

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK TASK GROUP

## PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

22ND MARCH, 2007

### Wards Affected

Countywide.

### Purpose

This report proposes a mechanism for the alignment of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) with the Community Strategy, through the fostering of a collaborative relationship between the Council as local planning authority and the Herefordshire Partnership.

### Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

### Recommendations

THAT

- (a) the progressive development of a collaborative approach with the Herefordshire Partnership, designed to ensure the alignment of the Local Development Framework with the Community Strategy, be supported;**
- (b) a LDF Task Group with Herefordshire Council and Partnership representatives be established as a first step in developing a collaborative approach to guiding work on the Core Strategy.**

### Reasons

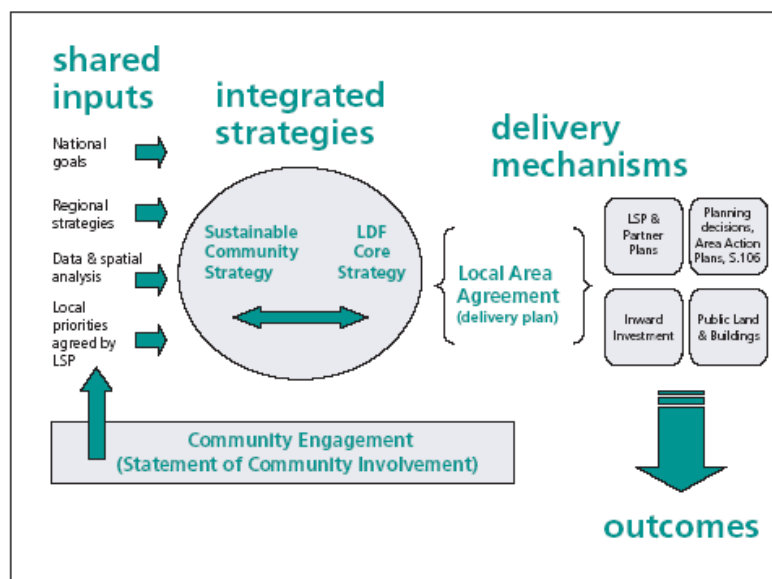
The Local Development Framework is required to be aligned clearly to the Community Strategy, particularly in terms of work on the Core Strategy. The proposed LDF Task Group will enable this relationship to be established.

### Considerations

1. Government guidance emphasises that there should be complete coherence between the Community Strategy (CS) and all other plans for the area. This includes spatial planning, delivered through the Local Development Framework. Spatial planning is wider than traditional land-use planning. As well as the usual aspects of land use, the approach embraces all other aspects which make places attractive to live in and sustainable. For instance, social aspects such as health, employment and crime prevention need to be integrated.
2. As well as a wider focus, the new spatial planning approach moves away from a former approach to consultation – what may be termed ‘plan first, consult later’. The emphasis now is on consensus building from the start, working alongside stakeholders and communities in strategy and vision formulation. In this way it seeks

to embed community responsive policy making at its heart in delivering sustainable development along with positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

3. Within the overall approach set in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), the new system is to be delivered at local level through a portfolio of planning documents which collectively comprise the Local Development Framework.
4. Over time, the LDF will replace the UDP as it sets out a spatial planning strategy for the County. The RSS and LDF, together with national planning policies, form the basis for taking decisions on applications for planning permission.
5. The Government's intention is that spatial planning in the LDF should be aligned not only with national and regional plans (the RSS and the Regional Economic Strategy) but also with the shared local priorities set in the CS. This should ensure that the Community Strategy takes full account of spatial and environmental issues; that LDF objectives are aligned with CS priorities, and that the Local Area Agreement is not only based on CS priorities but is also supported by local planning policy to deliver agreed outcomes.
6. The particular LDF document of interest at this stage is the Core Strategy. This sets out a spatial vision for the future development of the County. Work on this is now beginning and it is essential that the key spatial planning priorities emerging are aligned with the priorities of the Community Strategy in a two way relationship. The overall approach envisaged by Government is as follows:



Source: DCLG 2007 Planning Together: Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Spatial Planning: a practical guide

7. To deliver this aspiration will require collaborative working at a variety of levels and a fuller appreciation of how spatial planning can make positive contributions to Local Area Agreement outcomes. For example, safer and stronger communities may be delivered through a wide range of planning decisions – in terms of designing out crime, ensuring access to local services, affordable housing, recreational and sports provision, landscaping and biodiversity. Similarly, economic development and

enterprise may be delivered through spatial planning in the availability of land and premises, tackling transport congestion, and the provision of infrastructure and suitable housing.

8. In Herefordshire, the UDP was developed through partnership working via the thematic groups of the Partnership. There is a proven history of collaborative working which is expected to provide a firm base on which to build in integrating the Local Area Agreement, CS and LDF.
9. The first step though is to focus on the Core Strategy of the LDF and develop a clear mechanism for ensuring alignment with the Community Strategy. It is recommended that a small Task Group be established to achieve this. This would be on a start and finish basis and comprise:
  - Herefordshire Council Cabinet Members covering the portfolio areas of environment, housing, transportation and economic development/regeneration
  - Herefordshire Partnership Board representatives for community, economy and environment.
10. The role of the Group would be to provide a forum for the broad consideration of the spatial development of the County, and ensure consistency and coherence across the Council and Partnership, including the RSS and the Regional Economic Strategy and other relevant strategies.
11. Meetings of the Group would be needed at key stages of the Core Strategy process, including initial scoping of issues and options; to consider consultation responses on issues and options; and to develop and agree a preferred option for submission to Government. Task group meetings would run ahead of formal approval by the Council's Cabinet and Council as required.

## **Risk Management**

It is important that close relationships are developed between the Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework and any risks are associated with not fostering such an approach rather than otherwise.

## **Alternative Options**

Not to foster a collaborative approach between the local planning authority and the Herefordshire Partnership in terms of working on the Local Development Framework or to establish an LDF Task Group.

## **Consultees**

Herefordshire Partnership Board.