

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Report By: Property Services Manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the approved Asset Management Plan (AMP) submitted to the ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) on 31st July 2003.

Financial Implications

2. The revenue and capital investment strategy for Herefordshire Council is contained in the AMP.

Background

3. The Herefordshire Council is obliged to complete a corporate AMP annually for submission to the ODPM.
4. The AMP is a corporate document that provides information on the strategic use of land and property assets (with the exception of Housing and Schools that are covered by other related planning documents).
5. Asset management planning is a mandatory, national initiative that seeks to improve the management of properties held by local authorities. The plan is important to the Herefordshire Council because it is the mechanism by which the Council is allocated central government capital funding under the Single Capital Pot (SCP) initiative.
6. The AMP is a submission to the ODPM and is written to meet both primary and secondary criteria published by the Government Office for West Midlands (GOWM) on behalf of the ODPM.
7. The Council's submission for 2002 was graded as "Satisfactory" by the GOWM. The result of this year's submission has just been obtained and the Council has achieved a "Good" grade which is the highest possible.
8. Full written comments are still awaited from the GOWM but verbally the GOWM representative has been extremely complimentary about this year's Plan. The Council obtained total marks of 42 out of 43, equivalent to 98% and this was the best score in the West Midlands Region.
9. The only criterion that was not fully met related to taking into account stakeholder consultation and user satisfaction findings when developing performance measures and monitoring. The Council does have systems for obtaining these results but at present they are in their infancy.

10. For the achievement of a “Good” score the Council is no longer obliged to submit plans to the GOWM for scrutiny and may now produce future plans to its own design without having to follow the ODPM Guidance on content and layout. The requirement to submit property performance indicators annually still remains.
11. The next Plan is scheduled to be completed by July 2004. AMP will remain an important tool for this authority and will play a supporting part under the new ‘Prudential Code’ for local authority finance.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on the Asset Management Plan be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Asset Management Plan - July 2003