

## **UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE PLAN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEREFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

**Report By: Jennifer Watkins, Herefordshire Partnership Support Team**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper and a verbal presentation will update members of the Health and Care Partnership on progress to date and the next steps in the review of the Herefordshire Plan, and Herefordshire's successful application for a Local Area Agreement and work undertaken to date. Guidance on Local Area Agreements is attached.

### **Review of the Herefordshire Plan**

2. Each Local Authority has to produce a Community Strategy, which sets out the priorities in the area for public services and action. Each Community Strategy is based on the views and aspirations of local people, businesses, local groups and agencies.

In Herefordshire, the Community Strategy is the Herefordshire Plan. The Plan is used as a framework by local groups and agencies to strategically plan their work. It provides a focus for plans and strategies being developed in the County and is a reference point for local people and organisations to judge how well Herefordshire is doing.

The original Herefordshire Plan was developed in 1999 with a 10-year Vision. In 1999 it was agreed that it would be updated in 2003, and that there would be a wider review in 2005, to test that the Vision and Ambitions are still appropriate. It is this wider review that is now being undertaken.

### **Local Area Agreement**

3. In May 2005 Herefordshire Councils Cabinet gave consent for interest to be registered with GOWM in obtaining a Local Area Agreement (LAA). Herefordshire Council duly registered interest in being one of the second round LAAs. In June 2005 Herefordshire Council was advised that it had been successful in securing an LAA, and that Herefordshire was to be one of thirteen areas to have a Single Pot LAA. A Single Pot gives greater freedom to spend Government funding on the achievement of locally agreed outcomes that have been established as part of the LAA. At present Telford and Wrekin is the only pilot Single Pot in England.

The Office of the Deputy Prime minister describes LAAs as "changing communities for the better: devolving further power to local authorities and their partners who are best placed to define local needs". LAAs are a new way of striking a deal between central Government and Herefordshire and ensuring that the aim and objectives of both parties are addressed. Each LAA will be a negotiated agreement made between Government, Herefordshire Council, the local community and major public service partners, working through the Herefordshire Partnership.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from Jennifer Watkins, Herefordshire Partnership Manager, on 01432 260610

Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) will be managing the LAAs for the region, acting as a contact between Local Strategic Partnerships and National Government

## RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) Members of the Health and Care Partnership note the work being undertaken;**
- (b) Members consider how they wish to be formally consulted as part of the Herefordshire Plan review during November**

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Guidance from the ODPM on Local Area Agreements.