

## **Locality master plans - Mortimer**

### **1. About Mortimer Locality**

The Mortimer locality covers 255 km<sup>2</sup> in the north west of Herefordshire, bordering Shropshire to the north and Powys to the west. With 8,100 residents (5% of the county's population), it has one of the smallest populations of the nine localities.

The locality is comprised of 26 rural parishes, reaching from the edge of Leominster market town to the northern tip of the county. The largest villages are Kingsland and Leintwardine; other service centres are Orleton, Shobdon and Wigmore (home to the only high school in the locality). 'Aymestry Horseshoe' LSOA is the least densely populated area in the county. Mortimer is one of the most remote localities with no railway or trunk roads and just two A-roads serving the area. Some areas of the locality are closer to the towns of Ludlow in Shropshire, and Knighton and Presteigne in Powys than they are to Leominster. 'Aymestry Horseshoe' is one of the least densely populated areas in the county.

### **2. Services required**

As a rural area, Mortimer serves the needs of its immediate residents. In asset terms there is 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.

Two retained fire stations at Leintwardine and Kingsland, both will remain. A premises requirement for an enhanced strategic training facility has been identified within the locality

No police stations are required for the locality.

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

### **3. Steps already taken**

Teme Valley Youth Project has taken steps to market the Mortimer Enterprise Centre through the Council's Commercial Property Register which is available online. There is currently office space and a commercial kitchen available to rent and this has been on the property register since February 2010.

Leintwardine Library has been relocated as a consequence of the redevelopment of the community centre.

The primary school, secondary school, leisure centre are all on one site and under single joint use management. Discussions are taking place to further consolidate this arrangement which involve the incorporation of the Mortimer Leisure Centre Trust into the Halo management model.

### **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**

- Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has identified a premises requirement for an enhanced strategic training facility within the locality.
- Cross-border dependencies to be explored.

### **6. Other work underway**

- A new surgery is to be built at Leintwardine, providing extra space which will allow the flexible delivery of services to meet the needs of local people in Leintwardine, Kingsland and Orleton.

- Many parishes in the locality, have already produced a Community Led Plan (Wigmore Group, Border Group, Kingsland, Orleton, Shobdon and, Yarpole). Three others are currently being produced.