

## SCRUTINY OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE PLAN

**Joint Report By: Director of Policy and Community and  
Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing**

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To advise Members on arrangements for monitoring the Herefordshire Plan.

### Financial Implications

2. None.

### Background

3. Following wide ranging consultation on the original draft a revised edition of the Herefordshire Plan was published in June 2000. The Herefordshire Plan was one of the first wave of community plans published in England. The Plan sets out a vision, guiding principles, ten ambitions and a number of golden threads which together form a ten year strategy for Herefordshire. The Plan is therefore currently at the end of its 3rd year.

### Partnership Arrangements

4. The implementation of the Plan is supported by a comprehensive partnership including over 100 organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Core partners of the Council include the Chamber of Commerce and Business Link, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, Learning and Skills Council Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Voluntary Organisations, and West Mercia Constabulary.
5. The Partnership is led through ten ambition groups which take responsibility for delivering each ambition in the Plan. The Ambition Groups are supported by a Management Group and Board of senior officers from the core partner organisations. In addition there are golden threads running through the activity of all Ambition Groups.
6. The Ambitions are as follows, showing the Cabinet Member: within whose remit the ambition falls and the Scrutiny Committee responsible, for scrutinising progress towards achieving the ambitions.

<b>Ambition</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>
Improve the health and wellbeing of Herefordshire People	Social Care and Strategic Housing	Health Social Care and Housing

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Director of Policy and Community on (01432) 260042 or Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing (01432)  
260048

Ambition	Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Committee
Reduce crime and disorder and make Herefordshire safer	Leader	Strategic Committee      Monitoring
Tackle poverty and isolation in Herefordshire	Leader	Strategic Committee      Monitoring
Encourage communities to shape the future of Herefordshire	Community and Social Development	Social and Economic Development
Develop Herefordshire as an active, vibrant and enjoyable place to be	Community and Social Development	Social and Economic Development
Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment	Environment	Environment
Provide excellent education, training and learning opportunities in Herefordshire for all ages	Community and Social Development Education	Education Social and Economic Development
Meet Herefordshire's accommodation needs	Social Care and Strategic Housing	Social Care and Housing
Support business growth and create more and better paid work in Herefordshire	Economic Development, Markets and Property Rural Regeneration	Social and Economic Development
Develop an integrated transport system for Herefordshire	Highways and Transport	Environment

7. Underpinning the Ambition Groups there are a plethora of local partnerships throughout Herefordshire based on geographic communities ranging from town centres to housing estates and individual villages. Work is currently underway to improve communications and linkages between the Ambition Groups and these key geographic communities.

#### **Member Involvement**

8. Member support and involvement in delivering the Herefordshire Plan is an essential element of success. The Herefordshire Plan has been developed using a number of dedicated events with Herefordshire Council Members.
9. Members of the Executive are charged with receiving regular reports on the progress of the Herefordshire Plan generally and the contribution of the different parts of

Herefordshire Council to the achievement of individual Ambitions. Wherever possible Executive Members should be integrated into the work of the Ambition Groups.

10. In September 2001 the Strategic Monitoring Committee agreed that individual Scrutiny Committees should receive six monthly reports setting out progress to date, work in hand and future timetables. Where Cabinet Members are responsible for more than one ambition Scrutiny Committees should examine composite reports. In order not to lose sight of the breadth of the Plan the Strategic Monitoring Committee should receive, at least on an annual basis, a report bringing together key activities/themes which are being progressed or emerging.

### **Achievements**

11. The Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment of the Council in December 2002 commented that "the Plan has provided the focus for partnership working and has contributed significantly to the Council being able to attract significant external funding to deliver projects tackling local priorities, such as rural access and pockets of deprivation in Hereford City. In this respect the Plan has enabled the Council to punch above its weight as a small low-funded authority."
12. Details of specific achievements are set out in the Herefordshire Plan Progress Review 2001-2002 copies of which are available in the Members' Room. The Plan is currently being revised and an updated version of the current Plan will be available in the next few months. There will then be a fundamental review in 2004, leading to a new Plan in 2005.
13. This Scrutiny Committee therefore has a role in scrutinising progress towards achieving the following ambitions:
  - Improve the health and wellbeing of Herefordshire People
  - Meet Herefordshire's accommodation needs
14. A report on the ambition to improve the health and wellbeing off Herefordshire people was considered by this Committee in March 2003. Whilst the Health Scrutiny Committee will now lead in scrutinising this ambition, reports will also be made to this Committee.
15. Achievements of the Health And Social Care Ambition Group from the new revision of the Herefordshire Plan include:
  - increased schemes to help people with mental health difficulties to live at home
  - South Wye mental health drop in café
  - new unit to help older people regain independence on target to open in November 2003
  - two rural 'sure start' schemes to support families with children under five
  - successful bid for '5 A DAY' funding to increase the number of people eating fruit and vegetables
16. Achievements of the Housing Ambition Group from the new revision of the Herefordshire Plan include:
  - Produced Supplementary Planning Guidance for new housing developments, looking particularly at issues of sustainability

- Completed pilot of a Housing needs Toolkit with a local parish council
- Provided a response to the Regional Housing Strategy
- Participated in the development of the Herefordshire Council's Housing strategy

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Herefordshire Plan
- Herefordshire Plan Progress Review 2001/2002