

Annual Report

Development Plan 2006/07



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Herefordshire Partnership and the Community Strategy

Herefordshire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Herefordshire. It comprises key organisations, or Partners, who deliver services to people who visit, live or work in the County. Consulting and working together, the Partners developed and committed their organisations to the Community Strategy for Herefordshire. This Strategy has a 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
The Partner organisations and their contact details are listed on page 6.

The Development Plan

The Development Plan 2006/07 contained actions which supported the delivery of agreed outcomes in the Community Strategy. These were grouped by the Strategy's four Themes:

Economic Development and Enterprise

Healthier Communities and Older People

Children and Young People

Safer and Stronger Communities

This Report records the key achievements, which are set within the context of each of the Themes. Many of these projects are still in progress, with future achievements continuing to be monitored and celebrated. During 2007/08 the Local Strategic Partnership will use the Local Area Agreement as its Delivery Plan for the Community Strategy. A First Report on progress achieved during 2006/07 was submitted for approval to Government Office West Midlands. The Local Area Agreement is due to be refreshed and a new Agreement signed June 2008. Long-term projects which don't easily fit within the three-year timescale of the Local Area Agreement, will go into an Action Plan for the period 2011 to 2020.

How we Measure Progress

Within the Herefordshire Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement there are a number of indicators which measure progress towards achieving the aims and outcomes in the Strategy. These indicators have milestones and targets and are monitored every 2 months through the use of a performance management template. Herefordshire Partnership Support Team works closely with partner organisations to ensure that monitoring is effective, and the results fed back to Herefordshire Partnership's Performance Management Group. At this Group representatives from Partner organisations discuss the progress each indicator is making and, where there is a shortfall in performance, remedial action is recommended. This ensures that those actions deemed priorities for Herefordshire are put in place, achieve the desired outcome and result in an improvement in the quality of life for the local community.

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Progress and Achievements

Economic Development & Enterprise

Edgar Street Grid (ESG) Development

The Delivery Plan for this scheme was approved by the ESG Board and a Business Plan was published. Traffic modelling, consisting of surveys and proposals for transport management in this area was completed. Consultants were appointed to undertake environmental impact assessments, archaeological investigations and provide legal advice on compulsory purchase orders. The Supplementary Planning Document was prepared and the Master Planning exercise was completed by Spring 2007. These documents were made available for public consultation spring/summer 2007. During 2007/8 the first phase of development, the retail quarter, will be out to market, the preferred developer will be chosen by February 2008.

Hereford Learning Village

In 2006 invitations to tender were invited, and in August 2006 demolition work on the existing Folly Lane site commenced. In November the full contract was awarded to Willmott Dixon. Early in 2007 final demolitions were completed, foundations installed, the steel work frame fabricated and erected and floors installed at all levels.

The first phase of the £30m new build has a completion target of 31 December 2007 and will comprise; a new technology building for construction, engineering and computing, a suite of seminar rooms and IT facilities, with space for academic and business conferences and exhibitions, a learning resource centre, student social space, a refectory and a nursery.



Rotherwas Futures

The £20m Rotherwas Futures project will transform the existing Rotherwas Industrial Estate, creating new jobs and helping Herefordshire's economy to compete.

Specific plans include: the development of the new access road; redevelopment of the existing estate; refurbishment of existing properties where relevant; development of site service infrastructure to provide additional land for development; and implementation of a flood alleviation scheme.

In 2006/7 the Rotherwas Futures framework was developed and a Joint Venture Company established. An agreement was reached between Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and Herefordshire Council, with £9.5m being committed by AWM.

Rotherwas Access Road In September 2006 Herefordshire Council agreed the implementation of the Rotherwas Access Road scheme. The scheme went out to tender and successful contractors Alfred McAlpine Project Services were appointed. Construction work started in March 2007 and is scheduled for completion by May 2008. The Access Road construction will enable further phases of Rotherwas Futures.

Rotherwas Enterprise centre

Part of the new development land has been identified as the location for a managed workspace facility to provide workshop and office accommodation for small and start-up businesses. The planning application was submitted in January with permission granted April 2007. Construction is planned to commence 2007/08.

Progress and Achievements

Healthier Communities & Older People



Growing Older in Herefordshire

The 'Growing Older in Herefordshire' strategy was developed in consultation with the public and a number of statutory, voluntary and community groups. It's vision is that older people in Herefordshire should remain independent, active and continue to live in, and contribute to, strong local communities. Older people should also be included in decisions regarding the future services and activities they want and need.

The Strategy sets out a way to achieve this, and to respond to the rising expectations of older people. It also includes national requirements and new ways of thinking about planning for older age.

The Signposting Scheme

The award-winning Herefordshire Signposting Scheme provides a single gateway to a range of free services. These are designed to help vulnerable people remain in their own homes, supported by community services. When a Partner agency is in contact with a service user a simple signposting form is completed. This records contact details and the answers to several simple yes/no questions. The form is then sent to the Signposting Co-ordinator who acts as a 'clearing house' and makes the appropriate referrals to other Partner agencies.

The scheme has clear benefits. It enables Partner agencies to access a wide range of services in a simple efficient manner, saving time and resources. For the customer, 'signposting' ensures they benefit from a range of services through a seamless process. By March 2007 there were 5,244 signposting forms completed, resulting in 10,683 referrals.

The Village Warden Scheme

A new Village Warden scheme for Herefordshire was launched by the Primary Care Trust and the British Red Cross.

The pilot project covered Ewyas Harold, Border Group and Wigmore, Kingsland, Weobley, Wellington, Hunderton, Newton Farm, Brampton Road and Golden Post. It provides a team of Red Cross wardens who encourage older people to be involved in their community, whilst helping them stay independent in their own homes. Village wardens and volunteers put people in touch with local and national services, such as the Signposting Scheme.

For those who have suffered illness, the scheme offers assistance by helping people return to their routine and stay in touch with neighbours and friends.



Progress and Achievements

Children & Young People

Herefordshire Play Strategy

The Herefordshire Play Strategy, developed by Herefordshire Play Partnership and Herefordshire Council, sets out Herefordshire's vision for play: *"Time to Discover, Space to Develop, Free to have Fun"*.

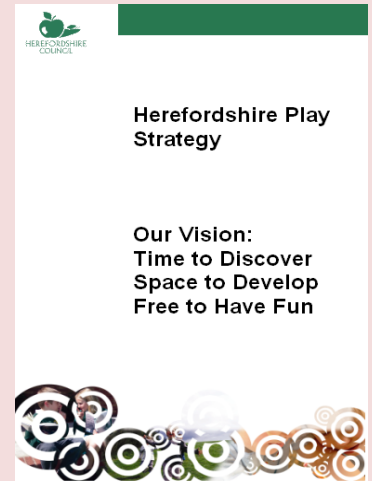
Children, families and the wider community were consulted to inform the development of the strategy and to determine the needs of children's play across the county. The needs and wishes of children and young people were prioritised and Herefordshire Play Partnership directed funding towards these priorities through a number of play projects.

The projects demonstrated a commitment to invest in people, rather than infrastructure. They helped increase skills in play work through training and development, and ensured a connection between those delivering the projects and the children and young people for whom they were intended.

The play projects chosen for funding were:



- The introduction of Nature Rangers (Nature Trust) working in parks and open spaces across the county
- 'Joining In Joining Us' project (for children with disabilities and their siblings – Kidz First)
- Herefordshire Skate Park (Wheeled Sports)
- Mobile Outreach Project (Voluntary and Statutory Youth Service)
- Part-time Play Development Co-ordinator (EYDCP)
- Play promotion: raising the profile of play through play events/conferences (EYDCP/Play Partnership)



Herefordshire Youth Council

In April 2006 the first Herefordshire Youth Council was elected by young people in Herefordshire. This provides a voice for 11-18 year olds across the County. Initially the Youth Council made contact with organisations and key people in the county, and attended meetings and events to introduce themselves. Subsequently, questionnaires were produced and distributed to establish the key three issues in need of reform.

Facilities for young people were the top priority, followed by the Environment and in joint third place were Health and School & Education.

Youth Councillors met Council Cabinet members to discuss these issues and explore ways of improving them. This resulted in MPs being lobbied and Youth Councillors joining Partnership Boards.

The Youth Council also took on the provision of running the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital funds which have provided over £220,000 to deliver projects for local young people.

Two Youth Councillors were elected to become United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) members, taking local issues for young people in Herefordshire to a national level.

Progress and Achievements

Safer & Stronger Communities

CCTV helps cut crime in Herefordshire

Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership is responsible for the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) network across the county. There are twenty cameras in Hereford, five in Ledbury, five in Leominster and six in Ross. CCTV plays a crucial role in detecting crime, providing Police Officers with vital information, and gathering images that can be used as evidence against offenders.



Between April 2006 and March 2007, the county's cameras recorded 3,746 incidents, nearly half of which picked up by CCTV alone. These included anti-social behaviour, intervening in disputes before any injury or damage occurred, and alerting police to thefts and criminal damage.

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan



Herefordshire Partnership launched its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in June 2006, which emphasised the importance of raising awareness through a number of different initiatives. This included education through addressing a number of groups, promoting the Herefordshire Declaration on Climate Change, and information and publicity to media outlets with Herefordshire Partnership taking the lead.

Herefordshire Council has also made great strides towards tackling Climate Change, including internal energy awareness and developing a Carbon Management Action Programme, whilst supporting the work of the Partnership. The initiatives have laid a solid foundation upon which future work can build and demonstrate how a low carbon and proactive approach to climate change can lead to securing a better future for across the County and beyond.

Access to Services

Throughout 2006/07 a number of initiatives aimed at maintaining and improving local residents' access to services were developed. The Community Access Point (CAP) project provides accessible, secure and sustainable broadband facilities within rural communities. By the end of March 2007, six Community Access Points were fully operational with hardware, software and Internet access provided. These were used for learning, leisure and enable access to a range of services. A further six sites had active Broadband links in the process of installation, and two more approved for funding with Broadband connection.

In order to establish a co-ordinated approach to "access to services" initiatives, Herefordshire Partnership Chief Executives' Group approved the establishment of a Rural Access Partnership to provide high-level leadership, strategic thinking and joint planning on rural issues in Herefordshire. The Multi Use Facilities project was developed, aiming to promote easier access to services for people living in rural areas, through the development of local facilities. These will be 'multi use' because they allow services to work together, extending their reach by sharing resources and costs. A report was commissioned which made a number of recommendations in pursuit of this development.



Herefordshire Partnership is a non-statutory, voluntary partnership often referred to as a Local Strategic Partnership. Herefordshire Partnership consists of key local and regional organisations that, through joint consultation and working initiated, developed and have signed up to the Community Strategy for Herefordshire. The Partner organisations are:

- **Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire**
- **Herefordshire Association of Local Councils**
- **Herefordshire Council**
- **Herefordshire Primary Care Trust**
- **Learning and Skills Council Herefordshire and Worcestershire**
- **Voluntary Organisations**
- **West Mercia Constabulary**

Together, the Partners are contributing towards the outcomes of the Community Strategy in their work and plans for the future. Websites of Partner organisations can be found below:

- Community First Herefordshire and Worcestershire www.comfirst.org.uk
- Learning and Skills Council www.lsc.gov.uk
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce www.hwchamber.co.uk
- Voluntary Sector Assembly www.thevsa.org.uk
- West Mercia Constabulary www.westmercia.police.uk
- Herefordshire Council www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Documents referred to in this report are listed below, with contact details of where they can be obtained from :

- Community Strategy for Herefordshire
- The Development Plan 2006/07
- Herefordshire Local Area Agreement
- First Report to GOWM 2006/07
- Growing Older in Herefordshire
- Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

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