

Locality master plans - Weobley

1. About Weobley Library

The Weobley locality covers covers 185km² and has 8,200 residents - 5% of the county's population and one of the smallest populations of the nine localities. It is situated in the centre of the county to the west of Hereford and east of Kington. The area is comprised of 23 rural parishes, reaching from Credenhill on the edge of Hereford to Letton in the west and as far as Eardisland in the north.

The large villages of Credenhill and Weobley act as service centres, as do the smaller villages of Canon Pyon and Eardisland. The area is home to the only high school in the locality. The area is fairly well served by roads and areas in the east and north are in close proximity to Hereford City and Leominster town. There are some differences in character within the locality between areas in the east close to Hereford and the rest of the locality.

2. Services required

As a rural area, Weobley serves the needs of its immediate residents. In asset terms there is currently a requirement for Council services (including library, customer services, primary and secondary education, children's and family services, integrated health and social care services (outreach)), blue light services and voluntary services. Parish and town councils are also likely to have more responsibility for the delivery of services needed by local communities and their needs need to be explored through the emerging locality partnership.

No fire stations or police stations in the locality.

A location plan of assets and a legend of facilities is supplied as part of this paper.

3. Steps already taken

Some very early discussion has taken place with the Weobley Local History Society regarding the potential community management of the museum and library.

4. Asset reviews

A series of asset reviews have been undertaken within the county over the past 12 months. Potential options including the identification of opportunities for services to co-locate, as well as those properties no longer suitable for service delivery and therefore surplus to operational requirements and available for disposal (either to achieve a capital receipt or a community asset transfer) have all been assessed with the following objectives:

- More effective/efficient use of assets
- Improved public access to services
- Increased co-location and co-working across all sectors
- Reduced revenue expenditure by sharing and redesigning services
- Reduced county carbon footprint

5. Proposed work programme for locality

- Sustainability of part time library
- Co location of part time museum

6. Other work underway

- The parishes of Weobley, Bishopstone Group and Foxley Group have already produced a Community Led Plan. The plans of Dilwyn and Eardisland are at an early stage of development.