

**ACTION PLANS FOR CULTURAL SERVICES INSPECTION,
REVIEW OF HEREFORD CITY PARTNERSHIP AND THE 18-35
REVIEW****Report By: Head of Economic And Community Services****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To inform the Committee of action plans arising from the Cultural Services Inspection, Review of Hereford City Partnership, and the 18-35 Review.

Financial Implications

2. Financial implications are based with action plans.

Background

3. As reported to the Committee on 2nd July, for the Cultural Services Inspection the Audit Commission inspectors were on site between 5th and 9th February 2007 meeting a range of Members, officers and partners to make a judgement on the quality of cultural services provided by the local authority. As well as interviews the judgement was based on a review of over 100 documents sent to the inspectors. The judgement is divided into two parts – how good is the service and this can be out of poor, fair, good, or excellent, the second part is concerned with what are the prospects for improvement and that can be out of poor, uncertain, promising or excellent. The result for Herefordshire is “*fair service that have promising prospects for improvement*”. A full copy of the Inspection report is available in the Members Room. The action plan adopted by Cabinet is attached as Appendix 1 and highlights the specific recommendations (named R) but also key criticisms in the document with a reference to their page number. The Scrutiny Committee will receive regular reports monitoring the implementation of the plan.
4. The Community Services Scrutiny considered the 18-35 Review on the 26th March, 2007. The purpose of the review was to establish the reasons why 18-35 year olds leave the county and to focus on measures the Council could put in place to retain the age group and attract them to live in the county. The review focused on key themes concerned with employment; housing; leisure; education and skills; transport and image. The action plan adopted by Cabinet on 6th September in response to the Scrutiny Review is attached as Appendix 2 and reflects the key recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.
5. The Community Services Scrutiny presented a report on the “Review of the Hereford City Partnership” on the 26th March, 2007 to consider the recommendations. The purpose of the Review was to undertake an examination of the Hereford City Partnership (subsequently referred to as HCP), which is supported by several partners, one of which is Herefordshire Council. The action plan, attached as Appendix 3, reflects the recommendations accepted by Cabinet on 6th September

with additional actions concerned with a work programme and establishing outcome measures.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cultural Services inspection report for Herefordshire.
- Review of How can Herefordshire retain 18-35 year olds in the County and attract them to it?
- Review of Hereford City Partnership.