

# HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Report By: Herefordshire Partnership Team Manager**

## Wards Affected

County-wide

## Purpose

1. To consider the development and monitoring arrangements in place for the Community Strategy Development Plan, and its future development.

## Financial Implications

2. Two of the roles of the Herefordshire Community Strategy Development Plan are to prioritise funding and influence funding decisions made by regional and other funders such as European Funding, and as a basis for making financial decisions regarding the Local Area Agreement Single Pot.

## Background

### Background to the Development Plan

3. The Herefordshire Community Strategy is a high level Strategy looking to Herefordshire in the year 2020. As the Strategy is high level, it does not contain detailed actions. The Development Plan contains these detailed actions, and is focussed on making the Community Strategy happen. The roles of the Development Plan are:
  - a. A Workplan for the Herefordshire Partnership;
  - b. A document that influences local, regional and national strategies, policy development and decision making;
  - c. The basis for prioritising funding and influencing funding decisions such as regeneration and European funding;
  - d. The Local Area Agreement Action Plan, which will direct the Local Area Agreement Single Pot;
  - e. A document that will be looking to the future and guiding Herefordshire's development.
4. It includes the outcomes in the Herefordshire Community Strategy, Performance Indicators to measure process and actions with timescales and leads.
5. The Development Plan does not replicate existing Council plans. Instead it builds on them and links them to plans from other local organisations. The Development Plan also pulls together a number of existing plans into one document. This means that we do not

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

have more plans and strategies in Herefordshire than we need. This has been a significant step, which other Local Strategic Partnerships are following.

### **2006/2007 Development Plan**

6. The first Development Plan was produced for the financial year 2006-2007. It was developed as a trial and was focussed on putting all the processes and actions in place for the new Community Strategy, Herefordshire Partnership, and the new Local Area Agreement.

### **Action Plan 2008/2011**

7. The Herefordshire Partnership Team is now pulling together the end of year report on the achievements from this Development Plan. The Herefordshire Partnership Team has learnt a lot from this experience, and is taking these lessons into the development of the 2008-2011 Action Plan. The 2008-2011 Action Plan is in development, and will be a more fundamental and influential plan, which will guide the actions and activity of the Herefordshire Partnership and its Partner organisations.

### **Background to the Local Area Agreement**

8. Herefordshire Council was a round two Local Area Agreement area, and the Local Area Agreement has been developed and is in place. Performance indicators are monitored on a bi-monthly basis using the same performance management systems as the Integrated Performance Report. The Local Area Agreement is monitored by Government Office West Midlands every six months. Currently Herefordshire is graded Green for progress against our performance indicators and Green for our governance and performance monitoring arrangements. Only two Local Authorities in the region are graded green/green.
9. Over the coming year every Local Area Agreement in the country will be re-developed, with the number of performance indicators reducing to 35 (plus 18 statutory DfES targets). This should be a real improvement, but means that we must re-confirm our local priorities to guide decisions on the indicators we chose. The Local Area Agreement also requires an Action Plan to show how we will achieve our targets.
10. The new Local Area Agreement will also be used to monitor service delivery in Herefordshire, and will be a central part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment.

### **Links between the Local Area Agreement and 2008/2011 Action Plan**

11. The 2008-2011 Action Plan will be developed in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Local Area Agreement and the Single Pot, and will be used as the basis for Commissioning Services and taking financial decisions in the future. This is a significant difference for Herefordshire Council and local organisations and will require cultural and operational changes.
12. The Action Plan, these commissioning processes and the actions we take as a result will also be a fundamental part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment in the future.

### **Next steps**

13. There are opportunities for Strategic Monitoring Committee to be involved in the development of the Action Plan by feeding into its development this autumn and taking a view on the draft Action Plan during consultation in early 2008. Strategic Monitoring

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Committee may also wish to look at the processes used in more detail, or to receive the end of year reports.

14. It is anticipated that the Action Plan will be monitored annually, and reported back to all Partners and will be available on the Herefordshire Partnership website.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Strategic Monitoring Committee notes the report, and the forthcoming consultation on the 2008-2011 Herefordshire Community Strategy Action Plan, and considers how it wishes to input.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- The 2006-2007 Development Plan is available on the Herefordshire Partnership website ([www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)) under the "What we do" section.