

**The  
Herefordshire  
Sustainable Community Strategy  
2010 - 2013**

Text only, images to be added when text is finalised



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# The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy

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## **Foreword**

**It is five years since the original Community Strategy for Herefordshire was formulated and adopted. To achieve Herefordshire's Vision for 2020 our refreshed strategy reflects and encompasses the changing conditions and circumstances facing Herefordshire.**

**Herefordshire people enjoy relatively low unemployment, good health and education standards. Our recent Comprehensive Area Agreement - an independent assessment which reports how well local public services are tackling the major issues in the County – indicated that 87 per cent of people are satisfied with their immediate local area as a place to live.**

**However, the full impact of the current economic downturn and climate change are still to be felt and will undoubtedly challenge us all and this refresh of the Strategy emphasises the importance of sustainability, hence the inclusion in the title.**

**The three basic elements of people, place and actions remain at the heart of the Strategy. Put a slightly different way the social, environmental and economic strands weave their way through the Strategy in a way that binds it all together and makes it work.**

**It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the priorities and guiding principles of this refreshed Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy are incorporated in all of our plans and activities.**

**Herefordshire people, working together in their unique way, in line with this Strategy, can only improve their quality of life and thus achieve our Vision for 2020.**

**Respectively,**

**Councillor Roger Phillips  
Chair  
Herefordshire Partnership Board**

### **Our vision for Herefordshire is that by 2020:**

**Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and well being for all**

# **The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy –**

## **What it is and why we need it**

### **Overview of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy is a key long-term planning document for improving the quality of life and services in Herefordshire. Every Local Authority is required to have a Sustainable Community Strategy which has been developed and agreed with its Local Strategic Partnership. Herefordshire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for Herefordshire, representing local public services, businesses, and voluntary and community sector organisations.

### **Purpose of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Herefordshire to achieve our Vision for 2020, in a way that contributes to sustainable development. It sets Herefordshire in context, outlines our distinctive Vision and ambition for the area, and is backed by clear evidence and analysis, for example through The State of Herefordshire Report.

### **Why we have the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Local Government Act 2000 charged local authorities with preparing a Community Strategy with their partners through a Local Strategic Partnership, and Herefordshire's first version was known as the Herefordshire Plan. The Community Strategy for Herefordshire was subsequently published in 2006 and in recognition of emphasising the importance of sustainability, this refreshed version has been renamed the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy.

Noting the key issues previously established in the 2006 Community Strategy and testing these against current information and evidence has been vital in identifying local priorities. As processes for these have improved, so has the role of this document in understanding the changing needs of our communities. Herefordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy, to which partners are fully committed, is essential to ensure the development and delivery of our Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement is explained on page 7.

### **How the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy can be used**

The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy can be used in a range of different ways:

- Firstly, and most importantly, local organisations will use the Community Strategy to inform the planning of their own services both now and in the future.
- Regional and national organisations will use the document to identify key issues facing the County, and direct resources accordingly.
- Local groups with innovative ideas for projects can link their funding applications to the Strategy in support of their applications.

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# How the Priorities were established

## Introduction

The Community Strategy for Herefordshire published in 2006 highlighted a number of key local issues which led to the formulation of desired outcomes for the County. These had been identified as a result of a comprehensive consultation process undertaken during 2005. This Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy has been developed from the last Community Strategy and refreshed by looking at the wealth of information gathered since 2005, detailed below and overleaf, and through consultation with partners.

## Key Characteristics of the County of Herefordshire

Herefordshire has beautiful unspoilt countryside, distinctive heritage, remote valleys and rivers, including the River Wye which flows east through Hereford City, the Malvern Hills on the border with Worcestershire and the Black Mountains in the south west. Parts of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) fall into Herefordshire, covering the Malvern Hills and the lower section of the Wye Valley. Herefordshire is a predominately rural county of 842 square miles situated in the south-west corner of the West Midlands region bordering Wales. The City of Hereford is the major location in the County for employment, administration, health, education facilities and shopping. The five market towns of Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury, Bromyard and Kington are the other principal centres.

Herefordshire has limited access to the motorway network via the M50, which starts near Ross-on Wye and joins the M5 north of Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. The other main road links, include the A49 running north to south, the A465 north-east to south-west, and the A4103 east to west, all of which pass through Hereford City.

Within Herefordshire, Hereford, Ledbury, Leominster and Colwall have railway stations, connected by two lines: the Cardiff – Manchester line passes through Hereford and Leominster, while the line from Hereford to Birmingham, passing through Ledbury and Colwall, is single track for much of the journey. This line has a direct link to London.

The nearest major international airport is at Birmingham, about 50 miles (80 km) from Hereford. Herefordshire has no ports; deep water facilities are available at Newport docks, or the Bristol Channel, about 35 miles (56 km) from Hereford.

With 179,300 residents, Herefordshire has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest population density in England (0.8 persons per hectare) and a particular challenge for service delivery is the County's scattered population. According to measures used in the calculation of the Local Government Finance Settlement, no other English county-level authority has a greater proportion of its population living in 'very sparse' areas than Herefordshire (25%). Over half (54%) of the County's residents live in areas defined as rural. About one-third of the population lives in Hereford City, a little more than a fifth in the market towns and almost half elsewhere.

The number of people aged 85+ is expected to more than double, from 5,200 in 2008 to 10,200 in 2026. Herefordshire has a small but growing ethnic minority population and there has been a dramatic increase in numbers of migrant workers coming to Herefordshire since the expansion of the European Union in 2004.



## Sources of information

**The State of Herefordshire Report** provides a wealth of statistics relating to the County - its people, environment and economy. It is a digest of information that describes the County, linked to the themes of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy. The aim of the report is to provide a resource for those working for organisations involved with the Herefordshire Partnership, both reflecting and informing local strategic thinking. It is used for a variety of purposes including developing and monitoring strategies, programmes and projects, funding bids and research activities.

More information about the State of Herefordshire Report, including the latest facts and figures about Herefordshire, can be viewed by visiting the Facts & Figures about Herefordshire at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/factsandfigures](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/factsandfigures) or contacting the Herefordshire Partnership Researchers on 01432 260893.

**Parish Plans** harness everything different and unique about a local community and its vision for the future. They provide an opportunity for the community to express its views and provide information about how people feel about where they live. The end result is a plan that reflects these views and an idea of when these things might happen

**Partners and Communities Together (PACT)** meetings offer communities the chance to tell the police, local authority and other organisations about issues causing concern and how they might be addressed. It also offers the opportunity for agencies to explain how their services operate and inform people about developments.

**Local Development Framework** consultation and engagement continues throughout the preparation of key local development documents. Major consultations on the Core Strategy were undertaken in 2007 and 2008, with further consultation planned for 2010. The results of these consultations will inform the final Core Strategy Vision and Objectives and strategic “place shaping” setting out how the County as a whole is expected to develop up to 2026. More information on the Local development Framework is on page 7.

**E-consult** draws together details of all the consultations Herefordshire Council and its partners are engaged in. It allows residents to take part in many of the consultations online. In addition partner organisations also employ a number of other means of consulting with local people and businesses, for example face-to face contacts and postal questionnaires.

**The Herefordshire Quality of Life Survey** is part of the new national **Place Survey**, which every Council in England is required to carry out every two years. The survey gathers residents' views on a range of issues which influence what Herefordshire is like as a place to live, as well as satisfaction with local public services. The results of the survey provide a valuable record of local opinions and priorities.

### **Local, regional and national partners**

The Local Area Agreement was developed in 2007/08 through discussion and agreement with local and regional partners. A list of priorities were identified which aided the choice of Performance Indicators from the National Indicator set.

**Local, regional and national strategic documents** developed by organisations around specific areas of work were analysed for the priorities for Herefordshire that they highlighted. Key local and regional documents have been listed under the relevant Priorities on pages 12 to 23.

## What We Have Achieved So Far

### Children and Young People

Educational standards are high, with good A level results and GCSE rates improving. Results in primary schools could be better. Children are generally healthier in this county than other parts of the country. They eat more fruit and vegetables and do more sports than elsewhere. Young people generally do well in getting employment, further education or training once they leave school but most of those who need higher education or university provision have to leave the county for this.

### Economic Development and Enterprise

The need for good employment opportunities and the attraction of investment and new business into the county is well recognised. There are many people with a high level of skill who move to settle in the county and set up small businesses but young people often leave the county to go onto higher education and don't return; the need for a University Centre is well recognised and funding is currently being sought for this.

### Environment

The county is clean and well kept. The amount of waste going to landfill is reducing but at a much slower rate than other authorities, placing Herefordshire within the bottom quartile of all English authorities. Recycling should improve further with the introduction of the new wheelie bin system in November 2009. CO2 emissions are high mainly due to the reliance on cars and the limited public transport available. There has been a slight reduction in the total amount of carbon emissions between 2005 and 2007. There are many special geological and sites of special scientific interest. The number of these being properly managed is increasing.

### Healthier Communities and Older People

People are healthy in the county. Many people live longer than elsewhere. There are more people over the age of 65 and most consider themselves to be in good health. Deaths from cancer and circulatory disease for people under 75 are lower than nationally and decreasing. There are particular concerns though about the number of people who die or are seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

### Safer Communities

Herefordshire is a safe place to live with already low levels of crime which are reducing further. A main concern for residents in Herefordshire is the number of people dying on Herefordshire's rural roads; multi agency work to address this is starting to show some good results.

The police force in Herefordshire is particularly good at talking to and working with small communities to help them with local problems. Safer Herefordshire plays a major role in reminding local people that crime in the county is low. It does this through community events, publicity and through the use of national campaigns. As a result fewer people fear being a victim of crime than in most parts of the country.

### Stronger Communities

The Area Assessment reported that the majority of people were satisfied with where they lived. More people volunteer to help in their communities than in many parts of the country. Housing in Herefordshire is generally expensive and many people find it hard to afford to rent or buy a home. Herefordshire Housing Ltd - the main provider of social housing - has recently made enormous improvements in the way it runs its business. Tenants are happier and their living environment has improved. Working with the police, council and community services means anti social behaviour is dealt with quickly.

## Priorities for 2010-2013

Taking into account the County's key characteristics and all other sources of information a draft list of priorities for Herefordshire emerged. This was submitted through the Herefordshire Partnership structure for scrutiny and approval. The final, agreed priorities for Herefordshire are detailed on pages xx to xx, broken down into six themes:

Children and Young People  
Economic Development and Enterprise  
Environment  
Healthier Communities and Older People  
Safer Communities  
Stronger Communities

### Each theme sets out the following information

- The main aim
- An introduction and background to this aim
- Achievements in the last 4 years
- What difference this has made to our communities
- Priorities, to focus activity
- A list of strategies and other documents linked to the priorities

## Guiding Principles

During the process of refreshing the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy three key values emerged which will underpin everything we do, and these are known as our Guiding Principles. By striving to incorporate them into the way we work we will ensure we take a co-ordinated, long term approach to plans and services which impact on local people, the environment and the economy.

### Everyone is Someone

- Value everyone's contribution
- Challenge prejudice and discrimination
- Support people and promote an equitable County

### Safeguard our Future

- Value our environment and the future of our young people enough to act now
- Think creatively about the bigger picture, and assess how issues will affect us, the resources and the assets at our disposal
- Develop solutions that build sustainability into our economy, our communities and in the infrastructure and natural environment on which we all depend

### Work across Boundaries

- Think, plan, act and share responsibility
- Seek solutions which have mutually positive benefits
- Make new alliances and look beyond the obvious

## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Children and Young People

#### Aim

**Improve the lives of children and their families, and enable all children and young people to develop the knowledge, skills and judgement they need to lead a fulfilling life**

#### Background

This theme is concerned with ensuring that every child grows up to reach his or her full potential within a happy, healthy and secure environment, both at home and during their learning. There should be opportunities for children and young people to explore their environment through stimulating play, outdoor adventure and social and cultural experiences. Children and young people need to develop their own skills so they are better prepared for adulthood, able to manage their own affairs and inter-relate with others effectively.

Successful delivery of this theme will need co-operative working of all the partnership agencies concerned with commissioning and delivering services for children and young people in the County. This will be based on the delivery of integrated services, based around the needs of the child, young person and their family. This will be taken forward through the implementation of the “No Wrong Door” approach to locality working.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- **Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles**
- **Children and young people are safe, secure and have stability**
- **Children and young people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards**
- **Children and young people engage in positive behaviour inside and out of school**
- **Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school**

#### Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:

The Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011

**(images)**

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◆ Everyone is someone ◆ Work across boundaries ◆ Safeguard our future

## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Economic Development and Enterprise

#### Aim

**Create an environment for enterprise to thrive and enable business growth and prosperity for all**

#### Background

A flourishing and diverse local economy is vital to the development of the County and local residents. A healthy economy can also make a vital contribution towards improving health in the community and reducing health inequalities.

Partners will work together to enable enterprise through infrastructure improvements, support for business growth, inward investment and employment opportunities. This will encompass the need to create a sustainable economy building on a diverse business base while caring for the environment.

Successful delivery of this theme will require co-operation between key partners, often across boundaries, to ensure that the supply of skills, training and business support is planned, managed and delivered in a coherent, collaborative way within the framework of priorities expressed in the Regional Economic Strategy. This includes working in partnership to recover from the effects of the economic downturn.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- **Sustain existing businesses with advice and guidance to minimise job losses and work with partners to support employment**
- **Develop a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce**
- **Support businesses and home working through better Broadband services**
- **Improve business accommodation and employment land quality and availability**
- **Attract high quality and better paid employment into the County and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation**
- **Promote Herefordshire as a place with a diverse business base, building on its distinctiveness and heritage.**
- **Reduce traffic congestion and improve health through integrated transport provision, including opportunity for maximising cycling, walking and public transport**

- **Encourage businesses to consider the environment and make savings through sustainable working practices**

**Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:**

Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-2025

Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11

Learning and Skills Council Herefordshire Local Area Statement of Need 2009/10

Access to Services in Herefordshire Report 2009

West Midlands Economic Strategy

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Herefordshire Tourism Strategy

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◆ **Everyone is someone** ◆ **Work across boundaries** ◆ **Safeguard our future**

## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Environment

#### Aim

**Protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinctive environment and address climate change**

#### Background

Herefordshire's environment is one of its greatest assets, underpinning the County's continuing prosperity. The interactions between natural, cultural and human influences on this asset are complex. Consequently a wide range of priorities have been defined that should be addressed in order to maintain and improve the quality of the County's environment.

Pressures from development, changes in land use and pollution are increasing. One of the biggest potential threats however, is, climate change, and although this needs to be tackled globally, local action to cut emissions and adapt to change is essential.

Efforts aimed at addressing environmental priorities within the County must be addressed through partnerships. Local communities will be engaged, in particular, through increasing awareness of issues, including the case for change. The influence that quality of the environment has upon other themes within the Community Strategy also needs to be recognised, in particular its impact on health and wellbeing.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- **Reduce waste and increase recycling**
- **Act to mitigate Climate Change and its consequences including promoting adaptation where necessary and appropriate**
- **Protect and enhance biodiversity within the County**
- **Maintain landscape character**
- **Encourage investment in high quality streets, public spaces and the built and historic environment**
- **Assist local communities to identify, retain and develop local distinctiveness**
- **Protect and improve water resources and the quality of rivers, streams and lakes, and encourage responsible water use**
- **Promote sustainable land management**



**Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:**

Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan  
River Basin Management Plan, Severn River Basin District  
Green Infrastructure Strategy  
Herefordshire Climate Change Strategy  
Herefordshire Environmental Strategy 2001-2011  
The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire  
Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan  
Local Development Framework  
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework  
Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy

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## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Healthier Communities and Older People

#### Aim

**Work with people and their communities to enable them to lead healthy and fulfilled lives**

#### Background

This theme is concerned with promoting how public health and social care objectives and actions are being developed to improve the health and well being of the people of Herefordshire. However, it should be understood that the wider actions being taken to make things happen under each of the individual themes within this document support each other, and all contribute to people's health and wellbeing.

The essential foundations for a healthy and fulfilled life are good physical and mental health, public safety, good education, employment and housing. This theme therefore contributes to the identification of key issues and priorities well beyond public health and social care measures. It works towards improvement in health and wellbeing and reducing health and social inequalities in Herefordshire by ensuring that relevant organisations provide the best possible services and build and maintain long term partnerships that promote the health and wellbeing of individual Herefordshire residents, whilst also recognising the role of carers.

The Public Health Annual Report highlights a number of key strategic objectives to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing by providing a better understanding of local health needs. However, the Annual report is not an end in itself. Momentum must be maintained so that the enthusiasm generated to achieve significant public health improvements is harnessed and built upon. The positive support of our local acute hospital, community and mental health sector, social care, local GP practices, schools and colleges, the voluntary sector and local business is crucial to the success of this theme.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- **Support smokers to quit, particularly young, pregnant and long-term smokers**
- **Support people to maintain a healthy weight**
- **Reduce the level of harmful alcohol use, particularly among young people**
- **Work with local people to enhance emotional wellbeing and intervene to reduce suicide, accidents and injuries**

- **Support people with assessed social care needs to live independently in their own homes wherever possible, with accessible services and information they need**
- **Ensure vulnerable adults are kept safe by a fast and reliable service response**

**Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:**

Public Health Annual Report (April 2009)

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) - October 2008 and October 2009

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◆ **Everyone is someone** ◆ **Work across boundaries** ◆ **Safeguard our future**

## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Safer Communities

#### Aim

**Work together to make Herefordshire an even safer place to live, work and visit**

#### Background

Herefordshire is a safe County in which to live, work and visit. Crime levels are low and reducing year on year and this is the underlying focus for the Safer Communities theme. A key consideration is the ability for partner agencies to work together to ensure priorities surrounding crime and the perception of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and road safety are successfully addressed within Herefordshire.

Although performance is measured against different strategic priorities, the main focus around community reassurance comes from National Indicator 21 – Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local Council and Police.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- Further reduce anti-social behaviour
- Further reduce crime through offender management, particularly violent crime and domestic abuse
- Provide community reassurance on anti-social behaviour, disorder and crime so that Herefordshire is a safe County.
- Reduce drug and alcohol related harm
- Promote and deliver increased road safety

#### Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:

Safer Herefordshire Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011  
Safer Herefordshire Strategic Priorities 2009 – 2010  
Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2011  
Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 – 2010  
Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2009 – 2010 (Part 1)

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## PRIORITIES FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

### Stronger Communities

#### Aim

**Develop stronger, vibrant, more inclusive communities in which people enjoy a good quality of life and feel they have influence over the decisions that affect them**

#### Background

A strong community is one that feels empowered, confident and accepted. In order to achieve this there should be respect for each other and groups and individuals from all backgrounds need to be informed and have the opportunity to get involved in making decisions which affect their communities.

Local communities will be more sustainable if they have access to vital services and facilities which meet their needs, such as suitable housing, health facilities, leisure facilities, shops and local meeting places. For Herefordshire, access to services is particularly key in rural areas, and this could be improved through innovative solutions, for instance, better use and combining of community, public and private sector buildings and facilities.

Currently, there are challenges around tackling homelessness and being able to increase the amount of affordable housing to meet local needs and ensure the viability of neighbourhoods and communities.

Enhancing leisure opportunities in the County is one way of contributing to thriving communities and creating opportunities for social interaction between people of different ages and backgrounds, as well as promoting health and wellbeing.

Volunteers give their time, skills and knowledge to enhance the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in shaping and delivering local services and building stronger, vibrant and more inclusive communities.

An already strong record of promoting equality and tackling discrimination must be built upon as the County's population becomes more diverse. Active engagement with communities is required in order to understand the needs of all residents, particularly those disadvantaged or suffering social exclusion.

#### Priorities to focus activity:

- **Provide affordable housing and address homelessness**
- **Ensure vulnerable people have access to a range of housing options, including support and the ability to live independently**

- **Provide accessible, high quality sporting, cultural and recreational facilities and activities**
- **Ensure fair access to the services which Herefordshire residents need**
- **Raise awareness and understanding of volunteering, promoting mutual benefits to the individual and the wider community**
- **Encourage communities and individuals to participate and influence local decisions which affect them**
- **Promote a County where people feel accepted, confident and empowered**
- **Ensure communities are more resilient and recover from emergencies through effective partnership planning and co-ordination**

**Strategies and other documents linked to these priorities:**

The Herefordshire Compact and Codes of Practice  
Herefordshire Community Development Strategy  
Herefordshire Comprehensive Equality Policy  
Herefordshire Cultural Strategy  
Housing Strategy for Herefordshire  
Herefordshire Recovery Plan  
The Herefordshire Arts Strategy  
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan

(images)

◆ **Everyone is someone** ◆ **Work across boundaries** ◆ **Safeguard our future**

## How the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered

The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered through many organisations, networks, sectors and groups working together to co-ordinate activity, reduce duplication and provide high quality services. Herefordshire Partnership's structure is designed to ensure the successful delivery of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy through three tiers of management:

### Herefordshire Partnership Board

Sets a Vision for Herefordshire based on a sound understanding of the County, local issues and a responsibility to ensure delivery of efficient, high quality services.

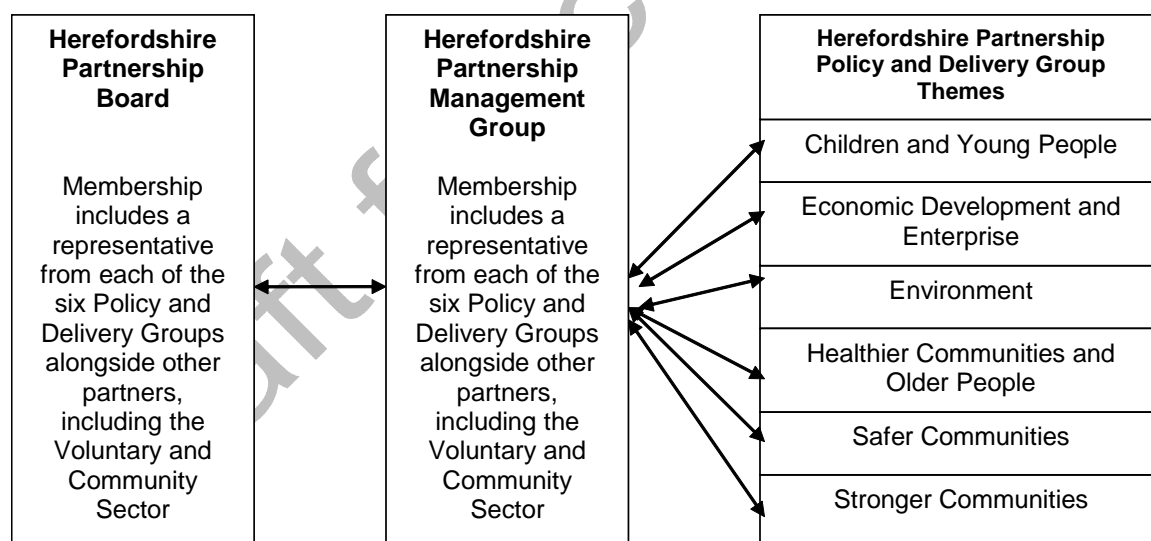
Lobbies, campaigns and champions the issues of importance to the County at regional and national levels and acts as an ambassador for the Partnership.

### Herefordshire Partnership Management Group

Takes responsibility for delivering the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy by ensuring resources are utilised to address identified priorities. Accountable for the work of the six Policy and Delivery Groups through reporting their progress to the Board.

### Six Herefordshire Partnership Policy and Delivery Groups

Formulate and commission and deliver work to address the priorities in the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy, based on comprehensive information of local need. They report progress on their work to the Management Group.



Membership of the Policy and Delivery Groups includes representatives from organisations who are committed to delivering high quality services which address the priorities for their group. Details of each group can be found on pages xx to xx. Contact details for people involved with each group have not been included as they change from time to time. However, should you wish to know more about the work of any of the groups please contact Herefordshire Partnership (details given on page xx). In addition, our website provides up-to-date information [www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)



# **Key work which links with the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy**

## **The Local Area Agreement**

The Local Area Agreement contains targets for improvement agreed by all the local partners, and delivery plans that fit within the longer term Vision and priorities agreed in the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy. Our Local Area Agreement is an agreement between Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Partnership and Central Government, with the aim of improving the quality of life for local people, organisations and businesses.

## **The Local Development Framework**

Every local planning authority must prepare a Local Development Framework to be consistent with national planning policy and the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Local Development Framework is the spatial expression of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy and will aim to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Local Development Framework is a folder of policies and plans which reinforce the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy by setting out the key spatial strategies for the area, such as house building and related infrastructure provision.

## **The Power of Well Being**

The Power of Well Being was given to Parish and Town Councils in April 2009. This power enables them to fund anything to promote or improve the social, economic or environmental well being of their area. An eligible Council must have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy proposed by their Local Authority i.e. Herefordshire Council.

## **The Sustainable Communities Act**

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 aims to promote the sustainability of local communities and begins from the principle that local people know best what needs to be done to promote sustainability of their area. The scope of the Act is very broad, covering economic, social and environmental issues. It does not limit the type of action that could be put forward, provided the action is within that broad scope. It is for local people to decide what they think needs to be done to promote the sustainability of their area. The Act is designed to strengthen the role of communities.

**Glossary of terms used in this document**  
(to be completed when final wording has been agreed)

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Inside back page

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Back page

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**For further information please contact the Herefordshire Partnership Support Team  
or visit the Herefordshire Partnership website at [www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)**

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