

# HEREFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY 2004-2007

**Report By: Head of Planning Services**

## Wards Affected

Countywide

## Purpose

1. To approve an Archaeological Strategy for the County covering 2004-2007 together with its accompanying Strategic Plan for the same period.

## Financial Implications

2. The direct costs are simply those for printing the two documents, which will be met from within the existing budget.
3. The programme of actions set out within the Strategic Plan is such that it is anticipated this will be met through the existing revenue budget or through budget bids, primarily to external sources of grant aid and assistance.

## Background

4. Planning Committee last received a report on an Archaeological Strategy in June 2001. That Strategy covered the period 2001-2005, and has resulted in a significant increase in archaeological activity over the past 3 years. It has revealed a high level of interest in and demand for advice and information; supporting educational, tourism and regeneration activity. Over that period the work of the archaeology team in relation to the aims set out in the Strategy has directly attracted a significant amount of external funding for a range of projects with additional, indirect, financial and other benefits accruing which are thought to, at least, match those direct benefits.
5. The time is now considered right to roll that Strategy forward to cover the period 2004-2007.
6. The Strategy document for this period is attached (Appendix 1). Compared to that for the previous period it is far more succinct and concentrates upon defining, in broad terms, those areas of existing and new activity that the service will cover.
7. The Strategic Plan that accompanies the Strategy (Appendix 2) sets out in more detail the types actions it is envisaged will be undertaken over the three year period. A large number are either already underway or committed, while others are the subject of discussions with potential partners. The service has

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**1ST OCTOBER 2004**

a proven track record of responding positively to opportunities that arise for partnerships with external organisations and funding bodies.

8. An example of the way archaeology is promoting regeneration is that of the Herefordshire Rivers projects undertaken through funding from LEADER+ and English Heritage. This comprises a number of projects which should, hopefully cover four of the main rivers running through the County. That for the Arrow is complete with work upon the Frome is now being underway. A bid has been made to fund a third phase, which covers the River Lugg. Should members wish, a report on this work could be presented to a future meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Committee advises the Cabinet Member for the Environment to endorse Herefordshire Archaeology Strategy 2004-2007 together with the associated Strategic Plan for that period.**