Shaping our Place 2026

Core Strategy:
Developing Options Paper
Sustainability Appraisal

April 2008

Local Development Framework

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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Non-Technical Summary

In accordance with European legislation and UK regulations a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Development Framework was approved in June 2007. The purpose of the LDF Scoping Report is to provide a general framework for the Sustainability Appraisal of future documents being produced as part of a new planning system for Herefordshire. It was the first stage in an iterative process of Sustainability Appraisal of predominantly, Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. The Scoping Report has been used as the foundation of this report and where necessary updates and reviews of the processes and information available within it have been amended to reflect new information and best practice, where applicable and changes outlined within this document. This report then continues with a focus on Stage B of the SA process.

The role of the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy is to create a spatial plan to guide growth and change in the County over the next 20 years, replacing the current adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP), March 2007. The Core Strategy will set out a spatial vision; objectives; core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework to guide the sustainable development of the County up until 2026. The Sustainability Appraisal will aid this process by ensuring that the principles of sustainable development are integrated and based on a clear understanding of economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of the County and identify constraints in meeting these requirements.

Herefordshire Council has decided to take a volume approach to the required SA reports needed at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. This methodology will show how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development in an integrated way into its Core Strategy. This first volume of the SA Report sets out the background to Sustainability Appraisal and is effectively an audit trail of the process to date in developing the Core Strategy. Details of a series of organised SA workshops on issues; development of the Core Strategy Objectives; compatibility of SA Objectives with the Core Strategy Objectives; and predicting the effects of the Strategic Options are all set out in the main report and Appendices. The following gives a brief summary of the SA findings:

At the issues workshops in May 2007 the SA identified a variety of issues that the Core Strategy Issues Paper, consulted on in September 2007, should include, please refer to Appendices 1-01 to 1-05. The main issues identified were climate change; affordable and appropriate housing; better air quality requirements; less congestion; waste; flooding; water resources; local facilities for thriving communities; sustainable modes of travel including better walking and cycling routes; and the natural environment. These were used to develop the issues consulted on in September 2007 and integrated as part of the amended issues following consultation into the objectives that would seek to address the issues and help shape Herefordshire up until 2026.

Following consultation on the Issues Paper SA workshops were held on the compatibility of the Draft Core Strategy Objectives January 2008 to test them for their reasonableness and compatibility with the principles of sustainable development. The results were used in the development of the Core Strategy Objectives and Strategic Options. The reasonableness and compatibility test for the January 2008 workshop can be viewed in Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 6-10. Following the incorporation of these results from the SA workshop, early task group and other key stakeholder involvement, the Core Strategy Objectives as at April 2008 were assessed again for their reasonableness and compatibility with the SA Objectives. These results can be viewed in Appendix B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and Appendix B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 6-10 and the conclusions and recommendations from this assessment will be integrated into the Core Strategy prior to identifying a Preferred Option and reported on at Preferred Options Stage.

Appendix B2 shows the results of the SA workshop held in January 2008 on the development of the Strategic Options. It was based on where all the new housing, employment and other growth should be located and what the reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability appraisal early assessment was for each of the emerging Strategic Options.

Following integration of amendments from further task group and key stakeholder involvement and the results from Appendix B2 the new Strategic Options, April 2008 were assessed to predict what the effects of the four Strategic Options would likely be in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and Sustainability Appraisal. The conclusions and recommendations of Appendix B3 will be integrated following consultation in June 2008 and be reported on at Preferred Options.

Following the forthcoming consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper further stages of the SA process will be undertaken and reported on in the Preferred Options Paper. It will include any additional assessments needed on tasks already completed on any significant changes, for example significant plan objective amendments, a new emerged option or a significant change to an existing option identified in the Developing Options Paper. The next stages of the SA will also be undertaken, for example putting the sustainability framework to the preferred option.

Consultation Arrangements

The consultation of this document is being undertaken in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the "assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment": the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), the SEA Directive, that is transposed under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to ensure the views of key stakeholders and members of the public help inform a more inclusive Development Plan Document (DPD).

Consultation will take place over an eight-week period from 16th June 2008 to the 8th August 2008. We would welcome your comments.

Any comments or suggestions you have on this document should be returned in writing to Emma Lawrence, LDF Community Involvement Officer at the address below. A copy of this document can be found on our website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk following the Planning, Forward Planning, LDF, Core Strategy links or is available from:

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1.0   Appraisal Process

1.1   The Final General Scoping Report for the SA of the Local Development Framework was approved in June 2007. It has been used to guide the process for the SA of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy and it includes:

- A review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and their relationship with the LDF and SA;
- Relevant baseline information to inform the current environmental, social and economic characteristics and likely evolution thereof;
- The likely sustainability issues for the LDF – based on assessment of the baseline;
- Sustainability objectives; and
- An outline of the appraisal process and SA Report.

1.2   Herefordshire Council has decided to take a volume approach to the required SA reports needed at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. This methodology will show how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development, in an integrated way, into the development of the Core Strategy; in particular the inter-relationships between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1, Delivering Sustainable Development.

1.3   The Scoping Report has been used as the foundation of this report and where necessary updates on Stage A, as set out in paragraph 1.1 and reviews of the processes and information available within it have been amended to reflect new information and best practice and incorporated within this document. This report then focuses on Stage B of the SA process, developing and refining options and predicting effects. Guidance identifies these tasks as testing the Core Strategy Objectives against the SA framework (Task B1); Developing Core Strategy Options (Task B2); and predicting the effects of the Core Strategy (Task B3).

2.0   Background

2.1   In accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the "assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment": the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), (the SEA Directive), that is transposed under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the responsible planning authority must carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) OF Local Development Documents. The Government have produced guidance on undertaking SA: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents which has been utilised in producing this report. In addition, guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and Scott Wilson, Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal for Development Plan Documents (Draft) and Local Development Frameworks Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, December 2007 have also been used in conjunction with training seminars and workshops held by PAS that have assisted with the Core Strategy SA process.

2.2   The main purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. Essentially the SA process goes beyond the environmental issues (the SEA Directive) to include social and economic issues as well. It has been designed so that by carrying out SA the responsible authority can satisfy the requirements of both SA and the SEA Directive. In this report, SA should be taken to mean that the SEA Directive has been incorporated. (Appendix i identifies how this report complies with the SEA Directive).

3.0   Purpose of the Report

3.1   This report establishes the first volume of the SA of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. As previously mentioned the General Scoping Report covered the early stages of the SA process,

stage A and amendments have been made as necessary including new information and incorporation of best practice. This report mainly covers Stage B of the SA process.

3.2   Stage B involved developing and refining options and predicting effects, and in particular the following tasks have been undertaken and reported on in this volume of the SA for the Core Strategy:

- Identification of issues and developing Plan Objectives, Appendix 1-01 to Appendix 1-05 covering the economy, housing, infrastructure, services and the environment;
- Compatibility Test - Developing Plan Objectives, January 2008 against selected SA objectives, Appendix B1 Jan 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and 6-10 including the reasonableness test;
- Compatibility Test - Plan Objectives, April 2008, Appendix B1-April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 and 6-10 including the reasonableness test;
- Developing Plan Options, Appendix B2; and
- Predicting the effects of the Strategic Options, Appendix B3.

3.3   The remaining tasks of Stage B, evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy; considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects; and proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy and the remaining Stages C to E of the SA process, as set out in the General Scoping Report, will be covered in future volumes of the SA for the Core Strategy, likely to be at Preferred Options and Submission stage.

4.0   Review of General Scoping Report, June 2007

Plans, Policies and Programmes

4.1   Appendix A1 of the General Scoping Report, June 2007 contains a comprehensive review of all plans, policies and programmes that relate to the sustainability of the LDF. These are therefore not repeated in this document. However, this SA report has had regard to their objectives in order to incorporate the sustainability elements.

4.2   Appendix A1 in this report provides the additional local plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Core Strategy and the SA since the approval of the General Scoping Report, June 2007 and are listed below. These additional highlighted plans, policies and programmes objectives have been considered through the process of developing the Plan Objectives and Strategic Options through identifying what there relationship is with the SA process and integrating with them to ensure the Plan does not contradict their aims and objectives. A similar task was also undertaken in the main Core Strategy Developing Options Paper and the outcomes can be viewed in that document. More importantly it enables the identified plans, policies and programmes to be delivered through the planning system.

Additional Plans, Policies and Programmes – Appendix A1

- Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy 2007-2010 (Draft)
- Sustainability Strategy 2006-2009, published January 2007
- Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
- Growing Older in Herefordshire, A Strategy for Older People in Herefordshire, August 2007
- Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009
- Social Enterprise in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire (under review)
- Highway Maintenance Plan, April 2007

Review of baseline data – Appendix A2

4.3   A review of the baseline data was not considered appropriate at this stage of the Core Strategy preparation, as elements of the evidence base are still outstanding and may have additional

impacts on the SA. It was therefore considered, at this strategic level, to undertake the current assessment work with the information as reported in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 and to review the baseline at a later date when further information would be available, preferably by preferred options stage but certainly by submission stage.

4.4   The baseline data has however been reviewed in terms of identifying the indicators as, contextual, local, core, core output, or local output. It was clear from this exercise that the majority of the indicators were considered to be contextual and as such would not be appropriate for the purposes of monitoring the Core Strategy. It is acknowledged however, that in addition to the review of the baseline as mentioned in 4.3 above, once more information becomes available, significant effects indicators will also start to be identified through the SA process. An update of these is likely to be in the next SA report for preferred options.

Sustainability Key Issues

4.5   The General Scoping Report, June 2007 in Section 5 highlights key sustainability issues for Herefordshire. These issues are relevant for the Core Strategy as it is a strategic document covering the whole County. In addition to these, SA issues workshops were held in order to identify some initial broad principles for the Core Strategy Objectives to establish if there were any other issues associated with the 5 topic focussed areas of the economy, housing, infrastructure, services and the environment that the Core Strategy would need to have regard for. The results from these workshops are discussed later in this report and were used in the development of the Core Strategy Issues Paper.

4.6   Table 1 below shows the final set of Core Strategy issues, post consultation, that address the identified key sustainability issues as identified in the General Scoping Report, June 2007, demonstrating how sustainability is being incorporated into the Core Strategy.

Table 1: Sustainability issues addressed through Core Strategy identified issues,

Key sustainability issues	Core Strategy issues that address the key sustainability issues
Population Change	Providing for the needs of all generations.
Provide decent and affordable housing for all	Ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive, sustainable design and construction.
Reducing poverty and social exclusion	Providing for the needs of all generation; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; reducing the opportunities for crime and anti social behaviour; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; and regeneration of the County.
Crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	Reducing the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; and the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; and regeneration of the County.
Health and well-being	Providing for the needs of all generations; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; improving air

	quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Economic activity/employment	The need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; regeneration of the County; and promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County.
Education and Skills	Providing for the needs of all generations; the need to capitalise on educational achievements through higher education provision and skills development; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; and diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development.
Transport and Accessibility/Air Quality	Provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; regeneration of the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensure high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Regeneration	Providing for the needs of all generations; regeneration of the County; ensuring appropriate housing provision and affordability; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Land use and stewardship	Protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; regeneration of the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban and rural areas.
Climate change and flood risk	Addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; improving poor air quality in specific locations due to vehicle pollution; and improving transport, infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County.

Biodiversity	Regeneration of the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; and protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites.
Reduction in waste/increase in recycling	Better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; provision of and access to important services and facilities in urban areas and rural areas; diversification of the economy to higher value added industries such as research and development; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Water usage and quality	Addressing the issues of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Energy Efficiency	Improving transport infrastructure, choices, movement and communications throughout the County; addressing the impacts of climate change, including flooding; better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County; and ensuring high quality, locally distinctive sustainable design and construction.
Environmental assets and resources	Regeneration of the County; promoting tourism and cultural activities in the County; addressing the issues of climate change, including flooding; protection and enhancement of environmental assets such as historic buildings, open spaces and designated sites; and better use of resources including water, minerals, land, energy and promoting use of renewable energy and reducing waste generation throughout the County.

Sustainability Objectives

4.7   A review of the sustainability objectives, as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 was undertaken following recommendations made at the January 2008 Plan Objectives compatibility workshop that minor amendments were needed to the wording of some of the sustainability objectives for clarity. Some of the Sustainability Framework questions (Appendix A3) have been refined and moved from one SA Objective to another ready for later stages in the production and assessment of the Core Strategy. The main changes are as follows:

- Removal of "suited to the changing needs of the local workforce" from sustainability objective 1 under the Economic Development and Enterprise section;
- Removal of questions 1.3 and 1.4 from objective 1 and replaced into objective 2 (section, as above);
- Removal of questions 2.1 and 2.2 from objective 2 and replaced in objective 8 under the Children and Young People section;
- Replacement of the reference to "household waste" to "municipal waste" in objective 12 under Protecting Environmental Assets and Resources section;
- Addition of the indicator "amount of energy recovered from burning of waste" to question 12.3 of objective 12 (section, as above) since this measure was included in the last Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2006/2007[1].

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[1] The AMR is a document produced annually that reports on the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents (LDDs) under the LDF are being achieved. The current AMR reports on the achievement of policies in the current

5.0   Key Sustainability Issues

5.1   In line with the latest guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), Herefordshire Council is aiming to integrate a variety of methods at various stages in the production of its Core Strategy to be innovative, as far as is possible with time and resource constraints. The Council is also working with external statutory consultees such as Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and comments and advice are integrated as necessary.

5.2   In the early stages of identifying issues and developing objectives internal workshops were held to raise the profile of the Core Strategy and establish a group of people from cross cutting Council Departments to share their knowledge and experience in their professional areas to assist in the SA process. The first issues workshops were conducted in May 2007 using broad topic based Core Strategy Objectives, these were worded as follows:

- Diversify the Herefordshire economy;
- Improve the choice in housing;
- Provide better infrastructure links within urban areas and between urban and rural areas;
- Improve health, education, skills training, social, shopping, community and other services; and
- Ensure the sustainable use of environmental assets and the prudent use of natural resources.

5.3   Each of the topic areas had individual workshops, with a relevant officer(s) providing their initial assessment of issues with each of the broad topic areas appraised against the 20 sustainability objectives, as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007. The following represents the general information provided, on each of the topics, to workshop attendees for assessment of the issues.

- **Diversification of the Herefordshire economy**
  To diversify the existing base away from a dependency on large single manufacturers through increasing the opportunities for promoting growth in high value sectors such as food and drink, tourism, creative industries and health and care. This should also seek to protect the County's existing strong rural economy while also encouraging farm diversification in sustainable sectors distinctive to Herefordshire.

- **Improve the choice in housing**
  It is important in planning the future of the County that people have a greater choice in housing and can afford to live within the County if they choose to. There is a high demand for affordable housing across the County and a need to provide an appropriate mix of housing to meet the needs of the population.

- **Better infrastructure links within urban areas and between urban and rural areas**
  New growth will need to be supported by appropriate infrastructure both in urban and rural areas. New infrastructure may comprise new roads and rail facilities where appropriate but could also include the provision of more sustainable modes of transport such as cycle networks, footways and public transport. Infrastructure provision will also include green infrastructure such as parks, green corridors, community facilities and sports and recreational facilities.

- **Improving health, education, skills training, social, shopping, community and other services**

It is essential that with economic and housing growth within the County that important services and facilities are also provided and are not subject to overburdening demands. Hereford City and the Market Towns should provide a network of centres that provide important facilities and services including community and leisure uses. The health and education provision within the County are vital to the prosperity of the County and need to be supported.

- **Sustainable use of environmental assets and the prudent use of natural resources**
  The environment is one of Herefordshire's most important assets and needs to be protected and enhanced in association with the economic and population growth of the County. The environment also has the opportunities to contribute greatly to growth, capitalising on the County's strong heritage and natural environment, making Herefordshire an attractive place to work, live and invest.

5.4 The results of the workshops can be viewed in Appendices 1–01 economy, 1–02 housing, 1–03 infrastructure, 1–04 services and 1-05 environment.

5.5 The results, along with identifying early on potential issues, assisted the Plan writers in the development of the Plan Objectives, but also allowed the SA internal working group to become familiar with the SA process and terminology and have an initial input from the beginning of the Core Strategy preparation.

6.0 Developing Objectives

6.1 The General Scoping Report, June 2007 identifies 20 sustainability objectives in the framework and all these have been identified as being relevant to the Core Strategy. At the developing Plan Objectives stage that took place in January 2008, a representative set of SA Objectives covering the economy, social and environmental sustainability areas were selected. This allowed the development of the Objectives to incorporate the main themes of sustainable development at the most appropriate level and to be fit for purpose. The SA Objectives used in developing the Plan Objective were 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 20 (refer to column 1 of the Appendices B1 Jan 2008 1-5 & 6-10 compatibility tests).

6.2 An SA workshop group was organised comprising some of those group members who had been involved at the issues stage and others whom would continue to be the established SA workshop group assisting throughout the process of developing the Core Strategy. The group is comprised of appropriate Herefordshire Council officers with expertise in a variety of areas, for the example the economy, housing and education. Guidance from the Planning Advisory Service was utilised prior to and during the organisation of the workshop to discuss the development of the Plan Objectives. The group firstly discussed whether the emerging Plan Objectives were reasonable and if found to be reasonable where assessed for their compatibility against the selected SA Objectives as set out in paragraph 6.1 above. Appendix B1 Jan 2008 – Objectives 1-5 compatibility test and Appendix B1 Jan 2008 – Objectives 6-10 compatibility test show the results of the workshop and also identifies the conclusions and recommendations made to the Plan writers at this early developing Plan Objectives stage.

6.3 The Plan writers preparing the document considered the outcomes from the workshop and integrated these into the development of the Objectives as they appear in the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, June 2008. This was forwarded to some key external consultees for their comments and as a result further changes were made. The main comments were that; the Plan Objectives were not considered to be locally distinctive enough for Herefordshire or "smart" in terms of being easily monitored once adopted. A further compatibility test was conducted on the April 2008 Draft Objectives, which incorporate these comments. The results, conclusions and recommendations of this later compatibility and reasonability test can be found in Appendix B1 April 2008 – Objectives 1-5 Compatibility Test and Appendix B1 April 2008 – Objectives 6-10 Compatibility Test. The results from this latest assessment will be integrated

following consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper and reported on in the next SA report, at Preferred Options.

7.0   Appraisal of the Options

7.1   Similarly to the process undertaken for appraising the emerging Objectives, a workshop was organised with the same internal SA working group with a representative from the PAS, the group considered the Herefordshire Strategic Options. The group were asked to consider a set of questions when assessing each of the emerging Strategic Options along with known factors such as the latest housing figures in the West Midlands RSS, however they were informed of the review being undertaken at the regional level on potential housing figure increases. The questions considered were
- Are the options distinct and clear? (Reasonable)
- What are their likely adverse effects, can they be prevented, reduced, offset? (SA)
- Can positive effects be enhanced? (SA)
- Can the effects be quantified? (SA)
- Who are the winners and losers? (Community Engagement)

In other words the group considered "How do the Options perform?"

7.2   The options discussed were:
- Option A - Concentrate the development of new homes within the Market Towns
- Option B - Focus on one or more of the Market Towns and if so, which ones?
- Option C - Split development of new homes between the Market Towns and larger rural settlements (yet to be defined – but similar approach to the UDP)
- Option D - Focus only on a greater number of larger rural settlements to promote services and facility retention in the rural areas, outside of the Market Towns
- Option E - Focus on a new settlement
- Option F - Focus on an expanded settlement.

7.3   The outcomes from the tests of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability can be viewed in Appendix B2. The workshop group identified some of the issues to be cross cutting for all Options, these were climate change and environmental protection and enhancement. These are critical for a sustainable spatial strategy and fundamental to all of the identified emerging Strategic Options. Option C reflects the extent to which new development could be used to enhance existing or provide new environmental assets.

7.4   As the above emerging Strategic Options were a first attempt at spatially focussing patterns of general growth for developing the Options, it is acknowledged that the approach was not specific enough in aiding development of place shaping policy options and did not integrate fully with the emerging Objectives as per the January 2008 version. The comments and recommendations made from the assessment in the workshop were integrated into the development of the emerging Strategic Options, as part of the SA iterative process. There are now four emerging Strategic Options that are set out in the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper as at April 2008, these are:

- Option A - The desire to promote Herefordshire's economy (an economic option) with an eastern focus for development; or
- Option B - The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation (a social option) with a dispersed focus for development; or
- Option C - The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets (an environmental option) with a concentrated focus of development; or
- Option D - A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C above, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.

7.5　Comments from external consultees have also been integrated into the development of the Options and the above April 2008 emerging Strategic Options have now also been tested in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability.

8.0　Predicting the Effects

8.1　Similarly to the assessment of the emerging Objectives the four emerging Strategic Options, as set out above, were tested in terms of how the Options would perform using the same set of questions as a guide.　However, this time during the SA appraisal assessment the predicted effects were weighted in relation to whether the Options were moving towards sustainability, moving away from sustainability or were neutral for the economy, social and environmental themes.　The results, conclusions and recommendations of the assessment can be viewed in Appendix B3 and will be integrated into the Core Strategy following consultation and reported on in the next SA report at Preferred Options.

9.0　Sustainability Integration

9.1　In addition to the above SA process each of the versions written by the Core Strategy Plan writers was reviewed in terms of sustainability and suggestions and recommendations for changes to wording was made.　The following lists the changes that were made to the March 2008 Developing Options Paper for the Internal Working Group as a result of this sustainability integration into the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper:

- Reference to Habitats Regulation Assessment included
- Reference to "reducing waste through reuse, recycling, composting"… changed to "managed through reduce, reuse, recycling, composting" …
- Objective one "securing sustainable communities" changed to "delivering sustainable communities"
- Reference to "by 2026" deleted
- The key issue of housing included in the delivering sustainable communities objectives
- Reference to "aims" in community strategy changed to "outcomes"
- Infrastructure such as sewage, gas, electricity and water supplies other than roads now included in a separate section under sustainable communities
- Clarity given to what was meant by green barriers, changed to "valued landscapes"
- Reference to public transport included in one of the disadvantages to Option A on Focus on the Economy

9.2　Similar exercises will continue through the production of the Core Strategy to ensure that principles of Sustainable Development are integrated.

10.0　Uncertainty and Risks

10.1　When identifying issues, assessing compatibilities and effects of Objectives and Options against the principles of sustainable development and specific identified sustainability objectives, professional judgement has been used along with workshop group consensus to what the overall effect might be and as a result errors in judgement may exist.　Possible inaccuracies in the discussion based assessment process also have the potential to create uncertainties and risks in the assessment outcomes.　However, it is considered that these risks are negligible since the process is iterative and will be regularly reviewed and updated.　It is considered that the integration and incorporation of the SA process into the writing and assessment of the Core Strategy and involvement of key stakeholders will enable the inaccuracies, any uncertainty and risk to be reduced, as far as is possible.

11.0　Recommendations

11.1　The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to set out the effects of the plan in terms of environmental, social and economic aspects.　Throughout this process many conclusions and

recommendations have been made and these are noted in the appendices attached to this report. The appendices set out in full the recommendations made at various stages in the process and taken into account in preparing the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper. It is also intended that the latest assessments on the Objectives April 2008 and Strategy Options, April 2008 will be integrated into the preparation of the Core Strategy following consultation. These recommendations can be viewed in Appendices: B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 1-5 compatibility and B1 April 2008 CS Objectives 6-10 compatibility and B3 predicting the effects.

11.0 Further work

11.1 Following consultation on the Developing Options Paper the comments made regarding this report will be reviewed and taken account of, where appropriate. There will also be a review of significant changes to be made to the Core Strategy Options paper to establish if any additional SA assessments are needed as a result of the consultation changes. Following this further Sustainability Appraisal stages will be undertaken going into more detail with available evidence base. It is envisaged that a similar format for assessment will be used in terms of workshops and officer appraisal with continued advice from PAS and engagement with key stakeholders. The framework that will be used to assess the Preferred Option and this can be viewed in Appendix A3, Sustainability Framework.

Appendices

Appendix A1   Review of Additional Local Plans, Programmes and Policies

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
Local				
Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy 2007-2010 (Draft)	There are 6 main objectives, 4 of which are relevant: Objective 3 To guide sustainable development through planning policy and development control; objective 4 to apply a best practice approach when managing council land; objective 5 to collect and maintain data and ensure its effective use; and objective 6 to secure the protection, management and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest through assisting other land managers and owners.	Objective 3's target – no net loss in priority habitats or species only habitat or species gain; no net loss to designated sites; objective 4's target – the percentage of council owned or managed land without a nature conservation designated, managed for biodiversity to rise to 4.4% by 2011 from the current 2.5%; objective 5's target – the creation of GIS layers on council's system of the location of records of legally protected and BAP priority species by 2008; and objective 6's target – commencement of a wildlife sites project in 2007 to encourage conservation and appropriate management of wildlife sites and seek council and partner funding to ensure continuation until at least 2012.	The Core Strategy will have to integrate biodiversity into the principles of spatial planning.	The strategy will assist in providing evidence from data gathered through its set targets and indicators and guide the direction that the Core Strategy should take when dealing with biodiversity issues.
Sustainability Strategy 2007-2006-2009, published January 2007	Over-arching objectives is to "guide the council in integrating and co-ordinating the principles of sustainability across its strategies, plans, policies and actions. It's strategic aims are to: support and co-ordinate council activities that further		Although this document is most relevant for those plans which co-ordinate council activities it is	The objectives, indicators and targets set out in the SA framework need to be as aligned as far as is possible with council

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	sustainability objectives; increase awareness and provide a point of reference for all interested in maximising sustainable development within their work for the council; build a framework for streamlining sustainability objectives across the council's plans, policies, budgets and strategies. The framework will identify and encourage shared, quantified outcomes that contribute to a sustainable Herefordshire; and communicate the council's commitment to sustainable development to the public.		acknowledged that the Core Strategy should be in conformity with its aims. Objectives should not contradict Council policy and indicators should be aligned in order for information sharing, evidence gathering and monitoring to be more coherent.	objectives, indicators and targets for ease of information gathering, sharing and monitoring reducing duplication around the authority. However, it is noted that elements of the planning system require additional information or depth of detail than for Council purposes. A watching brief is needed here as a monitoring framework is developed and later reported in Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs).
Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010	The supporting people programme focuses on enabling vulnerable and disabled people to live as independently as possible and has the following objectives: A programme that promotes independence; the provision of strategically planned, high quality services that are cost effective; a needs led approach to the planning and development of services; effective working partnerships of local government, probation, health, voluntary sector organisations, housing associations, support agencies and service users. (There are also links with the	The targets are to deliver preventative services that will: Reduce the level of homelessness and repeat homelessness; Reduce the risk of offending and drug misuse; Promote independence and social inclusion of vulnerable and disabled people through the provision of enabling housing, related support services; delay an individual's need to access more intensive services	The Core Strategy is to represent all members of the community and therefore this strategy will give details of the aims for vulnerable and disabled persons so to ensure that any planning relevant elements can be incorporated into the	The SA should have regard for the objectives of this strategy when looking into infrastructure, health, quality of life, housing etc in considering this group(s) strategic requirements.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	Herefordshire Plan, Herefordshire Partnership Community Strategy to deliver a number of the key ambitions. Links also with council's Draft Corporate Plan 2005-2008)	due to a deterioration in health or ability; improve the spectrum of choice in the supported housing sector; seek to ensure equal access to services maximise the use of all available resources to best meet the housing needs of vulnerable and disabled people.	development of the Plan.	
Growing Older in Herefordshire, A Strategy for Older People in Herefordshire, August 2007	Aims of the strategy: Communication and information (e.g. community involvement; access to information and services, activities and education; and contributing to local community); Community safety (e.g. being able to enjoy town centres in the evenings; having information about incidences of crime; and being less vulnerable to crime); Employment and retirement (e.g. avoid social isolation; develop positive attitudes towards employing older people; having sufficient income and wealth to provide security in retirement; and being able to use resources to best effect); Health and dependance (e.g. services should be equitable and not discriminate on the basis of age; access to and receipt of health services; having more services provided close to or at home; and being able to access a range of services and activities that promote a healthy and active lifestyle); transport and access (e.g.		The Core Strategy will have to integrate the needs and aspirations of an ageing population into the principles of spatial planning.	The SA will have regard for all members of society and therefore includes the ageing population. This will be incorporated into any sustainability assessment.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	having services that do not seek to segregate older people from the rest of society; having more services provided in one place; being able to get out and about with the resources to enable this; improve public transport; maintaining the County's highway network; and having more mobile services visiting rural communities).			
Disability Equality Scheme 2006-2009	The DES hopes to achieve a number of things: promote equality so that disabled people who live or work in the County can enjoy their full human, social and political rights free from discrimination; embrace Herefordshire's diversity as a source of strength and opportunity; meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and make sure that we are taking the needs and views of disabled people into account at all times; continuously monitor and improve the ways in which we deliver services to disabled people.		The Core Strategy will need to ensure that regard for the disabled has been made by complying with this strategies aims and objectives and will need to show how it has taken the views of the disabled into account.	The SA will need to ensure that it has incorporated the needs of the disabled into its sustainability assessment of the Plan, e.g. access, infrastructure, employment opportunity etc., so far as the spatial planning system can assist.
Social Enterprise in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, previous strategy out of date and is under review and therefore the objectives listed are for guidance only.	The PSE (Partners for Social Enterprise) Vision for Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire is drafted as: "To support a growing, sustainable social enterprise community throughout the rural West Midlands." The social enterprise in the 3 counties is likely to reflect the PSE rural west midlands 2008-2011 objectives which are to: foster a culture of social enterprise; ensure	As the document has not been written yet there are no targets to report.	As a document in production its drafted broad vision should be acknowledged and incorporated into the development of the Plan as far is possible.	The SA should have regard for its vision so far as is possible with the limited information available at the time of the assessment.

Plans, Programmes & Policies	Key Objectives Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Key Targets & Indicators Relevant to Core Strategy and SA	Implications for the Core Strategy	Implications for SA
	the right information and advice are available to social enterprises; enable social enterprises to access appropriate finance; and enable social enterprises to work with government.			
Highway Maintenance Plan, April 2007	Core objectives: Saftey, sustainability and serviceability. All aspects of highway maintenance contribute to at least one of these objectives. Standards of Highway infrastructure depend upon prioritising; available funding and risk assessment. A number of policy standards are highlighted under various tasks: carriageway; footways, cycleways; drainage; embankments, cuttings; landscaped areas and trees; fences and barriers; traffic signs and bollards; and road markings and studs. Wherever possible it is attempted to achieve a balance between the core objectives but the inventory type, maintenance need and available budget generally determine the relative priorities.	The plan has a variety of indicators however two were identified for safety and sustainability, the percentage of the principal road network with a skid resistance above the investigative level and to have 30 members of staff by April 2008 trained in the assessment of the impact of works on the environment, in advance of any proposed works, where they involve a change to the natural environment, especially those areas adjacent to sites of environmental importance.	This strategy should be viewed as the enabling Plan that will deliver whatever infrastructure requirements result from the Core Strategy process. Therefore an understanding of its current aims and objectives may be necessary in order to identify if the deliverability of aspects of the Core Strategy, in particular infrastructure requirements, are realistic and achievable.	There are aspects of this Plan, which may provide information on indicators and targets such as road safety and minor elements of the natural environment when developing a monitoring framework to assess the success of the Core Strategy policies later in the process.

Appendix A2 - Baseline Data, Indicators, Trends

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Population						
Contextual	Herefordshire population total and local area breakdown	Herefordshire 177,800 Hereford 54,850 Leominster 11,100 Ross-on-Wye 10,100 Ledbury 8,850 Bromyard 4,150 Kington 2,600	Although national population growth is expected to slow down between 2003 and 2011, Herefordshire's population is expected to increase to 182,475 between 2003 and 2011 (an increase of 5,600 people)	West Midlands population increased by 0.98% from the 1991 census and is projected to increase to 5.39m (1.9%) by 2010	Population increase in Herefordshire is higher than for West Midlands but similar to that for England and Wales at 3.4%. Herefordshire has a high proportion of the population living in rural areas. Issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005-2006
Contextual	Migration	65% migrants from London and the south east, 24% from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire, 13% from West Midlands region and the remainder from other areas of England. (More people migrated from Herefordshire to Wales than vice versa between 1998 & 2004 giving a net loss).	65% migrants from London and the south east, 23% from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire, 12% from West Midlands region and the remainder from other areas of England. (More people migrated from Herefordshire to Wales than vice versa between 1998 & 2004 giving a net loss).	In trend comparison, England and Wales had grown by 3.6% and the West Midlands by 1.9% over the same period (1998-2005).	Despite a low birth rate, population has grown between 1998 and 2004 due to inward migration, by a net increase of 7000 people. Issue identified.	Trend data from Herefordshire Council's Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 Current status data from State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Age profile	2004 0-14 17.3%, 15 – 24 10.3% 25-59 46.3% 60-74 16.5% 75+ 9.6%	2003 0-14 17.6% 15-24 10.1% 25-59 46.7% 60-74 16.2% 75+ 9.4%	West Midlands (England and Wales) 0-14 18.7 (18.2) 15-24 13.1 (12.9) 25-59 46.7 (47.9) 60-74 13.9 (13.4) 75+ 7.6 (7.7)	The number of people at the age of retirement is predicted to grow by 17.3% compared with that nationally at 10.4%. With a significant larger decline in the under 14's, 25 -34 and 35-44 year age groups also expected. Most significantly the number of people aged over 85 is expected to rise by 35.9% compared with nationally by 19.4%. Issue identified.	Current status, trends and comparators - State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Issues and constraints data - Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Economy						
Local?	Employment rate	2003/2004 87,000 This equates to 78.6% of the working age population.		(78.6% of working age, higher than in West Midlands region [73.4%] and nationally [74.3%], Corporate Plan target 2005-2008 – 80%	No issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Employment by sector (*1 Please see footnote)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing 4,091 (5.9%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 100 (0.1%), mining & quarrying (primary) 100 (0.1%), manufacturing industries 11,685 (17%), construction 4,136 (6%), transport, storage & communications 2,794 (4.1%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 13,679 (19.9%), Hotels & restaurants 4,164 (6%), real estate, renting & other business activities 6,671 (9.7%), financial intermediation 813 (1.2%), other community, social & personal service activities 2,829 (4.1%), education 6,103 (8.9%), health & social work 9,512 (13.8%) and public administration & defence 2,204 (3.2%) Total 68,906.	Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing 5,445 (7%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 138 (0.2%), mining & quarrying (primary) 86 (0.1%), manufacturing industries 12,108 (18.8%), construction 3,828 (6%), transport, storage & communications 2,382 (3.7%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 13,023 (20.3%), Hotels & restaurants 5,262 (8.2%), real estate, renting & other business activities 6,738 (10.5%), financial intermediation 820 (1.3%), other community, social & personal service activities 3,278 (5.1%), education 5,167 (8%), health & social work 8,705 (13.5%) and public administration & defence 2,743 (4.3%) Total 69,723. 2001 Census data stated 17,119 people as self employed	West Midlands and (England & Wales) figures are as follows: Agriculture, hunting, forestry, 0.8% (0.8%), electricity, gas and water Supply (Primary) 0.5% (0.4%), mining & quarrying (primary) 0.1% (0.1%), manufacturing industries 16.6% (11.9%, construction 4.3% (4.4%), transport, storage & communications 5.4% (6%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 18.5% (18.1%), Hotels & restaurants 6.2% (6.8%), real estate, renting & other business activities 14.2% (16.5%), financial intermediation 3% (4.1%), other community, social & personal service activities 4.5% (5.1%), education 9.6% (9.1%), health & social work 11.3% (11.3%) and public administration & defence 4.9% (5.3%).	Some specialisation into specialised manufacturing and service sector in Hereford and the market towns has already taken place. Outside agriculture, more employment is in declining sectors and less in growth sectors than the national economy, reflecting the provision of small-scale farming. Data excludes the self-employed and under estimates those in the agricultural and fishing sectors. Issue identified – greater reliance on agriculture than region as a whole. Key Issue – 20% (based on 2001 census) of population are self-employed.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 (Original source Annual Business Inquiry [ABI] 2003)

*1 For purposes of accuracy and current information the data for the current status for employment by sector has been amended to use a different original source (ABI 2003) than that used in the first round of consultation, now in the trends column following a data review. Please also note that comparator data has been updated using the same original data source for consistency with that for the current status. *2 Data for 2005 is absent due to a change in the source used for better accuracy and consistency of data reporting.

Appendix 2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Unemployment rates of working age population (*2 Please see footnote)	Herefordshire 2006 1.7%	Herefordshire 2001 2.2%, 2002 1.9%, 2003 1.7%, 2004 1.7%, 2005, 1.4%	West Midlands (Great Britain) 2001 3.9% (3.3%), 2002 3.6% (3.2%), 2003 3.0% (2.6%), 2004 2.9% (2.4%), 2005 data missing, 2006 3.4% (England 2.6%)	Unemployment rates in Herefordshire are much lower than regionally and nationally and have been falling steadily over the last 5 years with a slight increase in 2006 in line with regional and national trends. No issue identified.	State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005
Contextual	Gross Value Added (GVA) (per capita)	Herefordshire 2002 £11,875	Herefordshire 1998 £10,182, 1999 £10,282, 2000 £10,535, 2001 £10,872	West Midlands (Nationally) 1998 £11,799, 1999 £12,175, 2000 £12,642, 2001 £13,031, 2002 £13,803 (£15,633)	GVA is a measure of the economic activity within an economy. GVA has remained lower in Herefordshire than other neighbouring authorities, such as Gloucestershire (15,940) and the gap is widening. – issue identified.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Median weekly earnings	Herefordshire 2005 £351.20	Herefordshire 2000 £289.70, 2001 £317.70, 2002 £328.50, 2003 £326.50, 2004 £361.20	West Midlands(England) 2005 £402.50 (£436.30) Corporate Plan target 2006-2009 – continue to reduce the gap in wage levels between Herefordshire & the West Midlands & nationally	Weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than regional and national figures. Between 2004 and 2005 a decrease was noted for Herefordshire, whilst both the Region and England saw increases. Issue identified.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Corporate Plan 2006/2009

*2 Data for 2005 is absent due to a change in the source used for better accuracy and consistency of data reporting.

Appendix 2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Core	Employment land developed by type in square metres	In 2005/6 1,615 of floor space was completed for B1a uses, 1,072for B1c uses, 6,685 for B2 uses, 5,214 for B8 uses and 0 in other employment uses, a total of 14,586(8.58ha)	In 2004/5 2,216sqm of floor space was completed for B1a uses, 7,129sqm for B1c uses, 5,107sqm for B2 uses, 10,404sqm for B8 uses and 1,131sqm in other employment uses, a total of 24,856sqm (6.53ha)	In line with the Inspectors recommendation the UDP has been amended to relocate 100ha of employment land.	A steady climb to 11 hectares in 2002/3 with a fall seen in 2004/5, which picked up again in more recently in 05/06.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005, Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan
Core	Percentage of employment land on previously developed land	2005/06 16.5%	2004/05, 55% A significant fall of 38.5% in the use of PDL between 04/05 and 05/06 reporting period.	No specific target, but reusing previously developed land before Greenfield is central to the aims of sustainable development and endorsed under the UDP.	No data by type on previously developed land is monitored. Future AMRs should have a breakdown included	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Percentage population in knowledge and technology intensive employment sector	2004 15.2% (9,865)	2002 14.7% (9,162), 2003 14.6% (9,356)	West Midlands (England) 2004 24.2% (25.3%)	Herefordshire has a much lower percentage of employees in these fields compared with the region and nation. Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 (Original source Annual Business Inquiry, ONS)
Local output	Number of VAT registered businesses and percentage change in Herefordshire	Overall, Herefordshire 2004 stock 8,340 (-0.7% i.e. decrease on 2003 data)	Overall stock 2000 8,250 (1.1% increase on 1999), 2001 8,250 (0% increase on 2000), 2002 8,375 (1.5% increase on 2001), 2003 8,400 (0.3% increase on 2002)	2004 West Midlands (England)percentage change from previous year –0.1% decrease (0.2% increase)		State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Skills						
Contextual	Estimated numeracy levels in Herefordshire	Low 10.3%, Lower 7.5%, Very Low 6%, Total 23.8%		West midlands (England) low 13.7% (12%), lower 8.6% (7%), very low 7.4% (5%), total 29.7% (24%)		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Estimated literacy levels in Herefordshire	Low 17.7%, Lower 3.5%, Very Low 4.2%, Total 25.5%		West Midlands (England) Low 15.8% (15%), Lower 5.9% (5%), Very Low 6.1% (4%), Total 27.9% (24%)		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local output	Percentage of working age adults qualified to at least NVQ or equivalent level 3	Herefordshire 2004/05 43%	Herefordshire 1996/97 37%, 1997/98 38%, 1998/99 37%, 1999/00 38%, 2000/01 41%, 2001/02 46%, 2002/03 43%	West Midlands (England) 2004/05 41% (45%) The target of 58% for 2004/05 was not realised. Target for beyond 2005 is to improve/increase the proportion of working age population with higher qualifications.	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local output (contextual?)	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including Maths and English	Herefordshire 2005 45.4%	Herefordshire 2003 53%, 2004 46.8%	Corporate Plan target 51% by June 2008	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local output	Percentage of 16-18 year olds in education, employment and/or training	Herefordshire 2005 94%	Herefordshire 1999 88%, 2000 88%, 2001 84%, 2002 87%, 2003 86% (these figures do not include those in employment)	West Midlands 2005 91% England 2005 92% Herefordshire target for 2005 90%		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Housing						
Local and core	Actual housing completions on previously developed land	2005/2006 on former residential land 162, former employment land 141, former other brownfield land 261, total 564 (71%) (Percentages are approx)	1996/97 saw 45% of completions on previously developed land, 1997/98 34%, 1998/99 50%, 1999/00 25%, 2000/01 29%, followed by a steady rise from 2001/02 at 56% through to 2003/04 to 70% (percentages are approx). In 2004/05 completions on PDL continued to rise, slightly, to 71%.	The UDP target is to achieve approx 6,100 new dwellings on previously developed land, under used and vacant land and buildings over the plan period. The Corporate Plan 2005-2008 target is 60%. RSS target was 68% for 2004/05 and regionally in 2004/05 the target was 76%.	Although since 1996 the proportion of new dwellings on previously developed land has increased significantly, it has not always been consistent. Development on Greenfield land between 1999 and 2001 in Hereford and Ledbury resulted in a decline on new builds on previously developed land during this period. However, a gradual and consistent increase since 2001 has been noted, with results over the past two years exceeding the regional target of 68%.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 The Corporate Plan 2005-2008 West Midlands Spatial Strategy Annual Monitoring Report 2005

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local and core	Development on Greenfield land	2005-06 227 (29%)	2004/05 162 (28%)	To build on 60% of PDL		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005-2006
Core	Percentage of new dwellings completed at I) less than 30 dwellings per hectare; ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare.	2005/06 30ha 295 (37%) 30-50ha 305 (39%) 50ha+ 191 (24)	2004/2005 density of completions: less than 30 dwellings/ha 258 (44%), 30-50 dwellings/ha 135 (23%), over 50 dwellings/ha 194 (33%)	New site densities for sites of 1ha or over in Hereford and the market towns: - Revised Deposit UDP Town centre and adjacent sites, at least 50 dwellings per ha and other sites, at least 30 dwellings per ha. This will be revised in the Proposed Modifications to the plan to be between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare on town centre and adjacent sites.		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Local and core output	Number of affordable home completions per annum (p/a) 2004/05	Social rented 55, Intermediate 59, Total 114	Between 1996 and 2005/6 961 affordable homes have been completed. At a 96.1% completion rate per year the UDP target will not be met by 2011. 2004/05 Housing Association /Local Authority 62, Affordable Low Cost Private 8, Total 70p/a NB: 05/06 data – Social rented = 04/05 data Housing Association/Local Authority and 05/06 data - Intermediate refers to 04/05 data for Affordable Low Cost Private	2,300 affordable dwellings to be provided under the UDP policy S3 within Herefordshire over the plan period 1996-2011.	However, the provision of affordable housing in both urban and rural areas of the county is an issue of concern. Right to buy scheme is resulting in a net loss of 168 affordable homes over a 6-year period (2000-2006), averaging at 28 per year. The last 2 years have seen greater gains than losses. Issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual/local	Number of people applying and accepted as homeless & towards whom the council has full statutory duty	2004/05 719 applicants, 510 accepted.	1998/99 411 applicants (254 accepted), 1999/00 556 (304), 2000/01 480 (277), 2001/02 543 (357), 2002/03 608 (417), 2003/04 591 (490)	To reduce the number of people accepted as homeless to 321 by 2008/09	An increase in both applicants and acceptances year on year. Issue identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Number of unfit dwellings made fit or demolished as a direct result of action by the council	2004/05 131 dwellings (Estimated in 2005 that 39 houses in 1,000 are unfit.)	2000/01 60, 2001/02 92, 2002/03 121, 2003/04 95	No target set	The council have rectified more dwellings in 2004/05 than in any of the previous 5 years	State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Number of people on the Home Point waiting list in Herefordshire	1st Oct – 31st Dec 2006 Gold – 1552 Silver – 2817 Bronze – 2344 Total - 6713	1st Jan – 31st Mar 2006 Gold waiting list 1,335, Silver 2,229, Bronze 1,813 Total 5,377		Key issue identified.	The Home Point Quarterly Monitoring Statistics 1st Jan – 31st Mar 2006, Jamie Burns, Home Point Manager
Local	Average house price by type in Herefordshire Oct-Dec 2005	Detached £292,534, Semi-detached £ 168,296, Terraced £146,035, Flat/maisonette £135,093, overall average £185,489.	Apr-Jun03 Detached £215,136, semi-detached £129,657, terraced £106,751, flats/maisonettes £79,770, (overall average £152,041).Jan-Mar 2004 detached £240,814, semi-detached £147,477, terraced £120,906, flats/maisonettes £92,694 (overall average £172,511). Apr-Jun 04 Detached £261,845, semi-detached £155,699, terraced £126,978, flats/maisonettes £128,026 (overall average £187,542)	Average for West Midlands £148,060, England & Wales £175,774. Average for England & Wales detached £262,137, semi-detached £159,081, terraced £135,741, flats/maisonettes £167,708	Key issue identified.	West Midlands Regional Assembly 2005 Regional Housing Market Summary Trends Data - Herefordshire Partnership Quarterly Economic Report November 2004 (Herefordshire Council website)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Transport						
Local	Index of annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes in Herefordshire	Radial routes into Hereford 04/05 9,409 (102.1)Principal rural road network 04/05 8,092 (99.8)	Radial routes into Hereford 2001/02 9,218 (Index 100), 2002/03 9,269 (100.6), 2003/04 9,428 (101.7) Principal rural road network 2001/02 7,856 (100), 2002/03 7,971 (101.5), 2003/04 8,060 (102.6)	Target 2001-2010 restrict growth to 1% per year (Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to control the annual average traffic volumes to no more than 5% compared to 2003/04) Corporate Plan 2005-2008 target – 106	Index number facilitates trend analysis from additional automatic traffic counts (ATC). 2001-2002 is the baseline year with an index of 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Core and local	Public transport patronage volumes based on the percentage of working age population	Bus – 2005/06 3,248,935 per year Rail – 2005/06 3,079 per day Pedestrian 2005/06 150,635 per day	Bus – 2003/04 3,947,000 per year Rail – 2003/04 2,638 per day Pedestrian 2003/04 130,107 per day	Bus - 1% increase by 2010/11 based on 03/04 figures (4,052,000p/yr) Rail – 15% increase by 2010/11 based on ¾ figures (3,034 per day) Pedestrian – 10% increase by 2010/11 based on 03/04 figures (143,118 per day)	Key issue identified	LTP2
Contextual	Percentage of workforce (Hereford City) covered by a travel plan	2003/04 14.8% (4,387 employees)		By 2010/11 35% (10,378)		LTP2
Core and local	Number of cycle trips per day	2005/06 1,317	2000/01 1,115, 2001/02 1,167, 2002/03 1,299, 2003/04 1,189, 2004/05 1,215	18% increase by 2010/11 on 03/04 figures (1,473)	Figures are based on annual average figures from 4 automatic monitoring sites around Hereford and 2 12hour manual counts (one off's) in Ledbury and Leominster Snap shot, one days monitoring per year. Limited monitoring range.	LTP2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Recreation and Leisure						
Local	Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award status Change to: Percentage of residents satisfied with quantity of open space		1,463ha of open space is managed. 747ha of this is managed to Green Flag standard (51%)		Green Flag standards are currently being scrutinised with only partial review complete. An update will be provided in later revisions although early indications show an increase in the percentage of sites achieving the green flag standard.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2004 – 2005
Local	Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport	2005 – Doctor 79%, Local hospital 57%, Library 70%, Sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 55%	2003 - Doctor 77%, Local hospital 56%, Library 69%, Sports/leisure centre 66%, cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 53%			State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Local	Percentage of population that are within 20 minutes travel time (urban areas - by walk; rural areas - by car) of a range of three different sports facility types, of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard	2006 68.75%			Indicator is monitored every 3 years	Sport England website via Research dept

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Minerals						
Core	Production of primary won aggregates	Sales of sand and gravel 2004 equalled 250,000 tonnes and crushed rock 460,000 tonnes, totalling 710,000 tonnes	Sales of sand and gravel between 01/01/03 and 31/12/03 equalled 254,000 tonnes and crushed rock 420,000 tonnes, totalling 674,000 tonnes. Extraction over the county has been stable and follows national trends and no significant local development has affected this.	7 years production should be maintained. West Midlands, 162 million tonnes (mt) of sand and gravel, 93mt of crushed rock between 2001 and 2016. Between 2001-2016 the Regional Aggregates Working Party allocated the county to be capable of producing 283,000 tonnes pa of sand and gravel and 424,000 tonnes pa of crushed rock. We were not far from achieving this for sand and gravel and exceeded this target for crushed rock in 2004. (Figures based on current land banks up to 2025 for sand and gravel and 2044 for crushed rock).		Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Core	Production of secondary/recycled aggregates	2 sites (Leinthall Earls Quarry and Wellington Gravel Pit in Herefordshire) have specific planning permissions for production, at an estimate of 3,000 tonnes from 01/01/04 – 31/12/04	Other sites, where production takes place in association with other recycling activities, is likely to produce much more than the 3,000 estimated at permitted sites.	No specific targets set out under UDP. Policy M6 encourages production, processing, treatment and storage of alternatives.	Figures based on 2003 since a lack of data has materialised from the industry	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Environment						
Contextual	Historic Assets	Listed Buildings (Grades I, II* & II) 5,918, Conservation Areas 64, Scheduled Monuments 262, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens 24, Registered Battlefields 0, Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) 1 (Hereford City Centre)	Listed Buildings (Grades I, II* & II) 5,866, Conservation Areas 64, Ancient Monuments 262, Registered Parks and Gardens 24*, Registered Battlefields 0		*The AMR 04/05 noted 19 Registered Parks and Gardens, this was incorrect, the figure should have been recorded as 24.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Percentage of conservation areas with up to date character appraisal Note: Do we need this one?	2005/06 – 1.6%	15% up to Dec 2006	Over a 2 year period from 2006/07 a target of 20% of all conservation areas requiring a review to be completed. The end of 2006 completed 9 character appraisals, in line with the target. 2007's timetable is to complete 7 character appraisals to meet the target of 20%.		Programme for the review of Conservation areas, Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager
Contextual	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals Note: Do we need this one?	2005/06 – 0%	0% up to Dec 2006	Target to produce 9% of the total number of management proposals required by the end of 2007. Preparation of Colwall, Weobley, Almeley, Hampton Park, Aylestone Hill & Mordiford has begun with completion due by the end of the 1st quarter in 2007.	Programme for the review of Conservation areas, Bill Bloxsome, Conservation Manager	Percentage of conservation areas with published management proposals

Appendix 2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Number of buildings and monuments on at risk register & condition of building	January 2007 - Scheduled monuments – 24 (17 are both scheduled and listed) Grade II* - 14 Grade II – 11 Grade I – 6 Total – 31 (excluding scheduled monuments) Condition – Very Bad 14, Poor 15, fair 5.	April 2006 - Scheduled monuments – 3 Grade II* - 13 Grade II – 11 Grade I – 6 Total - 33			English Heritage website www.english-heritage.org.uk (accessed 08/02/07)
Contextual	Number/area of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	2 (Area TBC) (Wye Valley & the South and Malvern Hills AONB)				Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Contextual	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire	05/06Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's) 4, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) 77, National Nature Reserves (NNR's) 3, Special Wildlife Sites (SWS's) 709, Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation 56, Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) 7, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG's) 87,	04/05 Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's) 4, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) 75, National Nature Reserves (NNR's) 3, Special Wildlife Sites (SWS's) 750, Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) 8, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIG's) 40, Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) 1 (Hereford City Centre)		Key issue identified SINCs have been included for 05/06 to separate the local designations of SWSs & SINCs. The total however, is greater overall in 05/06 than 04/05.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Core and local	Change in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority habitats.	21 UK BAP priority habitats in Herefordshire (plus 1 traditional orchid, identified as locally important.). 2005/06; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, planning permission (p/p) approved- 20m loss; Eutrophic water planning permission approved – loss of a pond 25mx25m (625m²)	2004/5; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, planning permission (p/p) approved- 635m loss; Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow, p/p allowed on appeal – 20m, lowland meadow and pasture p/p approved 0.025ha unimproved neutral grassland.	No specific targets see AMR for general objectives.	Key issue identified Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds data on some individual sites (priority species, primarily for SSSI's) but data is limited.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Appendix 2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Core and local	Change in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority species (by type);	Local BAP has 156 priority species, 59 being UK BAP priorities, 18 legally protected under European and national law. (Some species within designated sites)			Records are held by English nature, although some data is historic whilst others more recent. There is also a lack of consistency in data type e.g. specific nest locations and casual observations of a species. Further collation and analysis of HBRC data is needed. There is also no mapping of either species or habitats on the council's GIS system; the only exception is Black Poplars for the county BAP. AMR 2004/5 sets out additional monitoring requirements for priority habitats. Key issue identified.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	(ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including special areas of conservation (SACs), sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), national nature reserves (NNRs), local nature reserves (LNRs), special wildlife sites (SWSs), sites of importance to nature conservation (SINCs) and section 39 agreement sites.	05/06 SACs – 4 (1,119ha), SSSIs – 77 (5,060ha), NNRs – 3 (216ha), SWSs – 709 (18,862ha), SINCs - 56 (88ha), LNRs – 7 (243ha), Total 858 (25,588ha)	04/05 SACs – 4, SSSIs – 75, NNRs – 3, SWSs – 750 (likely that SINCs were included in this figure), LNRs – 8, Total 840 SSSI Wellington Wood, first planning application (withdrawn), loss of 0.6ha. SINC Land adj. To 68 Hampton Park Road, Approved 2002 completed 2004, loss of 20% of sites unimproved grassland (0.05ha)		Key issue identified An update of all sites is due.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Local (Contextual?)	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition	Herefordshire 2005 19% NB: Natural England altered the data presentation in 2005 therefore comparator data is different. This new monitoring format places Herefordshire in the bottom quartile of all English Authorities.	Herefordshire 2001 39.7%, 2002 41.4%, 2003 32.6%, 2004 20.3%	Top English Authority Quartile 72%, Median Quartile 48%, Bottom Quartile 23% Bring 95% of SSSI's into favourable condition by 2010 and reverse the decline of farmland birds.	Issue Identified – Herefordshire is in the bottom Quartile for English Authorities Herefordshire is way behind the national picture with a continual drop since 2002 (12% in the last year). However, the significant decrease in Herefordshire reflects the greater rigour of assessment methodology through the application of national monitoring standards.	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan habitat restoration & expanded	No data available at present, following review information will be available on BARS. Currently the Habitats covered in the BAP are: Lowland Acid Grassland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Cereal Field Margins, Lowland Heathland, Purple Moor Grass, Blanket Bog, Upland Heathland, Upland Calcareous Grassland, Upland Heathland, Upland Oak Woodland, Upland Mixed Ashwood, Lowland Oak & Mixed Woodland, Lowland Beech & Yew Woodland, Lowland Wood Pasture & Parkland, Mesotrophic Water, Fens, Orchards, Quarries, Ancient Species Rich Hedgerows	2003 Orchards 44%, Parkland 57%, Woodland 66%, Boundary features 0%, Uplands & commons 50%, Farmland 22%, Rivers & floodplains 33%, Quarries & gravel pits 60%. 2004 Orchards 56%, Parkland 86%, Woodland 78%, Boundary features 12%, Uplands & commons 75%, Farmland 33%, Rivers & floodplains 50%, Quarries & gravel pits 80%.	Since the BAP was formulated in 2000, all the habitat type areas have continued to achieve an increase in the percentage of them being expanded. By 2010 the range of habitats to be maintained, restored or created are to be addressed, each with specific targets. See the BAP for full details.	BAP classifications have changed. And in addition the BAP is currently under another phased review and updates will be made when available.	Herefordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan Nicky Davies (Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator)
Contextual	Percentage of river length in very good or good biological quality	Herefordshire 2003 88.2%	Herefordshire 1999 78.6%, 1995 79.3%, 2000 88.4%, 2002 87.5% The Environment Agency now compares using quartiles. Herefordshire over a 3-year period (2000-2003) are in the top quartile of all English Authorities.	To achieve good ecological status by 2015	Annual Environmental Agency report available to provide trends to protect / enhance "water quality"	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target - Water Framework Directive – Environment Agency

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of river length in very good or good chemical quality	Herefordshire 2003 83%	Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8% The Environment Agency now compares using quartiles. Herefordshire over a 3-year period (2000-2003) are in the top quartile of all English Authorities.	To achieve good ecological status by 2015		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target - Water Framework Directive – Environment Agency
Contextual	Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship agreements (hectares)	*Newly monitored – awaiting data from Natural England*				SoHR may cover this new indicator as they did for Countryside Stewardship Scheme indicator above, but this has yet to be confirmed by research
Local	Annual mean nitrogen dioxide levels in traffic congestion hotspots in parts per billion (ppb)	2004 Edgar St. Hereford 26.2, Victoria St. Hereford 23.5, Gloucester Road Ross-on-Wye 19.4, Bengry's Lights Bargates Leominster 22.9, Site in Kington 7.7, Site in Bromyard 16.4, Site in Ledbury Town Centre 15.9	Edgar St. Hereford 2000 23.1, 01 26.1, 02 22.8, 03 25.4, Victoria St. Hereford 2000 22.9, 01 23.8, 02 23.7, 03 24.9, Gloucester Road Ross-on-Wye 2000 15.1, 01 17.1, 02 17.4, 03 19.8, Bengry's Lights Bargates Leominster 2000 19.9, 01 21.3, 02 23.4, 22.7, Site in Kington 2000 6.0, 01 7.1, 02 8.8, 03 8.3, Site in Bromyard 2000 13.4, 01 12.4, 02 13.9, 03 15.1, Site in Ledbury Town Centre 2000 13.4, 01 12.9, 02 12.1, 03 13.5	Targets for all locations is less than 21ppb Edgar St Hereford, Victoria St Hereford and Bengry's lights Bargates Leominster have all exceeded the target of 21ppb in 2004 as in previous years.. Edgar Street and Victoria Street in Hereford have both been designated Air Quality Management Areas. An AQMA for the Bargates area was declared March 2006	Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Carbon dioxide emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per head of population/year	Experimental – 9.5 tonnes per head Total figure – 1,679 kilo tonnes Sources of carbon dioxide – Industry & commercial – 28%, Domestic 30%, Road transport 33%, Land use change 9%		West Midlands – 20.3 tonnes per head, 43,061 kilo tonnes total UK – per head N/A, total emissions 568,105 kilo tonnes Sources of carbon dioxide – Industry & commercial – WM (UK) 36% (46%), Domestic 34% (29%), Road transport 28% (23%), Land use change 2% (2%) Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims for a reduction in carbon dioxide from 14.5 to 11.25 tonnes per head of population per year. The Government target is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050		State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual Local?	Loss of Ancient Woodland	Herefordshire 5.93% Ancient Woodland		No loss of existing ancient woodland resource	Herefordshire data excludes woods less than 2ha and therefore is likely to be an under estimate	UK & England data from Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk (accessed 21/04/06) Herefordshire data English Nature website www.english-nature.org.uk (accessed 20/04/06)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Local	Number of residential properties in an AQMA	*Hereford – 115 Leominster 22(excluding self contained flats)*		To reduce the number of properties to 0 in any AQMA by 2025	Key issue The A40 (T) corridor is awaiting declaration as an AQMA and the figures for the number of residential properties within this area has yet to be confirmed	Annual Reports, Action Plans and Bargates show this information annually. Ben Watts, Transport, supplied this current data
Core	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of the Environment Agency (Flood defence grounds or water quality)	1 Planning permission granted.	No monitoring under taken to date, AMR for 2006/7 should have a full years data set available.		Key issue identified Lack of data/monitoring requires improvement.	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006
Contextual	Rights of way that are easy to use and signposted in Herefordshire	*2006/07 49%*	2005/06 52%	2006/07 target 48% 2007/08 target 49% Although a drop was seen between 05/06 and 06/07 over the past years a general increase has been recorded.	Methodology in line with County Surveyors Society (CSS) of a random sample of 5% of total network over 2 months, in Herefordshire conducted in May and November.	Public Rights of Way Manager – Rob Hemblade Ext 1981. Original source - MRU – Modern Records U?
Local	Water consumption litres per person per day	*148 litres per person per day*		Malvern Hills DC 138, South Shropshire DC 138, Forest of Dean DC136	Key issue identified	www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk
Core and local	Amount of derelict land	*0 ha*				Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Waste						
Local	Amount and percentage of municipal waste recycled, composted, landfilled, (management type)	Municipal waste recycled 16,231 tonnes (17%) Municipal waste composted 6,148 tonnes (7%) Municipal waste landfilled 170,602 tonnes (76%)	Municipal waste recycled 14,058.30 tonnes (15.05%) Municipal waste composted 6,277.20 tonnes (6.72%) Municipal waste landfilled 73,075.15 tonnes (78.23%)	No specific targets are set under the UDP what follows are national targets: Boost the national recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015. Recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 and 33% by 2013. Restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill.	Shortfalls in data collection. 2008 will see a new collections contract and the implications for this are not yet known. Key issue identified	Herefordshire Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005 – 2006 The council reports data to DEFRA as figures are BVPIs so information is also available by county on their website.
Contextual Note: Location element requires a map!	Number and location of recycling sites	5 Household waste sites (facility locations where the community bring their own waste) Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford waste at these sites recycled in 2005/06 6,626tonnes (7.13% of total waste) Landfilled 2005/06 11,727tonnes (12.61% of total waste). 85 Bring sites throughout the council (e.g. glass recycling point at a community car park) – 2005/06 recycled 3,979tonnes (4.28% of total waste)	Household waste sites (facility locations where the community bring their own waste) Leominster, Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye and Hereford waste at these sites recycled in 2004/05 2,377tonnes (2.54% of total waste) Landfilled 2004/05 14,469tonnes (15.49% of total waste). 85 Bring sites throughout the council (e.g. glass recycling point at a community car park) – 2004/05 recycled 5,839tonnes (6.25% of total waste)	To reduce the amount of waste being landfilled	Key Issue Identified	Mick Clark – Senior Contracts Officer – (Waste Management)
Local	Amount of household waste collected per head	*2005/06 522.95Kg*	2004/05 529.24Kg	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 limit the increase of the amount of household waste collected per head/per year to 530.87kg from 528.03kg		Mick Clark – Senior Contracts Officer – (Waste Management)

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Energy						
Local	Average annual Herefordshire domestic consumption of gas in kwh/per person	*2004 18,190kwh*	2001 18,152, 2002 18,163, 2003 17,863	Achieve carbon cuts of between 15-25 million tonnes of carbon in 2020.	Key issue identified.	Current Status data – www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk Target - Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Local	Average annual domestic consumption of electricity in kwh	*2004 5,432*	2003 5,467	Achieve carbon cuts of between 15-25 million tonnes of carbon in 2020.	Key issue identified	Current Status data – www.areaprofiles.audit-commissions.gov.uk Target - Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Crime and the fear of crime						
Contextual	Total number of recorded crime	2004/05 12,034	2003/04 13,181. Crime rates have steadily reduced over the last 4 years (2004/5 19% decrease between 01/02 and 04/05.	Reduce crime locally by 15% by 2008 from 12,034 baseline (04/05)		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of domestic burglaries (per 1,000 households)	Herefordshire 2004/05 7.6 (total 613)	Herefordshire 1999/00 11.6, 2000/01 9.9, 2001/02 12.0, 2002/03 13.3, 03/04 9.8 Total number: 99/00 - 738, 00/01 - 625, 759, 02/03 – 989, 03/04 728 Domestic burglaries have continued to drop significantly over the last year due to intervention programmes.	Lower quartiles of English Authorities 14.2, median quartiles of English Authorities 9.7, Higher quartile of English Authorities 6.9. Herefordshire are performing well at 7.6 and improving year on year. Restrict burglaries to 7.9 offences per 1,000 households until 2007-2008. Target is to be reviewed in 2008. Target for Herefordshire 2004/05 7.4, not quite met, but improvements continue.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006

Appendix 2

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Number of vehicle crime (per 1,000 population)	Herefordshire 2004/05	Herefordshire 1999/00 11.9 (total 2,002), 2000/01 12.5 (2,095), 2001/02 10.5 (1,787), 2002/03 8.0 (1,371), 2003/04 7.1 (1,255) Vehicle crime is steadily decreasing, LPSA targets being met over the last 2 years. Herefordshire is significantly lower than national figures of bottom quartile 15.0, medium quartile 10.1 top quartile 7.8	2004/05 target of 8.75 was well achieved at 6.0. Herefordshire's target for the next 3 years is 6.1		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of violent crimes (per 1,000 population)	Herefordshire 2004/05 2,752	Herefordshire 1999/00 1,179, 2000/01 1,508 , 2001/02 2,686 , 2002/03 2,850 , 2003/04 2,844	There has been a decrease in the number of violent crimes of the last 2 recording years. Although still higher than 2001/02 figures. To reduce the number of violent crimes to 2,553 by 2007/08 a 7.8% reduction from 2004/05.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Quality of life / Involvement						
Contextual	Percentage of Herefordshire respondents who were satisfied with their local community as a place to live	2005 80%	2002 83%, 2004 84%	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to increase by 2007-2008 the proportion of adults satisfied with their community as a place to live to 87%.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hours per week or more over the previous year	2005 17%		To increase by 5% the number of volunteers engaged in at least 2 hours per week by 2008 on 2005 figures.	Herefordshire residents provide 25% of unpaid voluntary work to some degree; regionally the figure is only 17%.	The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Percentage of Herefordshire respondents who felt that they can influence decisions that affect their local area	2005 35%	2002 32%, 2004 37%	Corporate Plan 2006-2009 aims to increase the percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local community by 5% on 2005 figures.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006
Health						
Contextual	Life expectancy (years)	2002/04 Herefordshire Males 77.5 Females 82.5	1991-1993 Herefordshire Males 75.2 Females 80.1. 2000/02 Herefordshire Males 77.3 Females 82.2	England Males 76.6 Female 80.9	Over the last 10 years Herefordshire's life expectancy has increased broadly in line with national trends. However, expectations are now that Herefordshire's life expectancy is likely to be on average longer than the population of England. Issue identified	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Contextual	Number of people (all ages) killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads	2005 147 (% change –2.7%)	1999 179, 2000 172 (-3.9%), 2001 179 (4.1%), 2002 150 (-16.2%), 2003 141 (-2.7%)	Target for 2006 - 2008 no more than 129 people killed or seriously injured.		The State of Herefordshire Report 2006

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Mortality rate from circulatory diseases for people under 75 (per 100,000 popn)	2002-2004 data: Herefordshire 83.5	2001-2003 data: Herefordshire 90.1 Since 1995 there has been a steady decline in the rate of mortality in the under 75's for circulatory diseases.	West Midlands 103.1 England 96.7 Target: Reduce the death rate from coronary heart disease and stroke and related diseases in people under 75 by at least two fifths by 2010		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target from Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White paper, DOH 1999
Contextual	Mortality rate from cancer for people aged under 75 (per 100,000 popn)	2002-2004 data: Herefordshire 105.4	2001-2003 data: Herefordshire 106.7 Since 1995 there has been a steady decline in cancer mortality in the under 75's.	West Midlands 123.0 England 121.6 Target: Reduce the death rate from cancer in people under 75 by at least a fifth by 2010.		The state of Herefordshire Report 2006 Target from Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White paper, DOH 1999
Access to Services						
Local	Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport	2005 – Doctor – 79%, Local Hospital – 57%, Library 70%, Sports/leisure centre – 69% and cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 55%	2003 - Doctor – 77%, Local Hospital – 56%, Library 69%, Sports/leisure centre – 66% and cultural/recreational facility e.g. theatre, cinema – 53%	Herefordshire Council's Local Area Agreement aims to improve the percentage of residents finding it easy to access a doctor, their local hospital, a library, a sports/leisure centre and a cultural/recreational facility.		State of Herefordshire Report 2006
Deprivation						
Contextual	Number of people / households living in fuel poverty	*Not currently monitored*		Nobody in Britain should be living in fuel poverty by 2016-18.		Energy White Paper DTI Feb 2003
Contextual	Percentage of population of working age claiming key benefits such as job seekers allowance	*Not currently monitored*				Research to provide

Type of Indicator	Indicator	Current Status	Trends	Comparators & Targets	Issues & Constraints (See Table 5.1)	Baseline Source
Contextual	Percentage of population who live in areas that rate within 20% of most deprived areas of the county	*Not currently monitored*				

Appendix A3 – Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
Economic Development and Enterprise					
1	To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.1- maintain or increase current employment rates in knowledge and technology intensive sectors?	Percentage population employed in knowledge and technology intensive industries	<u>Increase the number of people employed in knowledge and technology intensive industries from 9339 to 10,286 by 2007/8</u>	Population Human Health
		1.2 - provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Percentage of employment land built within 30 mins of Hereford or market towns		
2	Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	2.1 – encourage fair and decent work conditions and increase median weekly earnings?	Median weekly earnings	Close the gap between Herefordshire and the rest of the West Midlands and nationally (Community Strategy)	Population Human Health
		2.2 – help to increase diversity of job opportunities?	Employment by sector		
		2.3 – promote the voluntary sector, lifelong learning and life/environmental skills?	Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hrs or more per week over the previous year		
3	Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.1 – improve the resilience and/or diversity of business and the economy?	GVA per head	To raise GVA per head above the national average (RSS)	Air Soil Water Climatic factors Fauna Flora Biodiversity Population
		3.2 – provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type		
		3.3 – encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise or the voluntary sector?	Percentage of adult residents who engage in formal volunteering for an average of 2 hrs or more/week over the previous year		
		3.4 – encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with county organisations leading by example?			
		3.5 – promote and support the development of new high value and low impact technologies, especially resource-efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives?	Accessibility to Broadband	All business and 97% of households with access to Broadband (RSDF)	
4	Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution	4.1 - reduce the need to travel?		Reduce car use from 43 to 35% *(LTP2)*	Human Health

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
	and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	4.2 - promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	Index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network NO2 concentrations	Restrict annual growth to 1% Reduce to below 21 ppb	Landscape
		4.3 - improve the quality and/or provision of integrated transport options, particularly in areas of need and that are accessible to all?			
		4.4 - increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking?	Public transport patronage volumes Number of cycle trips per day	Increase by 16% the no. of passenger bus journeys per year Increase by 18% by 2010/11 (LTP2)	
		4.5 - secure the implementation of green travel plans?	Travel Plan coverage (Hereford City)	By 2010 – 35% (LTP2)	
		4.6 - minimise risks associated with car travel?	Number of people killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire's roads	Reduce by 30% (from 154/yr to 108/yr by 2010 (LTP2)	
		4.7 – promote a shift of freight from road to rail?	(Number of HGV's on main transport routes?)		
Healthier Communities and Older People					
5	Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 - help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services		Population and human health
		5.2 - help to reduce inequalities in health?	Mortality by type Life expectancy	To reduce heart disease, stroke and related illnesses amongst people under 75 by at least 40% by 2010 (QLI) To reduce cancer amongst people under 75 by at least 20% by 2010 (QLI)	
		5.3 - encourage healthy lifestyles? E.g. reduce car use and maintain or enhance access to physical sports, green space and recreation?			

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
6	Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 - maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20mins travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard Quality of open spaces – Green Flag scheme Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport		Population Cultural Heritage Material Assets Biodiversity
		6.2 - promote Herefordshire's facilities to local people and tourists encouraging appreciation of the heritage of the county and participation by all?			
		6.3 – promote the use of inland waterways for leisure, recreation, telecommunication, freight transport and/or as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration?			
7	Sustainable regeneration	7.1 - support viability or develop services and facilities appropriate to the community, function, character and scale of the centre and existing facilities using sustainable, resource-efficient designs?			Material Assets
		7.2 - help create an appropriate range of independent, competitive and national retailers?			
		7.3 - help reduce the number of vacant properties and business premises and support vitality?			
		7.4 - support or create high quality public realm and community/amenity space that is safe and encourages positive community interaction?			
Children and Young people					
8	Raise educational achievement levels across the county	8.1 - ensure that education infrastructure meets projected future demand and need?	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ GCSE's or equivalent at grades A* - C	Increase from 93% to 95% by 2008	Population
		8.2 - provide or facilitate through investment, appropriate training and learning to help build, attract and retain a highly skilled workforce that meets existing and future needs?	Number/percentage of working age adults achieving NVQ Level 3 or equivalent	Increase from 851 to 922	

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets **Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets**	SEA Topics
		8.3 - reduce inequalities in skills across the county? – (See JR - what is meant by inequalities in this Q?)			
Safer and Stronger Communities					
9	Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county	9.1 - enhance community safety, security and reduce crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour?	Total number of recorded crime

Domestic burglaries per 1000 households

Violent crimes per 1000 population

Vehicle crimes per 1000 population | Decrease from 2844 to 2533 | Population Human Health |
| | | 9.2 - help improve quality of life and address the opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour through design measures? | | | |
| | | 9.3 - encourage respect for people and the environment? | Percentage of people satisfied with their community as a place to live | Increase proportion of adults satisfied with their community as a place to live | |
| 10 | Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county | 10.1 - ensure easy and equitable access to and provision of services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, and avoid negative impacts on different groups of people because of their ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexuality or age? | Percentage of Herefordshire residents finding it easy to access key services via usual form of transport

Percentage of population of working age claiming key benefits such as job seekers allowance | | Population Human Health |
| | | 10.2 - enable the involvement of all affected parties? | Percentage of Herefordshire residents who felt that they can influence decisions that affect their local area

Percentage of young people who feel that the council does enough to give young people the opportunity to influence important decisions | Increase from 19 to 30% | |
| | | 10.3 - promote equality, fairness and respect for people and the environment? (see JR – this Q is identical to 9.3 above, do we need to inc it here?) | | | |
| | | 10.4 - address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantages? | Percentage of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of most deprived areas in the county

Proportion of children under 16 who live in a household claiming income support | | |

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
11	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	11.1 - increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings Number of people accepted as homeless (statutory duty)		Material Assets Population Human Health
		11.2 - increase the supply of affordable housing?	Number of affordable housing provided in the County each year	2300 to be provided up to 2011 *(UDP)*	
		11.3 - reduce the percentage of unfit homes and empty homes?	Number of unfit dwellings made fit or demolished		
		11.4 - improve the energy and resource efficiency of homes and reduce fuel poverty and ill health?			
		11.5 - increase the use of sustainable design techniques, improve the quality of housing and use sustainable building materials in construction?			
		11.6 - improve the wider built environment and sense of place?			
Protecting Environmental Assets and Resources					
12	Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.1 - minimise the use of non re-usable materials?			Material Assets Water Soil
		12.2 - minimise household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste, including hazardous waste? (check with JR!)	Amount of municipal waste collected per head	<u>Limit increase p.a to 530.87kg per head (compared to baseline of 528.03 kg)</u>	
		12.3 - promote reduction, re-use, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	Amount/percentage of all municipal waste that is recycled Amount/percentage of municipal waste landfilled Amount/percentage of municipal waste composted Amount of energy recovered from burning of waste	 <u>Reduce from 78.28% to 71.8%</u> Recycle or compost 25% of household waste by 2010 and 33% by 2013 (*Waste Strategy 2000*)	
		12.4 - deal with waste locally and/or through the Best Practical Environmental Option?	Number and location of waste facilities, including recycling sites		

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets **Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets**	SEA Topics
13	Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity	13.1 - protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance – is an Appropriate Assessment required?	Number, area of international, national, regional and locally designated sites Percentage of SSSI's in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition Changes in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority habitats Loss of ancient woodland	By 2010 to ensure that 95% of SSSI's are favourable or recovering condition *(National PSA target)* To halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 (*EU Sustainable Development Strategy*) *No loss of existing ancient woodland resource*	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
		13.2 - protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species – is an Appropriate Assessment required?	Changes in area and population of protected species River quality	By 2010 achieve a sustained increase in the regional wild bird population *(DEFRA 2004)* All inland waters to reach good biological and chemical status by 2015 *(Water Framework Directive)*	
		13.3 - maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces?			
		13.4 - manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value?	Percentage of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats restored and expanded		
		13.5 - create new appropriate habitats?			
14	Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	14.1 – maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels	Average annual domestic consumption of gas and electricity in KWH per person	30% reduction in energy consumption by 2011 *(Energy White Paper 2003)*	Soil Air Landscape Water Climatic Factors Human Health

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
		14.2 – minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, and materials? *(During the appraisal, each of these resources should be considered separately).*	Percentage of homes built on previously developed land Amount of derelict land Water consumption per person per day in relation to demand Production of primary/secondary/recycled aggregates	68% of new dwellings to be built on previously developed land *(RSS 2004)*	
		14.3 - encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build?			
15	Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 - value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number and area of designated landscapes Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award status		Landscape
		15.2 – encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management?	Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship Agreements		
		15.3– ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised?			
		15.4 - promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access and accommodate the needs of all users?	Percentage of Public Rights of Way Network that is easy to use and clearly signed		
16	Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	16.1 - reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	Co2 emissions per head per year and in total	Reduce carbon emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year	Water Soil Population Human Health Climatic Factors
		16.2– increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including energy crops, micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation?			
17	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the	17.1 - reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change?			Water Soil Population Human Health
		17.2 - prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain and include flood protection systems?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency		

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
	environment	17.3 - include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate?			Climatic Factors
18	Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	18.1 - minimise (or reduce – see JR) water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution? *(During the appraisal, each of these resources should be considered separately).*			Air Quality Human Health Biodiversity Climatic Factors Flora Fauna
		182 - protect and enhance the quality of watercourses?	Water quality (chemical and biological)	All inland waters to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015 *(Water Framework Directive)*	
		18.3 – provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land?			
		18.4 - help achieve the objectives of Air Quality Management Plans through for e.g. increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking?	Number of residential properties within Air Quality Management Areas

Annual mean NO2 levels in traffic congestion areas | | |
		18.5 - encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques?			
19	Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	19.1 - ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel?	Percentage of homes and employment built on previously developed land		Soil Climatic factors Human Health Biodiversity
		19.2 - encourage an appropriate density and mix of uses using sustainable resource-efficient design?	Percentage of new dwellings completed at : - less than 30 dwellings per hectare - Between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare.	Minimum 30 dwellings per hectare *(PPS3, 2006)*	
		19.3 – promote ways of meeting local needs locally by encouraging local sourcing of food, goods and materials?			

Appendix 3

Code	SA Objective	Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal…)	Indicators	Targets Those underlined represent Corporate Plan (2006-9) targets	SEA Topics
20	Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 – preserve, protect and enhance Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	Number of conservation areas Percentage of conservation areas with an up to date character appraisal Number of listed buildings and those on "at risk" register Number of Ancient Monuments and those at risk		
		20.2 - prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area?			
		20.3 – encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place?			
		20.4 - encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area?	Public satisfaction surveys		

Appendix 3

Appendix 1 – 01 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives
Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Diversification of the Herefordshire Economy

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 5, 6 and 7: Providing opportunities for diversifying and strengthening the local economy; improving our service centres; developing Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism

SA Objectives	Summary of workshop
To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	The group agreed that in order to support this SA objective the provision of employment land and diversification within the economy were important positive issues. However, they felt that environmental issues may result, such as effects on developing Greenfield land.
Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	The group concluded that in order to secure the workforce higher wages would be important however, this might lead to a loss in competitiveness. There may be a loss of people willing to do the lower skilled jobs leading to higher unemployment and skills shortages. The group were unsure what would result from a migration in high skilled business and although infrastructure links were a positive outcome they felt the issue of good infrastructure was dependant on its proper implementation.
Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	A sustainable economy was felt by the group to give certainty to employment and business for a diverse range of businesses, however they were concerned that environmental issues ns may arise since the Counties competitive edge is based on its green character. They were unsure how the wider economic impacts, such as policies at central government level would affect Herefordshire and they were also unsure what house prices would do in the future and the impact of this on a sustainable economy.

Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	The group concluded following a debated that this objective could positively be met with live-work units and inner city living, including a mix of uses, i.e. issues around appropriate housing. However they also believed this may create more traffic and therefore air pollution and thereby wasting business time and money in congested areas. They believed that infrastructure was the key, however its end result was dependant on implementation. Likewise they were unsure about what type of business would be attracted to the area, were they going to be appropriate for Herefordshire. Location of infrastructure and businesses was also an issue raised.
Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	Issues surrounding health across Herefordshire were thought to be achieved by a more affluent population and provision of awareness opportunities and activities. However health was likely to be negatively affected by more pollution from more employment (transport), place more strain on existing services and would not necessarily assist in improving the health of the non or low waged. The group were also unsure what the health implications would be if the economy was focussed around the main urban areas and again the infrastructure was important and was dependant on its good implementation.
Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	Access to communities activities was believed to bring employment generation, partnership opportunities, more leisure time as the population got wealthier, more culturally based employment, population aspirations, education through diversification and or specialism opportunities within the County. However, the group did think that these uses would conflict with other land uses; such as for housing and employment, location was therefore an issue. The group were unsure whether deficiencies in certain sectors would arise from in migration, i.e. a cultural effect. They were also unsure what issues would occur for section 106 agreements e.g. on open space.

Sustainable Regeneration	On discussing sustainable regeneration the group concluded that there would be a positive focus created, that it would assist in diversifying the economy, may attract external funding, retain wealth by encouraging local purchases and jobs, tourism, shopping and a place to live would thrive and an increase in land values (which could have negative issues associated with it too). However, sustainable regeneration may lead to a loss of historic assets and local distinctiveness and there may be disparities in regeneration projects. It was unknown to what issues could arise from management.
Raise educational achievement levels across the County	The group agreed that entrepreneurship and choose and awareness of educational facilities where positive outcomes from educational achievement in Herefordshire. However, they were unsure what the aspirations of young people, mainly, are and would be in the future, what types of courses would be needed, and whether S106 agreements could enable provision.
Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County	The group believed that with more jobs would come more people and the potential for a reduction in the fear of crime however also accepted that percentage wise this could also increase the potential for crime and they felt that more security would be beneficial. Unemployment was seen to be an issue with its relationship to crime but it was acknowledged that patterns of crime, fraud and computer crime were unknowns.
Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	The group felt that by increasing wages the issue of poverty could be reduced and through rural diversification opportunities for choice and higher waged employment were possible. However, they also highlighted the issue of the widen gap between the wealthy and the poor as the poor come out of poverty but the wealthy get wealthier.
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	The group believed that with higher wages more people could get onto the property ladder. However they also considered house price rises may result in a gap remaining between market priced properties and affordability. They also concluded that if a higher economic base was achieved that this might not be complementary to present land uses.

Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	It was felt that there was a market niche potential for the issue of waste, that there was a link between producer and user of waste, that business could benefit from cost reductions in a reduced waste environment, and that waste issues could bring environmental ethical businesses into the area. However it was acknowledged that more waste would be produced from new development and that business types into Herefordshire are an unknown.
Conserve and enhance Herefordshire's habitats and biodiversity	The group considered that business would be attracted by Herefordshire's biodiversity status and in deed may attract and promote biodiversity of the County. However, habitats may be destroyed in development phases and diversification may not be fully able due to environmental constraints. The group were not sure how S106 might be used as an improvement for biodiversity.
Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	Natural resources and energy was discussed by the group and it was considered that new businesses may use energy efficient technology, limiting their contributions to climate change but also that achieving live work units and encouraging working from home may also reduce vehicle trips. The cost of natural resources was seen as a negative issue as prices rise and new methods of energy production such as wind farms were considered to have the potential for negative landscape issues.
Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	This landscape objective was considered to have similar positive effects to the energy objective above but the group also felt a reduction in traditional employment types and therefore traditional methods of working may be lost which may affect the landscape character.
Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	The group felt that by moving away from agricultural practices that were inherent to Herefordshire and contribute significantly to carbon dioxide emissions that reductions may be possible. More businesses however would mean more pollution for the area although it was acknowledged by the group that they did know what types of business would evolve in the County.
Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	The group discussed flooding and they considered that with development increases in hard standing would be inevitable and likely to negatively impact on flooding issues, as would improvements in agricultural practices, greater and faster runoff for example. It was unknown by the group how S106 agreements may be used to enable flood defence.

Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources	The group discussed pollution and considered that renewable energy, home working reducing commuting and attracting green businesses would be beneficial. New development would however affect issues of water, soil and air more negatively. The group did not know what types of business would be attracted to the County and therefore the potential pollutants from them.
Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	He group believed that balanced well integrated land use would encourage brownfield development, provide housing, rural economic development could reduce the need to commute to the main urban areas for employment and existing buildings could be adapted. However, there would be pressure on the planning system to provide for economic development. The group were unsure whether appropriate business use in relation to location for example urban = industrial units and rural = home working would be an issue.
Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage	The considered Herefordshire's historic heritage and felt that it would increase vitality, more money would bring more renovated buildings and design and quality would be heritage lead. However, there was a potential for a loss of character and built quality if regard for heritage was not considered.

Appendix 1 – 02 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives
Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Improving the Choice in Housing

Revised Plan Objective: Objective 1: Providing for Appropriate Housing Provision

SA Objectives	Summary of workshop
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	The group considered this employment based objective and felt that opportunities for urban live work units existed with it, locating different types and mixes of housing with employment requirements, allowing employers a potential choice from a diverse local workforce. There is tourism potential here but the rural economy may become fragile and therefore housing these locations would need to be supported. Examples include recent housing in Ledbury (a tourist area) and similar builds in Bromyard, Kington, Ross and Leominster may allow these locations to thrive. However, there is a need for the right type of housing as increases in house prices may have a knock on effect for the economy. Business type is not necessarily dependent on the urban area. The group commented on how purchasers of properties had a choice of employment and home location and that these may not be in the same location i.e. live in Hereford but work in Worcester, potentially losing employee opportunities for businesses in the County.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	The group considered that better housing and live work units might attract higher skilled workforce. Choice may also attract the retention of younger newly qualified people for these service sectors. However the higher skilled may out price those on lower incomes therefore the right type of housing is needed. The group felt that existing population skills were unknown as people may be skilled in one area but work in another.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	The discussed a sustainable economy and concluded that more houses would equal more people coming into the job market sustaining the economy and also considered that by mix of housing they believed a mix of 4-6 dwellings of each type scattered amongst each other would be most beneficial. However, they also felt that those working in the County may not choose to spend their money here, especially if they live outside the area. They also acknowledged that location of housing is dependant on location of employment availability, but what are the employer needs?

4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	The group considered congestion, pollution and sustainable modes of travel and concluded that the location of housing in relation to existing facilities needed greater control and therefore the greatest possibility for walking and cycling, car free zones and improvements to public transport journey times, destinations etc was also considered necessary. However, rurally located housing may have issues on accessibility to services increasing the need to use the private car, resulting less walking and cycling and potentially more accidents. Greater housing numbers is likely to result in more cars and therefore more pollution and congestion on the roads.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	The group discussed health and concluded that new housing gives the opportunity to negotiate sports facilities for the local community, mixed housing (including affordably units) provide more choice including the elderly that will enable them to stay at home longer, single persons and live work units too and locating housing and key services such as health provisions near each other could improve geographic distribution. However, high-density housing would generate more people in one location and potentially create social problems including a lack of garden space. Rural housing need may mean housing development in areas that are not well served by health services such as GPs and dentists.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	The group considered community facilities and felt that by providing housing the opportunity through developer contributions could provide for activities and associated access, that an opportunity existed to incorporate parish plans and community consultation on what they need and want engagement in, public transport links would be needed close to the housing development and government targets on healthy lifestyles would be supported. No negative issues were highlighted.

7. Sustainable regeneration	The group discussed sustainable regeneration and concluded that housing assists in regeneration, may incorporate renewable sources of energy e.g. solar panels, can benefit from good design, layout, form and materials using sustainable sources, they also felt that more people would bring more money and therefore more shopping to support the vitality and viability of town centres, more people creates more potential to provide employment opportunities. However, more people may place more strain on existing facilities and demand on jobs.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county	The group looked at education and agreed that more housing would potentially bring more children therefore support the education network. It may also support the possibility of a new higher education facility meeting the needs of the wider community too. In rural communities new housing would bring the opportunity for local schooling for ease of walking and cycling. Improved housing would reduce poverty and improve educational achievement. However, if job security is not improved this raised educational achievement could be lost to other areas with better job prospects.
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county	The group discussed crime and felt that by design and layout opportunities existed to open up routes and discourage crime, e.g. avoiding the use of subways in new developments and that better mix of housing in more deprived areas may help social inclusion and thereby reduce anti-social behaviour. However, they also acknowledged that more houses would equal more people and statistically increase the potential for more crime. The group did not know how the planning system could assist in built in measures such as CCTV to assist in crime prevention.
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	The group discussed poverty, social inclusion and deprived areas and considered that delivering affordable housing may reduce poverty, that demand may promote equality, give provide regeneration opportunities and that better infrastructure links may help to include towns and villages currently poorly linked. However, rural housing was seen to increase the likelihood of building on Greenfield and social exclusion would be likely in town and villages not well connected with new links.
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	The group discussed housing of all types and concluded that this plan objective would improve the choice in housing and would met the strategic need for housing with new links being created. However, they highlighted that more housing may have adverse impacts on the environment and that all local needs being met was unlikely, as the infrastructure could not be brought to the rural locations in need of it.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	The group discussed waste and felt that facilities for separating waste would be needed as more recycling and on site composting grew. Opportunities to reduce construction waste, use recycled products and materials and during occupation encourage recycling with separation and storage facilities fit for purpose. However, increases in housing will increase waste volumes and the cost of technology and design can have a negative effect on implementation. The group were unsure about lifecycles of build products and technology and legislation changes.
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity	The group discussed biodiversity and felt that developer contributions may provide an opportunity to restore and expand on biodiversity. However, brownfield sites may have important species such as bats that need to be valued and maintained and land identified for housing etc may result in an extensive loss of Greenfield land, losing important habitats and species and encourage habitat fragmentation.
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	The group discussed energy and natural resources and they agreed that alternative sources of energy were a good thing and that design was important, as was the better use of water. However, housing type may increase energy usage during construction and after use of the development and potentially increase the use of Greenfield land, more hard surfaces would be inevitable; costs of technology can be high. Construction techniques for some renewables may destroy large areas of landscape and eco systems from disturbance and compaction (e.g. wind farms) and impacts on landscape may also result. The group were unsure about technology advances and legislation changes.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	The group discussed landscape issues and concluded that appropriate locations were needed for housing so not to detract from an areas distinctive character, housing may improve the use of open space with the choice in housing and improvements could be achieved through residential development. However, housing may contribute to the loss of landscape character and a lack of public open space in villages as set out in many parish plans.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	The group discussed climate change and concluded that better designed housing may minimise energy consumption through using alternative energy sources, on site composting facilities and or storage, housing in urban areas could reduce the need to travel by car and methane captivation opportunities from agricultural practice and old landfill sites. However, increases in housing numbers is likely to result in more pollution and more energy use, agricultural methane production is the largest source of emissions in the County and is likely to continue to e the case and more housing is likely to create more waste contributing to methane emissions and other releases impacting on climate change.

17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	The group discussed flooding and considered that reed beds incorporated into sustainable drainage systems could reduce flood incidences that would normally adversely affect business and residential properties and appropriate location of development away from the functional flood plain was required. However, with the constraints in mind it may not be possible to place choice of housing in the areas of need, more housing generally means a greater supply and demand of water is needed, secondary adverse effects on biodiversity are likely and increased run-off may follow a storm event. It was also noted that mitigation of development located in flood zone 1 and 2 e.g. by use of SUDS, appropriate floor levels, materials used etc may reduce development contributions to flood risk.
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources	The group discussed pollution and concluded that urban areas can contribute to its reduction by providing high-density housing within central urban areas reducing the need to travel by the private car. All essential facilities being provided within the vicinity easily reached by walking, cycling or public transport. Good housing design could educe pollution, appropriate recycled and recyclable materials used for building (ethical building), renewable sources of energy and alternative energy types such as energy crops and combined heat and power opportunities could all assist in positive outcomes. However, rural areas tend to have fewer facilities increasing the need to use the private car to reach essential services. More housing generally means more cars and therefore more pollution. The group were unsure about issues for Herefordshire from global pollution changes.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	The group discussed land use and agreed that mixed use schemes and at high density would use land more efficiently, that housing needed to be located appropriately, above shop development in town centres was a good idea and that good links between housing, employment and retail would ensure the ease of access for all. However, housing need may not be where the most integrated, balanced, efficient land is located e.g. in rural areas. These high-density principles are often more likely to occur in urban areas leaving the rural communities lacking in their need for housing, employment etc. Conflict with different users such as HGVs, cars and pedestrians if infrastructure is not integrated appropriately.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	The group discussed historic heritage and believed that by developing brownfield sites enhancement of the appearance of the area may be achieved, that new developments could build on existing features of importance, historic buildings should be utilised, community facilities could be provided with money from developers to develop cultural heritage and improvements to existing infrastructure should minimise impacts on the environment. However expansion of settlements may not necessarily be in conformity with the local distinctiveness, modern design may not be utilised because of constraints of existing heritage quality and there is an environmental risk with the introduction of a new route for any new infrastructure. The group were unsure how development affecting the environment could be mitigated.

Appendix 1 – 03 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives
Date: May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Better Infrastructure Links Within Urban Areas & Between Urban & Rural Areas

Revised Plan Objective: Objective 4 Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure

SA Objectives	Summary of Workshop
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	The group discussed employment and agreed that movement of people around the County and between employment areas e.g. Kington to Leominster, would enable infrastructure growth in that location; good infrastructure links would encourage business into the area providing a range of employment opportunities; Ross would be the preferred location for business because of the motorway link; and park and ride schemes on the out skirts of Ross and Hereford could reduce congestion in these centres. However, Ross is not on the rail network preventing movement by rail between Ledbury and Ross including the restriction of employment links to the rest of the region; between Ledbury and Hereford the rail network is single track only; potential adverse environmental effects, e.g. business type and pollution emitted; multi national companies may drive smaller local businesses away, e.g. local produce sellers. The group did not know how much traffic and population would change.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	The group discussed a secure skilled workforce and agreed that this objective would have employer potential; that the electronic age is enabling virtual education possibilities, allowing for smaller dispersed colleges; and with 95% of the County on broadband, a connected County would be more appealing to an outside population for living and working. However, it was highlighted that WiFi is associated with unclear health implications and security issues; that a commuter County could be triggered with improved infrastructure; a possible shortfall in people to do less skilled work; and difference between rich and poor may grow. The group also agreed that an efficient public transport would encourage greater use of it and as such may off set any concern there would be for the County developing as a commuter area.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	On discussing a sustainable economy the group agreed that there was a need for a global market to be business sustainable and that economic growth is needed to maintain any housing growth. Rural business growth may enable home working and therefore live/work units with broadband connections. Ledbury, Ross and Rotherwas could accommodate the larger businesses e.g. distributor businesses. Good links can sustain a supply of available workers, suppliers and consumers for continued investment. The group did not identify any negative issues with this SA objective.

4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	The group discussed congestion, pollution and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that the Core Strategy Plan Objective would seek to deliver this; park and ride schemes could accommodate outside County commuter traffic; electronic development may increase home working reducing the need to travel and improve congestion; electronic road boards and real time info boards could inform road, rail and bus users of expected arrival times to increase reliability and reduce waiting times; improvements to the public transport network are essential if uptake is to be successful; and promotion of short journeys to be taken by bicycle or walking to assist in reducing congestion, pollution and accidents. However, without sufficient and well connected footpaths and cycleways an increase in accidents may be likely following greater take up of these more sustainable modes of travel for shorter journeys; and new roads will potentially mean more cars. The group also concluded that with inward business investment these could be a neutralisation of any positive reduction in congestion as people move away from the private car to be replaced by business traffic. The group did not know what the level of reduction, neutral outcomes would be.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	The group discussed health and concluded that a green infrastructure may enable quicker times and access to facilitate a healthier lifestyle; and provision of outreach community hospital would be beneficial. However, centralisation of health services to the urban areas may create outreach community hospital/health service issues (how will those people in more rural areas reach these new centralised services, the private car?)
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	The group discussed community services and concluded that public transport services for local festivals, tourist attractions on existing infrastructure links e.g. Hereford first then Ross to Leominster would be most beneficial; although it was highlighted that demand for these activities is dependant on housing allocations; and improved links to these activities may improve the accessibility to them. However, increases in volumes of visitors and residents could mean additional vehicles adding to the congestion and pollution issues. The group discussed the centre park scenario but were unsure about what that type of establishment would bring to the county? - Hypothetically, locate at South Wye, eastern corner of County, typically lower waged, may bring more job opportunities. Typically the centre park developments are landscaped sensitively and could bring a variety of visitors (families, singles, groups). However, these groups may just base themselves around the centre and not contribute to the economy in other areas of the County.

7. Sustainable regeneration	The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that the distinctiveness of the County should be maintained; maximise the assets and work with the constraints e.g. environmental constraints may bring tourism opportunities, other benefits may come to local business, schools, services and housing. However, increased prosperity may increase crime rates, particularly car and burglary related criminal activity.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county	The group discussed education and concluded that rural opportunities with smaller more dispersed colleges with electronic/virtual learning may exist; engagement in 6th form education may lead to increased interest in a County university and this provision may also attract countrywide student interest, both potentially improving retention levels of young people in the County; and live/work units. The group could not see the relationship between infrastructure and educational achievement levels, although improvements in access to establishments may create the opportunity.
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county	The group discussed crime and concluded that it would appear that there were distorted crime figures when compared with population; design better links, open up routes discouraging crime e.g. avoid use of subways in new development; green routes need to be visible and well lit and CCTV use may reduce fear of crime and deter it. However, the Western Way, southern area, is unattractive and encourages a lack of use and a sense of fear. The group did not know whether the planning system could build in crime prevention measures such as CCTV, or whether its possible to identify specific areas where infrastructure links relate to crime?
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	The group discussed poverty and agreed that additional infrastructure may increase job availability and engagement with the rest of the County and decrease poverty; aesthetically soft landscaping can give a sense of pride in place and encourage more respect and potentially lower crime; and better infrastructure links will help include towns and villages that are currently more isolated. However, the most deprived areas (as reported) in Leominster and South Wye in Hereford already has the infrastructure in place and yet it is still deprived; the younger population have less opportunity to get onto the property ladder; better links may attract more people to the area and potentially increase densities and pressures on services such as doctors surgeries and housing availability; and high density housing may result in deprived areas forming if there not well designed with appropriate links. The group were unsure about who, what and where population and business will be attracted within the County; and that its difficult to establish a direct casual link.

11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	The group discussed housing and agreed that infrastructure will enable housing; improvements in communication links were needed; mixed used developments were ideal; visual improvement was important; green infrastructure, such as new cycleways were important; linkages between places were vital; and that roads, businesses, mixed uses, and integrated land uses were imperative. However, housing competition and supply may drive prices above affordability; and the likelihood of all local needs being met is unlikely, as infrastructure cannot be brought to all rural locations. The group did not know the number of people in need of affordable housing (emerging evidence base may be useful here).
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	The group discussed waste and agreed that the SA objective would guide developers into cleaning up contaminated land; the best and most accessible appropriate locations for waste facilities are needed; and the use of secondary, recycled aggregates in infrastructure construction where necessary. However, better infrastructure may attract more people, business and households creating more waste, including commercial and industrial and construction and demolition waste streams. The group were not sure about volumes of waste expected although figures are available from the review of the RSS (2008 note - these now have to be used with caution as changes to housing figures may occur following consultation during the spring/summer of 2008). The group were also unsure about what technology advances may be available or being developed.
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity	The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that a green infrastructure would create biodiversity opportunities; and that financial gain through S106 agreements for improvement and enhancement schemes would be beneficial. However, land use changes may result in a loss of biodiversity. The group felt that a net change through use of S106 agreements i.e. loss through development with equal or more replacement through the S106 would create a neutral effect on the issues. The group did not know how the long term enhancement and replacement schemes compare to the natural untouched environment for certain types of habitats and species.

14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	The group discussed natural resources and energy and agreed that: development should maximise cut and fill techniques; recycled materials, recycled glass for roads should be optimised; wastes to be dealt with in the County to reduce transportation and landfill need; buses should be more eco friendly; that a rail stop at Pontralis should be introduced on the line that runs from Cardiff to Manchester optimising the cross border potential for money to flow from outside the County into the County; rail and ride potential should be optimised; and reliability of service is important. However, better infrastructure may attract more vehicle use and therefore a less efficient use of natural resources.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	The group discussed Herefordshire's landscape and agreed that the landscape of County is an asset and it is for that reason that people live here; maximise green infrastructure links; smaller footprints of buildings; disallow buy to let to enable housing opportunities and potentially assist in lowing house prices to more realistic levels and therefore more affordable; and through section 106 agreements gain financial resources for restoration and enhancement of the landscape. However, change in land use may result in a loss of landscape areas of importance.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	The group discussed climate change and agreed that air quality is generally good when compared with other built up areas in the region, as Herefordshire is a rural County; and an opportunity to integrate sustainable modes of travel, public transport, walking and cycling are beneficial. However, it's not possible countywide due to time and expense constraints; and a growth in improvements to infrastructure may increase vehicle use increasing pollution and congestion issues. The group added that the outer distributor road versus park and ride scheme may create a neutral status. They were unsure about the unpredictability of natural changes, e.g. the weather caused by climate change and therefore the type of infrastructure needed to cope with such changes.
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	The group discussed flooding and agreed that mitigation opportunities for relief from the city centre, e.g. flood alleviation schemes; SUDS; and new infrastructure has the potential to place electricity cables and other technology underground to reduce communication loss assisting the economy were beneficial. However, more hardstanding and surfaces may add to flash flooding incidents; reduction of flood risk is key to the building of the distributor road and is more expensive due to the flooding possibility; and rural areas may be adversely affected if mitigation is put in place inappropriately, including associated loss of life and property as well as flora and fauna from both the flooding and inappropriate mitigation.

18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources	The group discussed pollution and agreed that an eastern distributor route would reduce HGV movements in central areas; yellow school bus scheme services for children to reduce the congestion and traffic volumes caused by the school run; park and rides north and south of Hereford City; and cycle and walk routes would be ideal. However, Leominster AQMA is worse than Hereford's; and better infrastructure may result in additional vehicle use causing potentially more pollution and congestion hot spots. The group concluded that this would be dependant on location and also confirmed that they were unsure about the technological advances in vehicle emissions; and the Global response to the protection and enhancement of the environment.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that Leominster's industrial estate has potential for growth; a Hereford focus creates housing potential and growth in other urban areas catering for commuters wishing to work in Hereford; a County focus may create a balance across the locations rather than Hereford and the market towns, creating opportunities in the Golden Valley and other currently less accessible rural areas, if good links are made between housing, employment and retail land it will ensure more ease of access for all. However, new infrastructure inappropriately located, may result in a loss of land suitable for other more beneficial land uses, e.g. housing or employment or for conservation; and conflict with different users e.g. HGVs, cars and pedestrians. The group agreed that this was dependant on housing locations e.g. Ross and they we unsure what future land use needs would be.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	The group discussed the historic heritage of the County and agreed that Hereford's distinctiveness should be maximised and thereby seeing it as an asset; and improvements to existing infrastructure should generally avoid any further adverse environmental impact. However, the outer distributor road conflicts with environmental objectives, e.g. when the eastern link was created the Lugg Meadows were destroyed, more respect is needed for these protected environmental assets in the Core Strategy; new infrastructure may not be compatible with the historic and cultural areas of the county (style and design will be important); and environmental risks with the introduction of new routes should be considered and mitigated against if avoidance is not possible. The group were unsure of the type of development affecting the environment that could be mitigated.

Appendix 1 – 04 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives
Date: June 2007

Original Plan Objective: Improving Health, Education, Skills Training, Social, Shopping, Community & Other Services

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8; Ensuring Better Health, Well-being and Quality of Life; Providing for the Need of all Generations; Improving our Service Centres; Developing Herefordshire as a Destination for Quality Leisure Visits and Sustainable Tourism; and Delivering Sustainable Communities respectively.

SA Objectives	Summary of Workshop
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	The group discussed employment and agreed that improvements in available services will create more jobs and associated services; and more easily accessible services may require smaller facilities spread evenly between rural and urban areas creating a decrease in centre focussed services, decreasing the need to travel. The group did not identify any negative issues.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	The group discussed a skilled workforce and agreed that improved services may attract doctors, dentists, leaders/academics, etc. to the County. However, the services required are not necessarily highly skilled and therefore don't attract a high wage; and the loss of traditional agricultural trades and associated services as other more skilled jobs develop.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	The group discussed a sustainable economy and agreed that improved services would contribute to a sustainable economy and attract inward investment. However, there is a potential for the County to lose its distinctiveness as traditional trades are replaced.

4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	The group discussed traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that community focussed services would reduce the need to travel and encourage walking and cycling; for those services located further away the opportunity exists to create enhanced public transport network; joint venture with local communities to reduce traffic speed through developing local services; and mixed use development could incorporate social activities and car free zones with good links for walking and cycling. However, services may attract higher traffic flows if not appropriate located. The group did not know how the planning system could deliver an integrated healthy lifestyles.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	The group discussed health and agreed that improved health, education and community services located in areas of need may improve disparities demographically and geographically. The group did not identify any negative issues.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	The group discussed community activities and agreed that this SA objective would be met by the plan objective through the provision of services; and the engagement in such activities could enhance the sense of place and give health benefits. However the point was raised that depending on location of the activity some rural communities may not be included and increase the need to travel. The group also concluded that planning could not guarantee engagement in activities.
7. Sustainable regeneration	The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that service provision could assist by regenerating run down areas. However, traditional services in the County, such as the local markets may be lost through regeneration programmes resulting in a loss of local distinctiveness.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county	The group discussed education and agreed that provision of educational/ community services may assist in providing the facilities that aid better learning environments. However, higher achievement may raise life expectations and create an outward movement of young people from the County unless job opportunities are also created.

9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county	The group discussed crime and agreed that Activities that engage people, particularly young people, may assist in reducing anti-social behaviour and assist in reducing crime, and the fear of crime. However, more people attracted to a locality may encourage opportunist crime to those areas.
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	The group discussed poverty and agreed that services, particularly education, skills and community activities will encourage social inclusion, bringing people from all varied backgrounds together. However, clubs may require membership fees, which those from the poorest areas are unlikely to be able to afford.
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	The group discussed housing and agreed that services are likely to be provided where housing need is, suitable to the local demand. New services are likely to attract soft landscaping that will add to the local character creating a more pleasant environment. The group did not identify any negative issues.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	The group discussed waste and agreed that services have an opportunity to engage in waste minimisation and recycling by integrating facilities into their development. However, providing more services will generally result in more waste and pollution being generated.
13. Conserve and enhance Herefordshire's habitats and biodiversity	The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that services may attract funding to conserve and enhance biodiversity and services in areas of biodiversity importance may raise awareness of wildlife issues. However, services may be located in biodiversity sensitive areas resulting in a range of adverse effects on the protected sites.

14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	The group discussed natural resources and energy and agreed that new services offered the opportunity to provide highly energy efficient premises; and should be located so to reduce the need to travel. However, more services will generally result in more energy usage.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	The group discussed landscape quality and concluded that services will attract funding that should support restoration projects; and some of the community services are likely to have open space and rural areas incorporated into their developments. The group did not identify any negative issues.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	The group discussed climate change and concluded that new services may enable the inclusion of the latest technologies to reduce emissions and thereby the County's contribution to it. However, as the services are likely to raise energy use and create more waste and potentially more traffic, they may also contribute to the problem. The group did not know what controls or influence the County would have over other areas, both neighbouring authorities, the region and the rest of the UK and world and therefore how it could reduce vulnerability, a local focus was therefore thought to be most realistic for achievable outcomes.
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	The group discussed flooding and agreed that improving services may provide the opportunity to raise awareness; be located appropriately/ and sensitively, whilst benefiting financially through tourism and by creating the environment that visitors, homeowners, etc., require. However, inappropriately located development may exasperate localised flooding issues and potentially move the problem elsewhere in the river network.
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources	The group discussed pollution and concluded that by utilising the opportunity to be energy efficient, reducing waste and providing recycling services, minimisation of local pollution and enhancement of environmental resources are likely. The group did not identify any negative issues.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that services are likely to be located close to other community needs such as housing, employment, transport routes and therefore utilise land more efficiently. However, if services are only located in the urban areas, the rural communities would miss out on these services.

20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	The group discussed the Counties historic heritage and agreed that development should be built sensitively, with regard to the existing character of the area and therefore value, protect, and enhance it; and the facilities themselves may be developed within an existing historic environment and cultural heritage, valuing and protecting it. The group did not identify any negative issues.

Appendix 1 – 05 – Identifying Issues and Developing Plan Objectives
Date:May 2007

Original Plan Objective: Sustainable Use of Environmental Assets & the Prudent Use of Natural Resources

Revised Plan Objective: Objectives 8 and 9; Delivering Sustainable Communities; and Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets.

SA Objectives	Workshop Summary
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	The group discussed employment and agreed that there was potential for environmental orientated business to be created in the County; remote and home working; extensive farming would create employment opportunities; the County has an aging population whom not only may need carers but are also often the most wealthy with a disposable income, for garden equipment, eating out etc. However, a focus on knowledge and technology sectors may adversely affect the character of land usage and be of detriment to traditional employment types in the County; new road and/or rail links may also adversely affect the environment; and new development will increase the population and associated waste, pollution and energy use. The group did not know what types of business would be attracted to the County and therefore types of waste and other pollutants from new businesses.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	The group discussed a skilled workforce and agreed that this plan objective could bring environmental asset management skills and environmental education opportunities into the County. However, as a skilled workforce earn more money and have more disposable income the potential is that the community will be encouraged into a throw away society.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	The group discussed a sustainable economy and agreed that an unspoilt landscape attracts investment and potentially wealthy people to the County; and an ageing population have skills to offer such as volunteering, unpaid carers etc. However, young people priced out of the housing market that live and work in the local area; population is dominated by an ageing community restricting diversity; and continued growth may mean continued and increased resource use. The group did not know what type of business would be attracted to the County and therefore any potential adverse environmental impacts.

4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	The group discussed traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and agreed that this plan objective could encouraging walking and cycling if verges were cut less and left wilder on C roads slowing traffic for safer usage and would also benefit wildlife; the creation of more cycle ways; walkways, improving the populations health; additional sustainable modes of travel reducing pollution and congestion; and fewer private cars on the road frees up the road network for essential business users. However, inefficient public transport network or not enough quick and safe cycle paths and walkways may cause these sustainable alternatives to be less attractive than the private car, a sea change in attitudes is needed. The group did not know how much improvement was possible with predicted growth.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	The group discussed health and agreed that Herefordshire was an attractive County that could be utilised for access to open countryside for health improvements for all e.g. the Wye Valley, especially those in urban areas or from low incomes, as access to it is free; prevalent services in urban areas; there are some existing good sports centres in urban areas; and cleaner environment may benefit respiratory disorders as more people use sustainable modes of travel and pollution reduces. However, older people in rural locations may not has easy access to health services and there are poverty stricken areas in rural areas which would have similar issues with accessibility.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	The group discussed community activities and agreed that urban areas are generally well catered for, such as walking, cycling, community (council) gatherings, race for life etc.; the Rivers Wye, Mono and Arrow all have good fishing; and shooting and equestrian sports are all County important; an opportunity to raise environmental awareness through activity; and S106 financial contributions could provide the investment needed to benefit community activities. However, more rural areas are less well catered for; Hereford lacks cultural activities, although the Beer Festival is an International occasion and is well attended; also lacks in art galleries; theatres and other activities tend to rely on people arriving by the private car; engagement in activities is low, e.g. people walk the ridge of the Malvern Hills 80% but the bulk of the AONB is not accessed; and greater involvement in these activities may adversely affect sensitive areas by increasing water pollution, littering, tramperling, disturbance and air quality. The group did not know what the potential increase in community involvement would be and therefore could not quantify the potential effects; and they also identified that planning cannot increase or decrease the general population activity chooses, it can only provide for such facilities, hence there was no relationship found between this element of the objectives.

7. Sustainable Regeneration	The group discussed sustainable regeneration and agreed that an opportunity existed to think beyond the urban areas and to consider development requirements in terms of rural renaissance; environmental sustainable regeneration involves low air miles, traditional land uses, e.g. agriculture, local traders, locally sourced materials and local produce; and the Plan objective would also support an environment conscious business. However, the County has an ageing rural population; and economic sustainable regeneration may result in intensive agriculture, leading to environmental problems, mass production, higher food miles to supply the demand, etc. The group did not know what type of business would be attracted to the County.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the County	The group discussed education and agreed that the need for skills in environmental management areas and agriculture and education in what valuing environment assets means. However, young people are leaving the County in search of work; and travelling to destinations providing educational facilities not available in the County.
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County	The group discussed crime and agreed that fly tipping and other environmental, anti social behaviour aspects may be reduced by providing, in new development, integrated resources, such as appropriate waste facilities for recycling and the separation of wastes. However, environmental crime is not well dealt with by the police; fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime rate; and rural and urban crime may vary in type. The group did not know what the inherent level of crime for the County was and considered this to be relatively important; and also were unsure about future crime rates and type of crime.
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county	The group discussed poverty and agreed that a more diverse agricultural sector may create employment opportunities; potential to reduce poverty by building a second crossing over the River Wye to bring both physical and economic benefits; an emphasis on the environment may create jobs to help reduce poverty; the use of renewables will help keep living costs down thereby helping to reduce poverty; and an improved environment may encourage the local community to take ownership of their local area and have pride in the place where they live, reducing the negative appearance of these potentially otherwise deprived, rundown areas. However, the River Wye, a natural asset in Hereford, is causing the deprivation in the southern area of the City; the County is also isolated from the region by the River; a fear of the unknown; renewable energy may be expensive to install; some areas are linked such as Hereford & Worcester, whilst others aren't, e.g. Bromyard and Worcester; and an environmental lead Plan objective may put housing and employment into urban areas at high densities, causing pockets of deprivation.

11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	The group discussed housing and agreed that not all Greenfield or intensively farmed land has good environmental assets, e.g. baron land; location of affordable housing should be guided by demand, particularly in relation to distance from the work place to reduce commuter distances; and an environmental lead Plan objective would require excellent energy efficiency levels, local sustainable materials and design being in the forefront to make these changes attractive. However, not necessarily being provided where it is needed; layout and design can be quite poor; and state of the art housing may be expensive when affordable housing is most in need, therefore social housing should also have to be built to the highest environmental standards.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	The group discussed waste and agreed that there should be on-site opportunities for local waste facilities in development; reduction in waste to landfill sites was needed and improvements in recycling provisions were required; opportunity to raise consumer awareness on such things as packaging, local sourcing of food stuffs, materials etc. and of the waste hierarchy; innovations from around the County and Region should be optimised; business waste management; and establishing businesses that use the end products of other businesses waste to create a recycled usable product. However, little is available for the disposal of construction and demolition waste and commercial and industrial waste; and public perception on environmental and human health aspects of facilities such as auto claving, (incineration) is negative. The group did not know predicted quantities of industrial and commercial waste and construction and demolition wastes However, the RSS revision should assist in later appraisal stages.
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand the county's biodiversity	The group discussed biodiversity and agreed that to use the natural resources to their strengths would enable biodiversity to flourish; the environment and economy should be dealt with hand in hand to benefit biodiversity; and educate that a flourishing environment is a massive benefit to all, business, home, quality of life and schooling. However, there is a need to accept some biodiversity losses but the robustness of the environment systems sets the losses at a minimum; intensive monoculture; if development were focussed in urban areas no new build would occur in rural areas to support the rural economy; and no new road schemes would be provided either, resulting in under maintained rural areas creating an even less accessible resource. The group acknowledged that detailed evidence of species and habitats and their condition was limited.

14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	The group discussed natural resources and energy and concluded that transport improvement was important; local stone, sustainable wood sources and there was a need to respect capacity supply; traditional building techniques should be encouraged with a modern twist and given that black and white houses are features of the County and do not require bricks this should be promoted in design; and good tree growth capacity in the County perhaps for energy crops. However, high-energy costs on producing bricks should be discouraged; and may prove expensive in the short to medium term.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	The group discussed landscape quality and agreed that its linked with agricultural uses; a fluvial system vision is needed rather than a one River approach; tourism should be encouraged; and rural areas and open spaces could be secured through the provision of funding through S106 agreements. However, bio fuel production may lead to a one crop economy; local perceptions on how the County will look may vary between communities and community members; and there may be limited potential for housing, employment, farm diversification due to landscape impacts caused by such development. The group did not know what was understood by landscape management; and what future growth rates would be.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	The group discussed climate change and agreed that the requirement for more property development will require higher targets for the County in meeting carbon emission reductions; the County has a lot to offer to the tourism industry and this should have a greater emphasis and in addition local people should be encouraged to holiday more locally; and finally a shared approach with other Local Authorities could link initiatives and Plans and help assess vulnerabilities. However, new technologies are generally expensive and changing rapidly and may take time to implement and establish new processes, technology; tourism although a positive asset may mean more private car use, more tourist attractions and more carbon; and climate change will cause rises in sea levels and more extreme weather events, as a result the County needs to adapt to these changes, e.g. a change in crop variety but also the protection of important environmental assets from degradation.
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	The group discussed flood risk and agreed that flooding can be an asset to the environment, such as wetlands for tourism; water table rises and falls are natural, simple fluvial system in the County, we should use this as a resource to create natural flood defence systems; and a more strategic approach to the flooding regulations is needed. However, there is a history of flood defence schemes being implemented at development sites across the County where flooding issues have been prevalent, these schemes often exasperate problems further up and down stream of development, the issue needs to be looked at more holistically; agricultural loss; and inappropriate use of sewage treatment as excessive run off from storm events currently goes into the sewage systems instead of more appropriately placed storm drains or ditches for natural absorption, the use of sustainable drainage systems, where appropriate may a reasonable alternative.

18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources	The group discussed pollution and agreed that on-site treatment of wastes for new development; highest possible energy efficiency; and flash flood reductions would be ideal. However, agriculture is the biggest polluter due to nitrate pollution; there is a lack in septic tank maintenance; and growth in housing will likely result in greater pollution.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	The group discussed integrated and balanced land use and agreed that the County is not short of space; high density may be beneficial in urban areas to encourage cycling and walking; density is dependant on location, both high and low densities could be beneficial and detrimental to environmental assets; and on-site waste water treatment and use would be beneficial. However, higher densities in urban areas may not consider the integration with the wider rural area and land uses maybe more associated with these rural areas; and high-density development may reduce the capacity for biodiversity.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage	The group discussed the historic heritage of the County and concluded that each settlement should be treated in its own right and development should have regard for there individualism e.g. Longtown, allowing local distinctiveness to be a key factor; by recognising the role of sustainability in the Counties heritage, benefits may be had in securing viable uses for these historic buildings and assets. However, Higher densities may lead to a lack of consideration and difficulty in dealing with existing built qualities and protection of environmental assets; and a sense of place and space may be lost with higher density development.

Appendix B1 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with emerging Plan Objectives 1-5

Key:

☺ = Compatible

☹ = Possible conflict

😐 = Neutral

X = No relationship between objectives

? = Unclear, more information needed

Reasonable Test	Core Strategy Objective 1: This objective is thought not to be reasonable because it is seen as more of a goal or vision than an objective. Therefore no further SA assessment of this objective is necessary at this stage.	Core Strategy Objective 2: This objective is reasonable. It is suggested that the word ensuring is changed to enabling.	Core Strategy Objective 3: This objective is similar to objective 4. It was agreed that objective 3 would look at urban renaissance within Hereford, and objective 4 would look at renaissance in more rural areas. Both are considered to be reasonable.	Core Strategy Objective 4: Refer to comment on objective 3. This is considered to be reasonable in terms of a rural renaissance focus.	Core Strategy Objective 5: It is reasonable, however the wording needs to be changed to something less lengthy. It should also emphasise the built environment as well as the more rural environment.
Core Strategy Objectives	**Objective 1:** Ensuring a sustainable future for Herefordshire	**Objective 2:** Ensuring sustainable economic growth	**Objective 3:** To deliver key urban renaissance projects in Hereford to strengthen its role as a sub-regional centre and deliver a renaissance in our rural areas	**Objective 4:** Improving our service centres to develop Hereford town centre as a strong sub-regional shopping, leisure and cultural focus for Herefordshire and support and develop thriving service centres in our market towns and improve key rural services in our villages.	**Objective 5:** To develop Herefordshire as a quality visitor and sustainable tourist destination by building on the opportunities provided by our high quality environment, including our landscapes and countryside, culture and history.
SA Objective					
1. To support,		☺ To have economic	☺ This promotes	☺ This promotes	☺ This could be a

maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce		growth requires high quality local and easily accessible employment.	employment opportunities.	employment opportunities.	double edged sword. There could be a potential conflict surrounding the growth of the agricultural sector around Polytunnels in particular, but however in general the group agreed the objectives were compatible.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	The group agreed that this SA objective was not necessary and should be removed from this assessment stage as it was felt that it had been covered in SA objective 1.				
4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and		? Sustainable transport in Herefordshire is not realistic due to the rural nature of the County; more information on transport proposals are needed and modelling would also be helpful, such as	☺ You cant regenerate Hereford without first addressing the need for more sustainable transport.	☺ If this is tailored to meet the needs of smaller villages, it avoids the need for travel around the County.	☹ Tourism will have a negative impact on traffic volumes and congestion around Herefordshire and therefore is not compatible with this SA objective.

walking		congestion modelling.			
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all		☺ Being in employment was generally considered to be compatible with improved well-being and healthy lifestyles. However, work related stress and average working hours were highlighted as an adverse issue for the County.	☺ General amenities will be closer under this Core Strategy Objective enabling improved disparities in health geographically and demographically encouraging healthy living for all.	☺ If essentials such as GP's are provided then there should be no incompatibility with the Objectives.	☺ Health improvements may occur if destinations with tourist potential are improved.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all		☺ There is a loose link between the Objectives, but it was argued whether all the activities mentioned in the SA objective would encourage growth.	☺ This is an important element to ensure a strong urban focus.	☺ This is an important element to ensure a strong rural focus.	☺ All of the elements within the SA Objectives are important in attracting tourists to the County.
7. Sustainable Regeneration		☺ It was agreed that the Objectives would support each other. No reasons were given.	☺ Regeneration would help in more deprived urban areas.	☺ Regeneration would help in more deprived rural areas.	☺ The regeneration of features will help attract tourism.
11. Provide everyone		☺ The delivery of a	☺ Good quality	☺ The delivery of	☹ or ? Some

with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments		mix of housing types and tenure will support a diverse employment base.	housing will provide life and animation to the extended City Centre (e.g. the Edgar Street Grid Regeneration Project).	appropriately scaled housing with affordable provision will support existing communities and services (e.g. in market towns).	conflict here. Local homes for local people or second (holiday) homes for tourists? How will house building protect / enhance the wider landscape which attracts the tourists? Scale and careful selection needed and the outcome is dependant on implementation.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling		☹ Reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste causes conflict.	☹ Reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste causes conflict.	☺ Opportunity to increase access to recycling services to minimise local residents waste, although it is acknowledged that there is some conflict in the need to reconcile the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste.	☹ or ? Any increase in people is likely to result in an increase in waste, however potential exists in limiting the amount of waste that visitors will create, if proposals are implemented appropriately.
15. Value, protect,		☹ Growth	☺ A focus on urban	☹ Rural renaissance	☺ There is a good

enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces		encroachment on rural areas and open spaces may result in some potential conflict between the inevitable expansion of businesses in the higher quality environments potentially on offer.	renaissance is unlikely to put unnecessary pressure for growth in rural areas with a high quality environment and landscape.	may cause some potential conflict between expansion of businesses and housing growth in the higher quality environment and landscape that are associated with the rural areas.	link making it entirely compatible. Looking after the environmental asset will attract visitors.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem		? It is unknown how economic growth will be vulnerable to climate change and limited in terms of its contribution to it as it is dependant on sustainable implementation through an assurance that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.	? Urban renaissance may create the potential for adverse effects and these are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.	? Rural renaissance may create the potential for adverse effects and these are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.	☹ or ? An increase in people is likely to impact adversely to contributions to the causes of climate change such as pollution however, outcomes are dependant on implementation and assurances that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring appropriate standards to be achieved.
20. Value, protect and enhance the		☺ Generally economic growth may	☺ Urban renaissance may	☺ Rural renaissance may contribute to and	☺ Visitors will be attracted by the

character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage		contribute to the built environment, however some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.	contribute to and improve the built environment, however some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.	improve the built environment however, some difficult decisions on balancing these two potentially conflicting objectives may need to be overcome in the future.	Counties heritage assets on offer and will contribute to improvements to the built environment by visiting.
Conclusions and recommendations from the test of reasonableness	Delete this Core Strategy Objective, as it was not found to be reasonable. The wording was considered to be vision orientated and as such recommended to form part of the Core Strategy Vision rather than a separate key Core Strategy Objective.	Although the Core Strategy Objective was found to be reasonable it was considered appropriate to advice the removal of the word "ensuring" and replace with "enabling" as it was felt that the planning system could not ensure development but could guide and deliver development, i.e. enable it.	It was felt that it was not clear what objectives 3 and 4 were looking at and it was therefore agreed to consider objective 3 in terms of urban renaissance alone. Improved objective wording is needed, as is a clearer definition of urban renaissance in the description of the objective. In highlighting Hereford in the title of the objective for urban renaissance it is considered that the other urban areas	It was felt that it was not clear what objectives 3 and 4 were looking at and it was therefore agreed to consider objective 4 in terms of rural renaissance. Improved objective wording is needed, as is a clearer definition of rural renaissance in the description of the objective. A focus on the services in these rural areas in relation to how they link with the urban hubs is still considered a relevant element from the	A tourism based objective was considered reasonable however, it was recommended that the wordiness of the original objective be made more clear and concise. It was also recommended that a balance should be reached in emphasising both the built and rural environment.

			(the market towns) of the County could easily be forgotten. Removal of Hereford and consideration of all urban areas, i.e. the market towns, under this urban renaissance objective is therefore recommended. However, it is accepted that Hereford should still be included here in terms of its added importance as a sub regional foci. A urban renaissance based objective was considered reasonable.	original objective wording and is recommended to be incorporated when rewording the Plan objective. In terms of an objective based on rural renaissance this was considered reasonable.	
Conclusions and recommendations from Sustainability Appraisal compatibility test	As Core Strategy objective was considered to be unreasonable no assessment on compatibility was conducted.	Generally this Core Strategy Objective was compatible with the Sustainability Objectives. However, a potential conflict may exist between the economy and	This Core Strategy Objective is mainly compatible with the SA Objectives. However, there is potentially conflict between the urban renaissance Plan	This Core Strategy Objective is mostly compatible with the SA Objectives. However, conflict has been identified between rural renaissance and	There were slightly more compatible SA Objectives with the Plan Objective however conflicts between tourism and traffic and congestion; housing; waste and

		waste growth and landscape quality. Unknowns also require further investigation in particular, how economic growth may impact on traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and on climate change.	Objective and waste production. Unknowns with respect to climate change require further investigation for consideration on how this Objective could contribute to and be vulnerable to climate change.	landscape quality. There was considered to be neutral compatibility between the Objective and waste but further information was required necessary for consideration on how this Objective could contribute to and be vulnerable to climate change.	climate change were highlighted. Most of these also were considered in need of further information before a conclusion on compatibility could be reached.
Outcome of reasonableness and sustainability compatibility test	The Plan writers in reviewing the recommendations from this workshop reviewed what they wanted from the original objective and changed the Objective to "Delivering Sustainable Communities". The main focus changing from a more general sustainable development approach for the	The Plan writers reviewed the Objective wording in light of the SA recommendations and changed the objective to "Providing Opportunities for Diversifying and Strengthening the Local Economy". The workshop group concluded that the meaning of a sustainable economy needed to be clarified as it may not always	Through the reasonable test it was recommended that this objective be clarified and was assessed in terms of its urban renaissance. The Plan writers developed the Objective in response to this test and the SA recommendations by clarifying the Objective. The Plan writers incorporated their thinking behind the original Objective	Through the reasonable test it was agreed that this Objective was very similar to the original Objective 3 and therefore, likewise, this Objective's recommendation was for clarification and was only assessed in terms of its rural renaissance. In order to clarify the writers thinking behind this original Objective they	The reasonable test highlighted the wordiness of the original Plan Objective and the lack of reference to the built historic heritage of the County. Therefore the Plan writers reworded the Objective in light of these recommendations into two separate Objectives. They covered the tourism element in the newly

	County to a sustainable communities approach concentrating sustainable development at the local community level to shape the places of the future. This objective will require reassessment in terms of reasonableness and if found to be reasonable will need to be subject to sustainability appraisal in terms of compatibility. This re-assessment will form part of the next stage of Sustainability Appraisal, likely to be reported at Preferred Options Stage.	be possible to have sustainable growth in terms of the economy, but a balance was needed between the environmental issues and the need for economic growth. The new wording attempts to provide that clarification, i.e. opportunities for diversification and strengthening of the local economy.	into existing Objective's and by creating a new one. The Plan Objectives reworked involved the original Objective 7 on health and well-being and Objective 10 on transport and infrastructure. These have been reworded as follows and will be discussed in matrix, Appendix B1 6-10: "Ensuring Better Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life; and Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure". The new Objective created to cover the urban renaissance element discussed in this assessment has been changed to "Improving Our Service Centres".	considered it necessary to incorporate elements of this original Objective into two other original Objective's. The Plan Objectives reworked involved the original Objective 9 on a high quality built and natural environment and Objective 10 on transport and infrastructure. These have been reworded as follows and will be discussed in matrix, Appendix B1 6-10: "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural Built, Historic and Cultural Assets; and Ensuring Improved Transport Accessibility and Infrastructure". The Plan writers considered that these	worded Objective "Developing Herefordshire as a Destination for Quality Leisure Visits and Sustainable Tourism" and the built historic heritage element into the newly worded Plan Objective "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets". The new wording attempts to incorporate the suggested amendments.

				newly reworded Objective's respective descriptions, give an understanding of the rural renaissance idea that the original Objective was trying to create.	

Appendix B1 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with emerging Plan Objectives 6-10

Key:

☺ =   Compatible

☹ =   Possible conflict

☺ =   Neutral

X =   No relationship between objectives

? =   Unclear, more information needed

Reasonable Test	Objective 6: This is considered to be reasonable. The text should be changed to read 'providing for appropriate and affordable housing'	Objective 7: This is reasonable. Promote instead of ensure health etc was suggested.	Objective 8: It was felt that the wording needs to be changed on this objective, however it is still considered to be reasonable.	Objective 9: This is reasonable. It was suggested that the wording "highly attractive and safe places in which to live or visit" be removed from the background text to this objective as Herefordshire is already considered to be a safe and attractive environment to live.	Objective 10: This is reasonable. It was felt that the background text to this objective could include more on infrastructure.
Core Strategy Objectives SA Objective	Objective 6: Providing appropriate housing provision	Objective 7: Ensuring better health, wellbeing and life chances	Objective 8: To develop a Higher Education sector in Herefordshire to attract high quality jobs, encourage business investment and secure the retention of our young people	Objective 9: Ensuring a high quality built and natural environment	Objective 10: Ensuring improved transport movement and infrastructure

1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	☺ If accessible employment is provided in the County to encourage people to work in Herefordshire, then the provision of housing will also be required.	☺ People's health and wellbeing are aided by having high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities available to them.	☺ A population with a highly qualified younger population encourages employment opportunities within the County.	☺ There could be a potential conflict applying it to Herefordshire. There could be issues surrounding the building of industrial sheds, and what this could potential do to the natural environment.	☺ It is important to maintain links between improved transport links and jobs.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	The group agreed that this SA objective was not necessary and should be removed from this assessment stage as it was felt that it had been covered in SA objective 1.				
4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by -increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	? This would depend on where the housing is situated.	☺ If traffic is reduced then it ensures better health, wellbeing and life chances.	☺ It is felt that young people are better able to make use of the more sustainable transport modes available to travel.	☹ As part of developing a high quality built and natural environment traffic congestion needs to be addressed, as obviously it has a negative impact on the environment and health, if not controlled therefore,	☺ There is a clear link between improving transport movement and the reduction in road traffic, congestion and pollution.

				there is potential for conflict however the outcomes are dependant on implementation.	
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	☺ Good quality housing will help maintain peoples health.	☺ Both objectives are the same and are therefore entirely compatible.	☺ Both objectives are compatible but no reasons were given.	☺ Encourage people to use bikes or walk instead of using the private car to improve air quality and ensure a better environment.	☺ Less traffic and less congestion may improve health.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	☺ If you provide community activities to encourage people to live in or visit Herefordshire, then you need to provide housing.	☺ With more things to do, it helps promote better health, well-being and life chances.	☺ It was agreed that there was compatibility between the objectives, but no reasons were given.	☺ It was agreed that these would be compatibility, however it was acknowledged that as disturbances to some species may occur some conflict was likely.	☺ Both objectives go hand in hand and are therefore entirely compatible. The Edgar Street Grid development was used as an example.
7. Sustainable Regeneration	☺ Compatible as sustainable regeneration incorporates the need for well designed affordable housing.	☺ This is only compatible if it is genuinely sustainable, integrating principles for healthy lifestyles and providing services. It will also aid a higher quality environment	☺ It is neither compatible or causes conflict but it would also depend on what was regenerated.	☺ This is compatible if implemented properly.	☺ This is heavily dependant on implementation and what is regenerated, but in principle these objectives are compatible.

		aiding better well-being.			
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	☺ Both objectives are fundamentally the same and therefore are entirely compatible.	☺ Good quality homes for all are clearly compatible with a positive influence on health and well-being.	☺ A diverse mix of housing (including affordable housing) is likely to support the needs of students and young people.	☺ This is compatible, however there is some potential for conflict on the basis that the likely need for Greenfield sites to fulfil demand for housing, of all types, will impact on rural fringes.	☺ or ? Infrastructure and housing are closely linked. E.g. water supplies. However, conflict could occur if appropriate provisions to support the housing growth are not implemented.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	☹ The provision of housing will use resources and create waste during construction and whilst in occupation. Therefore it is likely that there will be some conflict here in reconciling the impact of growth with the desire to drive down waste.	☺ In general terms less waste will improve the quality of the environment for everyone's benefit.	☹ This is not directly compatible, any increase in people would likely cause a conflict in the desire to reduce waste output.	☺ Although not directly linked, less waste will be compatible in terms of its effect on the built and natural environment.	☺ Compatible in terms of the infrastructure that is needed to enhance and provide facilities to deal with recycling and the reduction of waste.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality	☹ Some conflict as any increase in people is likely to	☺ Compatible, as an attractive managed landscape will be of	☺ Compatible, as an attractive environment will be a reason why	☺ These objectives are essentially the same and therefore	☹ If solution to movement is road building then there

of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	cause adverse effects, the right balance between growth and protection of the landscape quality would be necessary.	benefit both to good health and the environment.	business may locate to Herefordshire and it will help encourage people to the County and to remain here.	are entirely compatible.	will be a conflict with the quality of the environment, green spaces may be used, to implement the Plan Objective.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	☺ Cautiously compatible, any increase in housing provision is likely to increase the Counties carbon footprint contributing to the causes of climate change, however depending on implementation carefully controlled expansion with appropriate policies in place with set standards, compatibility may be achievable.	☺ A greener approach is clearly compatible with providing a more secure future that will benefit health and well-being.	☺ Cautiously compatible, depending on an assurance that expansion is carefully controlled and policies are in place requiring standards to be achieved.	☺ Compatible as to achieve high quality development in Herefordshire impacts of climate change need to be responded too.	☹ Conflict here if the future involved road building and potential for greater car use. These are not compatible unless it can be demonstrated that this would reduce carbon emissions.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements	☹ High quality residential schemes, avoiding like for like developments that	☺ A high quality built environment integrated into a historic and cultural setting is likely	☺ Compatible as the quality of the built environment will positively influence	☺ These are entirely compatible objectives.	☺ or ☹ Compatible with improved transport movement and infrastructure as

and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage	could conflict with the historic heritage character, should enhance our built environment.	to be compatible as benefits to health and well-being are likely.	choices about investing in Herefordshire, encouraging people to live, visit and stay in the County.		it may protect the character of the built environment by moving traffic out of town centres. However, equally the improvements could conflict with protecting the built character. The outcome is dependent on implementation, location and type.
Conclusions and recommendations from the test of reasonableness	Although this Plan Objective was considered to be reasonable it was felt necessary to advice a change in wording to reflect the affordability element of the housing issue. It was suggested to change it to "providing for appropriate and affordable housing".	An objective of health was considered reasonable however it was agreed that the planning system could not really ensure something but could promote health etc and therefore its recommended that the Plan Objective be changed to "Promote better health, well-being and life chances".	Although the Plan Objective was considered to be reasonable it was considered that the wording was trying to achieve a number of things and for clarity it was felt that the wording needed to be changed to reflect more what the Plan writers wanted to achieve from it.	This Objective was considered to be reasonable, however it was not fully understood under the background text what the objective was strictly about and therefore recommended that further information be provided on the background to this objective for clarification.	This Objective was considered to be reasonable however, it was felt that the background text could include more on infrastructure, including water, electricity, broadband etc as well as the conventional infrastructure network of roads, cycleways and pathways.

Conclusions and recommendations from Sustainability Appraisal compatibility test	The Plan Objective was mainly compatible with the Sustainability Objectives however possible conflict was highlighted between providing housing and the creation of waste, effects on landscape quality and where inappropriate development in historic built environments conflicted with new build. Further information was needed in respect to any potential unknown conflict with traffic and congestion.	This Plan Objective is 100% compatible with the principles of sustainable development, using the selected sustainability objectives. Therefore there is great opportunity to enhance upon the predicted compatibilities to ensure sustainability is delivered through quality of life principles of good health and well-being.	The majority of the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. Although it was recommended to enhance the wording, through the reasonable test, it was unclear how further education could aid sustainable regeneration. It was also noted that any increase in development would conflict with the desire to reduce waste, causing possible conflict. Both are dependant on what is regenerated and how it is achieved.	The majority of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Plan Objective. However, it was considered that the built and natural environments would be neutrally compatible with the economy and cause conflict with traffic and congestion.	Most of the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. However, it was considered necessary to get more information on housing and the effects on transport movement and infrastructure and that landscape, climate change and the built historic environment could conflict with this Plan Objective. The historic built environment in particular was assessed as potentially being either compatible or causing conflict. Implementation of appropriate development, location and type of infrastructure solution are also therefore

					going to be very important.
Outcome of reasonableness and sustainability compatibility test	The Plan writers considered the affordability recommendation but considered that the word appropriate in the objective included the affordable housing element and therefore, apart from the addition of the word "for" no changes were made to the initial Plan Objective.	The Plan writers acknowledged the importance of the reference to quality of life and replaced life chances with this reference. They accept the planning system can only go so far but are striving through the new spatial planning system to "ensure" more benefits of holistic living through good planning.	The Plan writers took on board the comments on the reasonable test and reworked the objective for greater clarity. It has been changed to "Providing for the Needs of all Generations" and in its explanatory text expands on the initial Plan Objective wording to focus on higher education, skill development, career progression, economic benefit and delivery and access to facilities and services for all. It addresses a number of key issues but in particular retaining young people in the County.	The Plan writers reviewed the comments on reasonability and SA appraisal and concluded to revise the wording of the initial Plan Objective to "Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing Our Natural, Built, Historic and Cultural Assets". It was felt that this would clarify what the Plan Objective is trying to achieve.	The Plan writers accepted the comments from the reasonableness and SA assessment but at this stage of the Plan making process where unable to do much, further information would become available on housing and various infrastructure as the evidence base material becomes available. They did however decide that the word "movement" should be replaced by "accessibility" as this is seen to be more important in terms of a sustainable development than movement itself.

Appendix B1-April 2008 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with Plan Objectives 1-5

Key:

☺ = Compatible

☹ = Possible conflict

😐 = Neutral

X = No relationship between objectives

? = Unclear, more information needed

Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the emerging Core Strategy Objectives in terms of their reasonableness and their sustainability using the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 – See Council's website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forwardplanning. This assessment follows the assessment under Appendix B1-Jan 2008 on the developing of the Plan Objectives, as these have evolved through consultation with the internal and external Options working groups i.e. comments related to the objectives not being locally distinctive enough; not "smart" in order to realistically enable monitoring; that generally they should also reflect what the vision was saying. Hence the vision has also been amended in line with these new objectives. It is considered they now reflect more fully the Strategic Options and the Sustainability Appraisal methodology themes of the economic, social and environmental factors.

Reasonable Test	Core Strategy Objective 1: It is reasonable to ensure sufficient homes and housing type and tenure as an objective for the Core Strategy and appropriate to relate this to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.	Core Strategy Objective 2: It is reasonable to have an Objective that covers all aspects of well-being.	Core Strategy Objective 3: It is reasonable to consider education and skills development in order to retain young people and also appropriate to consider life long learning for everyone.	Core Strategy Objective 4: It is reasonable to cover the reduction in the need to travel in an objective and to associate this with sustainable locations, quality of life and improvements to the environment.	Core Strategy Objective 5: It is debatable whether "throughout Herefordshire" better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices is reasonable. This is because it is considered that the landscape of Herefordshire may make some rural areas, undoubtedly in need of such provision, inaccessible and if access was achieved may well be expensive and not frequent. Recommend rewording to be changed to "through much of Herefordshire".

Core Strategy Objectives	Objective 1 (Social): To ensure sufficient homes, with a mix of housing types and tenures, are built in sustainable locations in the period to 2026, to meet the housing needs of all sections of the population of Herefordshire in accordance with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Phase 2 Revision).	Objective 2 (Social): To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of Herefordshire residents by improving access to, provision and use of, improved public open spaces, recreation and health facilities in urban and rural areas.	Objective 3 (Social): To meet the needs and aspirations of all generations through the provision and/or improvement, throughout the County, of higher education, skills development and training facilities to retain young people in the County and ensure life-long learning for all generations and support the economy.	Objective 4 (Social): To locate development in sustainable locations where access to employment, shopping, education, health, leisure, recreation and other services are available by public transport, walking, and cycling in order to reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car, and thus lessen the trend of growing harmful impacts from traffic growth and promote active travel to improve quality of life and protect the environment.	Objective 5 (Social): To ensure improved accessibility and movement from rural areas to urban areas and within urban areas to key services, places of work and recreation through the better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices throughout Herefordshire, plus the provision of an outer distributor road for Hereford, in order to improve the quality of life for County residents, businesses and visitors alike.
Sustainability Objectives					
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce	☺ Sufficient housing provision will need to be matched with sufficient new employment provision.	☺ There is a loose compatible link between employment opportunities and provision of open spaces, recreation and health facilities in terms of developer contributions towards open space provision	☺ These Objectives are compatible as meeting the educational needs of the population of the County will also maintain and support the provision of employment opportunities.	☺ This Plan Objective is seeking to locate development in sustainable locations where access to such facilities and services is available and is therefore compatible.	☺ These Objectives are compatible, as improving accessibility and movement will benefit access to employment opportunities.

		and leisure facilities gained from new employment uses.			
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	X The provision of housing can only assist in the supply of a local workforce it has no relationship with whether the supply of housing would secure a high skilled workforce.	X There is no relationship between these objectives.	☺ Compatible as the provision of training facilities to develop skills locally is likely to retain and provide the higher skilled workforce needed by higher value added businesses.	X There is no relationship between these Objectives since location of development in accessible places does not guarantee that the people living and working in these areas will have the adaptability and higher skills needed.	☺ The outer distributor road in Hereford could make the City a more sought after destination for business potentially attracting the higher skilled adaptable workforce they need.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	☺ Housing provision is likely to contribute to the conditions needed to enable a sustainable economy by providing a boost to the building industry, further population and demand for goods and services.	☺ There is a loose compatible link between these objectives as by providing good access to public open space and health facilities, new business is likely to be attracted to the County.	☺ Securing the provision of educational establishments to help retain younger generations and retrain or improve the skills of other generations is compatible with the maintenance of a sustainable economy.	☺ Provision of e infrastructure, facilities and services in sustainable locations is compatible with creating the conditions needed to sustain the local economy as businesses and investors will be attracted by the accessibility around the County and between regions.	☺ A sustainable economy and investment is partly governed by accessibility to key services, places of work and recreation and the provision of the outer distributor road is likely to form part of the success of maintaining and enhancing conditions to enable a sustainable economy, these Objectives are therefore compatible.

4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	☹ The new supply of more housing is likely to produce additional traffic and congestion and thus more pollution and the risk of more accidents. However, new development is also likely to contribute to new cycleways and pathways encouraging physical activity.	☺ Improving access to open spaces and recreational areas by public transport is compatible with the SA objective to improve health through physical activity through cycling and walking for example.	? It is unclear as to whether a possible conflict with the need to reduce congestion, traffic and accidents exists with the provision of training facilities to support the economy. Appropriate sustainable locations accessible mostly by sustainable modes of travel would be the ideal to reduce any conflict.	☺ These Objectives are compatible since the Plan Objective is aiming to locate facilities and services in areas where most people can access them by public transport, walking or cycling, assisting in improving health, reducing traffic volumes, congestion and pollution and risk of accident.	☺ This Plan Objective is seeking to provide better provision of safe, affordable and frequent travel choices in the County including an outer distributor road and therefore these Objectives are compatible with reducing road traffic, congestion and accidents, although it is accepted that improvements may also encourage greater use of the private car.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	☺ New housing is likely to attract developer contributions for health services, which may assist in improving geographical disparities in the County.	☺ Improving access to improved open space, leisure and health facilities is compatible with reducing health disparities geographically and demographically.	X There would appear to be no clear relationship between education and health disparities.	☺This Plan Objective is aiming to improve the health of those people in sustainable locations, as they are encouraged to cycle and walk more to reach employment, shops and other services and facilities.	☺ Provision of better access to key services under this Plan Objective will include health facilities and will aid reductions in health disparities geographically and demographically, potentially resulting in compatibility between these Objectives.
6. Improve equality of access to and	☺ Housing provision may attract	☺ Improving health, well-being and quality of	☺ These objectives are entirely compatible	☺ The plan Objective is aiming for provision of	☺ Improved accessibility and

engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	contributions towards community facilities such as leisure and educational centres, improved access and encouraging engagement in such activities.	life is compatible with improving equality of access to and engagement in a range of community activities such as access to cultural and leisure facilities.	with one another, particularly with regards to access and engagement in educational activities.	these types of community activities in sustainable locations and is therefore likely to improve the accessibility to them.	movement to key services, places of work and recreation will assist in the equality of access to community and leisure activities and therefore these Objectives are compatible.
7. Sustainable Regeneration	☺ Housing can contribute towards urban and rural regeneration.	☺ Providing such facilities will contribute towards well-being and health benefits and sustainable regeneration, particularly through retention of facilities in rural areas.	☺ These objectives are considered compatible, as without provision of improved educational training facilities, sustainable regeneration would be unlikely.	☺ If sustainable locations turn out to be Hereford, the Market Towns and some larger villages it would be acceptable to say that these areas would be sustainably regenerated, however sustainable regeneration of the rural areas within Herefordshire is just as important for this County.	☺ Sustainable regeneration is only likely with improved accessibility and movement therefore these Objectives are compatible.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county	X Generally there is no relationship between providing housing and educational achievement.	☺ Academic success is compatible with the well-being and quality of life aspects of this Plan Objective.	☺ These objectives are entirely compatible, it would be expected that educational achievement would rise as improvement to accessibility to higher	X Although this Plan Objective is creating access to education there is no guarantee that it will raise educational achievement across the	? It is unclear as to whether there is a relationship between educational achievement and improved accessibility and movement around

			education, skills development, training and life long learning facilities were utilised.	County, therefore there is no relationship between these Objectives.	the County. Further information is needed on where the demand for access to educational facilities is apparent.
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County	☺ Housing provision is compatible with this SA objective as the design of new development is important in reducing crime and anti social behaviour.	☺ To aim to improve health, well-being and quality of life through providing access to and improvements to open space and recreation areas it's likely to be compatible with the reduction in crime and anti social behaviour as more people engage in their use.	? It is acknowledged that engagement in education and training is likely to lessen the risk of vulnerable people potentially committing crime.	X There does not appear to be a relationship between crime and locating development in sustainable locations.	X There is no clear relationship between the objectives to ensure improved accessibility and movement from rural areas to urban areas and within urban areas and to reduce crime.
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the County	☺ Providing housing of good quality and the right type and tenure for local needs is compatible with reducing poverty and social exclusion.	☺ Provision of and improving accessibility to open space, recreational areas and health facilities to aid well-being and quality of life is compatible with the SA Objective to reduce poverty and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.	☺ Engagement in educational and training facilities and skills development is compatible with reducing poverty as it has the potential to raise expectations and aspirations.	☺ Evidence suggests that the most deprived areas in the County are concentrated in areas of Hereford and Leominster. This Plan Objective is indirectly likely to regenerate such areas by creating access to facilities and services needed to restore the areas, reducing poverty and	☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives since affordable, frequent travel choices will promote equality and social inclusion and link all areas in the County to assist in reducing poverty.

				closing the gap between them and the rest of the County.	
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	☺ This SA objective is entirely compatible with the Plan Objective for providing the right type and tenure of housing in sustainable locations.	☺ Providing health facilities and open areas is compatible with providing a pleasant environment in which to live.	? It is unclear what relationship there is between education and good quality affordable housing. Further information will be needed to assess this Plan Objective in relation to retention of young people and any potential compatibility with regards to provisions for first time buyers and affordable housing.	☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to provide development in sustainable locations and is therefore compatible with the SA Objective to provide good quality affordable housing.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to make a more pleasant environment to improve quality of life for residents, partly through the provision of the outer distributor road and better provision of public transport.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	☹ Generally this Plan Objective is likely to conflict with this SA Objective, as any additional homes will create more waste. However, possible compatibility is achievable through mitigation measures that should ensure new development minimises the use of non-reusable	X There is no relationship between waste and the provision of public open space and health facilities, although such buildings may produce waste which may conflict with this SA objective.	☹ There could be possible conflict between provision and improvement to education facilities and reducing waste, as any new development is likely to create waste.	☹ Any new development, even if in sustainable locations, is likely to conflict with the need to reduce waste however, new development could incorporate the use of recyclable materials and encourage recycling through appropriate provisions to divide waste streams for end	☹ There is likely to be a possible conflict between these Objectives as the outer distributor road and other potential constructional improvements to accessibility is likely to produce construction and demolition wastes. There is potential for the use of recycled

	materials during construction and provides facilities within the development to encourage recycling at end use.			users.	materials in construction, reducing the need for non-recyclable materials and the wastes produced to be recycled.
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand County biodiversity	☺ There is likely to be some conflict as new homes will result in some loss of biodiversity value depending on the location of any new housing, however new development may also restore, maintain or create new areas.	☺ There is a loose compatible link with biodiversity and provision of open areas as these areas could be used to value, maintain, restore and expand the Counties biodiversity assisting in well-being and quality of life.	X There is no clear relationship between the objectives for education and biodiversity.	☺ In the event that sustainable locations means Hereford and the Market Towns and some appropriate larger villages in the County then areas of biodiversity around the rest of County are likely to be unaffected as a result of the concentrated focus of development. Developer contributions may assist in maintaining, expanding and restoring sites. These Objectives are therefore generally compatible.	? It is unclear what compatibility issues there are with improving accessibility to key services and biodiversity. Location of new accessibility and important biodiversity areas is necessary. If biodiversity rich areas are affected then potential conflict could occur.

14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	☹ There is possible conflict here during construction and end use; natural resources and energy will be used at both stages. However, it is possible to limit their use and integrate energy saving measures in new build to lessen the effects.	X There is no clear relationship between these objectives as providing access to health facilities and recreational open areas has limited effect on resource efficiency.	☹ The buildings constructed for education and training may cause conflict since they are likely to use energy and natural resources during their construction and end use.	☺ Making public transport and walking and cycling more readily accessible is compatible with this SA Objective however, development of new services and facilities such as new employment sites, shops and education buildings are all going to use natural resources and energy in their construction and during their end use, causing conflict between these Objectives. These Objectives are therefore overall neutral in their likely outcome.	☺ These Objectives are generally neutral in their outcome as improved public transport provision and accessibility could be offset by increased car use of the outer distributor road.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	☺ Whilst new development may provide contributions to enhance and restore, areas of landscape value new development may involve the loss of areas of good landscape quality and value.	☺ The Plan Objective is entirely compatible with enhancing and restoring landscapes in terms of open areas.	X There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives for education and skills development aspirations and landscape quality.	☺ If sustainable locations mean Hereford, the Market Towns and some larger villages then development, with a concentrated focus for development in these locations, is unlikely to affect other more rural areas of the County	☹ There could be possible conflict between these Objectives as creating improved accessibility and movement between urban and rural areas might adversely affect the landscape quality of the County.

				protecting their landscape quality. Developer contributions in the more urban areas could contribute to restoration and enhancement schemes in other areas. These Objectives are therefore compatible.	
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	☹ There is possible conflict here, as new homes will produce emissions through energy use, which will contribute to the effects of climate change unless carbon neutral design is well integrated. It may also be vulnerable to the effects of climate change if development is inappropriately located, such as within an Air Quality Management Area.	☺ Any improvements to open areas is compatible with reducing the Counties vulnerability and contribution to climate change, as these green areas will absorb greenhouse gases and encourage access by walking and cycling reducing the need to travel by the private car.	X There is no direct relationship between the objectives of education aspirations and climate change.	☺ The Plan Objective is seeking to reduce the need to travel by the private car by providing access to public transport, walking and cycling to reduce impacts from growth in traffic and pollution and therefore this objective is compatible with the need to reduce the Counties vulnerability and contribution to climate change.	☺ Overall these Objectives are neutral in their outcome as improvements to access and movement will decrease congestion, reducing concentrated areas of pollution. However, the improvements will also have the potential to increase the use of the private car to access the key services.
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being,	☹ Possible conflict here as new development places extra demand on the	☺ Compatible as the green open spaces will capture water and reduce rapid run off	X There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives for flood	☺ These Objectives are compatible as sustainable locations will be in places, which	☺ Location of improvements is important as inappropriate

the economy and the environment	fluvial system of Herefordshire with sewage treatment and water supply need. The inappropriate location of new homes may also have detrimental effects in terms of increased risk of flooding on both the environment and public well-being.	from built up areas reducing flood risk to homes and business. Location of health facilities would need to be away from high flood areas to be compatible.	risk and education.	will endeavour to be away from flood risk areas, support well-being, the economy and protect the environment.	development in flood risk areas could exasperate the current flood risk issues. New improvements could incorporate flood management but have the potential to move the flooding issue from one area to another. A holistic approach to the fluvial system in the County is needed.
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	☹ Any new development is potentially going to create pollution such as carbon emissions, dust, noise and contaminated runoff from the storage of materials such as cement and other lime containing building materials, detrimental to the natural environment, during construction phases and at end use. However, there are opportunities to build in energy efficient principles into development to	☺ Generally these Objectives are compatible, however it should be acknowledged that improving access to open areas might result in more pollution generation such as littering, as well as protecting the environment through the provision of such areas to benefit well-being.	X There does not appear to be a relationship between the objectives on educational and minimisation of pollution.	☺ Any new development is likely to create pollution at construction and end use, however this Plan Objective is aiming to develop in sustainable locations, which might offset some of the effects through encouraging people to use public transport, walk and cycle to their destinations and protect environmental resources.	☺ Overall these Objectives are neutral as the Plan Objective seeks to provide choice of movement, possibly through more sustainable modes of travel (public transport, walking and cycling). However, the improvements to infrastructure in general could also encourage people to use the private car more as the road network becomes less congested.

	minimise the effects at after use.				
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	☺ Building new homes in sustainable locations, at appropriate densities will ensure that land is efficiently used and well integrated and balanced with its surroundings.	☺ By integrating the provision of open space and health facilities into development it is considered compatible in terms of efficient and balanced land use.	☺ By incorporating the provision and improvement of higher education facilities in sustainable locations for all generations it is considered compatible with ensuring integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	☺ These Objectives are generally compatible as sustainable locations will be aiming to use land efficiently and will ensure integration with other areas with the provision of services.	☺ The integration of improved accessibility and movement, including the provision of the outer distributor road are potentially efficient uses of land, as it will assist in the freer movement of traffic around the County and Hereford, respectively. These Objectives are therefore compatible.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage	☻ New homes could conflict with this objective harming the historic environment of a settlement through inappropriate development or be compatible with it through excellent design measures and sympathetic location of new buildings.	☺ Existing settlements may have a history and pattern of open space within their confines and therefore provision and/or access to open spaces is compatible with this SA Objective. However, care is needed to avoid any conflict that might occur with any new build for a leisure or health facility.	☹ There could be potential conflict between development of education and training facilities and the historic character and built quality of settlements.	☻ These Objectives are likely to be neutral overall as both have equal compatibility and conflict potential. Sustainable locations are likely to have a built quality worthy of protection and enhancement whilst the sole focus for development in these sustainable locations might result in over development which could detract and	☻ These Objectives are neutral overall as the outer distributor road to Hereford is likely to reduce the amount of through traffic, restoring the character of the historic City. However, these new improvements to accessibility and movement could also place pressure on the built environment for new roads, bus stops and stations, rail links

				overshadow the existing cultural, historic heritage of an area.	etc, which could alter the appearance of the location affected.
Conclusions and recommendations	It is recommended that the Plan writers identify what a sustainable location means in the Plan Objective wording. Where are these sustainable locations likely to be in the County? See recommendation for Plan Objective 4. In terms of compatibility the majority of the SA objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. Possible conflicts were highlighted with traffic, congestion and road safety; waste minimisation and the use of non-reusable materials; use of natural resources and energy; climate change; flood risk; and pollution.	Nearly all the SA Objectives are compatible with this Plan Objective. It is therefore recommended that opportunities for enhancement are recognised early on and integrated into the Options to ensure the most is obtained from this well-being and quality of life Plan Objective. For example, excellent infrastructure to provide the links necessary to make this Plan Objective deliverable; biodiversity should be enhanced to the fullest by incorporating new wildlife areas within new provisions, such as ponds, wetlands, grasslands, bat and bird boxes and tree planting to name but a few. This could assist in climate	Many of the SA objectives have no relationship with the Plan Objective. However, equally there were a lot of compatible issues that could be enhanced and developed through the implementation of this Plan Objective. Such as, ensuring the facilities are appropriate to the needs of the local businesses to sustain the economy, integration of educational facilities into regeneration schemes, and ensuring equal access to all to the facilities provided assisting in lowering poverty and social exclusion. However, some conflicts were highlighted and therefore the areas of waste minimisation and	It is recommended that where sustainable locations are identified as "where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation and other services are available by public transport, walking, and cycling" that this be used in Plan Objective 1 to describe sustainable locations in that Objective too. It will be necessary through preferred options to identify where these sustainable locations are in Herefordshire. The Plan Objective is predominately compatible with the SA Objectives. It will be important to secure developer contributions for protecting and enhancing our areas of biodiversity to	The reasonable test recommended that the Plan Objective wording be changed from "throughout Herefordshire" to "through much of Herefordshire". The Plan Objective was mostly compatible with the SA Objectives. Potential conflict was highlighted with reducing waste and minimising the use of non-reusable materials; and adverse affects on the landscape quality of the County. Construction phases of new improvements should ensure that waste is reused where possible and recycled wherever possible. Any materials used in the build should be sourced from recycled materials in the first instance. It is

		change alleviation, flood risk and pollution minimisation.	the use of non-reusable materials; the efficient use of natural resources and energy; and the protection of the built quality of historic settlements are in need of further work to ensure this Plan Objective does not adversely affect these factors. In addition it is recommended that further information is obtained on how this Plan Objective is likely to affect traffic congestion, road safety and sustainable modes of travel in order to assess its compatibility with the SA Objective.	safeguard them for the future. Construction techniques should be sort that reduce carbon emissions and use natural resources more efficiently, such as energy and water. It is essential that sustainable locations mean the avoidance of developing in the functional flood plain and that significant appropriate mitigation is developed for development in flood zones with the agreement of the Environment Agency. Although it is important to focus development in the most sustainable locations it should be acknowledged that some land uses will not be appropriate in urban areas and therefore the proposed development should be sustainable not only in terms of location but also after	essential that biodiversity assets are mapped and used in the identification of areas to be improved for movement so that predicted impacts of this Objective (and others) can be considered further. The green infrastructure study is likely to provide the necessary information. However, Council Departments will need to continue to work together to choice appropriate locations for improvements under the Strategic Options, given the results of any study. It is important to ensure that any new improvements are located, designed and implemented sympathetically to the landscape in which they are constructed and serve. Proper workable solutions to get people to walk and cycle and

				use - taking, noise, dust and other pollution emissions into consideration. It will be important to ensure that development is in keeping with its existing built environment in terms of character and density in order to enhance local distinctiveness. Conflicts are likely with the need to reduce waste and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling. There are opportunities here to lessen the conflict through appropriate design to integrate the latest green technologies into development, use recycled materials in construction and provide good facilities for end users to recycle and compost. The integration of renewable sources of energy	use public transport more often is needed if a reduction in the use of the private car is to be achieved. The appropriate location of new infrastructure is necessary if new improved movement around the County is to be delivered. Flood risk areas need to be avoided and if mitigation is necessary this should be implemented in terms of looking at the whole fluvial system that exists in the County as an appropriate solution. Finally, the design and integration of new improvements needs to be appropriate to the built historic environment in order not to detract or harm the existing historic character of the areas affected.

				generation would also be ideal, as would the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems, where these are appropriate.	

Appendix B1-April 2008 – Compatibility of SA Objectives with Plan Objectives 6-10

Key:

☺ = Compatible

☹ = Possible conflict

😐 = Neutral

X = No relationship between objectives

? = Unclear, more information needed

Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the emerging Core Strategy Objectives in terms of their reasonableness and their sustainability using the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 – See Council's Website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forwardplanning. This assessment follows the assessment under Appendix B1-Jan 2008 on the developing of the Plan Objectives, as these have evolved through consultation with the internal and external Options working groups i.e. comments related to the objectives not being locally distinctive enough; not "smart" in order to realistically enable monitoring; that generally they should also reflect what the vision was saying. Hence the vision has also been amended in line with these new objectives. It is considered they now reflect more fully the Strategic Options and the Sustainability Appraisal methodology themes of the economic, social and environmental factors.

Reasonable Test	Core Strategy Objective 6: It is reasonable to have an Objective that seeks to widen the Counties employment base but it is also important to allow existing business to diversity and grow and allow traditional businesses to start.	Core Strategy Objective 7: Although considered reasonable to have an Objective that seeks to enhance service centres and hence the economy it is not considered necessary to name ESG, as it draws attention away from any potential development of other economic centres around the County.	Core Strategy Objective 8: It is considered reasonable to include tourism as an Objective, however it is debatable as to whether sustainable tourism is fully achievable and reference to this should therefore be reconsidered. With regards to the theme it has been associated with, it is considered that tourism brings largely economic benefit for the County and it is therefore recommended to refer to this Plan Objective as an economic theme rather than a social one.	Core Strategy Objective 9: An Objective that seeks to use land efficiently, reduce the use of natural resources and integrate sustainable methods in construction is entirely reasonable. Although regard needs to be given to cost of techniques and the deliverability by developers as other planning contributions from them may be reduced in order to pay for these other requirements. It is necessary to consider adaptation to climate change and flood risk and therefore it is recommended that the wording "taken account of" is replaced with "adapted to" in both instances.	Core Strategy Objective 10: It is reasonable to consider the promotion, conservation and utilisation of the natural, built, historic and cultural environment of the County. However, reference to "reversing current trends" should be revised as some current trends are positive. The wording "reverse negative trends" would be more appropriate.

Core Strategy Objectives SA Objective	Objective 6 (Economic): To diversify and strengthen the existing employment base by attracting higher value added industries and environmental technologies to the County and enable local businesses to start, grow and diversify in order to raise resident incomes.	Objective 7 (Economic): To enhance the County's service centres and thus the economy, by implementing the Edgar Street Grid Masterplan in Hereford City, providing better linkages between the market towns and their catchment villages and improving the economic resilience and integration of village-based services.	Objective 8 (Social): To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by utilising the opportunities provided by, and contributing to the maintenance and restoration of, our high quality natural and built environment through increased provision of tourist accommodation in urban areas and visitor information / facilities in rural areas.	Objective 9 (Environmental Quality): To work with partners to deliver well designed places, spaces and buildings which use land efficiently, reduce the consumption of natural resources through sustainable construction methods, increase the use of renewable forms of energy, reduce waste and pollution and take account of the wider impacts of climate change including flood risk and take account of the availability of water supply and sewerage facilities.	Objective 10 (Environmental Quality): To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, reversing current trends and ensuring best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of	☺ This Plan Objective is entirely compatible with providing high quality, local employment, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to provide better links between the Market Towns and other areas and will therefore support accessibility to employment opportunities to these	☺ The Plan Objective is likely to maintain and enhance the provision of local and easily accessible employment opportunities through tourism and are therefore compatible.	☺ These objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to provide well-designed places and buildings that are likely to provide the high quality environment needed for employment opportunities.	☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is likely to attract business into the area through the conservation, promotion and utilisation of the built, historic and cultural assets in the

the local workforce		service centres.			County.
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce	☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to attract a higher skilled workforce through attracting higher value added industries and is therefore compatible with the SA Objective.	☺ There is a loose compatibility between better links to service centres and securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce, as better linkages will encourage business and the workforce to an area to meet the demand.	☹ There is potential for conflict here, as the tourism industry it unlikely to require a high skilled workforce.	X There is no relationship between securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce and well designed places, spaces and buildings that incorporate the best in sustainable techniques.	☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is seeking to promote and enjoy the built, historic and cultural assets of the County and it is considered that these factors might attract a skilled workforce into the County.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	☺ The Plan Objective aims to diversify and strengthen existing and attract new business into the County and as such is compatible with maintaining conditions needed for a sustainable economy.	☺ These Objectives are compatible, as provision of better linkages to the service centres will enhance conditions to enable a sustainable economy.	☺ Utilising the County's high quality natural and built environment for developing the County's tourism industry is compatible with enabling a sustainable economy.	☺ It is considered that development that is built with the most sustainable practices in mind are likely to maintain and enhance conditions that enable continued investment in the economy and therefore these Objectives are compatible.	☺ There is a loose compatibility between these Objectives as the Plan Objective is aiming to safeguard the County's current stock of environmental capital and it is acknowledged that the County has the opportunity to benefit economically from its environmental assets, thus sustaining the economy.
4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and	☹ There could be a possible conflict as businesses are attracted to the area	☺ Better linkages will encourage walking and cycling and provide quicker and easier	☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral overall, as some tourism activities may	☺ It is possible that well designed places will encourage more walking and cycling and	☺ The Core Strategy Objective is seeking to enjoy the County's built, historic and cultural

accidents and improve health through physical activity by - increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking	and businesses grow, more vehicles on the road could result.	routes for public transport reducing pollution and congestion and improving health, improving economic resilience, making these Objectives compatible.	improve health through walking and cycling, however additional pressure on the use of the private car for transportation to reach the areas of interest, particularly the more rural spots will conflict with reducing traffic and congestion.	might reduce congestion through better laid out roads, but its unknown whether reductions in traffic volumes are likely with the Plan Objectives aim. Nevertheless, the Objectives are considered to be compatible as any lack of reduction in use of the private car will be off set by the integration of renewable energy and reductions in pollution assisting improvements in health.	assets and this would be compatible with reducing traffic and congestion. Health might be improved as people walk and cycle utilising, enjoying and capitalising on the natural environmental assets of the County.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all	X There is no relationship between health and business development Objectives.	☺ These Objectives are compatible, as the provision of better linkages will encourage more people to walk and cycle. These links may also be to places of recreational space, leisure or health facilities aiding an improvement in health disparities.	☺ The Plan Objective aims to develop Herefordshire for quality leisure visits and thus this is compatible with improving health for local people and those visiting as tourists.	☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible as any reduction in natural resource consumption, use of renewable energy, reduction in waste and pollution are likely to improve health across the County.	☺ There is a loose compatibility as the Core Strategy Objective is aiming to promote and enjoy the natural environmental assets of the County and this may encourage people to become healthier through activity.

6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	☺ There is a loose compatibility between business and community activities, as the businesses started and diversified in the County could be associated with culture, education, leisure etc, improving access to such facilities.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as better links will improve equality of access to cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities as these are likely to be located in the service centres.	☺ By developing Herefordshire as a tourist amenity it is compatible that such development will improve equality of access and engagement in community activities.	X There is no clear relationship between the SA Objective to improve access to community activities and the Plan Objective to deliver well designed places, spaces and buildings.	☺ The Objectives are compatible as the Core Strategy Objective is aiming to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County to its fullest benefit for the whole community and therefore access to community activities will be likely.
7. Sustainable Regeneration	☺ The Plan Objective by seeking to diversify and attract business is compatible with sustainable regeneration.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as sustainable regeneration will be achieved through the provision of the access between Market Towns and their catchment villages and integration of services centres with village based services.	☺ Tourism is compatible with the sustainable regeneration of the County. Tourism will bring financial benefits to the local community.	☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to integrate many sustainable practices in new development and therefore it is compatible with sustainable regeneration.	☺ It is considered that safeguarding the County's environmental capital is part of the sustainable regeneration of the County and therefore these Objectives are compatible.
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the County	☺ There is a loose compatibility between raising educational achievement and attracting business to the County, as business will be attracted and	X There does not appear to be a relationship between educational achievement and service centres and better linkages.	X There is no relationship between the education and tourism objectives.	X There is no relationship between educational achievement and delivery of well designed places, spaces and buildings.	X There is no clear relationship between safeguarding the County's environmental capital and educational achievement objectives.

	encouraged to start, diversify and grow if the local workforce is educated to required levels.				
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the County	☺ There is a loose compatibility between reducing crime and diversifying and strengthening employment base in the County as, opportunities to gain employment may raise aspirations and reduce the amount of crime and anti social behaviour being committed.	X There does not appear to be a relationship between reducing crime and service centres and better linkages.	X There is no relationship between the crime and tourism objectives.	☺ There is a loose compatible relationship between reducing crime and well-designed places, spaces and buildings as it is possible to design out crime in new development.	☺ The Objective is aiming to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy the County's natural, built, historic and cultural assets and it is considered that this is compatible with reducing the fear of crime, crime and anti-social behaviour as it gives a sense of place and community to local people.
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County	☺ Diversifying the business base in the County will create a greater opportunity for employment, aiding reductions in poverty and social exclusion and therefore these Objectives are generally compatible.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as, provision of better linkages is likely to close the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County by improving the economic resilience of the Market Towns and surrounding villages.	☺ Although it is accepted that tourism jobs are generally relatively low paid positions, it is considered that these vacancies could allow the gap between the richest and poorest areas in the County to start closing as wealth comes into the County	X There is no clear relationship between delivering well designed places, spaces and buildings and reducing poverty by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.	☺ These Objectives are loosely compatible as the Objective is seeking to benefit the whole community through capitalising on the County's environmental assets. By conserving, promoting, utilising and enjoying the natural, built, historic and

			through tourism.		cultural assets there might be improvements seen in social cohesion, closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the County and the rest of the County.
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	X There does not appear to be a relationship between housing provision and diversification of the economy.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as housing provision is likely to be most appropriately located in areas where centres are well serviced and linked.	X There is no relationship between provision of housing and tourism objectives.	☺ The Objective is aiming to deliver well-designed buildings and is therefore compatible with providing everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality housing.	☺ The Objective is aiming to conserve and utilise the built and historic environment and as such is loosely compatible with providing the safe and pleasant environment needed for good quality housing.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	☺ Attracting, diversifying and growing a business base is likely to produce waste rather than reduce it. However, an overall neutral outcome is possible as the Plan Objective also aims to attract environmental technologies into the County. These could be associated with waste composting and	☹ There is possible conflict between these Objectives as any development is likely to create waste. Opportunities exist with the development of better linkages to develop recycling centres and composting facilities close to the service centres where appropriate and therefore meet the	☹ Growth in tourism in the County is unlikely to assist in the reduction in waste and therefore a possible conflict is likely.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to reduce waste and pollution through well-designed places, spaces and buildings, integrating sustainable methods.	X There is no clear relationship between reducing waste and minimising the use of non-reusable materials and safeguarding the County's environmental capital from loss and damage.

	recycling schemes to assist in waste reduction to landfill.	proximity principle for dealing with waste.			
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand County biodiversity	☺ Some of the businesses in this Objective are likely to be associated with rural areas and therefore have the potential to contribute to maintaining and expanding biodiversity. Therefore these Objectives are potentially compatible.	☺ These Objectives have compatibility and potential conflict as improved links will maintain access to and potentially restore areas of County biodiversity supporting tourism economics, however equally the improvements themselves could cause adverse effects to biodiversity areas, creating an overall neutral outcome.	☺ The Counties high quality natural environment is likely to attract tourists and this plan objective is aiming to maintain and restore this, assisting in valuing, restoring and expanding biodiversity and thus the Objectives are compatible.	☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible, as reductions in pollution will benefit biodiversity across the County, particularly through improvements in water and diffuse air pollution.	☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, and (if as recommended) "reverse the negative trends" and ensure the best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space, biodiversity will be valued, maintained, restored and expanded.
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	☺ Higher value added industries might use large quantities of energy, however some of the environmental technologies may be in renewable energy production and recycling, creating a possible neutral outcome.	☺ These Objectives are overall neutral in their effect, as enhancement of the service centres and creation of linkages will use natural resources during construction, whilst better links will potentially aid energy efficiencies as more	☹ Tourism attractions, transportation and accommodation are going to require the use of natural resources and energy and hence there is likely to be possible conflict with the need for efficiency savings.	☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to increase the use of renewable forms of energy and reduce the consumption of natural resources.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve the natural assets of the County and in doing so will seek to use natural resources more efficiently.

		people are encouraged to use public transport and walk and cycle.			
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	☺ Development could have detrimental effects on landscape quality, however with developer contributions restoration and enhancement of the landscape is possible, creating a neutral overall outcome.	? It is unknown what the compatibility of these Objectives is as it is unclear what impacts may be placed on landscape quality from the enhancement of County service centres and provision of better linkages.	☺ The Counties high quality natural environment is likely to attract tourists and this plan objective is aiming to maintain and restore this, assisting in the protection and enhancement of landscape quality and thus the Objectives are compatible.	☺ Indirectly these Objectives are compatible, as well designed places, spaces and buildings will benefit landscape quality across the County.	☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as by safeguarding the County's current stock of environmental capital from loss and damage, and (if as recommended) "reverse the negative trends" and ensure the best condition as well as enhancing and appropriately managing future green space, landscape quality will be valued, protected, enhanced and restored.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem	☺ These Objectives are neutral, as new business could equally add to the Counties contribution to climate change and provide the types of business that help in its stabilisation.	☺ Overall these Objectives are neutral as new development is likely to contribute to the effects of climate change and is equally likely to assist in minimising the effects as the Plan Objective to aiming to provide better links between Market	☹ There are likely to be possible conflicts with these Objectives as developing the County as a tourism destination is likely to result in carbon emissions from transportation and accommodation that will contribute to climate change.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming (if the recommendation to amend the wording of the Plan Objective is implemented) to adapt to the impacts of climate change.	☺ The Conservation of the County's natural environment will aid reductions in reducing the impacts of climate change and therefore these objectives are compatible.

		Towns and catchment villages. This is likely to encourage self-sufficiency within a local area reducing climate change impacts.			
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	X There is no direct relationship between flood risk and diversifying and strengthening the business base of the County.	? It is unclear what the impacts on flood risk are likely to be as a result of enhancement to service centres and provision of linkages between Market Towns and catchment villages, more information is needed.	☹ There could be possible conflicts with these Objectives, depending on location of development, as developing the County as a tourism destination places greater pressure for transportation and accommodation that will contribute to climate change.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming (if the recommendation to amend the wording of the Plan Objective is implemented) to adapt to the impacts of climate change including flood risk.	☺ The Conservation of the County's natural environment will aid reductions in reducing the effects of flooding and therefore these objectives are compatible.
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	☺ Business is likely to create pollution, however the environmental technologies also encouraged into the Counties economy, by this Plan Objective, may off set or minimise pollution creating a neutral outcome.	☺ These Objectives are likely to have a neutral outcome as new development in the enhancement of service centres is likely to create pollution whilst better linkages will encourage more people to use public transport, walk and cycle reducing car use and local pollution.	☺ The Plan Objective is likely to cause conflict and compatibility as tourism will create localised pollution e.g. from transportation, whilst it will also protect and enhance the environmental resources. Therefore the overall compatibility is likely to be neutral.	☺ These Objectives are entirely compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to reduce pollution by reducing the consumption of natural resources through the increase in use of renewable energy and sustainable construction methods.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is aiming to conserve, natural assets by safeguarding environmental capital from loss or damage. It is considered that this will contribute to minimising local pollution and protect and enhance environmental

					resources.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	☺ Diversification of the existing business base demonstrates efficient and balanced land use. Whilst new businesses are also likely to be integrated into the Counties economic centres creating compatibility between the Objectives.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as enhancement of the County's service centres and better linkages are an integrated, efficient and balanced way of using land.	☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to locate tourist accommodation in urban areas and visitor information/facilities in rural areas, which appears to be compatible with integrated and balanced land use.	☺ These Objectives are considered to be compatible as well designed places, spaces and buildings are likely to include the assurance of integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve, promote and utilise the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County and as such it is considered that this will ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage	☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral, as the existing employment base and character of the County is likely to attract business, which may also enhance the built environment. However, as business development is strengthened, the historic environment and cultural heritage of the County could be undervalued and not sufficiently protected from over-development.	☺ These Objectives are likely to be neutral, as the enhancement of the County's service centres will value, protect and enhance the character of the built environment, whilst over-development of the service centres or inappropriate development is likely to adversely affect the historic and cultural heritage of the County.	☺ The Plan Objective is aiming to maintain and restore the high quality natural and built environment of the County through tourism and thus this is compatible will valuing, protecting and enhancing the character of the historic environment and cultural heritage of our settlements.	☺ It is considered that sustainable construction methods will blend with the historic settlements of the County but it is accepted that design of such buildings will need to be in keeping with the existing area to ensure the protection and value of the area to ensure enhancement.	☺ These Objectives are compatible as the Plan Objective is seeking to conserve, promote and utilise the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the County and as such it is considered that this will value, protect and enhance the character of the built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the County's historic environment and cultural heritage.

Conclusions and recommendations	The Objective was considered reasonable but it should be noted that existing business and local historic trends in employment should be maintained and used in starting, diversifying and growing new business. This Objective is mostly compatible with the principles of sustainable development. Only one conflict for reducing traffic, congestion and pollution was highlighted and as such efforts will be needed to ensure that reductions are achieved as this will have benefits for incoming and continued investment and growth in the County. Many of the SA Objectives had neutral compatibility with the Plan Objective and therefore it is necessary to review the aspects on reducing waste and use of non	The Objective was considered reasonable however it is recommended that the Objective be reworded to place more of an emphasis on how the service centres will be delivered, for example "Providing better linkages between the market towns and their catchment villages and improving the economic resilience and integration of village-based services, to enhance the County's service centres and thus the economy (e.g. in Hereford City, the implementation of the ESG project)". Reference to the Masterplan should be omitted, as this is not the Council's responsibility. In terms of sustainability most of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective. A conflict	The Objective is considered reasonable, however it is recommended to make reference to it being an economic theme rather than a social theme, as tourism has more to offer the Herefordshire economy than socially. Reference to sustainable tourism should be reconsidered, as strictly speaking tourism cannot be sustainable due to transport and activity pressures. Most of the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective on tourism. Conflicts were highlighted with securing an adaptable and higher skilled workforce; waste; use of natural resources and energy efficiency; climate change; and flood risk. Opportunities should be sort for enhancement whilst	This Objective is considered reasonable however, the plan writers should be aware of the possibility of lower planning contributions under Section 106 agreements being achieved as costs of development rise as a consequence of more expensive environmental friendly construction techniques. Furthermore it is recommended that the words "take account of" within the Objective be removed in both instances and replaced with "adapt to" as climate change/flood risk and availability of water supply and sewage facilities is essential for a sustainable development. Apart from the 4 SA Objectives that were predicted not to have	The Objective is considered reasonable, however reference to "reversing current trends" should be reworded to "reverse the negative trends" as some current trends in the County are positive. All the SA Objectives are compatible with the Objective all except 2 of the SA Objectives, which were considered to have no relationship with the Objective. The compatible Objectives should be looked at in the next stages of the Core Strategy's preparation to ensure that opportunities for enhancement are written into developing the Options.

	reusable materials; use of natural resources and energy; landscape quality; climate change; pollution; and the historic, cultural and built heritage of the County to ensure that any conflicts are reduced and any compatibilities are enhanced in later stages of the Plan.	was noted with the need to reduce waste and minimise the use of non-reusable materials; whilst more information was needed on the effects on landscape quality and flood risk. Particular consideration to biodiversity; natural resources and energy use; climate change; pollution; and the historic built heritage of the County will be necessary to ensure that the possible conflicts are reduced and the opportunities are maximised.	conflicts should be reduced to a minimum in developing the Core Strategy further in later stages. Likewise the predicted neutral outcomes for traffic, congestion and sustainable modes of travel and minimisation of pollution, should be considered for their compatibility to enhance these aspects and conflicts to reduce their effects.	any relationship with the Plan Objective the remaining 16 SA Objectives were compatible with the Plan Objective. It is recommended that these compatibilities are enhanced and opportunities harnessed in the later stages of developing the Options and preferred Option and in developing the core policies.	

Appendix B2 – Developing Options

Herefordshire Spatial Options

Questions considered during the appraisal of the Options in the workshop:
- Are the options distinct and clear? (Reasonable)
- What are their likely adverse effects, can they be prevented, reduced, offset? (SA)
- Can positive effects be enhanced? (SA)
- Can the effects be quantified? (SA)
- Who are the winners and losers? (Community Engagement)

i.e. - How do the options perform?

Where should all the new housing, employment and other growth go?

The workshop on Developing the emerging Plan Options considered all types of growth in general terms looking at spatial planning issues that could be incorporated into each of the Options as they were developing. The group had each of the questions set out above in mind when assessing each of the emerging Options along with the following known factor.

If half of all the new homes, according to the latest Revision to West Midlands RSS, are to go to Hereford, where should the remaining half be built, given the principles of sustainable development?

Option A	Concentrate the development of new homes within the Market Towns		
The Reasonableness Test	Most at the workshop group saw this Option as reasonable. Although it was asked whether there were any villages that were on the threshold of becoming a Market Town. It was suggested that the wording be changed from 'within a Market Town' to 'in and around Market Towns'		
The Community Engagement Test	There was a feeling that there may be objections from rural areas such as the Golden Valley, as it would seem as though they will be forgotten. Rural areas may feel neglected, although parts of rural areas may not want development. Would the existing levels of infrastructure within market towns be able to cope? Some rural areas will see this as a missed opportunity. Some villages may diminish without some development.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** It was generally agreed that jobs follow housing. Although it was pointed out that Herefordshire, as largely an agricultural County, farmers generally don't commute to work, albeit they have	**Social** In the Market Towns, most have a Primary School, and some have a Secondary School. It was felt that development solely within the Market Towns would help with roll call for these, but it was pointed	**Environmental** This Option has the least impact on the environment. Although it was pointed out that there are some environmentally sensitive sites around the Market Towns.

	different jobs to other sectors.	out that it would also have a detrimental effect on the more rural schools. It was felt that if housing was located in the more rural parts of the County, then they run the risk of being spread too far apart and will then no longer be affordable housing. Affordable housing my need to be primarily based within the Market Towns.	
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	Although the Option was considered to be reasonable further information was considered necessary to establish if any of the current villages were on the threshold of becoming towns, the results of the settlement hierarchy work should be taken on board when considering this point when it is available. The wording of the Option was suggested to be altered to reflect development "in and around" the Market Towns, as these are likely to be the most realistic locations of land, after brownfield, which are available for housing development. It is recommended that throughout the process of the Core Strategy all areas of the County and in particular the more remote rural areas are engaged fully in the process to allow them a feeling of ownership over what happens in their local community. Environmentally by concentrating development in the Market Towns, limited damage is likely to be made on the more sensitive habitats and species, generally but not exclusively, found in the rural areas. Serious consideration of the location of schooling is needed to ensure the right balance is struck for provision requirements in both urban and rural areas and the link with appropriate housing (including affordable). Not enough housing and schooling in the rural areas runs the risk of, unevenly spread housing creating exclusive country housing unaffordable to the majority and those most in and unsustainable commuting distances for those in rural areas to Market Town schools if rural schooling is not provided. This later point is also true for employment opportunities.		

Option B	Focus on a one or more of the Market Towns and if so, which ones?
The Reasonableness	Focussing development on only some of the Market Towns may result in others only having limited development; this

Test	may cause difficulties in the other towns if their needs are not met. The transport links to Ledbury, Leominster and Ross are very good. Ross and Ledbury are also situated near the Motorway. It was felt that it was reasonable to focus on Leominster due to the infrastructure and also due to good links to both Hereford and Ludlow in Shropshire. Housing needs should be taken into account, although not everyone wants to live in the same town. There are housing needs across the entire County.		
The Community Engagement Test	If one Market Town is left out it may be seen as a missed opportunity. Towns like Kington may have opportunities for development but don't necessarily want it, whereas Ross may want development but has environmental constraints and may cause conflicts of interest as a result.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** Although this may seem like it is neglecting the rest of the County, it may not necessarily be.	**Social** There are no problems with school spaces etc with this Option. Similarly to Option A, it was felt that if housing was only located in Market Towns what little housing development did occur in rural areas would likely to be wider spread and therefore by its very nature, unaffordable.	**Environmental** As Ross is located within an AONB it was considered to have significant constraints. All of the Market Towns are within Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings exist within them. It is felt that of all the Market Towns Leominster is the best Option as it has the least environmental constraints.
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	It was concluded that Leominster was the most reasonable town to be focussed on for new development, as it had good infrastructure links with Hereford and Ludlow in Shropshire and had the least environmental constraints. Ross was also mentioned due to its links with the M50 Motorway, however it has constraints on both its location in terms of the AONB and amount of available land due to flooding and existing development. Further evidence from the housing and employment land studies are needed before a judgement can be made on which locations would be most appropriate for significant development to reduce the possibility of missed opportunities. It should be ensured that wherever economic growth is generated in the County, it should benefit the entire Counties economic success. Local businesses supporting each other by supplying each other and providing resources and products for one another is one way of securing a self sufficient Herefordshire economy. Affordable homes would be more easily achievable in the Market Towns, however those rural areas in need would be ignored by this Option, which may result in a loss of rural communities and sense of place. Schooling issues would be minimised by this Option		

	as housing growth would be nearby the schooling network, however schooling needs in rural areas would still be an issue.

Option C	Split development of new homes between the Market Towns and larger rural settlements (yet to be defined – but similar approach to the UDP)		
The Reasonableness Test	How do you define what a larger settlement is? This Option is reasonable, but it would depend on which settlements were chosen. It is also similar to the current UDP and is felt to work well. There may be some issues with sustainability due to movement, as jobs and homes are not necessarily in the same place.		
The Community Engagement Test	Everyone would feel included, particularly rural areas. Smaller rural areas however, may feel left out, although they may prefer this. It will help find out which rural areas want development.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** This is the weakest Option so far. Businesses require accessible Broadband and IT, however rural areas lack adequate access to these.	**Social** This will benefit the schools, as there will be a more even spread across them. It would work well for affordable housing, although it may be spreading housing to thinly and opportunities may be missed for increased levels of affordable housing.	**Environmental** This option is considered to be ok environmentally.
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	It is recommended that this Option obtain more information from the settlement hierarchy study, currently being undertaken, to inform the assessment made. With the information available at the time of the workshop this Option was considered reasonable. All communities would hopefully feel included and greater community involvement may be possible as a result. Good communication at consultation stages is vital to ensure inclusive place making with local people. Economically this Option needs to demonstrate that businesses would be able to have access to broadband and IT services, as currently a lot of rural areas lack this essential business need. The Option would benefit the schooling system. The best achievable levels of affordable housing would be needed as housing provision may be thinly and evening spread over rural and urban areas. There were no distinct environmental impacts highlighted but it was acknowledged to be ok in this respect. It is recommended that as this Option develops further consideration be given to the enhancement opportunities for the environment under this		

	Option, such as water and energy usage, household and commercial waste and sewage disposal, and habitat creation.

Option D	**Focus only on a greater number of larger rural settlements to promote services and facility retention in the rural areas, outside of the Market Towns**
The Reasonableness Test	This is considered not to be reasonable as it is felt that the rural settlements would still be dependant upon the Market Towns. Many larger villages may consider them to be Market Towns and may not take too kindly to being referred to as villages.
The Community Engagement Test	It is thought that this Option would get more resistance than the other Options.
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic	Social	Environmental
	An SA test was not carried out on this Option, as it was not found to be reasonable.		
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	As this Option was considered to be unreasonable it is recommended that the Plan writers either drop this Option or reword it more appropriately to reflect what they wanted to achieve. This may be enhancing on the aspect of services and facility accessibility in rural areas by different means. Any future Option would need to take into account the reaction that could be expected by local community engagement. A Sustainability Appraisal was not carried out on this Option, as it was not found to be reasonable. However, any new Option or significantly reworded Option will need to be assessed and reported on in the next SA Report.

Option E	**Focus on a new settlement**		
The Reasonableness Test	A new settlement would be against the current West Midlands RSS profile for the County. The economic profile of the County relies on tourism and this Option may not support this vision.		
The Community Engagement Test	There are not many sites around Herefordshire to choose from. As the idea is to build a completely new settlement, there isn't any community to ask, although surrounding communities may not like it. This Option focuses development in one location and therefore those residences that are against development in their area would probably like this Option.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	Economic It would dilute economic efforts elsewhere, but again it would depend on where the settlement was to be located.	Social With regards to schools, a new settlement could be a help, or a hindrance. A new settlement would have to be rather large before it could have its own school. There	Environmental This Option has enormous potential, by concentrating all development in one area of the County rather than spreading it around damaging smaller pockets of

		would be no issues surrounding affordable housing as the provision could be entirely integrated into the new settlement. However, being provided in one location and not spread around the County may lead to a clustering effect and historically this has created social issues such as anti social behaviour. A good mix of housing type and tenure is needed. Requirements in other areas of the County would not be fulfilled under this Option.	habitat/species over a much wider area. A new settlement would therefore create the potential to create a nature reserve as mitigation for land take. There is also potential to be innovative with water supply, waste and construction techniques, although not exclusively.
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	It was debatable at the workshop as to whether this Option was reasonable, as it was going against the current West Midlands RSS. However, it was considered sensible to include this Option, as it was uncertain at the time of the workshop what would happen at the regional level with regards to the central government review of the housing figures for the West Midlands. The group considered that by including this Option flexibility and transparency was being worked into the development of the Options at this early stage of the production of the Herefordshire Core Strategy, and hence was considered a reasonable Option. It is recommended that once a shortlist of sites is found, through the evidence gathering process, that extensive community engagement it undertaken to ensure full community participation to obtain views and work with them on choosing the most appropriate location. This should aid a reduction in the amount of objections to this Option as ownership is given to the local community (communities), which may be affected by any potential new settlement. Economically the Option may dilute efforts for business elsewhere in the County and therefore the need for good business and infrastructure links between any new potential settlement and existing employment and retail centres will be vital for the Counties sustainable economic growth. Although a new school could be created in a new settlement it is not necessarily a given as there is no guarantee that the new homes and businesses will attract sufficient children to the area to fund the building of a new school. This would therefore lead to unsustainable commuting issues. Although the entire need for affordable	

	housing may be possible in any newly created settlement regard will have to be given to historic patterns of anti social behaviour and deprived areas created by ineffective social cohesion due to a lack of appropriate mix and tenure of properties. Avoidance of social isolation and a lack of even wealth distribution is needed. Consideration for affordable housing need, in other areas of the County, will also need to be planned for. The environmental benefits are clear and should be enhanced to the full.

Option F	Focus on a expanded settlement		
The Reasonableness Test	Depends on which settlement is identified. There tends to be pressure in attractive settlements such as Weobley and Pembridge to expand.		
The Community Engagement Test	The residents of the settlement may not like the idea.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** Similarly to Option E, it would dilute economic efforts elsewhere, but again it would depend on where the settlement was.	**Social** Schools situation similar to Option E, an expanded settlement could help, or be a hindrance. The newly expanded settlement would have to be rather large before it could have its own school. Similarly, there are concerns that affordable housing wont be able to meet the needs of the whole County if this Option was to be selected.	**Environmental** If it is the right location and can have minimum impact it could make a major contribution to safeguarding and creating natural environments.
Recommendations and Conclusions of the Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability	This Option is similar to Option E as it is seeking to solely expand upon one existing settlement. This could create similar issues on the economy by diluting efforts elsewhere in the County and therefore links between any expanded settlement for business would need to be established to ensure property for the whole County; housing would need to consider social impacts of type and tenure located in the expanded settlement; and environmental benefits should be maximised as much as possible. The description in Option E's conclusions and recommendations should be referred to.		

Outcomes of Tests of Reasonableness, Community Engagement and Sustainability

The workshop group identified some of the issues to be cross cutting for all Options, these were climate change and environmental protection and enhancement. These are critical for a sustainable spatial strategy and fundamental to all of the identified Options. Option C reflects the extent to which new development could be used to enhance existing or provide new environmental assets.

As the above Initial Options were a first draft used for the PAS workshop and focussed mainly on patterns of general growth for developing the options further, it is acknowledged that the approach was not specific enough in aiding development of place shaping policy options and did not integrate fully with the Initial Objectives as they were in January 2008. Therefore, the outcomes of each Option, as set out above, have not got individual outcomes. Instead the comments and recommendations made above have all been used in the development of the emerging Strategic Spatial Options, which now appear in the Draft Developing Options Paper. There are now four emerging Strategic Options that have been developed as at April 2008, these are:

A   The desire to promote Herefordshire's economy with an eastern focus for development (an Economic Option);

B   The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation with a dispersed focus for development (a Social Option);

C   The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets with a concentrated focus of development; or

D   A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.

Comments from the external working party have also been integrated into the development of the emerging options and have now also been tested in terms of reasonableness, community engagement and sustainability and the results, recommendations and conclusions can be viewed in Appendix B3, predicting the effects. A summary of the Habitat Regulation Assessment, which is set out in a separate document attached to this SA Report is also included in Appendix B3.

Appendix B3 – Predicting the Effects

Herefordshire Spatial Options

Questions to consider:
- Are the options distinct and clear?
- What are their likely adverse effects? (Can they be prevented, reduced, offset?)
- Can positive effects be enhanced?
- Can the effects be quantified?
- Who are the winners and losers?

i.e. - How do the options perform?

Key

☺ = Moving towards sustainability

☹ = Moving away from sustainability

😐 = Neutral

Strategic Options

Option A	The desire to promote Herefordshire's economy (an economic option) with an eastern focus for development		
The Reasonableness Test	An economic focus for Herefordshire is reasonable considering the requirements from the RSS and the prospect that it would assist in the Counties growth up to 2026.		
The Community Engagement Test	Rural residents, particularly those in the western areas of the County, may see this Option as focussing growth in the market towns and larger settlements and feel that if growth was needed in their community and could be accommodated, that it would not be planned for under this Option.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
	The road and rail network within the east of the County provides a sustainable area for economic growth to be achieved, however it is uncertain as to whether these areas will continue to be significant employment centres, as recent take up has been slow. Under used areas of land ideal for employment	Economic growth may help in keeping younger people in the County as more employment opportunities arise. Mixed-use developments and general growth in these areas would provide for new housing, community facilities and infrastructure. Existing smaller settlements in this	Focussed growth in employment centres would assist in reducing traffic congestion, pollution and aid sustainable modes of travel. Existing settlements in the east have little surplus brownfield land and new growth places pressure on valued landscapes potentially resulting in possible loss.

	use are likely to be promoted and developed for this purpose under this Option. Although the Option focuses economic growth in the east of the County, it is possible that growth achieved here could be spread to the rural west benefiting these more isolated areas too. Generally - ☺	eastern arch have few community facilities and even with additional growth may still require the private car to access schools, shops and leisure facilities. This eastern arch of the County is most easily accessible by the rest of the region and growth in this area may create a sub regional housing market providing commuting opportunities, presenting both benefits and constraints. Overall - ☺	Many existing urban areas have high quality historic areas and excessive growth could damage the character of these locations. Overall - ☹
Conclusions and Recommendations	Overall this Option was considered to be moving towards sustainability. Economic sustainability is to some extent reliant upon securing the business interest in the area, it is therefore recommended that plan writers liase closely with relevant council departments and private companies. It is also advised that measures are taken to ensure that under this Option the rural west don't become deprived and do benefit from the wealth created in the eastern arch as proposed. It is recommended that the mixed use developments are maximised in this Option to ensure integrated sustainable land use. Integrated public transport will be essential if movement between proposed growth areas and the rest of the County is to be successfully achieved. Integrated green spaces providing walkways and cyclepaths will aid the success of reductions in car use and cleaner air and less congestion and therefore good design is essential in any growth areas. It is recommended that countryside is assessed in terms of its landscape value and the least environmentally beneficial areas be developed first. Likewise an assessment of the historic nature of the area will also be important in setting thresholds for appropriate development and design requirements.	

Option B	**The desire to regenerate areas of the County suffering from social deprivation (a social option) with a dispersed focus for development**
The	To have an Option that focuses on regeneration and in

Reasonableness Test	particular in more deprived areas of the County is reasonable. Their successful renewal will hope to provide good housing and employment opportunities with associated infrastructure and facilities.		
The Community Engagement Test	There could be mixed responses as it may be seen that only those deprived areas are benefiting from new growth and those areas not deemed to be deprived but in need of housing and investment and better infrastructure links and more community facilities may be forgotten.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** Regeneration projects generally do attract investment into an area. However, this option would not be based upon responding to market demand but rather would focus development potentially in areas where the economy has traditionally been weaker which may mean delivery is more uncertain. Overall - ☹	**Social** Levels of growth appropriate to the size, character and environmental constraints in other market towns and settlements deemed to be sustainable could contribute to the needs of the whole County. The growth proposed would likely provide contributions from developers; this should ensure adequate community services and facilities reducing social exclusion. However, if costs of development increase developers are unlikely to have the finances to contribute more significantly to community facilities and infrastructure requirements. Generally - ☺	**Environmental** By providing and enhancing employment opportunities and services centrally in Hereford and Leominster and under sub-option (iii) in Ledbury and Colwall it is predicted that a reduction in local car usage in these growth areas may be possible. However, other areas such as more rural hinterlands potentially less well served may still require dependency on the private car. New growth has the potential to provide a well-integrated public transport, which may assist further in lowering car usage. Existing settlements in the east have little surplus brownfield land and new growth places pressure on valued landscapes potentially resulting in possible loss. Many existing

			urban areas have high quality historic areas and excessive growth could damage the character of these locations. Development of the rail network under sub-option iii would likely bring benefits for movement around the County and possible congestion and pollution alleviation. However, it is uncertain as to how much growth could be expected and therefore unknown if the network could cope with increases in capacity without significant investment. Any improvements may also encourage outward movement of people seeking employment. Marginally - ☹

Conclusions and Recommendations	Overall this Option is moving towards sustainability. Maximisation of investment opportunities is needed if regeneration projects are to bring economic benefits into the County. Its recommended that it is made clear by plan writers what they mean by a sustainable settlement in the Option. Any growth proposed under this Option should be appropriate to the locality by means of scale and design ensuring the built and landscape character is not adversely affected. Mixed-use developments may allow community facilities and infrastructure to be incorporated more easily within a scheme and reduce the possibility of services and facilities not being provided due to excess developer costs. Excellent public transport, rail and bus links as well as well designed green infrastructure routes for safe cycling and walking will be essential here if this eastern arch of new growth proposed is to be successful for the whole County. Research is therefore likely to be needed to establish capacities of the existing rail network and if necessary, through modelling, what investment may be needed and how to deliver this through development proposals. It is recommended that countryside is assessed in terms of its landscape value and the least environmentally beneficial areas be developed first. Any new development would have to avoid detrimental effects and respect the surrounding historic heritage.

Option C	The need to protect and enhance our distinctive environmental assets (an environmental option) with a concentrated focus of development		
The Reasonableness Test	It is considered reasonable to develop new growth in such a way as to protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinctive environment and in doing so focus, what is likely to be concentrated development, in existing urban areas and places with limited environmental value.		
The Community Engagement Test	The community may not fully understand what locations would be targeted under this Option aside from Hereford and the Market Towns mentioned in the Options background description. Rural communities may see this Option as not addressing the issues in their area. The environment may be protected but where are the jobs, facilities and services needed for everyone going to be located?		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
	Enhancement of the environmental character of the County may well have good knock on effects for business investment into the proposed growth	Well being and quality of life are often determined by your surroundings, with improvements to environmental assets, including access for urban	New development built with good environmental practice and enhancement in mind will generally make this Option environmentally beneficial.

	areas and beyond. Tourism is already an important economic source for Herefordshire through its environmental assets and appropriate improvements would allow these areas to thrive under new growth. Climate change adaption may enable new business investment into the County to promote, manage and enable new schemes. The Option has a concentrated focus and as such may not deliver economic benefits to the whole County where need may exist, such as in rural communities for farm diversification schemes or small scale industry. Overall - ☺	areas to such sites, social, mental and physical well being are likely to improve as a result. The Option for new growth is generally for focussed concentrated development and although these areas will benefit from improved community facilities, services and infrastructure, new growth opportunities for settlements outside this Option may be minimal. Overall - 😐	However, levels of growth expected will still result in a loss of countryside in Herefordshire. By capitalising on the County's environmental assets, in terms of providing connections to such areas, increases in pressures from visitors may potentially adversely affect habitats and species from trampling and disturbance in these important areas. Visitor management in these areas will therefore be important. Climate change should be viewed not only with regards to its negative outcomes but seen as a real opportunity to create change and adaptation to be ready for the climate expected in the future, ranging from materials used in building, water storage techniques, renewable energy supplies and self sufficiency and crop variations, for example there may be potential for increased grape growing for wine production. Placing new built development away from identified flood risk areas will

			enable the natural system to deal with flood events more successfully. A concentrated focus for new growth may not reduce car use for those living in more rural areas due to the resulting location of services and facilities under this Option. Generally - ☺
Conclusions and Recommendations	This Option proved to be moving towards sustainability on the economic front, neutral on the social side and moving away from sustainability marginally for the environmental theme. However, the Environmental Option should be seen as an opportunity to harness investment into green technologies in the County by using its green credentials as a selling tool. Likewise these assets should be maximised for responsible tourism growth in the County potentially bringing significant amounts of wealth into the County. Adaptation to climate change should be considered and phased implementation started now so that by the time significant changes in our climate, as research suggests, are evident in Herefordshire we have planned and developed technologies to cope with it, harnessing its opportunities, growing crop alternatives, for example and preparing for the harsher reality of additional flood and storm events by incorporating excellent well protected built environments. The Option should also ensure that appropriate growth outside of the concentrated areas is not banished completely but controlled by policy to allow appropriate development where demand proves viability and conforms to the principles of sustainable development. Infrastructure is key to ensuring that the new growth areas are sustainably connected to the other settlements not highlighted as benefiting from the improved community facilities and services under this Option. The centralised approach may result in more private car usage to access these facilities if good networks are not provided. It is recommended that the Plan writers identify the areas in the County with limited environmental value (likely through the green infrastructure study) and explain what this means. This Option has the most opportunity to harness all that is green; enhancing and providing green spaces important for nature conservation; developing the latest green initiatives; and development of County self sufficiency, eco homes and eco villages, truly enabling a sustainable County. Maximising these opportunities in this Option is therefore vital.		

Option D	A new or expanded settlement option which would not necessarily be a separate option to A, B or C above, but which may be necessary depending on the level of growth required by the revisions to the housing figures in the regional plan.		
The Reasonableness Test	It is considered reasonable to consider, at this early stage, the Option for a new or expanded settlement due to the uncertainties with the phase two revision of the RSS. This approach should enable an element of flexibility to be worked into the Options.		
The Community Engagement Test	Those communities that do not want growth in their area will likely support such an option. Those communities struggling to keep local shops and schools open and would welcome growth, particularly affordable housing, would object to such an option just focussing on one area of the County as they would feel they were missing out on potential opportunities to keep their local community alive.		
The Sustainability Appraisal Test	**Economic** A new settlement may attract people to live in Herefordshire and therefore bring new skills and investment for jobs and business. Provision and frequency of bus and rail services would need to be provided and increased in order to connect any new settlement with Hereford and the Market Towns benefiting the economy as people move more freely for work and leisure. A new settlement could compete with existing larger settlements in the County and potentially have an adverse impact upon their roles and levels of service provision. Generally - ☹	**Social** A new settlement could make a considerable contribution to the provision of affordable housing in the County. However, affordable housing need in other areas of the County would not be met, and it would be unrealistic to expect all those in need of affordable housing across the County to locate to a specified new settlement. Any new settlement would have a centre incorporated into it providing shops, health care facilities and community buildings, which would be provided for with developer contributions. However, other	**Environmental** A new settlement concentrated in one locality would reduce the negative environmental effects of wider spread development, such as loss of habitat and general countryside across the whole County. A new settlement would also enable developer contributions to be used effectively incorporating the latest sustainable technology and necessary infrastructure. Existing infrastructure would also benefit, as the strain at other settlements with existing development commitments would be relieved from additional growth. Existing settlements in

		existing settlements would have minimal opportunities of obtaining community facilities and infrastructure improvements from development. Generally - ☹	Herefordshire have great historic heritage and a new settlement would allow these existing areas to be protected from new development. A new settlement has the great advantage of being able to integrate a renewable energy scheme on site effectively making it a low carbon development. With sustainable construction techniques used the settlement could in fact become an eco village. However, development of this scale may not be delivered within the Plan period. In the localised area chosen for such a development there would be significant visual change. Those residents living in the rest of the County would benefit least from the reductions in the need to travel. Overall - ☺

Conclusions and Recommendations	This Option is generally moving towards sustainability. However, further work is needed to establish what the effects of a new settlement would have on the Herefordshire economy. Investment in one location may prove not to be as economically viable as spreading the investment across the whole County. A neutral outcome is likely as benefits from the new settlement are outweighed by the lack of provisions in the rest of the County. An appropriate balance would be needed with this Option to ensure that other areas of the County in need of affordable housing and community facilities are given the opportunity to achieve their needs. Clustered affordable housing without an appropriate mix may result in social issues of anti social behaviour and crime as living conditions over a period of time become as such to raise these risks. Good design is essential to reduce such factors. This option appears to provide the best opportunity to protect the environment of the whole County. Any environmental scheme used, whether it be a renewable energy scheme to power the new settlement, sustainable urban drainage systems to control flooding, diffuse pollution and water use, or an ecological build to produce a low carbon footprint development, the success of such a development is totally reliant on implementation and this needs to be clearly thought out and appropriate before any development starts to ensure the benefits would be delivered and any negative issues overcome. Well incorporated infrastructure will also be essential to deliver such a scheme. Although concentrating significant new growth in a new settlement could help reduce pressure and therefore, protect the Counties historic heritage, consideration could be given to creating the heritage of the future with this Option. Radical ideas for eco settlements should be explored, these could be the historic heritage of the future.

Appendix i - Compliance with the SEA Directive

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
SEA Directive	**Core Strategy**
• The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear	Sections 2.0 and 3.0
▪ Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives are considered in developing indicators and targets	Section 4.5, 4.6. International and EC objectives and targets are identified in Appendix A1 and A2.
▪ SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate	Section 4.7 and Appendix A3 details the relevant objectives, indicators and targets identified at this stage and for later SA stages
▪ Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained	Section 4.1 and 4.2 and Appendix A1
Scoping	
▪ The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report	Consultation with various organisations including the statutory consultation bodies has been carried out. This will be ongoing as the appraisal process continues.
▪ The appraisal focuses on significant issues	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in section 4.5 and 4.6 and table 1
▪ Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed, assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit	These are made clear throughout the report where appropriate and in section 10.0
▪ Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration	These are made clear throughout the general scoping report, June 2007 where appropriate
Baseline Information	
▪ Relevant aspects of current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described	See the general scoping report, June 2007 Section 4 and Appendix A2 and Appendix A2 of this report.
▪ Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.	See the general scoping report, June 2007 Section 4, 5 and A2.
▪ Difficulties such as deficiencies in method or information are explained.	These are made clear throughout the report, particularly Sections 10.0 and 11.0.