through local radio stations and the local media. The authority intends to establish itself as the primary provider of accurate and timely travel information. Some simple and relatively low cost sources of information will include; use of SCOOT loops to spot slower than normal flow, enhancements to the council's CCTV system which is currently used purely as a crime reduction tool and the purchase of a system such as Traffic Master or ITIS live travel time data.

At the moment it is difficult to tell how much of an influence problems on the M50 and M5 and M54 have on traffic flow through Herefordshire. From experience elsewhere it is likely to be significant within approximately 30 miles of the motorway. A link to view the highways agency cameras on these roads will be explored using web based services.

Diversion routes for incidents on priority traffic routes will be identified, documented and agreed with Highways Agency where necessary. Some emergency response protocols and procedures have been developed and fully documented jointly with Highways Agency, Police and other emergency services, this best practice will be expanded upon. The emergency call out times will be reviewed for priority routes and the potential for a rapid response team for incidents on the A49 will be discussed with the Highways Agency. A fast response to accidents, breakdowns or other obstructions on the A49 through the city is one of the top priorities given the absence of local alternative routes to cross the river Wye.

The enforcement of waiting restrictions will be aligned to the performance targets and the authority will consider the feasibility of taking on the enforcement of moving traffic offences. Full control of the network will eventually be gained from the proposed Hereford ITS. The feasibility, specification and procurement strategy will be developed alongside the intended traffic control and information strategies. The systems will be designed to deliver the control strategies to meet the targets and measure performance.



The set up costs for Hereford ITS and its subsequent maintenance will be expensive and therefore, subject to the outcome of the detailed assessment and cost estimate, we anticipate that we may need to make a bid for exceptional scheme funding. DfT guidance indicates that authorities may submit exceptional scheme bids through annual progress reports for demonstration or pilot projects which:

- Cost less than £5M;
- Meet a local transport need; and
- Provide the best value for money solution to meet that need.

As a Centre of Excellence for Local Transport Delivery, we believe Hereford ITS would provide an exciting demonstration project of how technological solutions delivered through local partnership can help tackle congestion problems in

smaller historic urban settlements. We will also assess how Hereford ITS could help support demand management proposals in line with governments aims for the transport innovation fund and will consider whether a bid for this funding would be appropriate. We will take into account best practice emerging from the TIF pilot projects and the road pricing local liaison group as part of our assessment.

While we anticipate the need to make an exceptional scheme bid we also intend to explore other funding options:

- Developer contributions and contributions from strategic partners as part of the Edgar Street Grid proposal.
- A spend to save initiative whereby early investment would enable lower future delivery costs and an improved quality of service.
- A local public service agreement linked to stretched targets for journey time reliability. Meeting the targets would lead to a reward payment which would almost certainly be greater than the investment required to achieve them.
- Partnership funding from other authorities such as the police authority who would be able to benefit from improved incident management and automatic number plate recognition data for crime detection.

We will also explore the potential benefits from alternative procurement strategies.

11 Performance Indicators and Targets

Performance will be measured based on the indicator and targets contained in the LTP and NI 167 Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak.

That said the main focus for the network management plan will be on journey time reliability measured as a % increase in delay. The main congestion is in Hereford and the LTP local performance indicator HLI1 is derived from annual journey time surveys along selected key traffic routes across the city. Given the low proportion of through traffic and the primary objective to improve access to and from the city we will consider translating each cross city journey into two radial journeys (to and from the city centre).

Annual surveys are likely to be very susceptible to random fluctuations in network performance. A more regular and robust supply of data will be required to provide an accurate assessment of performance particularly given the need to satisfy the reporting requirements of the network management duty. The ITS will be

designed to facilitate the integration of floating vehicle data or roadside monitoring to measure journey times more accurately.

12 Review

The action plan will be subject to quarterly updates which will be considered by the Highways and Transportation Senior Management Team and presented to the Network Management Board.

An annual progress report on the delivery of the plan will be produced that will contribute to the council's annual progress report on the LTP2.

In addition, the network management plan will be subjected to a full three year review to allow for refocusing on any new service priorities, innovations and market demands.

Appendix A

Transport Strategy background and current progress

Increasing Sustainable Travel

Increasing the number of journeys made by sustainable means is an overarching objective of the Local Transport Plan and is fundamental to the delivery of a sustainable and integrated transport system for the County. Increasing the number of journeys made by sustainable means contributes directly to reducing the level of road congestion.

Rail and walking journeys remove travellers from the road network completely, while bus travel, car sharing and cycling all deliver greater efficiency on the network. Increases in journey times, driven by traffic congestion are a recognised reality for most travellers. The avoidance of delay and the resultant 'time saving' is a core motivator for commuters in particular and therefore the Council will continue to focus on that benefit in our promotion of more sustainable means of travel and challenge the perception that car travel is quickest.

In delivering its strategy the Council will work to achieve:

A general shift towards more sustainable and healthy modes of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport, and away from single occupancy car use. This overall objective contributes directly to the delivery of the four shared outcomes.

Tackling Congestion –

Hereford City has been identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands region as one of five sub-regional foci for development confirming it as the key location in the County for future housing and employment growth. However, the City's transport network is severely constrained by its historic street pattern and densely developed residential areas immediately adjacent to the central area. Congestion occurs particularly on the radial routes that converge on the central area and the inner ring road.

Tackling traffic congestion is the top priority for the Hereford Transport Strategy. In addition to local people identifying congestion as a key priority in response to specific consultation on the LTP, the Council's General Household Survey conducted in December 2003 found that 'level of traffic congestion' was the quality of life indicator perceived to have deteriorated the most since the previous survey in 2000.

Congestion at peak times leads to a wide range of detrimental impacts on people, the local economy and the environment. The worst effects of congestion include:

- Community severance which affects vulnerable road users such as children, pedestrians and cyclists in particular and reduces their ability to travel safely;
- Traffic intrusion in residential areas due to rat running;
- Traffic intrusion in the historic central area which reduces its attractiveness as an important conservation area and as the County's key destination for shopping, tourism and social visits;
- Poor air quality resulting from queuing vehicles which has led to the designation of an air quality management area along the A49(T); and
- An inefficient local economy as time is lost in stationary traffic affecting Hereford's ability to compete in the wider economy and reducing its attractiveness as a location for future investment.

All of these impacts combine to undermine the Hereford's many qualities and ultimately reduce its ability to perform the function of a sub regional centre within the west midlands region.

Our current Strategy for tackling congestion in Hereford has two key elements:

- Measures to manage demand and improve efficiency of the network:
 - A targeted strategy to effect behavioural change.
 - Parking strategy.
 - Hereford Intelligent Transport System including bus priority.
 - Network management plan.
 - Rotherwas Access Road.
 - Hereford Outer Distributor Road - development of the A49(T) Ross Road to A465(T) Abergavenny Road Link Road.
- Measures to provide attractive alternatives to single occupancy car travel:
 - Park and ride.
 - Public transport improvements.
 - Cycle network development.
 - Pedestrianisation and pedestrian access improvements in Hereford's city centre; and safer routes to school.

Our current Strategy for tackling congestion in the rural area of Herefordshire is:

- Targeted behavioural change initiatives to encourage the use of sustainable modes through initiatives that have particular relevance to rural residents, such as our 'Twoshare' car sharing system;

- Continued improvement of facilities for bus users at stops, including the provision of timetable information by means of SMS text messaging on an individual stop basis;
- Rural footway and public rights of way improvements to provide better access to local facilities in rural areas;
- Improved cycle facilities in the market towns to encourage further increases in cycling;
- Traffic management improvements in north west Herefordshire to reduce impacts of freight movements on sensitive rural communities; and
- Safer Routes to Schools projects to improve safety and reduce car use.

Network Management Duty

The Council's commitment to effective management of the road network is illustrated by the decision to designate the statutory role of Traffic Manager in the post of Head of Highways and Transportation, a senior management position with the ability to influence and drive corporate policy development.

The requirements of the Traffic Management Act 2004 are being discharged through the following actions:

- The engagement of the Transport Ambition Group in policy development and the use of extensive stakeholder and public engagement in highways and transport projects.
- Routine policy and operational engagement with the Highways Agency, including quarterly liaison meetings chaired by the Traffic Manager.
- Participation in the formation of the West Midlands Shires/Unitaries Traffic Managers Liaison Group.
- Participation in the West Midlands Traffic Officers Regional Group (TORG)
- The establishment of a Network Management Team headed by the Highways Network Manager.
- Development of a network hierarchy, consistent with Local Transport Plan and Highway Maintenance Plan priorities.
- Implementation, through the Local Transport Plan, of the recommendations of the Hereford Transport Review
- Integration of network management for special events and road works with the Joined Up Programme of maintenance and new schemes.
- Annual review of progress in delivering the Local Transport Plan and development of the Hereford Intelligent Transport System to manage the growth in traffic on key routes.
- Integration of highways management systems to ensure parity of treatment and monitoring for local authority and statutory undertakers works.
- Promoting the role of the Traffic Manager and the responsibilities of the Traffic Management Act 2004 across the Council.

Appendix B)

Network Management Action Plan

Part 1. Prevention measures to avoid congestion

SSDP = Strategic Service Delivery Partnership
 HITS = Herefordshire Intelligent Transport System
 HA = Highways Agency

Priority

S = Short term (0 to 6 months)
 M = Medium term (6 to 12 months)
 L = Long term (1 to 4 years)

Ref	Action	Priority
1.	Develop criteria for regional priority routes, review existing hierarchy and direction signing and commence an annual review of strategic network performance with neighbouring authorities.	M
2.	Publish the hierarchy of priority routes for key modes of travel in Hereford, establish key conflict points between routes and prepare a programme for performance review and improvement.	L
3.	Establish a list of existing congestion hot spots in the Herefordshire and assess the potential for improvement	M
4.	Establish an annual monitor of traffic flow referenced to theoretical link capacity for the priority traffic routes	M
5.	Undertake a survey with HA to determine current level of public satisfaction and future expectation for network management.	M
6.	Establish a transport stakeholder forum through the LSP to seek views and encourage wider ownership of the objectives.	M
7.	Consolidate the role of the Traffic Manager and review support team requirements from all of the relevant disciplines.	S
8.	Establish the role of Highways Network Manager to support the Traffic Manager and establish a Network Management Team with agreed terms of reference and reporting procedures.	S
9.	Ensure staff within the SSDP, the Council's Senior Managers and Members and emergency services, are fully aware of the role of the Traffic Manager, the Network Management Duty and the performance indicators and targets for congestion and journey time reliability.	S
10.	Publish information to explain how the network is managed and promote the relevant contact numbers to report traffic flow problems. Review and update the list of contact details for all key stakeholders (Appendix G).	M
11.	Develop a capacity audit procedure for all improvement schemes and developer proposals and promote its existence.	L
12.	Develop closer working relationships with partners, in particular the HA and Police, to establish shared objectives for the improvement of journey time reliability. This should include the completion and signing of a local operating agreement with the Traffic Control Centre	M
13.	Explore potential for de-trunking the A49 or for HA staff to co-locate with the SSDP to combat the feeling of out of sight out of mind.	M
14.	Establish a Strategic Management Board, including HA and Police to secure high level ownership of the objectives and targets, review outcomes and unblock any resource issues. Consider if this could be linked with safety camera enforcement.	S
15.	Strengthen the partnership with bus operator First and establish shared objectives and opportunities for investment within the Punctuality Improvement Partnership.	M
16.	Document existing NRSWA procedures and protocols for streetworks management and review the organisation	M

Appendix B

Network Management Action Plan

Part 2. Intervention to relieve congestion

SSDP = Strategic Service Delivery Partnership
 HITS = Herefordshire Intelligent Transport System
 HA = Highways Agency

Priority

S = Short term (0 to 6 months)
 M = Medium term (6 to 12 months)
 L = Long term (1 to 4 years)

Ref.	Action	Priority
29.	Agree and document protocols for the management of incidents and planned events with HA and emergency services and ensure that the necessary contracts are in place for emergency response.	M
30.	Establish and document control strategies, including diversion routes, for incidents (including RTCs and climatic events such as flood), planned works and local events such as football matches, horse races and annual fairs.	S
31.	Review emergency response time and explore the potential jointly with HA for an elite service in Hereford, reducing response times to 20 minutes.	M
32.	Ensure all SSDP works are completed efficiently with minimum disruption to traffic flow through a review of construction methods and inspection procedures to minimise enforcement.	M
33.	Ensure that the out of hours officers have a full understanding of NRSWA, TMA and the authorities powers to intervene and recharge.	S
34.	Complete a set of protocols for the operation of traffic control systems with the Highways Agency.	M
35.	Make full use of existing and future network performance data to inform road users and reduce unnecessary delays	L
36.	<p>Improve the awareness of traffic conditions through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of SCOOT detectors to spot slower than normal flow • an enhanced Herefordshire CCTV system • a link to view the HA cameras <p>the purchase a system such as Traffic master or ITIS live data feeds.</p>	M/L
37.	Ensure there are sufficient trained staff to operate systems at required times and that emergency back up is available	M
38.	Consider the need for dial up control at those traffic signalled junctions on key traffic corridors outside of the SCOOT area or on identified diversion routes.	L
39.	Improve live traffic information communication links with local radio, traffic information centres and neighbouring authorities.	L
40.	Establish stronger links between the NRSWA team and the traffic control systems team so that un-licensed works can be spotted quicker and rectified.	L

Appendix C
Region Network Management Framework
The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table A - The Traffic Manager

<p><u>Traffic Manager (NMD Guidance Numbers 9 - 22)</u></p> <p>This section deals with the appointing of a Traffic Manager.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act requires a Traffic Manager to be appointed. • The authority needs to deliver a coordinated, planned and effective response to the Network Management Duty across the whole organisation • The Traffic Manager will provide a focal point within the local authority, championing the need to consider the Duty in all areas of work • The Traffic Manager is to be well placed to work closely with peers in other authorities and foster cooperation with other partners and stakeholders such as police, utilities and bus operators • The Traffic Manager needs to be at an appropriate level within the authority to be able to have influence over the stakeholders • The performance of the Network Management Duty will form part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment for the whole authority <p>Stakeholder Involvement Chief Executive Management Team Police Authorities Key Council Members, particularly the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table A - The Traffic Manager**

<u>Traffic Manager (NMD Guidance Numbers 9 - 22) (continued)</u>	
This section deals with the appointing of a Traffic Manager.	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Appoint a Traffic Manager Produce an organisational structure to identify the Traffic Manager's position within the authority. It will also be useful to include lines of communication Publicise the appointment internally (intranet etc.) with a role/responsibilities table</p> <p>Inform and liaise with stakeholders especially utilities and emergency services Produce a communication plan showing how information will be collected and Disseminated Consider undertaking presentations and producing publicity material to promote the role of Traffic Manager</p> <p>All The West Midlands and adjacent authorities should be updated if a Traffic Manager's details change, eg. Change of personnel, change of contact details</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The Head of Service has been appointed as the Traffic Manager. An organisational structure has been developed which will be communicated both internally and externally.</p> <p>The network management plan contains a section which forms the communication plan. This is focused on both management and travel information priorities. It details the exchange of information and key contact details. Any changes to the Traffic Managers details will be communicated to all neighbouring authorities and DfT.</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table B - The Whole Authority

<u>Whole Authority (NMD Guidance Numbers 55,56)</u>	
<p>This section deals with informing the whole authority of the importance of the Traffic Management Act and how it will have implications within different departments. Meeting the requirements of the Act will require commitment from each authority at the highest levels including the Chief Executive and other senior managers.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Managers need to ensure that the whole organisation is made aware of the Traffic Management Act • Ensure that all departments are aware of the implications the Act has on them. While each authority will have its own internal structure, service areas to be considered will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleansing Refuse School and Social Transport Highways Legal Housing Public Rights of Way Ground Maintenance Street Lighting Road Safety Planning Development Control Property Maintenance Tourism Economic Development (Regeneration) <p>This list is not exhaustive and each Traffic Manager will need to determine the departments to be briefed within their own authority</p> <p>NB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all departments are aware of the authority's strategy to meet the Duty under the Act and that they need to consider what the implications are of this <p>Stakeholder Involvement</p> <p>Utilities, Public Transport Operators, Parish Council's, Freight Quality Partnerships.</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table B - The Whole Authority**

<u>Whole Authority (NMD Guidance Numbers 55,56) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with informing the whole authority of the importance of the Traffic Management Act and how it will have implications within different departments. Meeting the requirements of the Act will require commitment from each Authority at the highest levels including the Chief Executive and other senior managers.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Develop an internal Communications Plan</p> <p>Compile a contact list of the relevant people to contact within each department Prepare briefing notes. It may be beneficial for this to be done in cooperation with other The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group authorities Presentations to be given to different departments within the authority. It may be beneficial for a standard presentation to be used in all The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group authorities Develop a system for monitoring level of awareness throughout the authority. E.g. through staff surveys Hold annual workshop of the above mentioned contacts to investigate any proactive solutions to congestion problems</p> <p>Refer to WM(S&U)TMG Sub Group on Whole Authority Approach</p> <p>The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group Sub Group will provide advice on whole authority approach</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The communications section in the Network Management plan outlines what the Highways Network manager will do to publicise the Traffic Management Act and its implications. The level of awareness will be monitored through performance appraisals. The opportunity to work on a regional basis to share resources is recognised in the plan.</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table C – Cross Boundary Working

<u>Cross boundary working (NMD Guidance Numbers 31, 32, 72, 74, 90, 101, 109)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the need for cooperation between all the authorities within The West Midlands, and outside the WM(S&U)TMG area, whether that be between two or more local authorities or with the Highways Agency</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Traffic Authorities must be aware of how their actions will impact on adjacent authorities' networks • The Duty on an Local Traffic Authorities does not stop at its borders • Local Traffic Authorities must identify those authorities that could be affected by their actions and make arrangements for managing this • Local Traffic Authorities need to specifically consider the effects of their actions on the motorway and trunk road network • Local Traffic Authorities should consider how to implement the requirement in the Act to facilitate movement across the entire network . • Local Traffic Authorities will need to give due regard to HA role • Traffic Managers should ensure that all roads are categorised in a consistent manner on either side of the boundary (refer to Sub Group on Hierarchies) • Roads that provide the main access to a community or region should also be identified • Information on works in the street should be provided to utilities, contractors and adjoining authorities • Any Abnormal Loads travelling in the area will need cross boundary coordination <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Adjacent authorities Highways Agency</p>

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The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table C – Cross Boundary Working

<p><u>Cross boundary working (NMD Guidance Numbers 31, 32, 72, 74, 90, 101, 109) (continued)</u></p> <p>This section deals with the need for cooperation between all the authorities within the West Midlands, and outside the WM(S&U)TMG area, whether that be between two or more local authorities or with the Highways Agency</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Consider identifying a single point of contact for cross boundary working with other authorities</p> <p>Develop / agree and disseminate a cross boundary procedure Ensure that contact details are kept up to date Consider appointing one person to be responsible for the procedure and contact list</p> <p>Identify which authorities will be affected by your actions and make arrangements to manage this Identify adjacent authorities and also those which are not immediately adjacent but may be affected Identify the Traffic Managers and other key staff in relevant authorities and in the Highways Agency. Key staff in other authorities may be in a variety of Departments and will be those who deal with any issues covered by the Act. Key staff at the Highways Agency will include those in the Control Centres.</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The NRSWA Co-ordinator has been identified as the main point of contact for the exchange of cross boundary works information. A database has been established to support this and a weekly exchange of all planned works already exists.</p> <p>The Highways Network Manager will keep all contacts up to date and published.</p>

<p>Cooperate on initiatives, the sharing of information, and a process to ensure policies are consistent</p> <p>Agree joint working arrangements Set up Sub Groups (these may be standing groups) of WM(S&U)TMG and when appropriate invite contributions from other authorities Set up shared databases on planned and unplanned events Set up a WM(S&U)TMG Extranet</p>	<p>The plan recognises the need to work together and explore the opportunities for joint initiatives.</p>
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The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table D – Other Policies

<u>Other Policies (NMD Guidance Numbers 36,47)</u>	
<p>When fulfilling the Duty of the Traffic Management Act authorities must ensure that they continue to adhere to other policies. The authorities must include information in LTP submissions.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and environmental considerations remain a key priority • Operation, maintenance, repair and provision of services should be taken into account • In meeting the Duty Local Traffic Authorities must also adhere to other policy documents such as environmental protection legislation, the Disability Discrimination Act, Air Quality Management areas, Health and Safety and planning legislation • LTAs should also ensure any policies are aligned to their Local Transport Plan submissions <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Passenger Transport Executive Highways Agency Government Office for The West Midlands and The Humber Department for Transport</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table D – Other Policies

<u>Other Policies (NMD Guidance Numbers 36,47) (continued)</u>	
<p>When fulfilling the Duty of the Traffic Management Act authorities must ensure that they continue to adhere to other policies. The authorities must include information in LTP submissions.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Review Existing Policies Conduct a review of existing internal policies to identify issues which may be relevant to meeting the requirements of the Act. If any conflict is identified between the requirements of the Act and other existing policies, ensure that these are taken into account by those making decisions</p> <p>Review New Policies Review any new government policies and initiatives to identify issues which may be relevant to meeting the requirements of the Act. If any conflict is identified between the requirements of the Act and other new policies, ensure that these are taken into account by those making decisions</p> <p>Ensure consideration of Traffic Management Act implications in all decisions All formal reports and similar documents to give consideration to implications for Traffic Management Act If any conflict is identified between the requirements of the Act and other policies, ensure that these are taken into account by those making decisions</p> <p>Consider Asset Management plans Identify and assess implications of actions proposed as part of Asset Management Plans</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The plan identifies specific policies and procedures to be reviewed. Each review will also take into account Equal Opportunities, Health, Safety and Welfare, Road Safety and fully comply with current legislation.</p> <p>The Network Manager will review new policies and make recommendations to the Traffic Manager who is also the Head of Service.</p> <p>The Network Manager will promote best practice for compliance with the Act across all service groups.</p> <p>Maintenance and the Asset Management Plan will facilitate the intended use of the network and the hierarchy of priority routes for all modes of travel</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table E – Congestion

<u>Congestion (NMD Guidance Numbers 27, 30, 37, 96, 97) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the locations and causes of congestion, both now and in the future. Congestion is a key issue for consideration in Local Transport Plans and is recognised by DfT in the assessment of LTP's.</p>	
<u>Actions Suggested</u>	<u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u>
<p>Identify locations of congestion Conduct targeted data collection e.g. journey time surveys Set up database of possible congestion "hot spots" Verify then use information from bus drivers, taxi drivers utility workers via Punctuality Improvement Partnerships etc to identify congestion hot spots</p> <p>Identify current and future causes of congestion Analyse characteristics of congestion "hot spots" and identify common causes. This may be done in cooperation with other authorities. Ensure that planned land use changes and their congestion implications are recognised</p> <p>Be pro active in identifying future congestion areas and act now Develop appropriate models to analyse the effects on the network of planned changes Ensure models are kept up to date to reflect measured traffic growth and changes in land use</p> <p>Rank areas/locations of congestion Identify criteria for ranking congestion such as number of people affected, frequency of occurrence, duration of occurrence, ease/difficulty of tackling problem</p>	<p>Annual surveys of journey times on selected key routes are already undertaken which provide the data for the LTP2 performance indicator. New methods of data collection will be integrated in the Herefordshire Intelligent Transport System. Following the agreement of priority criteria a database of congestion locations together with control strategies will be produced. A help-line number for reporting delays will be published. A Punctuality Improvement Partnership has been set up with First Group. Greater use will be made of the Hereford Transportation Model to assess the impact of new developments and the evaluate control strategies</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table E – Congestion

<u>Congestion (NMD Guidance Numbers 27, 30, 37, 96, 97) (continued)</u>	
<p>Congestion is a key issue for consideration in Local Transport Plans and is recognised by DfT in the assessment of LTP's.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Monitor traffic growth and its effects Conduct regular surveys on traffic growth and correlate this against measures of Congestion Ensure models are regularly updated to include measured traffic growth Ensure information from Traffic Assessments is included in monitoring of traffic growth Ensure information regarding traffic growth is taken into account in the development control process</p> <p>Consider Asset Management Plans Identify and assess implications for congestion of actions proposed as part of Asset Management Plans</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The existing annual traffic flow monitoring data will be compared to the theoretical link capacity and published as a performance report including traffic growth trends.</p> <p>The Highway Maintenance Plan together with the Transport Asset Management Plan will facilitate the intended use of the network and the hierarchy of priority routes for all modes of travel</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table F – Road Hierarchy

<u>Road and Road User Hierarchy (NMD Guidance Numbers 53,54,87,88,89,90)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the creation of a road and road user hierarchy which recognises the needs of all road users and allocates road space accordingly</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to develop a structured approach to the allocation of road space • A new road hierarchy system would need to recognise all existing road hierarchies in order to minimise the effort required to develop a system and also to provide consistency for stakeholders • Hierarchies need to take account of other policies and plans such as Asset Management Plans • The following issues could be taken into account in the development of an approach to hierarchies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus routes • Level of pedestrian activity • Time of day • Vehicular traffic flow • Route standard • Any weight restrictions • Emergency service routes • Abnormal load routes • Any current road hierarchy • Diversion routes • River/rail crossings • Route pairing • Freight management • Route management strategies • Emergency planning needs • Winter maintenance • Home zones/traffic calmed areas and quiet lanes <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent authorities • Utilities • Emergency services • Highways Agency • Passenger Transport Executive • Public Transport Operators

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table F – Road Hierarchy

Road and Road User Hierarchy (NMD Guidance Numbers 53,54,87,88,89,90) (continued)	
<p>This section deals with the creation of a road and road user hierarchy which recognises the needs of all road users and allocates road space accordingly</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Need to review hierarchy on a regular basis Sub groups set up to review all existing hierarchies and consider options for a new hierarchy system that incorporates all of these. Sub groups used to set up hierarchy principles so that all WM(S&U)TMG authorities have similar hierarchies Roads that cross boundaries need to be decided by both parties, unless the nature of the road changes on the boundary</p> <p>Changes to the Road Hierarchy During some planned events the hierarchy of certain roads may temporarily Change</p> <p>Consider implications of diversion routes (DLOA's) eg. For HA and incident/event management</p> <p>Ensure all relevant parties are aware of the hierarchies and act accordingly</p> <p>Consider Asset Management Plans Identify and assess implications of other policies and plans such as Asset Management Plans</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>A hierarch of priority routes will be reviewed broadly in line with the suggestions in TRL report AG55-2005 Traffic Management Procedures – Provisional Guidance for Local Authorities. The initial hierarchy will be developed through the Core Team and signed of by the Traffic Manager. It will then be the subject of consultation with key stakeholders including neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>A schedule of control strategies for priority traffic routes will be developed and documented including diversion routes.</p> <p>The Highway Maintenance Plan together with the Transport Asset Management Plan will facilitate the intended use of the network and the hierarchy of priority routes for all modes of travel.</p>

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Table G – Traffic Regulation Orders

<u>Traffic Regulation Orders (NMD Guidance Numbers 122,123,124,131)</u>	
This section deals with Traffic Regulation Orders	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Regulation Orders should be appropriate for their intended purpose • Traffic Regulation Orders should be consistent along routes and within areas • Traffic Regulation Orders should be reviewed regularly to ensure they are required and remain appropriate • Traffic Regulation Orders should be sustainable and enforceable <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Police Adjacent Authorities Public transport operators Enforcement Authority Passenger Transport Executive</p>

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Table G – Traffic Regulation Orders

Traffic Regulation Orders (NMD Guidance Numbers 122,123,124,131) (Continued)	
This section deals with Traffic Regulation Orders	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Create consistent and up to date database of Traffic Regulation Orders Commission an audit of all TRO's giving priority to sensitive routes and provide a GIS based database</p> <p>Review existing Traffic Regulation Orders Check existing TRO's (giving priority to sensitive routes) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consistency - appropriateness - sustainability and enforceability <p>Maintain signs and Road Markings Commission regular repair and renewal of signs and markings</p> <p>Ensure Enforcement Work closely with Police when relevant If decriminalisation is not in place consider implementing this If decriminalisation is in place, ensure procedures are properly applied</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>TRO's will be reviewed and enforced to support journey time reliability on priority routes. Enforcement is already decriminalised in Herefordshire. A Geographically referenced database will ultimately be developed and published.</p>

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Table H – Planned Events

<u>Planned Events (NMD Guidance Numbers 28,50,106,108)</u>	
<p>This section deals with planned future events including ensuring the correct people are aware when events are approaching, reviewing what was done last time and how that can be improved, and developing an event planning and management process</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Traffic Authority should arrange for the collection of information on up coming events • The Local Traffic Authority should develop an effective event planning and management process • The Local Traffic Authority should review past processes • The Local Traffic Authority should develop a system to deal with all planned events <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>The Council's emergency Planning Team Emergency Services PTE Event Organisers Public Transport Operators Adjacent authorities Utilities AA RAC</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table H – Planned Events

<u>Planned Events (NMD Guidance Numbers 28,50,106,108) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with planned future events including ensuring the correct people are aware when events are approaching, reviewing what was done last time and how that can be improved, and developing an event planning and management process</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Determine where in the organisation events are dealt with which have NMD Implications</p> <p>Liase on a regular basis with other departments and Stakeholders regarding future events Identify which people in which departments need to be liased with over planned events Arrange regular meetings with stakeholders to facilitate planning of events</p> <p>Gain a sound understanding of the event and likely effects to inform network management decisions Create a pro forma to be completed by event promoters providing relevant details of location, scale, timing, likely traffic generation etc Where possible, compare with outcomes from previous similar events</p> <p>Collect event information at a single point Ensure that all Departments and other stakeholders use proforma and are collated in a single point</p> <p>Disseminate information about an event early and continuously with all appropriate stakeholders Set up a communication strategy to disseminate information; this could include creating a website, producing a newsletter, making the best use of the media (radio, press, tv) etc</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The NRSWA Co-ordinator is the focal point for all events and works on the Highway. There is a database which is communicated to all stakeholders on a weekly basis. The data is also published on the Councils website.</p> <p>The Highways and Transportation Service Managers will determine the traffic management requirements for events and in-house works. The NRSWA Co-ordinators determine the traffic management requirements for all utility works in liaison with the Area Teams.</p> <p>Events that are likely to cause significant disruption will be discussed with the Highways Network Manager, who where necessary will seek the approval of the Traffic Manager</p>

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Table H – Planned Events

<u>Planned Events (Duty Numbers 28,50,106,108) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with planned future events including ensuring the correct people are aware when events are approaching, reviewing what was done last time and how that can be improved, and developing an event planning and management process</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Review/revise Road hierarchy The hierarchy may need to be temporarily revised to accommodate a planned event. Each LTA will need to liaise closely with stakeholders and adjacent authorities to agree and implement this. Eg temporary 'traffic sensitivity'</p> <p>Work with internal and external partners to minimise impact Consider rearranging signal timings on the network, working with Public Transport Operators to rearrange services and with temporary signing organisers (eg. AA, RAC)</p> <p>Review Previous Events Set up a database of events and their consequences (based on data collected via pro formas) When a planned event is a repeat of a regular occurrence, eg an annual festival, information on previous actions and the outcomes should be reviewed and used to decide what measures should be put in place in the future.</p> <p>Temporary Traffic Management issues Determine traffic management actions which may be necessary to deal with events Coordinate actions with other planned works</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The policy for the use of diversion routes will be reviewed. The Highways and Transportation Service Managers will determine the traffic management requirements for events and in-house works. The NRSWA Co-ordinators determine the traffic management requirements for all utility works in liaison with the Area Teams. Events that are likely to cause significant disruption will be discussed with the Highways Network Manager, who where necessary will seek the approval of the Traffic Manager. The Highways Network Manager will where necessary convene a post event meeting to discuss any issues and lessons learned.</p>

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Table I – Works Which Impact On The Highway

<p><u>Works Which Impact On The Highway (NMD Guidance Numbers 28,50,65,67,68,99,100,101,102)</u></p> <p>This section deals with all works which impact on the highway, including works sponsored by the authority, utilities and other parties. Authorities need to apply the principle of parity in their dealings with all promoters of works. Consideration of works should be integrated with other planned events.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities need to ensure all works are carried out with sufficient urgency • Works should not be looked at in isolation, but should be coordinated • Skips, scaffolding or similar are often left in the road during works to buildings next to the highway. Local Traffic Authorities should ensure the obstruction to road users is minimised and look at how the obstructions affect the more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians • Authorities must give the same priority to work being carried out by external sources as they do with their own highway working teams • Review programmes and systems of work regularly with representatives from utilities and other contractors • Up coming events should be considered when planning works • Reference should be made to other policies and plans such as Asset Management Plans <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Utilities Internal promoters of road works Adjacent authorities Those involved in planning of events Police Public transport operators</p>

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Table I – Works Which Impact On The Highway

<u>Works Which Impact On The Highway (NMD Guidance Numbers 28,50,65,67,68,99,100,101,102) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with all works which impact on the highway, including works sponsored by the authority, utilities and other parties. Authorities need to apply the principle of parity in their dealings with all promoters of works. Consideration of works should be integrated with other planned events.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Liaise on a regular basis with all those responsible for works which impact on the highway Hold regular meetings with both internal promoters of works, utilities and others. Promote the need to inform the Local Traffic Authorities of all activities on the highway which may have an impact on traffic flow.</p> <p>Establish systems to record and co-ordinate all works which impact on the highway Establish electronic systems for recording planned activities on the highway to include details of location, duration, proposed traffic management, expected impact etc. Make the system available for direct input from all major promoters. Have systems in place to facilitate the input of all activities from others. Make electronic systems available for public interrogation. Challenge the durations of activities on the highway to ensure that all works are carried out with sufficient urgency. Ensure that processes and controls apply equally to all works.</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>Monthly in-house coordination meetings are held and separate quarterly meetings with Highways Agency and utilities.</p> <p>There is an existing database that record all works and events. This is outlined in the Network Management Plan. Effective use is made of Section 74 to manage works durations. There is scope to improve the method of in-house works. The processes will be reviewed to ensure consistency.</p>

<p>Co-ordinate works which impact on the highway with other planned events. Establish a system to highlight specific co-ordination needs related to the potential for congestion, disruption or conflict. Hold regular co-ordination meetings with both internal promoters of works, utilities and others.</p> <p>Consider Asset Management plans Consider possible coordination with works indicated by Asset Management Plans</p>	<p>An effective system already exists. Regular meetings are already held</p> <p>The Highway Maintenance Plan together with the Transport Asset Management Plan will facilitate the intended use of the network and the hierarchy of priority routes for all modes of travel.</p>
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Table J – Seasonal Changes

<u>Seasonal Changes (NMD Guidance Numbers 52, 113, 115) (continued)</u>	
<p>Local Traffic Authorities may need to look at how seasonal variations can affect the network. This should include weather conditions, tourist activities and seasonal activities.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Consider how the tourism season impacts on the network Identify local trends in tourism and how this impacts on the network</p> <p>Mitigate effects of seasonal conditions Work with the tourist industry to mitigate the effects of tourist activity e.g. by staggering the start of holiday bookings Identify possibilities of diverting tourist traffic on to less sensitive routes through signing Work with local media to ensure highway users are well informed of conditions and mitigation measures</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>These will be picked up in the process of developing control strategies which may be seasonal or related to specific events.</p> <p>This will be considered by the Network Manager but tourism is not regarded as a major contribution to congestion. Direction signing will be continuously reviewed particularly in the event of infrastructure improvements that provide additional capacity.</p> <p>There is a plan to engage more effectively with the media on a number of levels. This is outlined in the communications section of the Network Management Plan</p>

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Table K – Winter Service**

<u>Winter Service</u>	
This section deals with issues relating to winter service.	
	<u>Key issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up appropriate coordinated actions to mitigate the effects of winter weather
	Stakeholder Involvement Other highway authorities Local media Weather information provide

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Table K – Winter Service

<u>Winter Service (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with issues relating to winter service.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Take account of seasonal changes due to weather conditions Coordinate with adjacent authorities over gritting Consultation with a weather information provider could provide an early warning of the need for gritting Cooperate with local media (Radio, TV etc) regarding publicising winter maintenance activities</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The winter service is an excellent example an existing intervention given the threat of ice or snow. It will be tailored to meet the needs of priority routes for all modes of travel. It is planned to integrate weather and air quality information into the Herefordshire ITS so that warnings and further control strategies can be implemented including the supply of information to the media.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council’s approach to the delivery of Winter Service is set out in the Winter Service Plan.</p>

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Table L – Unplanned Events

<u>Unplanned Events (NMD Guidance Numbers 29,50,112,113,114)</u>	
<p>This section deals with unplanned events, such as severe/adverse weather conditions or accidents and civil emergencies.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Traffic Authorities must have contingency plans in place to deal with unplanned events • Local Traffic Authorities should coordinate with adjacent authorities where necessary • Local Traffic Authorities should ensure that all parties involved in the contingency plans are fully consulted with during the development stage • All parties should have all the required information to react quickly • Contingency plans should take into account the relative importance of different roads to the various road users • Local Traffic Authorities need to work closely with the emergency services both in the management of the incident and the active management of its effects on the road network <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Police Other emergency services Adjacent authorities Passenger Transport Executive Public transport operators Utilities Emergency planning Internal stakeholders</p>

The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework

Table L – Unplanned Events

<u>Unplanned Events (NMD Guidance Numbers 29,50,112,113,114) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with unplanned events, such as severe/adverse weather conditions or accidents and civil emergencies.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Gain a sound understanding of the nature of previous events and the nature and scale of the impacts Create a pro forma to record events and their impact Set up a database of events and their consequences (based on data collected via pro formas)</p> <p>Robust contingency plans are required for frequently occurring incidents eg. adverse weather conditions</p> <p>Robust contingency plans are required for key routes</p> <p>Coordinate plans with adjacent authorities Run a series of workshops with the stakeholders to develop contingency plans.</p> <p>Arrange dissemination of relevant information to stakeholders Set up a website to disseminate information Set up other media routes for dissemination of information</p> <p>Investigate the benefits of technology in dealing with unplanned incidents Establish a traffic management centre* Consider a CCTV system* Consider automatic incident detection* Consider SMS information release*</p> <p>*Linked into an ITS strategy</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The likely causes of congestion from incidents including flooding will be identified and control strategies developed for intervention. Such events will be recorded and intervention performance reviewed. It is planned to integrate weather and air quality information into the Herefordshire ITS so that warnings and further control strategies can be implemented including the supply of information to the media.</p> <p>The Network Management Plan establishes the key contacts. Control strategies will be developed that will be discussed to neighbouring authorities where appropriate.</p> <p>It is planned to set up a Herefordshire Intelligent Transport System that will utilise various sources of live traffic condition data and facilitate intervention through traffic control, emergency response or travel advice to minimise congestion.</p>

<p>Establish communication protocol and action plans with Police, Highways Agency, emergency services, public transport operators</p> <p>Establish links with Control Centres Agree diversion routes Sign operating agreements</p> <p>Create action plans with bus operators and other emergency service</p>	<p>Communication protocols are a key element of the Network Management Plan.</p> <p>The control strategies will be multi-modal and where necessary coordinated with neighbouring authorities. A signed local operating agreement will exist with the national Traffic Control Centre and the Highways Agency local area control centres.</p>
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The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan Framework Table M – Police

<u>Police (NMD Guidance Numbers 59, 60, 112, 130)</u>	
This section deals with the involvement of the Police in determining actions and in the implementation of them when agreed	
	<u>Key Issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Traffic Authorities need to involve the Police in the decision making process• Share information with police about planning and contingencies
	<u>Stakeholder Involvement</u> Police Highways Agency

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Table M – Police

<u>Police (NMD Guidance Numbers 59, 60, 112, 130) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the involvement of the Police in determining actions and in the implementation of them when agreed</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Whenever preparing any contingency plans or event plans etc ensure that the police are fully consulted with Traffic Manager needs to have a list of contacts for all the possible departments they will need to liaise with Regular meeting with police to discuss any planned or unplanned events past and future, any actions put into place for the past events and review the consequences, and discuss actions for future planned events.</p> <p>Review contingency plans (post event) or at suitable intervals (eg. new legislation) Hold regular meetings with police to review operation of plans and if necessary review procedures</p> <p>Consider a joint approach Assess possible benefits of joint approaches based on Police boundaries. I.e. Joint approach by West The West Midlands, South The West Midlands, Humberside and North The West Midlands authorities to the respective police forces</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>There are strong operational links with the Police. They will be included in the process to develop control strategies and performance review. The opportunity for stronger strategic links and a partnership for congestion management will be explored. The Police will be invited to sit on the Herefordshire Network Management Board.</p> <p>The opportunity to gain benefits from for regional working and shared resources will be explored as part of the plan.</p>

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Table N – Passenger Transport Executive (PTE)

<u>Passenger Transport Executive (NMD Guidance Numbers 62, 63)</u>	
This section deals with involvement of the Passenger Transport Executive (and bus operators and Traffic Commissioners)	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Traffic Authorities need to consider how to best use Passenger Transport Executives and bus operators and Traffic Commissioners to ensure the most efficient use of the network• Consultation with Passenger Transport Executives over works likely to cause inconvenience to bus routes <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Passenger Transport Executive Bus operators Traffic Commissioners</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table N – Passenger Transport Executive (PTE)**

Passenger Transport Executive (NMD Guidance Numbers 62, 63) (continued)	
<p>This section deals with involvement of the Passenger Transport Executive (and bus operators and Traffic Commissioners)</p>	
<u>Actions Suggested</u>	<u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u>
<p>Work with all relevant parties to formulate and implement a plan for improving bus punctuality Set up regular liaison with Passenger Transport Executives, Bus operators and Traffic Commissioners to discuss issues and agree measures Work with Passenger Transport Executives to deliver any bus priority schemes set out in the Local Transport Plans Work with Punctuality Improvement Partnerships where applicable</p> <p>Agree means of monitoring public transport performance Discuss with Passenger Transport Executives and bus operators the use of journey time data to evaluate congestion (see Table E) Work with Punctuality Improvement Partnerships where applicable</p>	<p>Congestion management in Hereford will depend upon modal shift and in particular increased use of passenger transport. A Punctuality Improvement Partnership has been set up. Passenger transport priority and real time information will be integrated into the Herefordshire ITS. Stronger strategic and tactical link will be developed with the bus operators to ensure journey time reliability on priority passenger transport route.</p>

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Table O – Consultation

<u>Consultation (NMD Guidance Numbers 64,134,135,136)</u>	
This section deals with consultation with all stakeholders	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Traffic Authorities should consult with the public to inform decisions on policy• Local Traffic Authorities should consult with the public in order to monitor the effectiveness of policies• Local Traffic Authorities should consult with the public after completion of schemes to monitor effectiveness• Review authority's current consultation strategy to see if consultation on network operation can be included• Surveys of staff within Local Traffic Authorities on network management can provide useful information <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>General public - citizen panels Utilities Businesses - chamber of commerce etc Road user groups</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
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Table O – Consultation**

<u>Consultation (NMD Guidance Numbers 64,134,135,136) (continued)</u>	
This section deals with consultation with all stakeholders	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Develop a consultation strategy Assess what consultation is already undertaken Identify additional needs Develop plan to conduct required consultation</p> <p>Consider a similar approach to consultation with the public throughout The West Midlands Set up a contact point for the general public to contact regarding the management of the road network in their area The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group sub group to develop a consultation strategy. Consultation with the public should continue to be done by each authority's existing mechanisms, however when possible, a consistent approach would be beneficial. Sub groups should discuss the output from the public consultation and develop a strategy for improving public perception of the network</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The public will be consulted on a regular basis to determine the level of satisfaction with network management and journey time reliability. The public will be consulted on the Hierarchy of priority routes and where appropriate the public will be consulted about policies, procedures and control strategies.</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
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Table P – Freight**

<u>Freight (NMD Guidance Numbers 128,129,130)</u>	
This section deals with the movement and delivery of freight, including abnormal loads.	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Traffic Authorities should work together with local businesses, retailers and representatives from the freight and road haulage industry• Local Traffic Authorities should identify and sign routes that are suitable for lorries• Authorities should work with the Police to establish routes for abnormal loads travelling through the network <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Police Freight and haulage firms Adjacent authorities Businesses and retailers Highways Agency Bridge Authorities</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table P – Freight**

Freight (NMD Guidance Numbers 128,129,130) (continued)	
This section deals with the movement and delivery of freight, including abnormal loads.	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Ensure stakeholders are aware of, and adhere to, good practice Organise regular seminars for stakeholders Create Extranet providing good practice guidance</p> <p>Ensure freight movement takes place on appropriate routes and at appropriate times Consider the use of signing and TROs to stop freight from travelling along sensitive routes Consider the use of loading restrictions to mitigate impact during peak periods</p> <p>Establish appropriate abnormal load routes Liaise with police and adjacent authorities (including Highways Agency) to identify and agree Abnormal Load routes Review proposed movement of abnormal loads in light of planned events and, if necessary, revise designated routes or arrange for rescheduling of movement of loads.</p> <p>Establish protocols Put protocols in place for information regarding abnormal load movements</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>Freight will be an important consideration when developing the criteria for priority routes and control strategies.</p> <p>Direction signing and promotional material will be reviewed to ensure freight movements use the correct roads.</p> <p>Abnormal load routes exist and are agreed as necessary with neighbours and the Highways Agency.</p> <p>The protocols and procedures for abnormal loads using priority traffic routes will be the subject of specific control strategies.</p>

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Table Q – Making the Best Use of Technology

<p><u>Making the Best Use of Technology (NMD Guidance Numbers 70, 71, 74, 92, 93, 103, 107, 108, 111, 112, 116, 117, 120, 121, 132, 133, 137, 138)</u></p> <p>This section deals with how new and emerging technology can be used to improve network management</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure information to the travelling public is accurate, reliable and readily accessible • Information must also be sent to all stakeholders and emergency services • Review current Intelligent Transport Systems in operation within The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group area and assess other potential systems to add value to network management • Review interface with National Traffic Control Centre/Regional Control Centre needs • Consider options for 'centralisation' of systems or 'integration' of systems over Wide Area Network using Urban Traffic Management Control principles and control strategies • Develop regional Intelligent Transport System strategy and policies. • Review the potential for the use of the Department for Transport ITIS journey time information <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Highways Agency (National Traffic Control Centre/Regional Control Centre) Passenger Transport Executive Media/broadcasters</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
Framework
Table Q – Making the Best Use of Technology**

<p>Making the Best Use of Technology (NMD Guidance Numbers 70, 71, 74, 92, 93, 103, 107, 108, 111, 112, 116, 117, 120, 121, 132, 133, 137, 138) (continued)</p> <p>This section deals with how new and emerging technology can be used to improve network management</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Develop and share ITS best practice Conduct an ITS inventory Conduct a network inventory Conduct stakeholder consultation and marketing for public acceptance Develop an ITS package Complete an ITS deployment plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various partners</p> <p>Ensure continuous development and sharing of ideas Keep up to date with latest developments and share through The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>A feasibility study has been completed for a Herefordshire Intelligent Transport system covering all aspects of new and emerging technology. Funding and procurement strategies will be developed. The ITS will be tailored to deliver the control strategies to meet journey time reliability target of a zero % increase in congestion levels by 2010/11.</p> <p>Herefordshire will fully participate in the West Midlands Traffic Managers Group.</p>

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Table R – Monitoring

<p><u>Monitoring (NMD Guidance Numbers 40, 41, 91, 95)</u></p> <p>This section deals with the target setting and reviewing process including what data is required, how that data will be collected and how it can be interpreted.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Traffic Authorities are required to monitor the effectiveness of their policies • Local Traffic Authorities must provide a set of indicators that demonstrate this • Local Traffic Authorities need to decide what data they need, how it will be collated and how the findings will be shared with the stakeholders. • Ultimate aim is to improve network performance and Local Traffic Authorities will need to develop indicators to prove they are doing this • Indicators should, as far as possible match the ones in their Local Transport Plan submissions and be outcome not output based <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>Other The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group authorities</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
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Table R – Monitoring**

<u>Monitoring (NMD Guidance Numbers 40, 41, 91, 95) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the target setting and reviewing process including what data is required, how that data will be collected and how it can be interpreted.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Identify and agree Performance Indicators Cooperate with other The West Midlands Traffic Managers Group Local Traffic Authorities in sub group taking due account of emerging national indicators</p> <p>Put systems in place to monitor the state of the network Set up appropriate data collection including regular surveys of journey times, traveller delays etc A set of local, output based indicators will assist Local Traffic Authorities to determine the effectiveness of their actions, although not necessarily of use in Local Transport Plan and Annual Performance Report submissions</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>Herefordshire will fully participate in the West Midlands Traffic Managers Group.</p> <p>The Council has set a number of performance indicators relevant to network management in the LTP2. The main target is to achieve a zero % increase in congestion by 2010/11. This is measured using cross city journey time surveys conducted annually. New sources of data will be integrated into the Herefordshire ITS. The performance indicators will be reviewed with a view to placing greater emphasis on journey time reliability for radial journeys into and out of Hereford.</p>

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Table S – Regular Updates

<u>Regular Updates (NMD Guidance Numbers (131,132,133))</u>	
<p>This section deals with the need to maintain and update the fabric of the highway when necessary. This can include the road, associated infrastructure such as signs and signals and TRO's. Information from a variety of sources can be used to identify the need for maintenance and renewal.</p>	
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider need for and effectiveness of current signs, signals, orders etc • Consider effectiveness of existing traffic signal settings • Establish systems for identifying issues and faults • Take account of other policies and plans such as Asset Management Plans <p><u>Stakeholder Involvement</u></p> <p>All road users Police Public transport operators Brown sign sites Car park operators</p>

**The WM(S&U)TMG Network Management Plan
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Table S – Regular Updates**

<u>Regular Updates (NMD Guidance Numbers (131,132,133) (continued)</u>	
<p>This section deals with the need to maintain and update the fabric of the highway when necessary. This can include the road, associated infrastructure such as signs and signals and TRO's. Information from a variety of sources can be used to identify the need for maintenance and renewal.</p>	
<p><u>Actions Suggested</u></p> <p>Undertake regular reviews of existing infrastructure and Traffic Regulation Orders Using the information from the asset management plan/process create a database of existing infrastructure Use audit to plan maintenance works in an effective manner with minimal impact giving priority to sensitive routes Use regularly updated traffic models to review signal settings and traffic management arrangements</p> <p>Establish systems to capture information from stakeholders Set up website for recording of issues Set up helpline for recording of issues Set up pro forma based system to capture information from bus drivers, taxi drivers, police etc</p> <p>Consider Asset Management Plans Consider possible coordination with works indicated by Asset Management Plans</p>	<p><u>Herefordshire Network Man. Plan</u></p> <p>The Highway Maintenance Plan together with the Transport Asset Management Plan will facilitate the intended use of the network and the hierarchy of priority routes for all modes of travel.</p>

Appendix D

The national framework is set out in “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) – The policy framework for the roads sector” published by Department for Transport November 2005.

Technology, and Intelligent Transport Systems specifically, already form an important part of our delivery plans for future transport. By helping road users to travel more safely, on less congested roads, and on better public transport services with improved information services, ITS brings economic, environmental and social benefits in many ways.

But there are challenges to be met if we want to extract the best from the potential that ITS offers. This framework explains how ITS supports our transport systems and the travelling experience. It also sets out the main issues that need addressing and describes the actions that the DfT is taking both to provide the policy framework, and to support and facilitate the economic, legal and administrative climate for widespread ITS deployment that benefits all road users.

This framework emphasises the fundamental need for greater co-ordination at several levels – policy, administrative and technical. ITS deployment has tended to focus in the past on the particular needs of an individual purchaser or technical provider. This approach is not the most productive and can lead to confusion, unnecessary costs for road users and a less smooth journey. The DfT has stated that it is committed to delivering seamless, efficient transport across the UK. DfT is leading the drive for a more joined-up approach, both as a major client for ITS and in our role to facilitate and encourage others.

Summary of DfT core objectives

- i. Support the economy through the provision of efficient and reliable inter-regional transport systems.
- ii. Deliver improvements to the accessibility, punctuality and reliability of local and regional transport systems.
- iii. Balance the need to travel with the need to improve quality of life by improving safety and respecting the environment; and
- iv. Improve cost-effectiveness.

PSA Targets (last updated 2005)

- By 2007-2008, make journeys more reliable on the strategic road network.
- By 2010-2011, the ten largest urban areas will meet the congestion targets set in their Local Transport Plan relating to movement on main roads into city centres.
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40%, the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%, by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-1998, tackling the significantly higher incidence in disadvantaged communities and a 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate against the same timescales.
- By 2010 increase the use of public transport (bus and light rail) by more than 12% in England compared with 2000 levels, with growth in every region.
- Improve air quality by meeting the Air Quality Strategy targets for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1,3 butadiene (responsibility for delivering this target is shared with DEFRA).
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels in line with our Kyoto commitment and move towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010 (responsibility for delivering this target is shared with DEFRA and DTI).

Seven ITS Policy Themes

- **Improving road network management** - including road pricing.
- **Improving road safety** - by reducing collisions, casualties and deaths.
- **Better travel and traveller information** – helping to match supply and demand by providing better information so that travellers can make informed choices on when and how to travel.
- **Better public transport on the roads** – supporting more reliable, more accessible, safer and more efficient services.
- **Supporting the efficiency of the road freight industry**
- **Reducing negative environmental impacts**
- **Supporting security, crime reduction and emergency planning measures.**

Appendix E

Contribution ITS can make to the Network Management Plan:

- The delivery of capacity improvement schemes involving traffic signal control.
- The maintenance, management and operation of Traffic Control and Information systems affording priority to radial access to urban areas and inter-urban journeys.
- The provision and operation of an Urban Traffic Control system that coordinates traffic signal timing using SCOOT.
- The development of a traffic control centre, utilising multiple data sources including CCTV and OCTV to enable road users to be controlled, directed and informed.
- The use of pre defined control strategies triggered by specific traffic conditions or incidents.
- The development of links with the Highways Agency to enable sharing of CCTV images.
- The implementation of a comprehensive network of detectors to enable journey times to be monitored and improved.
- The implementation of a comprehensive network of monitors for incident detection and network management.
- The implementation of a network of Variable message signs to inform drivers about delays and how to avoid them.
- The implementation of the bus priority and real time information system.
- Ensuring the delivery of real-time multi-modal travel advice.
- Supporting the delivery of the Punctuality Improvements Partnerships with bus operators.
- The support of the introduction of decriminalised enforcement of moving traffic offences.
- The support of the introduction and operation of a streetworks permit scheme.
- Undertaking planned capacity reviews of traffic control systems on priority traffic routes.
- Undertaking capacity audits of integrated transport schemes and development proposals.

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Alan Negus	NRSWA Co-ordinator	01432 260783	AlanN@herefordshire.gov.uk
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	Out of hours manned at Garrick House		
Neighbouring Authorities			
Shropshire County Council	Shire Hall, Abbey Forgeate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND	0845 678 9000	customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk
Worcestershire C.C	County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP	01905 763763	customerservices@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Gloucestershire C.C	Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TG	01452 425000	feedback@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Monmouthshire C.C	County Hall, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP44 2XH	01633 644644	fls.helpdesk@powys.gov.uk
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Owen Williams Consultants			
Owen Williams	Main Offices	01432 267200	bethan.bussey@amey.co.uk
Highways Agency			
Dave Smith	Route Manager	0121 678 8209	dave.smith@highways.gsi.gov.uk
Ben Barker	AmeyMouchel (Control Centre)	0121 254 1361 / 1338	mac9.ncc@ameymouchel.com
Emergency Contact	AmeyMouchel (Control Centre)	0121 254 1361 / 1338	
Traffic Signal UK			
Paul Owen	Regional Manager	0845 201 2691	paul.owen@tseu.net
West Mercia Police			
PC Colin Mears	Liaison Officer	08457 444888	colin.mears@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Operations Room	Hereford Police Station, Bath St Hereford, HR1 2HT Hereford		
Fire Brigade			
	Hereford	01432 274561	info@hwfire.org.uk
	Worcester	0845 12 24454	
	2 Kings Court, Charles Hastings Way, Worcester, WR5 1JR		
Utilities			
Welsh Water	Asset Records, Data Svs, Eastern Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 5EA	02920 534690	plantprotection@uk.ngrid.com
National Grid Gas	Lakeside House, The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7HD		
Openreach BT	Telecom House, Trinity St, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, ST1 5ND	0800 169 3849	
Central Networks	Bureau Services, Toll End Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0HH	08457 353637	
Sewern Trent Water	Waterworks Lane, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9DD	01902 793931	
Wales & West Utilities	1st Floor, Wales & West House, Spooner Close, Celtic Springs, Coedkernew, Newport, NP10 8FZ	02920 278912	plantprotection@wvuutilities.co.uk
National Grid Transmissions	PO Box 3484, NGT House, Warwick Park, Gallow's Hill, Warwick, CV34 6TG	01926 416772	
Mainline Pipelines	c/o Fisher German Charter Surveyors, Pipeline Office, New Rd, Hardley, Southampton, SO45 3NW	02360 883150	pipelines@fishergerman.co.uk
Cable & Wireless	Alkins Telecom, PO Box 290, 260 Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4WE	01454 288808	OSM.enquiries@atkinsglobal.com
Envoy	Ocean Park House, East Tyndall St, Cardiff, CF24 5GT		mswa@envoyonline.co.uk
Western Power Distribution	Lambly Way Ind Estate, Rummey, Cardiff, CF3 8EF	0800 052 0400	
Terapan Networks	Enterprise House, ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3XB		

Appendix H Herefordshire Congestion Assessment

The following table assesses the priority for the development of traffic control strategies for Herefordshire. It takes account of basic network capacity, incidents and planned events. Where appropriate it is also referenced to the source of the problem to assist detection. The assessment indicates that the priorities for intervention are:

- Capacity improvements to move more people and goods along the A road network
- Improved traffic control and emergency response in relation to accidents and other incidents on main roads

A slightly lower priority but still worthy of improvement is traffic control and response to incidents on B roads and the management of known periods of higher than normal traffic flow.

Herefordshire Congestion Impact Assessment		Contribution to delays	Contribution to unreliability	Likelihood	Impact	Scope for improvement	Priority for control
Network capacity (no reported incidents):							
1.	Motorway	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
2.	A Roads	S	V	H	M	Some potential	H
3.	B Roads	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
4.	Other	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
Incidents:							
5.	Accidents	S	S	M	M	Some potential	M
6.	Accidents	V	V	M	H	Significant	H
7.	Accidents	S	V	M	M	Some potential	M
8.	Accidents	I	S	M	L	Minimal	L
9.	Breakdowns	I	S	M	L	Some potential	M
10	Breakdowns	V	V	H	H	Significant	H
11	Breakdowns	S	V	H	M	Some potential	M/H

12	Breakdowns	Other	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
13	Obstruction*	Motorway	S	V	L	H	Some potential	L
14	Obstruction*	A Roads	V	V	M	H	Some potential	H
15	Obstruction*	B Roads	S	V	H	M	Some potential	M/H
16	Obstruction*	Other	I	S	H	L	Minimal	L
Planned events (existing level of planning):								
17	Christmas shopping		S	V	H	M	Significant	M/H
18	Road maintenance	Motorway	I	I	M	I	Minimal	L
19	Road maintenance	A Roads	S	S	M	M	Some potential	M
20	Road maintenance	B Roads	I	S	M	M	Some potential	M
21	Road maintenance	Other	I	S	M	L	Minimal	L
22	Improvement schemes	Motorway	I	I	L	L	Minimal	M
23	Improvement schemes	A Roads	S	S	M	M	Some potential	M
24	Improvement schemes	B Roads	S	S	M	M	Some potential	M
25	Improvement schemes	Other	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
26	Streetworks	Motorway	I	I	L	L	Minimal	L
27	Streetworks	A Roads	S	S	M	M	Some potential	M
28	Streetworks	B Roads	V	V	H	M	Minimal	L
29	Streetworks	Other	I	S	H	L	Minimal	L
30	Horse racing		I	S	H	M	Some potential	M
31	Football match		I	S	H	L	Some potential	M
32	Christmas Fair		S	V	H	M	Some potential	M
	* Fallen tree, Flooding, collapsed sewer etc		Impact on Congestion V = Very significant S = Significant I = Insignificant			Priority for Improvement H = High M = Medium L = Low		

FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2007/08

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: RESOURCES

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider and approve:

- a. The final outturn position for 2007/08.
- b. Joint Management Team's proposals for carry forward of unspent budget into 2007/08.
- c. The creation of new reserves and provisions in the 2007/08 accounts.

Key Decision

This is not a Key decision.

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve:

- (a) the final outturn for 2007/08;
- (b) the Joint Management Team's recommendations for carry forward of unspent budget into 2008/09; and
- (c) the movements to new reserves outlined in the report.

Reasons

- 1 Whilst work continues on the range of tasks necessary to prepare the Council's statutory Statement of Accounts for 2007/08, it is sufficiently advanced for Cabinet to consider the final outturn for the revenue account.
- 2 On 20 June 2008 the full Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 will be presented to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for formal approval. This will ensure the Council meets the statutory deadline for the approval of the accounts.

Considerations

DIRECTORATE BUDGET OUTTURNS FOR 2007/08

- 3 An overall summary of the outturn position for directorate budgets is as follows:

	£000
Directorate outturns 2007/08	
Adult & Community Services – an over spend	22
Children & Young People’s Services	0
Corporate & Customer Services – an over spend	1,176
Environment – an over spend	60
Human Resources – an under spend	-15
Resources – an under spend	-585
Corporate budgets – an under spend	-118
Bellwin threshold related to Environment – an over spend	360
Net directorate over spend	900

- 4 The above table shows that the final outturn position for 2007/08 was an over spend of £900k on directorate budgets after adjustments for use of revenue contingencies. The explanation of significant variances is included in the summary covering each directorate.
- 5 It is important to distinguish between the financial performance of directorates and the final overall revenue outturn of the Council. The following table gives the overall position after allowing for transactions not under the control of directorates:

	£000
Net directorate outturn 2007/08 – an over spend	900
Additional income from Financing Transactions	-804
Additional dividend income from West Mercia Supplies	-44
Unbudgeted income from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme	-581
Former local authority debt	-31
Unused Invest to Save allocation	-31
Net revenue under spend	-591

- 6 The overall position is an under spend of £591k on the Council’s 2007/08 revenue account. This compares to a forecast outturn for the year in the final Integrated Performance Report (IPR) of an over spend of £578k.
- 7 The Council has now established a consistent approach to managing budgets where cash is treated as a corporate resource by all levels of the Council. Service managers have been encouraged and supported by staff in the Resources

Directorate to concentrate their energies on delivering improved services at or below the available budget in line with corporate priorities rather than on protecting resources for their own particular service area.

- 8 The outturn position provides some additional flexibility for matching cash resources to corporate priorities into the future. The above tables demonstrate that the under spend is overwhelmingly accounted for by corporate activity. This overall directorate over spend is largely accounted for by the cost of the Community Network upgrade. If this is set to one side it is clear the overall position is a balanced budget for directorates. This has been significantly assisted by the allocation of £3.5m to help service improvement in 2007/08 and the £1.3m central contingency for social care.
- 9 A summary of the key variations between outturn and budget for each directorate is provided in the following paragraphs.

ADULT & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Final outturn summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000
Adult Services	+3,575	+3,092
Needs Analysis expenditure	0	+521
Strategic Housing	-1	+33
Community Services	+285	+324
Commissioning and Improvement	-177	-182
Less Invest to save funding	-500	-2,712
Less Social Care contingency	0	-1,054
Total	+3182	+22

Adult Services

- 10 The final outturn for the directorate is a £22k over spend after the application of the central revenue contingency and unused spend to save contingency. Details of the major variances with Adult Services are as follows:
- Learning Disabilities - £2.274 million over spend
 - Physical Disabilities - £0.576 million over spend
 - Mental Health - £1.120 million over spend
 - Older People - £0.595 million under spend
- 11 The position within Learning Disabilities improved at year end due to a number of

costs previously charged against revenue being transferred to the Learning Disability Fund held by the PCT. There have also been reductions in the overall level of packages with some assumed commitments not actually being incurred.

12. During 2007-08 a number of new schemes and initiatives intended to modernise Adult Social Care have been funded from the invest to save budget, with the spend featuring in the overall Integrated Performance Report (IPR) summary rather than being included in the directorate summary. In addition, £500k invest to save funding was allocated to fund specific short-term packages. For the purposes of this outturn report both the needs analysis expenditure and invest to save funding are now included in the final directorate outturn position.
13. In recognition of the demographic pressures in social care (both adults and children's) a centrally held contingency of £1.3m was set aside. The final outturn shows £1,054k allocated against Adult Social Care to offset the over spend position.
14. For 2008/09 the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme Board is overseeing a range of projects designed to change the way in which services are provided. This will see a move away from residential care towards more cost effective community based solutions. As well as reducing costs, income generation schemes including fairer charging are being implemented and a more stringent assessment process introduced. Further mitigation is from Supporting People funding where agreement in principle has been reached to identify cases where such funding would be appropriate. A review of all existing clients is being carried out in conjunction with the PCT.

Strategic Housing

15. The projected outturn for Strategic Housing is an over spend of £33k, this is due to the position within homelessness where there was an overall over spend of £140k which was mitigated by one-off savings in other areas due to vacancies and grants that drop out in 2008-09. Homelessness remains a major challenge for 2008-09 and work is on-going to develop a budget recovery plan.

Community Services

16. The final outturn on Community Services was an over spend of £324k. The main reason for this was the HALO Job evaluation payment issue which resulted in a net over spend of £227k. The other main area of over spend was the cost of maintaining public access PCs within libraries that has been previously reported.
17. The increase in over spend from the previous forecast is the result of higher than anticipated costs for tourism projects where expected levels of funding have not been achieved.
18. The outcome of the 'Article 10' audit by Government Office of the ARCH (Actively Regenerating Communities in Herefordshire) programme will not be known until 2008/09 and any grant clawback will be applied within the next financial year.

Commissioning & Improvement

19. This area under spent by £182k due to delayed recruitment following a restructuring and economies derived from carrying out a data cleansing exercise in-house rather than using external resources. Some ICT expenditure will be funded by grant funding which further improves the position.
20. Following changes to management arrangements this area will be reported as part as the overall Adult Social Care heading in IPR reports for 2008/09.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Final Outturn Summary

	March Net over or(-) Underspending £'000	Outturn 2008 Net over or(-) Underspending £'000
Central directorate budgets	-28	+134
Invest to Save expenditure	0	+390
Safeguarding and Assessment	+860	+536
Less Invest to Save Funding		-812
Social Contingency		-248
Total	+832	0

- 21 The overall outturn position achieved at the end of 2007/08 is a balanced budget after application of unused spend to save budget and an element of the £1.3m social care contingency.

Directorate Central Budget

- 22 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) does not fund the remaining education services such as strategic management, SEN assessment, asset management and transport.
- 23 The Council is required to meet any redundancy costs arising from within schools and the outturn on these costs show that the Council has incurred an over spend of £466k. This budget was overspent by £285k last year. It is anticipated that this budget will continue to spend at this level in future years.
- 24 School transport route reviews continue to deliver welcome savings and this year savings of £575k have been achieved. One off savings of £229k are largely due to the windfall arising from the transfer from Standards Fund academic year funding to financial year funding in the LAA.

Children's Social Care/ Safeguarding and Assessment Services

- 25 Following the application of an element of the social care contingency and the balance of the spend to save funding, the final outturn is one of a balanced budget.
- 26 Within the overall position financial pressure continued against agency budgets. The number of agency placements shows a rise from 24 in April 2006 to 29 at the end of 2007/08 (including 1 in secure accommodation). Similarly fostering and respite placements have risen from 112 in April 2007 rising to 126 in November before falling to 112 in March 2008. The Council has a statutory responsibility to meet the needs of individual children if such placements are necessary. These placements can be expensive and typically each one costs in excess of £150k. This is a key pressure for 2008/09 financial year and unless placements can be reduced there will be a continuing cost pressure.

Dedicated Schools Grant

- 27 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has under spent in total by £1.2m and this has been carried forward as required by the grant regulations and its allocation will be determined by the Schools Forum.

Analysis of main variances:

Under spends:	£'000
Extra funding 2007/08 (due to more pupils)	(416)
Carried forward from 2006/07	(223)
Fees to independent schools/Out of County placements	(435)
Others contingencies	(360)

Over spends:	
Banded Funding	134
Nursery Education Funding	239

- 28 The final outturn figure for Nursery Education Funding to Private, Voluntary and Independent providers is an over spend of £239k arising from an additional week's payment in this financial year and a temporary rise in numbers.
- 29 Special Needs Banded Funding final outturn over spend was £134k due to higher numbers of allocations at funding panel. This is offset by savings on fees to Independent Schools for SEN placements due to leavers and delayed new placements.
- 30 Legislation means that Dedicated Schools Grant is ring-fenced and must be spent on schools and specific services to schools. The Budget Working Party of the Schools Forum has agreed that £700,000 will be distributed to schools at £32 per pupil immediately and £499,000 held in reserve in case the final DSG notification for 2008/09, (expected in mid-June) is less than the provisional grant allocation. The Schools Forum will consider these proposals on the 2nd June 2008.

CORPORATE & CUSTOMER SERVICES

Final Outturn Summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) under spend £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) under spend £000
Herefordshire Partnership	20	20
Communications	20	20
Director and Administration	0	-40
Emergency Planning	5	10
Legal and Democratic Services	100	160
Info by Phone	-100	70
Policy & Performance	-30	-45
Information Services	5	5
Corporate ICT Projects	-325	-325
ICT Trading Account	0	0
Corporate Programmes	205	200
Community Network Costs	1,100	1,100
TOTAL	1,000	1,175

- 31 At the start of 2007/08 the budget review of ICT removed several vacant posts from the establishment, reduced contractors from 27 to five, and put all vacancies on hold. In order to make the cost of ICT more transparent internal charging between ICT projects and the trading account has been stopped. Spending and income is now matched with the correct budget ensuring that in 2007/08 the trading account will balance.
- 32 The early part of 2007/08 also saw a review of Corporate Programmes. This had included seven consultants but this has been reduced during the year to two.
- 33 The Info by Phone outturn includes capital costs relating to the Hereford Centre. Work is continuing with directorates to identify those services which will become part of the Customer Services function during the next year. Until the end of 2008/09 there is £500k of additional funding for Customer Services and securing base budget provision from the transferred services beyond 2008/09 is a priority for the directorate. To date budget projections indicate that 50% is secure in 2008/09.
- 34 In Legal and Democratic Services the 2007/08 over spend arose in part because of the purchase of new computers and training for all members after the election.

These will balance out over the next three years. Operating costs in Members' Services continue to rise in support of increasing numbers of meetings. It is also evident that some assumptions about income will not be realised.

- 35 Investigations into the planned funding for the community network upgrade have established that the annual revenue cost is £1.6m, reduced to £1.1m after contributions from school funding. However, work is in progress to challenge elements of the Siemens contract in order to reduce the cost. The overall position is offset by reduction of £185k to directorates for line rental and call charges, and a further £160k for Schools.

ENVIRONMENT

Final Outturn Summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) under spend £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) under spend £000
Environmental Health and Trading Standards	-800	-917
Planning	306	417
Highways and Transportation	330	920
Directorate Management & Support	0	0
Less Bellwin threshold allocation		-360
TOTAL	-164	60

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Environmental Health and Trading Standards

- 36 The final position on the Waste Disposal budget is an under spend of £693k. In previous years there has been significant under spend and until the new contract variations are agreed this position will continue. However, the cost of the new contract will be considerably higher than at present. In previous years the under spend on the contract has been transferred to reserves to meet future waste management pressures. However for 2007/08 the under spend will be used to mitigate over spends within Highways and Transportation and Planning.
- 37 Several areas within Environmental Health have generated under spends totalling some £96k. A significant element of this fell to Commercial Services where there was an under spend of £63k due to additional income received in the current year in relation to the Cadbury's compensation.
- 38 There is also an under spend of £49k in relation to licensing, due to income exceeding budgets. This increase in income was intended to fund additional staff but the directorate has not been able to recruit.
- 39 There is an under spend of £45k on Trading Standards, this relates to the receipt of unbudgeted grant from the Food Standards Agency.
- 40 Cemeteries, crematorium, traveller sites and trade waste also under spent. However there were over spends on recycling, domestic waste collection and management

costs.

Planning

- 41 Fee income for both the Building Control and Development Control areas fell short of the budgeted income targets (£36k and £37k respectively). The position in building control was offset by staff savings and operational cost savings giving an overall under spend of £22k. Within Development Control there were also significant over spends on IT scanning and legal costs, resulting in an overall net over spend of £216k.
- 42 The over spend in relation to IT SLA charges in Planning was £75k. In the previous year, on a one-off basis, this pressure was met by Planning Delivery Grant however there is no capacity to do this in the current year.
- 43 There is also an additional over spend of £43k in relation to a revenue contribution to capital for the purchase of land at Belmont.

Highways & Transportation

- 44 Concessionary travel overspent by £33k. This is due to inflationary increases during the year on fares of 10% and an increase in use of 5%.
- 45 Winter Maintenance overspent by £175k. This reflects the costs for an average winter.
- 46 Car Parking fell short of the income target by £95k and also overspent on expenditure budgets by £63k.
- 47 Street lighting overspent by £177k mainly as a result of £160k payment to Amey Wye Valley Ltd relating to contract uplift adjustments on all work carried out by them since September 2003.
- 48 There were various over spends on road maintenance totaling £77k.
- 49 The expenditure incurred on flood damage within the Bellwin threshold level has been funded through central budgets and is shown as an overall adjustment to the directorate position.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

Final Outturn Summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000
Human Resources	-30	-15

- 50 The under spend is due to less costs incurred for corporate training.

RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

Final Outturn Summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000
Asset Management & Property Services	99	41
Audit, Benefit and Exchequer and Financial Services	-25	-626
Total	74	-585

Asset Management & Property Services

- 51 Additional expenses for office accommodation created the over spend.

Audit Services, Benefit and Exchequer Services and Financial Services

- 52 At the end of the year benefit subsidy income was higher than budgeted which created a £581k under spend against a total Benefit budget of almost £40m. This resulted from an improved income from housing benefits and a lower spend on rent allowances. The increased performance for the Benefits area has produced increased subsidy. In addition some anticipated costs have not materialised. It should be noted that the subsidy position cannot be accurately calculated until after the accounts have been closed.

CORPORATE BUDGETS

Final Outturn Summary

	March 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000	Outturn 2008 Net over or (-) underspending £000
Corporate Budget	17	-118

- 53 Savings on corporate subscriptions, insurance, audit commission fees and Environment Agency levies have created a surplus.
- 54 The remaining corporate capacity budget and agency staff efficiency savings will be allocated in the 2008/09 base budget to directorates.

DIRECTORATE BUDGET CARRY FORWARD PROPOSALS

- 55 The following table summarises JMT's proposals for use of the under spend on the general fund:

	£000
Total under spend available	591
Less:	
Reserve for interim accommodation strategy	<u>(591)</u>
Total under spend for carry forward after proposal	<u>0</u>

- 56 It is proposed that the under spend is used to fund a reserve for the corporate priority to improve office accommodation jointly with the PCT.

GENERAL RESERVES

- 57 Having considered the outturn position for 2007/08 it is now possible to update Cabinet on the level of general reserves as at 31st March 2008.
- 58 The overall level of general reserve had reduced by £1.295m to £6.728m. The reduction was part of the overall Council budget and includes the use of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive funding (£1.0m), the Hereford City grounds maintenance contribution (£138k) and using the 2006/07 carry forward (£157k) agreed as part of the budget.

SPECIFIC RESERVES

- 59 The Director of Resources requests that Cabinet approve the following new reserves in the accounts:

Title	£000	Reason
Accommodation Reserve	591	A specific reserve to help support future changes arising from the accommodation strategy.
Safeguard Children Board Reserve	48	The statutory Safeguarding Children Board includes contribution from several partners. The carry forward supports the overall financial model that sees all partners commit to ringfencing under spends on their contribution.
LPSA2 Reward Grant	1,148	There is a high degree of certainty that the Council will receive £1.148m of revenue reward grant for its LPSA2 performance. It is appropriate to put this in a reserve pending discussions about its use.
Edgar Street Grid	41	To be set up to support project management requirements for ESG.
Whitecross PFI	108	To help address any potential variances in the annual unitary charge associated with the contract.

2007/08 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN

OVERALL POSITION

- 60 The capital programme outturn for 2007/08 totals £54.2m, which represents an overall increase of £1.014m from the previous capital programme forecast outturn for 2007/08 as at 14 April 2008. The change represents a decrease in children's services outturn on the Riverside amalgamation and Sutton Primary replacement school capital schemes. In addition slippage in adult and community services in relation to the Friar Street museum and resource centre and the disabled facilities grant outturn position has been offset by the inclusion of devolved school capital expenditure of £4.314m. The original capital programme forecast for 2007/08 totalled £65.462m, this excluded devolved formula capital spend and included expected expenditure on Herefordshire Connects. The impact of the outturn on futures years' capital programme forecasts will be reported in the next report to Cabinet.
- 61 A summary of the overall capital outturn position for 2007/08 is provided in table D1. Detailed capital programmes for directorates are reported to the relevant scrutiny committees. A summary of the overall capital programme changes is provided in this report.
- 62 Details of total capital scheme costs, funding thereof, outturn position and any potential issues for capital schemes with an outturn for 2007/08 exceeding £500k are provided in table D2.

Prudential Borrowing Outturn

- 63 A summary of the Prudential Borrowing position is set out below.

		£'000
2007/08 Original Prudential Borrowing Allocation		£16,988
Add: Slippage from 2006/07		£16,288
Less: Slippage into future years	(£24,735)	
No longer required	(£1,056)	
Funded by available SCE(R)	(£125)	(£25,916)
Use of Prudential Borrowing in 2007/08		<u>£7,360</u>

Capital Receipts Reserves Outturn

- 64 The capital receipts reserve totalled £17.945m as at 31 March 2008. Commitments over the next three years funding the original capital programme forecast total £12.196m which includes funding strategic housing, Rotherwas Futures and the provision of a cattle market.

FUNDING OF 2007/08 CAPITAL OUTTURN

Capital Programme Area	2007/08 Outturn	SCE(R)	Prudential Borrowing	Grant	Revenue Contribution	Capital Receipts Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children & Young People's Services	9,168	2,163	2,275	3,221	131	1,378
Devolved Formula Capital Spend	4,314	-	-	4,314	-	-
Resources	2,692	-	318	2,046	-	328
Corporate and Customer Services	523	-	320	10	193	-
Social Care Solution	292	-	292	-	-	-
Herefordshire Connects	68	-	-	-	68	-
Environment Services	27,599	7,582	3,287	16,096	52	581
Adult and Community Services	9,544	218	867	3,586	88	4,785
Total Outturn	54,200	9,963	7,360	29,273	532	7,072
<i>March Forecast</i>	<i>53,186</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>8,895</i>	<i>26,571</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>7,451</i>
<i>Change from March</i>	<i>1,014</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(1,535)</i>	<i>2,702</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>(379)</i>

Reported to date						
<i>Original Budget</i>	<i>65,462</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>28,256</i>	<i>18,358</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>8,715</i>
<i>July 2007 Forecast</i>	<i>62,433</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>15,926</i>	<i>25,781</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>10,709</i>
<i>Sept 2007 Forecast</i>	<i>61,602</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>16,503</i>	<i>25,291</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>9,791</i>
<i>Nov 2007 Forecast</i>	<i>53,168</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>9,296</i>	<i>26,645</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>7,103</i>
<i>Jan 2008 Forecast</i>	<i>53,418</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>9,277</i>	<i>26,880</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>7,137</i>
<i>Feb 2008 Forecast</i>	<i>52,821</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>8,675</i>	<i>26,571</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>7,451</i>
<i>Mar 2008 Forecast</i>	<i>53,186</i>	<i>9,963</i>	<i>8,895</i>	<i>26,571</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>7,451</i>
Outturn	53,186	9,963	8,895	26,571	306	7,451

Schemes with an outturn exceeding £500k in 2007-08

Scheme Detail By Directorate	Whole Scheme Cost £'000	Funded by	Original forecast £'000	2007-08 outturn £'000	Comments
Children & Young People's Services					
Sutton Primary Replacement School	2,515	Grant, Parish Council & receipts	936	1,702	Scheme expected to complete in May, any under spend will be carried forward
Riverside Amalgamation	8,294	Grant & capital receipts	4,620	3,696	Scheme expected to complete in September, any under spend will be carried forward
Condition property works	n/a	SCE®	900	899	Annual programme of works at various sites committed on a highest need first basis
Resources					
Property Purchase	1,422	Grant	-	1,422	Purchase under Edgar St Grid development
Environment Services					
Rotherwas Access Road	12,780	Grant, LTP, receipts & borrowing	500	7,686	Planned completion in May, compensation events under negotiation
Crematorium	3,150	Prudential borrowing	2,000	1,125	Work currently 1 week behind, completion (excluding retention) expected in March
Road Maintenance	n/a	LTP allocation	5,417	6,096	Annual programme of works completed
Hereford Flood Defences	2,172	Private developer	-	2,172	Capital scheme complete
Footways	n/a	LTP allocation	1,065	884	Annual programme of works completed
Ross on Wye Flood Alleviation	7,047	Grant	5,000	5,237	Scheme in progress, completion (excluding retention) expected in September
Assessment Strength of Bridges	n/a	LTP allocation	700	753	Annual programme of works completed

Scheme Detail By Directorate	Whole Scheme Cost £'000	Funded by	Original forecast £'000	2007-08 outturn £'000	Comments
Adult & Community Services					
Cattle Market	8,000	Capital receipts	1,650	1,868	Land purchase completed, update report expected in June
Affordable Housing Grants	n/a	Capital receipts	3,500	2,276	Annual allocation of grants
Private Sector Housing	n/a	Grant	1,000	786	A tightening of the eligibility criteria has resulted in the slowing of grant approvals
Friar St Museum and Resource Centre	2,040	Grant, borrowing & capital receipts	1,323	1,021	Final contractor payment outstanding, further works and moves to be completed
Disabled Facilities Grant	n/a	60% grant & 40% capital receipts	525	689	Continued increasing demand on this budget
Aylestone Hill Park	627	Prudential borrowing & private developer	96	533	Phase complete, future phases will commence upon receipt of developer funding
Total			29,232	38,845	
Schemes with an outturn in 2007/08 of less than £500,000			36,230	15,355	
Total			65,462	54,200	

Risk Management

65 The Council is required to publish end of year BVPI outturns by 30 June and to ensure the closure of accounts within statutory deadlines. Failure to do so carries a reputation risk for the Council in relation to its corporate governance role.

Consultees

66 The relevant internal officers have been consulted. No external consultation was considered necessary.

Background Papers

None identified.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: RESOURCES

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

To approve the statutory Minimum Revenue Provision Statement (MRP).

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

THAT the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2008/09 be approved.

Reasons

To comply with the Local Authority (Capital Financing and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations.

Considerations

- 1 Local authorities are required each year to set aside some of their revenues as provision for debt repayment, known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The changes apply to the financial year 2007/08 and to subsequent years. The new rules have come into effect but the Council was, in effect, already following these requirements.
- 2 The Secretary of State recommends that an annual statement on MRP is put to the full council, normally before the start of the financial year. For 2007/08 the MRP Statement is to be combined with the 2008/09 Statement and approved as soon as practicable during the financial year 2008/09.
- 3 The guidance gives four options for prudent provision:

Option 1 - Regulatory

For debt which is supported by the Government through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), authorities may continue to use the formulae, as RSG is calculated in that way. This includes applying an adjustment (known as the Item A adjustment), that reduces the charge back to the former credit ceiling accounting methodology.

Option 2 – Capital Financing Requirement method

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
David Powell, Head of Financial Services on (01432) 263173

This is similar to option 1, but just uses the CFR and does not apply the full formula, including the Item A adjustment. Under this option the annual repayment would be higher.

Option 3 - Asset Life Method

For new borrowing under the prudential system there are two options in the guidance. The first is to make provision over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken. This is a simpler alternative to the use of depreciation accounting (Option 4). The Council has already opted to do this on a voluntary basis. This can either be on an equal instalment method or an annuity basis.

Option 4 - Depreciation method

An alternative to Option 3 is to make provision in line with depreciation accounting. Although this would follow standard rules for depreciation accounting there would have to be some exceptions, for example, that MRP would continue until the provision is equal to the original debt and then cease.

- 4 The MRP policy statement set out in Appendix 1 sets out the recommended policy, which is to formally adopt the MRP methodology that we currently operate, that is, to repay supported borrowing in line with Option 1 and prudential borrowing in line with Option 3.

Risk Management

- 5 The adaptation of the policy mitigates a risk that would arise around future non-compliance with statutory regulations.

Alternative Options

- 6 The Council could opt to adopt Option 2 for Supported Borrowing, but this would incur an extra £122,000 per annum.
- 7 The Council could adopt Option 4 for Prudential Borrowing, although this would be a change in current practice for no perceived benefit.

Consultees

- 8 None.

Appendices

- 9 Appendix 1 – MRP Policy Statement.

Background Papers

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision – issued by the Secretary of State.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT ON MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2007/08 AND 2008/09

1. Introduction

Local Authorities are required to charge to their revenue account for each financial year Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) to account for the cost of their debt in that year. Under the **The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (the 2003 Regulations)** set out the method council's had to follow in calculating MRP. **The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008** replaces these detailed rules for calculating MRP with a requirement to calculate an amount of MRP which they consider to be prudent.

2. Annual MRP Statement

The Secretary of State recommends that before the start of each financial year that a local authority prepares a statement of its policy on making MRP in respect of that financial year and submits it to the full council. The statement for 2007-08 and 2008-09 should be made as soon as practicable during the financial year 2008-09.

3. Options for making 'Prudent Provision'

3.1 There are four options for Prudent Provision set out in the guidance;

Option 1 - Regulatory

For debt which is supported by the Government through Revenue Support Grant (RSG), authorities may continue to use the formulae under the 2003 Regulations, as RSG debt support is calculated in that way. This includes applying an adjustment (the Item A adjustment), which reduces the charge back to the former credit ceiling accounting methodology.

Option 2 - CFR method

This is similar to option 1, but just uses the CFR and doesn't apply the full formula, including the Item A adjustment. Under this option the annual repayment would be higher.

Option 3 - Asset Life Method

For new borrowing under the prudential system there are 2 options in the guidance. The first is to make provision over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken. This is a simpler alternative to the use of depreciation accounting (Option 4) and the council has already been applying to do this on a voluntary basis. This can either be on an equal instalment method or an annuity basis.

Option 4 - Depreciation method

An alternative to Option 3 is to make provision in line with depreciation accounting. Although this would follow standard rules for depreciation accounting there would have to be some exceptions, for example, that MRP would continue until the provision is equal to the original debt and then cease.

3.2 MRP normally commences in the year following the one in which expenditure was incurred. However, the guidance allows for an exception to this for options 3 and 4 when a new asset is provided, in which case the MRP would not have to be charged until the asset became operational.

4 MRP Policy 2007-08 and 2008-09

4.1 In line with the guidance produced by the Secretary of State the proposed policy for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 calculation of MRP is as follows;

4.2 Borrowing supported through the RSG grant system will be repaid in accordance with the 2003 Regulations.

4.3 Prudential borrowing will be repaid over the life of the asset on an equal instalment basis.

REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

REPORT BY: THE RETURNING OFFICER

CABINET

29 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To comment on the proposed changes to the number and locations of polling stations in Herefordshire.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in Herefordshire in an area comprising one or more wards. It was included in the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

THAT the Returning Officer's recommendations as indicated in Appendix 2 be approved.

Reasons

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) requires that relevant authorities conduct a review of all polling districts and polling places by the end of 2007 and that a further review be conducted every four years thereafter. Cabinet considered a report in December 2007 and approved the proposals for polling districts and polling places but requested a further review of polling stations. A further review has now been completed and proposals put forward.

The Returning Officer must make representations to the relevant authority as to the location of existing or proposed stations.

The authority must publish the Returning Officer's comments within 30 days of receipt.

Considerations

1. A report on the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations was considered by Cabinet on 13th December, 2007. Cabinet approved the proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Stations but requested that further work be undertaken on the review of Polling Stations with a report being brought back to Cabinet in April 2008.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
C Maund or J Rochefort on 01432 260110/0733

2. The original report set out the background of the issues taken into consideration in the first review and for ease of reference this is repeated in this report.
3. The law requires that all electors must have reasonable facilities to be able to vote and those venues chosen must be accessible for all electors including those with disabilities.
4. Herefordshire is a very rural area with over 200 parishes. Some of these parishes operate as groups. There is some sympathy with the view that it would be easier to deal with these as a single entity, however legislation requires that elections are organised per individual parish. Should parishes or group parishes wish to have their parish boundaries re-examined, the authority could consider such proposals under a separate process.
5. At present Herefordshire has 168 registered polling stations.
 - a. Many polling stations serve small or very small numbers of electorate.
 - b. Some polling stations do not have adequate facilities for either electorate or staff e.g. inadequate disabled access, toilets or kitchens.
 - c. The costs of using polling stations:
 - 1 Presiding Officer and at least 1 Poll Clerk = £310
 - Travel expenses @ 40p per mile
 - Hire of venue – from £20 - £300 +

At present these costs are borne in part by each parish that uses a particular polling station. The authority could choose to maintain and fund existing polling stations but would need to consider the cost implications that such a decision would have on its budget

- d. There has been an increasing difficulty in finding staff to cover polling stations in very rural areas particularly in the south of the county.
- e. Some polling stations serve two or more wards requiring two or more ballot boxes. This has led to electorate confusion, staff confusion and difficulties at the count. The proposals endeavour to assign electorate to polling stations within their ward.
- f. Postal voting has been available, on application, to all registered electorate since 2001, providing a viable and environmentally friendly alternative to using a polling station. In the 2003 local government elections, Herefordshire undertook an all postal voting pilot. This proved to be very successful and resulted in a 60.72% turnout for the Council. Government legislative changes brought into effect only three months before the 3rd May, 2007 elections had a serious and negative impact on postal voting.
- g. Some areas such as Shrewsbury and Atcham, have run successful pilots in electronic voting (e-voting). These types of pilots are authorised by government. If further pilots in e-voting are proposed, the authority should consider making an application as another way of encouraging voter participation in elections.
- h. Candidates will be encouraged to take a more pro-active role in future elections as a way of raising voter turn out. To this end the Electoral

Registration Office will produce a campaign leaflet for candidates suggesting ways of reaching out to electors whilst remaining within the legislation. In particular candidates will be encouraged to offer assistance to voters who wish to vote at polling stations.

6. Due to anticipated legislation that will require voters at polling stations to sign before receiving a ballot paper the review concentrated on polling stations servicing 200 or less electorate. This excluded some polling stations included in the original review.
7. A set of proposals were drawn up using the revised criteria and sent out to the Consultees listed below on 11th February, 2008. The proposals were also made available on the Council website and at the Electoral Registration Office and the Council's Info Shops. The consultation period ended on 28th March, 2008.
8. Responses to the proposals were received from Members, Parish Clerks and Parishioners and these are set out at Appendix 1. Based on the responses the proposals have been revised and recommendations made which are set out in Appendix 2. Visits have been made to all the venues where there has had to be a change or where an alternative venue has been suggested.

Risk Management

That electors refuse to use new polling places and do not apply for postal voting as an option thus decreasing the turnout at elections. This is a reputational risk for the Council as it should endeavour to achieve a significant electorate turn out for local government elections.

Alternative Options

There are no Alternative Options. This review has been undertaken as a result of statutory requirements.

Consultees

Unitary Councillors	Hereford Access for All
Parish Councils	Hereford Stroke Club
Bill Wiggin MP	Leominster Shop Mobility
Paul Keetch MP	Aspire/Choices
Hereford Conservatives	Cordless Club
North Herefordshire Conservative Association	Scope
Hereford Constituency Labour Party	Herefordshire Headway
Leominster Constituency Labour Party	Herefordshire Mencap
Hereford Liberal Democrats	Herefordshire Service Users
Leominster Liberal Democrats	Age Concern
Hereford Constituency Green Party	Deaf Direct
Leominster Constituency Green Party	ECHO
Hereford Constituency UKIP Party	People's Union
Leominster Constituency UKIP Party	RNIB
Workmatch Ltd	Community Voluntary Action

Appendices

1. Responses to Proposals for Polling Stations.
2. Revised proposals and recommendations.

Background Papers

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006)

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS IN HEREFORDSHIRE 2008

RESPONSES RECEIVED TO PROPOSALS:

General Comments:

Convenience of walking to current polling station versus adverse environmental impact of driving to proposed polling station.
Electors more likely to be discouraged / refuse to use proposed polling station.
Unwillingness to use postal voting alternative, citing postal vote fraud in Birmingham and this year's difficulties with ballot paper printing.

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
27/3/08	Cllr Mrs S Robertson	Cllr for Burghill, Holmer and Lyde Ward	Burghill, Holmer and Lyde Ward	Pipe and Lyde	Moreton-on-Lugg	Objection	Use Community Hall at Pipe & Lyde Church when converted
3/3/08	A Hobbs	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms C Prosser	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mr M & Mrs S Weatherhead	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms D Prosser	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
4/3/08	Mr C & Mrs N Thomas	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mr J & Mrs A Woods	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
5/3/08	Mrs D M Forster	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo

APPENDIX 1

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
5/3/08	Mrs D Porter	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mrs M Parker	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms M Chappell	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
6/3/08	Mr A & Mrs J Bloy	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms G F Davis	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms D G Griffiths	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
10/3/08	Mr J & Mrs JE Robertson	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mr & Mrs Burrows	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms V Everall	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
12/3/08	Ms B Herbert	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
17/3/08	J Ballard	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
25/3/08	Mr R & Mrs S Maxfield	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Ms A Price	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mr D Luntley	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
26/3/08	Ms J Butler	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
27/3/08	Mr D & Mrs B Speakman	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo

APPENDIX 1

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
27/3/08	Cllr R Hunt	Cllr for Monkland & Stretford Parish Council	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
28/3/08	Mr P Bishop	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mrs B Francis	Parishioner	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
	Mr & Mrs W Jauncey	Parishioners	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
10/4/08	Mrs L Hart	Clerk to Monkland & Stretford PC	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
16/4/08	Cllr J Goodwin	Cllr for Golden Cross w Weobley	Golden Cross w Weobley	Monkland	Monkland VH	Objection	Keep status quo
10/3/08	Mrs D Bowen	Clerk to Wyeside GPC	Golden Valley North	Bredwardine	Bredwardine VH	Objection	Suggest that Moccas VH more suitable
			Golden Valley North	Moccas	Moccas VH	Objection	Suggest that Moccas VH more suitable
10/3/08	Cllr M Wilson	Cllr for Hagley Ward	Hagley	Preston Wynne	Felton & Preston Wynne Memorial Hall	Error noticed in proposals	
14/2/08	Cllr K G Grumbley	Cllr for Hampton Court Ward	Hampton Court	Grendon Bishop	Bredenbury VH	Objection	Keep status quo.
			Hampton Court	Stoke Prior	Stoke Prior VH	Concern re parking and disabled access	Keep status quo
			Hampton Court	Humber	Humber PH	Objection – falls outside 200 electorate criteria	Keep status quo.

APPENDIX 1

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
14/2/08	Cllr K G Grumbley	Cllr for Hampton Court Ward	Hampton Court	Docklow & Hampton Wafre	Kings Head Pub, Docklow	Agree with proposal	
			Hampton Court	Hatfield & Newhampton	Norwood Cottage, Hatfield	Agree with proposal	
19/3/08	Mrs K Greenow	Clerk to Lower Bullingham PC	Hollington	Lower Bullingham	Manor Rest Home, Lower Bullingham	Agree with proposal	
13/02/08	Mrs K Lomax	Clerk to Kington Town Council	Kington	Kington Town/Rural	Lady Hawkins Community Centre	Objection (no change was proposed)	Kington Council Chamber or Markwick Cl. Comm Hall.
14/3/08	Mrs C Bromage	Clerk to Leominster Town Council	Leominster – North & South	Leominster – North & South	Leisure Center Coningsby Road	Objection (no change was proposed)	Talbot Hotel, Morrisons or Westfield Walk Special Needs School
26/3/08	Cllr R Hunt	Cllr for Leominster South Ward	Leominster South	Leominster South	Moravian Church Hall, South Street	Objection (no change was proposed)	Westfield Walk Special Needs School or The Forbury Chapel
			Leominster South	Leominster South	Leisure Center Coningsby Road	Objection (no change was proposed)	Westfield Walk Special Needs School or The Forbury Chapel
28/2/08	M Walker	Clerk to Welsh Newton & Llanrothal GPC	Llangarron	Welsh Newton	Welsh Newton VH	Requests confirmation that no change now proposed.	

APPENDIX 1

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
25/2/08, 15/3/08 & 25/3/08	Mr R Ambrose	Clerk to Border GPC	Mortimer	Adforton	Adforton	Objection – prefer to have PS within GPC boundary	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
			Mortimer	Walford, Letton & Newton	Adforton	Objection – see above	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
			Mortimer	Brampton Bryan	Brampton Bryan	Objection – see above	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
			Mortimer	Buckton & Coxall	Buckton & Coxall	Objection – see above	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
			Mortimer	Lingen	Lingen	Objection – see above	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
			Mortimer	Willey	Willey	Objection – see above	Lingen or Brampton Bryan
25/3/08	Cllr R Phillips	Cllr for Pembridge and Lyonshall with Titley	Pembridge and Lyonshall with Titley	Staunton-on-Arrow	Staunton-on-Arrow	Approves	Agrees move to Titley
19/3/08	Mrs K Greenow	Clerk to Lower Bullingham PC	St Martin's & Hinton	Lower Bullingham - Withybrook	Manor Rest Home, Lower Bullingham	Agree with proposal	
6/3/08	Mrs C Edwards	Clerk to Luston GPC	Upton	Eye, Moreton & Ashton	Cawley Hall	Objection	Keep status quo
19/3/08	Cllr J Stone	Cllr for Upton Ward	Upton	Eye, Moreton & Ashton	Cawley Hall	Objection	Keep status quo
2/4/08	Mr M Walker	Clerk to Kentchurch PC	Valletts	Kentchurch	Ewyas Harold	Objection	Keep status quo
14/2/08	Mr B Megson	Clerk to Bishopstone & District GPC	Wormsley Ridge	Bishopstone	Mansel Lacy	Objection (no change was proposed)	Staunton-on-Wye (different ward)

APPENDIX 1

Date received	Respondent	Office	Ward	Parish	Current Polling Station	Summary of comment	Suggestions
14/2/08	Mr B Megson	Clerk to Bishopstone & District GPC	Wormsley Ridge	Bridge Sollers	Mansel Lacy	Objection (no change was proposed)	Staunton-On-Wye (different ward)
			Wormsley Ridge	Byford	Mansel Lacy	Objection (no change was proposed)	Staunton-On-Wye (different ward)
			Wormsley Ridge	Mansel Gamage	Mansel Lacy	Objection (no change was proposed)	Staunton-On-Wye (different ward)
14/3/08	Mr B Megson	Clerk to Bishopstone & District GPC	Wormsley Ridge	Bishopstone, Byford, Mansel Gamage, Bridge Sollers	Mansel Lacy		New Community Center at Bridge Sollers when built in 3 years time.
27/3/08	J Verdin	On behalf of Pyons Group Parish Council	Wormsley Ridge	Kings Pyon	Weobley	Objection	Keep status quo

REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS IN HEREFORDSHIRE 2008

THE PROPOSAL

To review all polling stations particularly

- Polling stations that service 200 or fewer electors
- Polling Stations about which complaints have been made
- Polling Stations venues that no longer wish to be used
- Polling Stations that are located outside the ward area of the electorate that use them
- Polling Stations that split electoral registers

with a view to re-allocating the electors to other polling stations.

THE RATIONALE

- Since 2001 all registered electors are entitled to have a postal vote without giving a reason for the request.
- Some Polling Stations do not have adequate facilities for either electorate or staff e.g. disabled accessibility, parking etc.
- Costs of Polling Station – 1 Presiding Officer and at least 1 Poll Clerk ; Hire cost of the Polling Station; travel expenses to rural areas.
- Difficulty of finding staff to cover very rural areas.
- Problems where Polling Stations cover 2 or more wards – electorate confusion; staff confusion; extra staffing costs.
- Due to anticipated legislation that will require voters at polling stations to sign before receiving their ballot paper, this review has concentrated on polling stations where there are fewer than 200 electorate allocated.

FORMAT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Recommendations are set out for each Ward.

For some wards there are no changes to the polling station arrangements and these wards are shown on a separate sheet.

For Wards where changes are proposed to the existing polling station arrangements the following format is followed:

- Ward Name
- Current Situation of Polling Stations showing each polling station with its allocated polling district; the maximum number of electorate per each polling district; the total maximum number of electorate allocated to a particular polling station; the voter turnout from each polling station expressed as a %.
- The initial proposal that was sent out for consultation, in table format.
- The recommendations now proposed, taking into account representations made during the consultation period.
- The reasons for the recommendations.
- The number of postal voters in each affected polling district. Postal voters cannot vote at a polling station thereby reducing the maximum number of electors able to use a polling station.
- The difference in mileage between the existing polling station and the proposed polling station. This has been calculated using the AA website Travel Planner.

AYLESTONE WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 3 polling stations for this urban ward, 1 of which is unavailable for the next 3 years due to extensive re-building of the Royal National College for the Blind (RNCB) and 1 of which there has been a complaint about (Aylestone Court). The presiding officer did not feel that the venue provided adequate security for the polling station room.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bryngwyn Court, Hereford HR1 1ER	H-AA	Aylestone	1427	1427	33.99
RNCB, Venns Lane Hereford	H-AB	Aylestone	1038		
	H-AC	Aylestone	1355	2393	25.16
Aylestone Court Hotel, Aylestone Hill, Hereford	H-AD	Aylestone	964	964	32.05

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGE

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bryngwyn Court, Hereford HR1 1ER	H-AA	Aylestone	1427	1427	33.99
Aylestone Court Hotel, Aylestone Hill, Hereford	H-AD	Aylestone	964	964	32.05

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
St Barnabas Church Hall, Venns Lane Hereford	H-AB	Aylestone	1038		
	H-AC	Aylestone	1355	2393	25.16

AYLESTONE WARD cont

REASON: The RNCB venue is unavailable for the next 3 years. St Francis Xavier School should not be used unless there is no other option. St Barnabas Church Hall has been visited and found to be suitable.

No alternative venue to Aylestone Court Hotel available at present. To continue search for new venue.

POSTAL VOTES:

RNCB = 284

Aylestone Court Hotel = 153

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From RNCB to St Francis Xavier or St Barnabas Church Hall – within a very short walking distance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

An inspection was made of St Barnabas Church Hall. The venue has sufficient parking, adequate disabled access and good facilities.

RECOMMENDATION – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
St Barnabas Church Hall, Venns Lane Hereford	H-AB	Aylestone	1038		
	H-AC	Aylestone	1355	2393	25.16

BRINGSTY WARD

There were no proposals to alter the polling station arrangements. However there has been 1 request to review the polling station at Warren Farm, Brockhampton Park with particular concern regarding accessibility. The polling districts using Warren Farm polling station are rural and spread over a relatively wide area.

CURRENT SITUATION

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bredenbury Village Hall	L-EA	Bredenbury	116		
	L-EL	Wacton	92	208	49.28
Warren Farm, Brockhampton Park	L-EB	Brockhampton	77		
	L-EF	Linton	294		
	L-EG	Norton	240	611	41.22
Edwyn Ralph Village Hall	L-EC	Collington	53		
	L-ED	Edvin Loach & Saltmarshe	40		
	L-EE	Edwyn Ralph	170		
	L-EI	Tedstone Wafre	63		
	L-EJ	Thornbury	93		
	L-EN	Wolferlow	14	433	33.33
Whitbourne Village Hall	L-EH	Tedstone Delamere	111		
	L-EM	Whitbourne	590	701	38.05
Upper Sapey Village Hall	L-EK	Upper Sapey	270		
	L-EO	Wolferlow	58	328	36.17

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The only alternative suggested Warren Farm was Brockhampton Primary School but the school authorities were not agreeable to this. In the 2007 review, Brockhampton Group Parish Council stated its preference for Warren Farm as a polling station. An inspection of Warren Farm was carried out in February 2008. Whilst the facilities are basic they are adequate. The layout is such that voters with a disability can drive up to the entrance of the polling station and the ballot box is brought out to them. As there is no suitable alternative it is recommended that Warren Farm is retained for the present.

BURGHILL, HOLMER & LYDE WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 3 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Moreton-on-Lugg Village Hall – 247 electors on the Pipe & Lyde register).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
The Simpson Hall, Burghill	L-GA	Burghill	1235	1235	42.97
Holmer Church Parish Centre,	L-GB	Holmer & Shelwick	1116	1116	27.88
Moreton-on-Lugg Village Hall	L-GC	Pipe & Lyde	247	247	32.10

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGE

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Simpson Hall, Burghill	L-GA	Burghill	1235	1235

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Holmer Church Parish Centre,	L-GB	Holmer & Shelwick	1116	
	L-GC	Pipe & Lyde	247	1363

REASON: Electors in the Pipe and Lyde polling district vote at a polling station in another ward and should transfer to a polling district within the Burghill, Holmer and Lyde ward

POSTAL VOTES:

Pipe & Lyde = 25

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Moreton-on-Lugg to Holmer Church = 2.3 miles

RECOMMENDATION – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Holmer Church Parish Centre,	L-GB	Holmer & Shelwick	1116	
	L-GC	Pipe & Lyde	247	1363

CASTLE WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 8 polling stations for this rural ward, 2 of which have an electorate of 200 or fewer and 1 of which has fewer than 100 elector (Huntington Parish Hall – 87 electors).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Almeley Village Hall	L-HA	Almeley	471	471	68.63
Brilley Village Hall	L-HB	Brilley	189	189	55.61
Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall	L-HC	Brobury w Monnington on Wye	51		
	L-HJ	Staunton-on-Wye	333	384	42.30
Eardisley Village Hall	L-HD	Eardisley	599	599	51.70
Huntington Parish Hall	L-HE	Huntington	87	87	54.02
The Kinnersley Arms	L-HF	Kinnersley	149		
	L-HG	Letton	71	220	48.62
Norton Canon Village Hall	L-HH	Norton Canon	199		
	L-HI	Sarnesfield	39	238	38.68
Whitney-on-Wye Village Hall	L-HK	Whitney-on-Wye	109		
	L-HL	Willersley & Winforton	161	270	41.35

CASTLE WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Almeley Village Hall	L-HA	Almeley	471	471
Eardisley Village Hall	L-HD	Eardisley	599	599
Staunton-on-Wye Village Hall	L-HC	Brobury w Monnington on Wye	51	
	L-HJ	Staunton-on-Wye	333	384
The Kinnersley Arms	L-HF	Kinnersley	149	
	L-HG	Letton	71	220
Norton Canon Village Hall	L-HH	Norton Canon	199	
	L-HI	Sarnesfield	39	238
Whitney-on-Wye Village Hall	L-HK	Whitney-on-Wye	109	
	L-HL	Willersley & Winforton	161	270

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brilley Village Hall	L-HB	Brilley	189	
	L-HE	Huntington	87	276

REASON: Due to the low numbers of electorate at 2 of the polling stations. This is a large rural sparsely populated ward. Nowhere is very close to anywhere else thus travelling is going to be required for most activities.

POSTAL VOTES:

Huntington = 10

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Huntington to Brilley = 3.5 miles

RECOMMENDATION – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brilley Village Hall	L-HB	Brilley	189	
	L-HE	Huntington	87	276

GOLDEN CROSS WITH WEOBLEY WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 5 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which has an electorate of 200 or less.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bush Inn, Bush Bank	L-LA	Birley with Upper Hill	251	251	32.27
The Cedar Hall, Dilwyn	L-LB	Dilwyn	592	592	50.26
Eardisland	L-LC	Eardisland	392	392	42.86
Monkland Village Hall	L-LD	Monkland & Stretford	165	165	54.27
Weobley Village Hall	L-LE	Weobley	977	977	50.87

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bush Inn, Bush Bank	L-LA	Birley with Upper Hill	251	251
Eardisland	L-LC	Eardisland	392	392
Weobley Village Hall	L-LE	Weobley	977	977

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Cedar Hall, Dilwyn	L-LB	Dilwyn	592	
	L-LD	Monkland & Stretford	165	757

REASONS: Monkland is well under the 200 electorate threshold.

POSTAL VOTES:

Monkland = 9

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Monkland to Dilwyn = 3.4 miles

GOLDEN CROSS WITH WEOBLEY WARD cont

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Re Monkland: - In response to the significant numbers of electorate who have objected to the proposal, it is now recommended that Monkland Polling Station be retained for the present. However, its continued use should be reviewed following the European elections in June 2009 taking particular note of the percentage turnout.

RECOMMENDATIONS – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bush Inn, Bush Bank	L-LA	Birley with Upper Hill	251	251
The Cedar Hall, Dilwyn	L-LB	Dilwyn	592	592
Eardisland	L-LC	Eardisland	392	392
Monkland Village Hall	L-LD	Monkland & Stretford	165	165
Weobley Village Hall	L-LE	Weobley	977	977

GOLDEN VALLEY NORTH WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 7 polling stations for this rural ward, 2 of which have an electorate of 200 or less and 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Madley Parish Hall – 65 electors on the Tyberton register).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bredwardine Village Hall	H-MB	Bredwardine	161	161	37.80
The Community Centre, Clifford	H-MC	Clifford	415		
	H-MD	Cusop	298	713	39.64
Dorstone Village Hall	H-ME	Dorstone	297	297	53.4
Golden Valley Community Centre, Peterchurch	H-MG	Peterchurch	830	830	41.14
Madley Parish Hall	H-MI	Tyberton	65	65	25.76
Preston-on-Wye Village Hall	L-MA	Blakemere	71		
	L-MH	Preston-on-Wye	157	228	52.84
Moccas Village Hall	L-MF	Moccas	95	95	62.37

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Community Centre, Clifford	H-MC	Clifford	415	
	H-MD	Cusop	298	713
Dorstone Village Hall	H-ME	Dorstone	297	297
Golden Valley Community Centre, Peterchurch	H-MG	Peterchurch	830	830

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bredwardine Village Hall	H-MB	Bredwardine	161	
	L-MF	Moccas	95	256
Preston-on-Wye Village Hall	L-MA	Blakemere	71	
	L-MH	Preston-on-Wye	157	
	H-MI	Tyberton	65	293

GOLDEN VALLEY NORTH WARD cont

REASONS: Re Cusop – There have been requests to consider a venue in Hay-on-Wye. This is not feasible as that venue is in Powys. Trewern Outdoor Centre was also suggested but cannot be used because of security issues. The Centre is heavily used by school parties especially in May. It is suggested that there is no change to the current situation.

Re: Tyberton – The present polling station of Madley is in another ward hence the proposal to move to Preston-on-Wye.

POSTAL VOTES:

Bredwardine = 17

Moccas = 0

Tyberton = 9

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Moccas to Bredwardine = 2.4 miles

From Madley to Preston-on-Wye = 3.5 miles

From Tyberton to Preston-on-Wye = 3 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A request was made by Wyeseide GPC to use Moccas Village Hall rather than Bredwardine Village Hall. An inspection was carried out on both venues. Moccas Village Hall has been recently re-built and provides excellent access, car parking and facilities. Bredwardine Village Hall has no parking, no disabled access, the exterior fabric of the building is dilapidated and has wooden props supporting one section of the building. In light of the parish council's request and the inspection, it is recommended that the Bredwardine and Moccas polling districts vote at Moccas Village Hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Moccas Village Hall	H-MB	Bredwardine	161	
	L-MF	Moccas	95	256
Preston-on-Wye Village Hall	L-MA	Blakemere	71	
	L-MH	Preston-on-Wye	157	
	H-MI	Tyberton	65	293

GOLDEN VALLEY SOUTH WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 7 polling stations for this rural ward, 3 of which have an electorate of 200 or less.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Abbeydore Village Hall	H-NA	Abbeydore	238		
	H-NB	Bacton	49	287	36.99
Craswall Village Hall	H-NC	Craswall	116	116	57.02
Ewyas Harold Village Hall	H-ND	Dulas	66		
	H-NE	Ewyas Harold	726		
	H-NF	Llancillo	28		
	H-NK	Rowlstone	69	889	43.04
Longtown Village Hall	H-NG	Llanveyhoe	82		
	H-NH	Longtown	393		
	H-NO	Walterstone	74	549	47.71
Escley & District Sports Pavillion, Michaelchurch Escley	H-NI	Michaelchurch Escley	147	147	43.26
Church Room Newton St Margarets	H-NJ	Newton	108	108	49.53
Vowchurch Church Hall	H-NL	St Margarets	133		
	H-NM	Turnastone	22		
	H-NN	Vowchurch	125	280	47.04

GOLDEN VALLEY SOUTH WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Abbeydore Village Hall	H-NA	Abbeydore	238	
	H-NB	Bacton	49	287
Ewyas Harold Village Hall	H-ND	Dulas	66	
	H-NE	Ewyas Harold	726	
	H-NF	Llancillo	28	
	H-NK	Rowlstone	69	889
Longtown Village Hall	H-NG	Llanveynoe	82	
	H-NH	Longtown	393	
	H-NO	Walterstone	74	549
Vowchurch Church Hall	H-NL	St Margarets	133	
	H-NM	Turnastone	22	
	H-NN	Vowchurch	125	280

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Escley & District Sports Pavillion, Michaelchurch Escley	H-NC	Craswall	116	
	H-NI	Michaelchurch Escley	147	
	H-NJ	Newton	108	371

REASONS: This is a large sparsely populated rural ward with at present 3 polling stations serving electorate under the 200 electorate cut off.

POSTAL VOTES:

Craswall = 4

Newton = 11

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station
 From Craswall to Michealchurch Escley = 2.1 miles
 From Newton to Michealchurch Escley = 3 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Escley & District Sports Pavillion, Michaelchurch Escley	H-NC	Craswall	116	
	H-NI	Michaelchurch Escley	147	
	H-NJ	Newton	108	371

HAGLEY WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 3 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which has an electorate of 200 or less.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bartestree Village Hall	L-OA	Bartestree	213		
	L-OB	Lugwardine	1293	1506	36.57
Felton & Preston Wynne Memorial Hall	L-OC	Preston Wynne	119	119	52.38
Withington Village Hall	L-OD	Westhide	58		
	L-OE	Withington	1025	1083	30.70

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bartestree Village Hall	L-OA	Bartestree	213	
	L-OB	Lugwardine	1293	1506

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Withington Village Hall	L-OC	Preston Wynne	119	
	L-OD	Westhide	58	
	L-OE	Withington	1025	1202

REASONS: In view of low electorate numbers and small distance involved it is suggested that the Preston Wynne electors vote at Withington.

POSTAL VOTES:

Preston Wynne = 13

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Felton & Preston Wynne to Withington = 2.1 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Withington Village Hall	L-OC	Preston Wynne	119	
	L-OD	Westhide	58	
	L-OE	Withington	1025	1202

HAMPTON COURT WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 8 polling stations for this rural ward, 3 of which have an electorate of 200 or less, 1 of which is situated in a garage and 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Bredenbury Village Hall – 66 electors on the Grendon Bishop register).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Bredenbury Village Hall	L-PD	Grendon Bishop	66	66	55.22
Bodenham Parish Hall	L-PA	Bodenham	884	884	42.35
Kings Head Public House, Docklow	L-PB	Docklow & Hampton Wafre	120	120	50.43
Stoke Prior Village Hall	L-PC	Ford & Stoke Prior	260	260	51.32
Norwood Cottage (Garage) Hatfield	L-PE	Hampton Charles	32		
	L-PF	Hatfield & Newhampton	119	151	43.54
Hope-u-Dinmore Village Hall	L-PG	Hope-u-Dinmore	278		
	L-PI	Newton	43	321	27.68
Humber Parish Hall	L-PH	Humber	230	230	31.25
Pudleston Village Hall	L-PJ	Pudleston	141	141	54.61

HAMPTON COURT WARD cont**PROPOSAL - NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bodenham Parish Hall	L-PA	Bodenham	884	884
Hope-u-Dinmore Village Hall	L-PG	Hope-u-Dinmore	278	
	L-PI	Newton	43	321

PROPOSAL - CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Stoke Prior Village Hall	L-PC	Ford & Stoke Prior	260	
	L-PD	Grendon Bishop	66	
	L-PH	Humber	230	556
Pudleston Village Hall	L-PJ	Pudleston	141	
	L-PE	Hampton Charles	32	
	L-PF	Hatfield & Newhampton	119	
	L-PB	Docklow & Hampton Wafre	120	412

REASON: This is a large sparsely populated ward with several polling stations below the 200 electorate cutoff .

Re: Grendon Bishop – The present polling station of Bredenbury is in another ward hence the proposal to move to Stoke Prior.

Re: Docklow - has been moved to Puddleston in response to comments received.

POSTAL VOTES:

Docklow & Hampton Wafre = 10
 Grendon Bishop = 5
 Hampton Charles = 1
 Hatfield & Newtonhampton = 12
 Humber = 37

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Kings Head Docklow to Pudleston = 1.8 miles
 From Norwood Cottage Hatfield to Pudleston = 3.1 miles
 From Bredenbury to Stoke Prior = 6 miles

HAMPTON COURT WARD cont**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Re Humber & Stoke Prior: - Both these venues are in fact over the 200 plus electorate criteria and as such should both remain as polling stations.

Re Grendon Bishop: - In view of distance to Stoke Prior, it is recommend that this register now use Pudleston Village Hall.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Bodenham Parish Hall	L-PA	Bodenham	884	884
Hope-u-Dinmore Village Hall	L-PG	Hope-u-Dinmore	278	
	L-PI	Newton	43	321
Stoke Prior Village Hall	L-PC	Ford & Stoke Prior	260	260
Humber Parish Hall	L-PH	Humber	230	230

RECOMMENDATIONS - CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Pudleston Village Hall	L-PJ	Pudleston	141	
	L-PD	Grendon Bishop	66	
	L-PE	Hampton Charles	32	
	L-PF	Hatfield & Newhampton	119	
	L-PB	Docklow & Hampton Wafre	120	478

HOLLINGTON WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 6 polling stations for this rural ward, 3 of which have an electorate of 200 or less and 1 polling station that no longer wishes to be used (Manor Rest Home Lower Bullingham).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
The Old School, Bullingham	H-QA	Bullingham	100	100	55.34
Little Dewchurch Village Hall	H-QB	Bolstone	39		
	H-QH	Little Dewchurch	331	370	52.16
Callow Parish Hall	H-QC	Callow	59		
	H-QD	Dewsall	16		
	H-QG	Haywood	149	224	46.88
Dinedor Village Hall	H-QE	Dinedor	215	215	53.70
Manor Rest Home, Lower Bullingham	H-QF	Grafton	112		
	H-QI	Lower Bullingham	201	313	35.78
Holme Lacy Village Hall	H-QJ	Holme Lacy	364	364	28.14

HOLLINGTON WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Holme Lacy Village Hall	H-QJ	Holme Lacy	364	364

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Callow Parish Hall	H-QC	Callow	59	
	H-QD	Dewsall	16	
	H-QF	Grafton	112	
	H-QG	Haywood	149	336
Dinedor Village Hall	H-QE	Dinedor	215	
	H-QI	Lower Bullingham	201	416
Little Dewchurch Village Hall	H-QA	Ballingham	100	
	H-QB	Bolstone	39	
	H-QH	Little Dewchurch	331	470

REASONS: Re Ballingham - In view of low electorate and poor turnout.

Re Grafton and Lower Bullingham - These polling districts have to move due to the Manor Rest Home no longer being available.

POSTAL VOTES:

Ballingham = 13

Grafton = 21

Lower Bullingham = 37

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From The Old School Ballingham to Little Dewchurch = 3 miles

From Manor Rest Home to Callow = 3.5 miles

From Manor Rest Home to Dinedor = 2.4 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Callow Parish Hall	H-QC	Callow	59	
	H-QD	Dewsall	16	
	H-QF	Grafton	112	
	H-QG	Haywood	149	336
Dinedor Village Hall	H-QE	Dinedor	215	
	H-QI	Lower Bullingham	201	416
Little Dewchurch Village Hall	H-QA	Ballingham	100	
	H-QB	Bolstone	39	
	H-QH	Little Dewchurch	331	470

KINGTON TOWN WARD

There were no proposals to alter the polling station arrangements. However there have been 2 requests to review the current situation as it is felt that the Lady Hawkins Youth Centre is difficult to get to from many Kington residents.

CURRENT SITUATION

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Youth Centre, Lady Hawkins Community Leisure Centre, Kington	L-TA	Kington	1955		
	L-TB	Kington Rural	443		
	L-TC	Lower Harpton	27	2425	39.59

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Council Chamber or Markwick Close Community Hall, Kington, HR5 3UE	L-TA	Kington	1955	
	L-TB	Kington Rural	443	
	L-TC	Lower Harpton	27	2425

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The problem with The Youth Centre at Lady Hawkins School is that it is located at the far end of the town, in a residential area accessed by a one way system. An inspection was made of both Kington Council Chamber and Markwick Close Community Hall. Both are central to the town and had adequate parking. There was an issue regarding disabled access to the Council Chamber and a concern regarding the very large table which would significantly reduce the space available. Markwick Close Community Centre has good facilities including parking and disabled access. The owners are very happy to accommodate the polling station. It is recommended that the Kington polling station be relocated to Markwick Close Community Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Markwick Close Community Hall, Kington, HR5 3UE	L-TA	Kington	1955	
	L-TB	Kington Rural	443	
	L-TC	Lower Harpton	27	2425

LEOMINSTER NORTH WARD

There were no proposals to alter the polling station arrangements. However there has been 1 request to review the current situation at Bridge Street Park Leisure Centre with regard to the specific complaint of poor access and parking for the elderly and disabled.

CURRENT SITUATION

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
The Methodist Church, Green Lane, Leominster	L-VA	Leominster North	1248	1248	31.76
Bridge Street Park Leisure Centre	L-VB	Leominster North	1138	1138	18.43
Community Centre, 1 Far Meadow, Barons Cross	L-VC	Leominster North	1828	1828	23.26

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Re Complaints of Bridge Street Park Leisure Centre: On inspection, the room allocated is satisfactory. It is on an upper floor but there is a lift close by. There is parking for disabled voters and they will also be allowed to bring cars up to the main doors and to park for a limited time. A wheel chair is to be stationed at the entrance for use by voters with mobility problems. The same facilities will also be made available to voters using the Leominster Leisure Centre, Coningsby Road polling station in Leominster South Ward.

LEOMINSTER SOUTH WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 4 polling stations for this mixed urban / rural ward; 2 polling stations cover the urban area of the ward, 1 polling station is in the rural area and 1 polling station which is in the North Ward but also doubles as a polling station for the South Ward – The Methodist Church, Green Lane.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
The Methodist Church, Green Lane, Leominster	L-WA	Leominster South	1211	1211	29.31
The Moravian Church Hall, South Street, Leominster	L-WB	Leominster South	985	985	24.83
Ivington Village Hall	L-WC	Ivington	222	222	48.65
Leominster Leisure Centre, Coningsby Road, Leominster	L-WD	Leominster South	1860	1860	24.70

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
The Moravian Church Hall, South Street, Leominster	L-WB	Leominster South	985	985	24.83
Ivington Village Hall	L-WC	Ivington	222	222	48.65
Leominster Leisure Centre, Coningsby Road, Leominster	L-WD	Leominster South	1860	1860	24.70

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Royal Legion or Talbot Hotel, South Street, Leominster	L-WA	Leominster South	1211	1211

LEOMINSTER SOUTH WARD cont

RECOMMENDATIONS

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
To move voters to The Forbury Centre, Church Street, Leominster	L-WA	Leominster South	1211	1211

REASONS: The Methodist Church, Green Lane - In order to have all polling stations situated within the ward, the Leominster South polling district needs to be relocated. Concerns was raised that The Royal British Legion would be too close to the other Leominster polling stations and proved difficult to inspect. The Talbot Hotel and The Forbury Centre were suggested as alternative venues and each was inspected. Parking at The Forbury was limited but all other facilities were satisfactory. The Talbot are unable to open at 6.30 a.m. for polling station staff to access the room.

Complaints of Leominster Leisure Centre: On inspection, the room allocated is satisfactory. There is parking for disabled voters and they will also be allowed to bring cars up to the main doors and to park for a limited time. A wheel chair is to be stationed at the entrance for use by voters with mobility problems. The same facilities will also be made available to voters using the Bridge Street Sports Centre polling station in Leominster North Ward.

MORTIMER WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 7 polling stations for this rural ward, 3 of which have an electorate of 200 or less.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Adforton St Andrews Church	L-YA	Adforton	108		
	L-YP	Walford, Letton & Newton	74	182	N/A
Aymestrey Village Hall	L-YB	Aymestrey	278	278	N/A
Brampton Bryan Parish Hall	L-YC	Brampton Bryan	113		
	L-YD	Buckton & Coxall	64	177	N/A
Leintwardine Village Hall	L-YE	Burrington	57		
	L-YH	Downton	45		
	L-YL	Leintwardine	662	764	N/A
Akwright Hall, Kinsham	L-YF	Byton	70		
	L-YG	Combe	35		
	L-YJ	Kinsham	56		
	L-YO	Stapleton	114	275	N/A
Wigmore Village Hall	L-YI	Elton	54		
	L-YK	Leinthall Starkes	74		
	L-YN	Pipe Aston	23		
	L-YQ	Wigmore	528	679	N/A
Lingen Village Hall	L-YM	Lingen	135		
	L-YR	Willey	41	176	68.38

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Aymestrey Village Hall	L-YB	Aymestrey	278	278

MORTIMER WARD cont**PROPOSAL – CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Leintwardine Village Hall	L-YC	Brampton Bryan	113	
	L-YD	Buckton & Coxall	64	
	L-YE	Burrington	57	
	L-YH	Downton	45	
	L-YL	Leintwardine	662	941
Akwright Hall, Kinsham	L-YF	Byton	70	
	L-YG	Combe	35	
	L-YJ	Kinsham	56	
	L-YO	Stapleton	114	
	L-YM	Lingen	135	
	L-YR	Willey	41	381
Wigmore Village Hall	L-YA	Adforton	108	
	L-YP	Walford, Letton & Newton	74	
	L-YI	Elton	54	
	L-YK	Leinthall Starkes	74	
	L-YN	Pipe Aston	23	
	L-YQ	Wigmore	528	861

REASONS: This is a large and sparsely populated rural ward with several small polling stations. There is reasonable access to the proposed.

POSTAL VOTES:

Adforton = 7
 Aymestrey = 25
 Brampton Bryan = 6
 Buckton & Coxall = 21
 Byton = 6
 Combe = 1
 Kinsham = 2
 Stapleton = 10
 Walford, Letton & Newton = 12

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Adforton to Wigmore = 1.5
 From Brampton Bryan to Leintwardine = 2.7 miles
 From Lingen to Kinsham = 2.4 miles

MORTIMER WARD cont

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A request was received from Border Group Parish Council to reallocate all its parishes to Lingen or Brampton Bryan Village Halls rather than use the Kinsham polling station. As Lingen is more central to the majority of those polling districts it is recommended in preference to Brampton Bryan.

RECOMMENDATIONS – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Aymestrey Village Hall	L-YB	Aymestrey	278	278
Akwright Hall, Kinsham	L-YF	Byton	70	
	L-YG	Combe	35	
	L-YJ	Kinsham	56	
	L-YO	Stapleton	114	275
Leintwardine Village Hall	L-YE	Burrington	57	
	L-YH	Downton	45	
	L-YL	Leintwardine	662	764
Wigmore Village Hall	L-YI	Elton	54	
	L-YK	Leinthall Starkes	74	
	L-YN	Pipe Aston	23	
	L-YQ	Wigmore	528	679

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Lingen Village Hall	L-YA	Adforton	108	
	L-YM	Lingen	135	
	L-YR	Willey	41	
	L-YC	Brampton Bryan	113	
	L-YD	Buckton & Coxall	64	
	L-YP	Walford, Letton & Newton	74	535

OLD GORE WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 8 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which has an electorate of 200 or less and 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Sellack Village Hall - 43 electors on the Foy part register).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Sellack Village Hall	H-ZD	Foy	43	43	44.19
Brampton Abbots Village Hall	H-ZA	Brampton Abbots	261		
	H-ZC	Foy	66	327	35.08
Brockhampton Parish Hall	H-ZB	Brockhampton	193	193	37.77
How Caple Grange, How Caple	H-ZE	How Caple	99		
	H-ZH	Sollers Hope	61		
	H-ZK	Yatton	89	249	48.37
Old School, Kings Caple	H-ZF	Kings Caple	265	265	50.19
Millennium Hall Upton Bishop	H-ZI	Upton Bishop	434	434	38.89
Much Marcle Memorial Hall	L-ZG	Much Marcle	525	525	38.74
Woolhope Parish Hall	L-ZJ	Woolhope	371	371	44.84

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGE

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Old School, Kings Caple	H-ZF	Kings Caple	265	265
Millennium Hall Upton Bishop	H-ZI	Upton Bishop	434	434
Much Marcle Memorial Hall	L-ZG	Much Marcle	525	525
Woolhope Parish Hall	L-ZJ	Woolhope	371	371

OLD GORE WARD cont

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brampton Abbots Village Hall	H-ZA	Brampton Abbots	261	
	H-ZC	Foy	66	
	H-ZD	Foy	43	370
Brockhampton Parish Hall	H-ZB	Brockhampton	193	
	H-ZE	How Caple	99	
	H-ZH	Sollers Hope	61	
	H-ZK	Yatton	89	442

REASONS: Re: Brockhampton. - Concern has been expressed that a commercial premises is being used instead of a local village amenity. It is suggested, in view of representations made, that the registers originally proposed to use How Caple Grange should transfer to using Brockhampton Parish Hall.

Re: Foy (H-ZD). The present polling station of Sellack is in another ward hence the proposal to move to Brampton Abbots.

POSTAL VOTES:

Foy (H-ZD) = 4
 Kings Caple = 32
 How Caple = 14
 Sollars Hope = 4
 Yatton = 19

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station
 From Foy (H-ZD) to Brampton Abbots = 6.4 miles
 From How Caple to Brockhampton = 2.2 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brampton Abbots Village Hall	H-ZA	Brampton Abbots	261	
	H-ZC	Foy	66	
	H-ZD	Foy	43	370
Brockhampton Parish Hall	H-ZB	Brockhampton	193	
	H-ZE	How Caple	99	
	H-ZH	Sollers Hope	61	
	H-ZK	Yatton	89	442

PEMBRIDGE & LYONSHALL WITH TITLEY WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 5 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which has an electorate of 200 or less.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Titley Village Hall	L-AAA	Knill	24		
	L-AAD	Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton	59		
	L-AAG	Titley	126	209	51.43
Lyonshall Memorial Hall	L-AAB	Lyonshall	556	556	41.59
Pembridge Village Hall	L-AAC	Pembridge	822	822	47.63
Shobdon Village Hall	L-AAE	Shobdon	629	629	38.31
Staunton-on-Arrow Village Hall	L-AAF	Staunton-on-Arrow	172	172	60.47

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Lyonshall Memorial Hall	L-AAB	Lyonshall	556	556
Pembridge Village Hall	L-AAC	Pembridge	822	822
Shobdon Village Hall	L-AAE	Shobdon	629	629

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Titley Village Hall	L-AAA	Knill	24	
	L-AAD	Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton	59	
	L-AAF	Staunton-on-Arrow	172	
	L-AAG	Titley	126	381

REASONS: In view of representations made, it is suggested that Titley Village Hall remain as a polling station for Titley, Knill, Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton with the addition of Staunton-on-Arrow, especially as these parishes are a Group Parish with a total electorate of 381.

POSTAL VOTES:

- Knill = 2
- Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton = 3
- Staunton-on-Arrow = 6
- Titley = 9

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Staunton-on-Arrow to Titley = 2.6 miles

**PEMBRIDGE & LYONSHALL WITH TITLEY WARD
Cont.**

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Titley Village Hall	L-AAA	Knill	24	
	L-AAD	Rodd, Nash & Little Brampton	59	
	L-AAF	Staunton-on- Arrow	172	
	L-AAG	Titley	126	381

ROSS WEST WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

All Ross West polling stations cater for well over 200 electorate. There have been several requests from Ashfield Park Primary School to locate the polling station at another venue.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Brampton Abbots C of E Primary School, Brampton Rd. ROW	H-EEA	Ross - West	1292		
	H-EEC	Ross Rural - West	455	1747	21.66
Ashfield Park Primary School, ROW	H-EEB	Ross - West	2494	2494	24.43

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brampton Abbots C of E Primary School, Brampton Rd. ROW	H-EEA	Ross - West	1292	
	H-EEC	Ross Rural - West	455	1747

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Bowling Club, Old Maids Walk, ROW	H-EEB	Ross - West	2494	2494

REASONS: Alternatives to Ashfield Park Primary School are St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street or The Bowling Club, Old Maid's Walk. Both of these lie within the West Ward. Both have been inspected and it is proposed to use The Bowling Club because of its car park and better disabled access and other facilities.

POSTAL VOTES:

Ross-on-Wye (H-EEB) = 327

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Ashfield Park to Church Street/Old Maids Walk = 0.6 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Bowling Club, Old Maids Walk, ROW	H-EEB	Ross - West	2494	2494

ST MARTINS & HINTON WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

There are 6 polling stations for this mixed urban and rural. Manor Rest Home, Lower Bullingham Lane has requested not to be used as a polling station.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Hinton Youth Centre, Ross Rd Hereford	H-FFA	St Martins & Hinton	1031		
	H-FFB	St Martins & Hinton	996	2027	19.63
Putson Baptist Church, Webb Tree Ave. Hereford	H-FFC	St Martins & Hinton	1932	1932	21.25
Hunderton & Belmont Residents Assoc, Belmont Ave. Hereford	H-FFD	St Martins & Hinton	714	714	17.31
Residents Lounge, Pentwyn Ct, Pentwyn Ave Hereford	H-FFE	St Martins & Hinton	1113	1113	19.42
Haywood High Sch, Stanberrow Rd Hereford	H-FFF	St Martins & Hinton	1018	1018	19.74
Manor Rest Home, Lower Bullingham Lane, Hereford	H-FFG	Lw Bullingham, Witybrook Ward	1126	1126	20.16

ST MARTINS & HINTON WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Hinton Youth Centre, Ross Rd Hereford	H-FFA	St Martins & Hinton	1031	
	H-FFB	St Martins & Hinton	996	2027
Hunderton & Belmont Residents Assoc, Belmont Ave. Hereford	H-FFD	St Martins & Hinton	714	714
Residents Lounge, Pentwyn Ct, Pentwyn Ave Hereford	H-FFE	St Martins & Hinton	1113	1113
Haywood High Sch, Stanberrow Rd Hereford	H-FFF	St Martins & Hinton	1018	1018

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Putson Baptist Church, Webb Tree Ave. Hereford	H-FFC	St Martins & Hinton	1932	
	H-FFG	Lw Bullingham, Withybrook Ward	1126	3058

REASONS: It has not been possible to find an alternative venue to The Manor Rest Home within the register area. It is suggested that voters from Lw Bullingham, Withybrook Ward now vote at Putson Baptist Church.

POSTAL VOTES:

Lw Bullingham, Withybrook Ward = 105

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

from Lower Bullingham Lane to Webb Avenue = 0.7 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Putson Baptist Church, Webb Tree Ave. Hereford	H-FFC	St Martins & Hinton	1932	
	H-FFG	Lw Bullingham, Withybrook Ward	1126	3058

THREE ELMS WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

There are 4 polling stations for this ward covering urban and rural areas, industrial estates and the race course. One polling station, Whitecross High School has recently moved location within the ward. It is now further out in the ward and is no longer well placed for the H-JJA register electors. Another polling station, Trinity Primary School, has requested not to be used as a polling station

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road, Hereford	H-JJA	Three Elms	1584	1584	17.73
Westfield Hall, Highmore Street, Hereford	H-JJB	Three Elms	2100		
	H-JJE	Three Elms	1146	3246	24.15
Hereford Leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford	H-JJC	Three Elms	964	964	17.10
Trinity Primary School, Barricombe Drive, Hereford	H-JJD	Three Elms	1912	1912	26.29

THREE ELMS WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Westfield Hall, Highmore Street, Hereford	H-JJB	Three Elms	2100	
	H-JJE	Three Elms	1146	3246
Hereford Leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford	H-JJC	Three Elms	964	964

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Whitecross Road, Hereford	H-JJA	Three Elms	1584	1584
Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road, Hereford	H-JJD	Three Elms	1912	1912

REASONS: Re: Whitecross High School - Having moved location, the High School is no longer located in an area that is convenient for voters in the H-JJA polling district

Re: Trinity Primary School - Has requested not to be used again.

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Whitecross Road has been inspected. It is very close to the old Whitecross School location and provides adequate facilities.

Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road will take over the H-JJD polling district from Trinity School.

POSTAL VOTES:

Three Elms (H-JJA) = 207

Three Elms (H-JJD) = 219

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Three Elms Rd to Whitecross Road = 0.8 miles

From Barricombe Drive to Three Elms Rd = 0.3 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Whitecross Road, Hereford	H-JJA	Three Elms	1584	1584
Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road, Hereford	H-JJD	Three Elms	1912	1912

UPTON WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 6 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which has an electorate of 200 or less and is also undergoing renovation.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Brimfield Village Hall	L-LLA	Brimfield	613	613	47.78
Cawley Hall, Eye	L-LLB	Eye, Moreton & Ashton	147	147	48.65
Luston Methodist Chapel	L-LLC	Eyton	98		
	L-LLG	Luston	446	544	38.19
Kimbolton Village Hall	L-LLD	Kimbolton	383	383	44.91
Leysters & Middleton-on-the-Hill Parish Hall	L-LLE	Leysters	106		
	L-LLH	Middleton-on-the-Hill	196	302	46.20
Little Hereford Parish Hall	L-LLF	Little Hereford	340	340	38.69

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Brimfield Village Hall	L-LLA	Brimfield	613	613
Kimbolton Village Hall	L-LLD	Kimbolton	383	383
Leysters & Middleton-on-the-Hill Parish Hall	L-LLE	Leysters	106	
	L-LLH	Middleton-on-the-Hill	196	302
Little Hereford Parish Hall	L-LLF	Little Hereford	340	340

UPTON WARD cont

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Luston Methodist Chapel	L-LLB	Eye, Moreton & Ashton	147	
	L-LLC	Eyton	98	
	L-LLG	Luston	446	691

POSTAL VOTES:

Eye, Moreton & Ashton = 8

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Eye to Luston = 0.7 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cawley Hall's renovations have been completed and the venue was re-inspected together with Luston Methodist Chapel. Concern was expressed that there was inadequate parking at Luston Methodist Chapel. On inspection it was noted that there was parking for 5 to 6 cars at Luston Methodist Chapel. Eye, Moreton and Ashton register have a maximum of 147 electorate, which would not significantly add to the numbers voting at Luston. The turnout for Eye, Moreton and Ashton was below 50% (48.65) with 5.5% choosing to vote by post.

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Luston Methodist Chapel	L-LLB	Eye, Moreton & Ashton	147	
	L-LLC	Eyton	98	
	L-LLG	Luston	446	691

VALLETTS WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 6 polling stations for this rural ward, 2 of which have an electorate of 200 or less and 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall – 69 electors on the Kenderchurch register and 226 on the Kentchurch register). Wormbridge Centre is undergoing alterations and has requested not to be used.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	& Turnout 2007
Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall	H-MMB	Kenderchurch	69		
	H-MMC	Kentchurch	226	295	31.42
The Pateshall, Allensmore	H-MMA	Allensmore	445	445	47.14
Kilpeck & District Village Hall	H-MMD	Kilpeck	153	153	54.78
Kingstone Village Hall	H-MME	Kingstone	888		
	H-MMH	Thrupton	27	915	33.65
Much Dewchurch Memorial Hall	H-MMF	Much Dewchurch	514	514	40.47
Wormbridge Centre	H-MMG	St Devereux	90		
	H-MMI	Treville	41		
	H-MMJ	Wormbridge	42	173	35.29

PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
The Pateshall, Allensmore	H-MMA	Allensmore	445	445
Kingstone Village Hall	H-MME	Kingstone	888	
	H-MMH	Thrupton	27	915
Much Dewchurch Memorial Hall	H-MMF	Much Dewchurch	514	514

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Kilpeck & District Village Hall	H-MMB	Kenderchurch	69	
	H-MMC	Kentchurch	226	
	H-MMD	Kilpeck	153	
	H-MMG	St Devereux	90	
	H-MMI	Treville	41	
	H-MMJ	Wormbridge	42	621

VALLETTS WARD cont

REASONS: Re Wormbridge: The Centre is undergoing alterations and has requested not to be used.

Re: Kentchurch and Kenderchurch. These two registers are using a polling station that is not in the Valletts ward.

POSTAL VOTES:

Kenderchurch = 9

Kentchurch = 16

St Devereux = 11

Treville = 7

Wormbridge = 3

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station

From Ewyas Harold to Kilpeck = 7.9 miles

From Wormbridge to Kilpeck = 1.7 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Kilpeck & District Village Hall	H-MMB	Kenderchurch	69	
	H-MMC	Kentchurch	226	
	H-MMD	Kilpeck	153	
	H-MMG	St Devereux	90	
	H-MMI	Treville	41	
	H-MMJ	Wormbridge	42	621

WORMSLEY RIDGE WARD

CURRENT SITUATION

At present there are 4 polling stations for this rural ward, 1 of which is the main polling station in another ward (Weobley Village Hall – 77 electors on the Kings Pyon register).

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total	% Turnout 2007
Weobley Village Hall	L-NNH	Kings Pyon	77	77	57.33
Community Centre, Mansel Lacy	L-NNA	Bishopstone	163		
	L-NNB	Bridge Sollars	23		
	L-NNC	Brinsop & Wormsley	105		
	L-NND	Byford	67		
	L-NNI	Mansel Gamage	43		
	L-NNJ	Mansel Lacy	115		
	L-NNL	Yazor	91	607	35.54
Canon Pyon Parish Hall	L-NNE	Canon Pyon	452		
	L-NNG	Kings Pyon	138	590	40.59
Wellington Community Centre	L-NNF	Dinmore	4		
	L-NNK	Wellington	816	820	35.38

WORMSLEY RIDGE WARD cont**PROPOSAL – NO CHANGES**

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Community Centre, Mansel Lacy	L-NNA	Bishopstone	163	
	L-NNB	Bridge Sollars	23	
	L-NNC	Brinsop & Wormsley	105	
	L-NND	Byford	67	
	L-NNI	Mansel Gamage	43	
	L-NNJ	Mansel Lacy	115	
	L-NNL	Yazor	91	607
Wellington Community Centre	L-NNF	Dinmore	4	
	L-NNK	Wellington	816	820

PROPOSAL – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Canon Pyon Parish Hall	L-NNE	Canon Pyon	452	
	L-NNG	Kings Pyon	138	
	L-NNH	Kings Pyon	77	667

REASONS: Re Kings Pyon (L-NNH): - This polling district is at present going to a polling station outside its ward and is split from the other part of the Kings Pyon (L-NNG) polling district. This is likely to cause confusion to the electorate, the polling station staff and at the count and the small parish of Kings Pyon has to bear the cost of 2 venues.

POSTAL VOTES:

Kings Pyon (L-NNH) = 7

MILEAGE from old Polling Station to new Polling Station
From Weobley to Canon Pyon = 9.7 miles

RECOMMENDATIONS – CHANGES

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Electorate	Total
Canon Pyon Parish Hall	L-NNE	Canon Pyon	452	
	L-NNG	Kings Pyon	138	
	L-NNH	Kings Pyon	77	667

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