

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>18 FEBRUARY 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (REFRESH)</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>LEADER</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To approve the refresh of Herefordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy covering the period 2010 – 2013.

### **Key Decision**

### **Recommendation**

**THAT Cabinet approves the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- 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.
- The current strategy covers the period up to March 2010 and is now due to be refreshed in light of achievements to date and new challenges that Herefordshire is currently facing.

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 There are no Alternative Options every Local Authority is required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy agreed by its Local Strategic Partnership.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To ensure the Sustainable Community Strategy is refreshed and the priorities

identified for 2010-2013 are approved by Cabinet prior to adoption by the Herefordshire Partnership.

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 The original Community Strategy for Herefordshire was formulated and adopted four years ago. The priorities of the refreshed Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy need to be incorporated into organisational plans and activities in order to achieve Herefordshire's Vision – "Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and well being for all".
- 4 The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Herefordshire in a way that contributes to sustainable development. It sets Herefordshire in context and offers the distinctive Vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis (for example the State of Herefordshire Report).
- 5 The 2000 Local Government Act charged local authorities with preparing a local 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.
- 6 The Strategy published in 2006 highlighted a number of key local issues which led to the formulation of desired outcomes for the County. These were identified as a result of a comprehensive consultation process undertaken during 2005. The 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 in background papers, and through consultation with partners.

## **Key Considerations**

- 7 Taking into account the County's key characteristics and all other sources of information a draft list of priorities for Herefordshire has emerged. These have been grouped under the following six priority themes:
  - Children and Young People
  - Economic Development and Enterprise
  - Environment
  - Healthier Communities and Older People
  - Safer Communities
  - Stronger Communities
- 8 During the process of refreshing the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy three guiding principles for partnership working emerged. These will be embedded into the way Herefordshire Partnership works to ensure a co-ordinated long term approach is taken to delivering the priorities of the six themes. The guiding principles are:

### **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, our cultural life 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

9. The strategy highlights the key issues and challenges facing the place of Herefordshire and its communities and articulates the County's ambition to achieve better outcomes over the next 3 years. The strategy also talks about people and place, setting out the intention to improve the approach to locality working and the way this will inform and shape partnership priorities and ways of working in the future.
10. An important principle in delivering services across Herefordshire is that they should meet the needs of the local community, with people being able to access services in a flexible way, not determined by where they live. The strategy captures the context of the Government's Total Place agenda and recognises there are opportunities to improve access to services and service delivery by agreeing a common approach to localities in Herefordshire. An approach will be further developed over the coming years; ensuring that those living and working in Herefordshire have equality of access to services, brought about by increasingly delivering services on a locality basis in a way that fully benefits the local community.
11. The Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered through many organisations, networks, sectors and groups working together as part of Herefordshire Partnership's three tier structure:  
  
Herefordshire Partnership Board - sets the vision for Herefordshire based on a sound understanding of the County, local issues and a responsibility to ensure delivery of efficient, high quality services.  
  
Herefordshire Partnership Management Group – responsible for delivering the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy by ensuring resources are utilised to address the identified priorities.  
  
Herefordshire Partnership Policy and Delivery Groups – six groups (one for each of the six themes) who formulate and commission 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.

## **Community Impact**

- 12 The vision and priorities of the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy aim to improve the quality of life and service delivery in all areas of the County. Community engagement is at the heart of the work of Herefordshire Partnership in informing these priorities and driving service improvement in the locality.

## **Financial Implications**

- 13 None. Priorities identified will be delivered from within existing sources of funding.

## **Legal Implications**

- 14 None.

## **Risk Management**

- 15 Delivery of the priorities within the Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy through the Herefordshire Partnership will be a key area of assessment for the Comprehensive Area Assessment and as such forms part of the corporate performance management system. The risks associated with delivery of the priorities detailed in the strategy will be managed through the individual performance and delivery groups of the Herefordshire Partnership.

## **Consultees**

- 16 The six Policy and Delivery Groups have been consulted and wider input through their networks has been encouraged. In addition, consultation of the third sector via Herefordshire Voluntary Action and Herefordshire Alliance. Their comments are reflected in the current draft.

## **Appendices**

- 17 Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2013.

## **Background Papers**

- The State of Herefordshire Report
- Local Development Framework
- The Herefordshire Quality of Life Survey