

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY SETTING

Report By: Herefordshire Partnership Team Manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To note the process of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) “super-refresh” and comment on the preliminary list of key priorities in appendix 1.

Financial Implications

2. One element of the LAA is the Single Pot, which brings together a number of individual grant schemes into one pot with one reporting/audit mechanism. The future scope of the Single Pot is expected to be outlined in CSR 2007.

Background

3. Nationally all LAAs are being re-developed as part of a National Model, and as a critical element of the new relationship between Central and Local Government. The re-development is being termed as a “super-refresh”.
4. The first task in the “super-refresh” of the LAA is to check emerging local priorities and issues against those in the current Herefordshire Community Strategy. Consultation with partner organisations, sectors and groups was undertaken from June to September, and key priorities mapped against those in the Community Strategy. From this a preliminary list of key priorities has emerged, which is attached in Appendix 1. In compiling this list, consideration has been taken of:
 - issues strongly supported by strategic partners and strategies,
 - priorities which address public concern,
 - weighting for priorities from recent inspections and are backed up by data through the State of Herefordshire Report.
5. The number of priorities aim to give Herefordshire a manageable and focused LAA, but with sufficient scope for negotiation with GOWM and Government Departments, and flexible enough for future delivery.
6. The Herefordshire Partnership, as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), is responsible for co-ordinating the LAA’s development and delivery. On the 28th September the Herefordshire Partnership Chief Executive Group agreed in principle to the list of key priorities in Appendix 1.
7. These priorities will now be commented upon by organisations, sectors and Partnerships groups during October and November, and this report is part of this process. Council Members, Cabinet, public, private and voluntary organisations, including those we now have a duty to co-operate with, will be part of this

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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consultation process. A specific Councillor session is being planned for October. The deadline for comments on the priorities is 9th November.

8. The National Indicator set of performance indicators is due to be released in October as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, and the first draft of Herefordshires LAA submission has a preliminary deadline of 30th November 2007, followed by the end of January 2008 and March 2008 for subsequent drafts.
9. Once the key priorities are agreed, focus of attention will then move to identifying performance Indicators, agreeing targets and identifying actions. Please note a key date for your diary of the 10th December, for the Herefordshire Exchange event which will be based on this development work and consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT;

- (a) **Strategic Monitoring Committee note the LAA super refresh process, timetables and opportunities to input; and**
- (b) **Strategic Monitoring Committee comments on the list of key priorities.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Appendix 1 – Key LAA Priorities

APPENDIX 1

Key LAA Priorities

The list of preliminary priorities below has been developed through consultation.

The recommended list of key priorities is:

- Reduce the levels of crime and improve public reassurance and perception of crime
- Improve the provision of access to public transport and encourage alternatives to car use
- Reduce traffic congestion in and around Hereford City
- Provide and improve appropriate workforce training and skills development
- Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle
- Increase the availability of appropriate and affordable housing
- Encourage higher skilled and better-paid jobs in Herefordshire
- Improve recycling and reduce waste volumes
- Improve access to and availability of local services and facilities
- Address the causes and effects of Climate Change reduction
- Improve participation in decision-making and encourage Community Involvement, such as volunteering
- Increase access to and participation in learning and Improve basic skills levels (skills for life)
- Help to live at home, improve and widen support for carers and improve the quality of health and social care for vulnerable adults
- Safeguarding and support for vulnerable children
- Protect, restore and enhance the built, historical and natural environment
- Build sustainability into the design and planning processes of development, land management, transport and communities
- Reduce household debt

In addition, there may also be priorities emerging from current studies on migration and community cohesion, which will be added in as part of the negotiation process.

Please note

This list is subject to amendment as part of consultations during October and November 2007. They will inform the Herefordshire Local Area Agreement for 2008 – 2011 and the delivery of the Community Strategy. Although the Community Strategy differentiates between age groups in its themes, the above priorities would be supported across all ages, including young people.