

REVIEW OF THE HEREFORDSHIRE PLAN

Report By: Herefordshire Partnership Manager

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the work undertaken to date on the review of the Herefordshire Plan, and the next steps in the review process.

Financial Implications

None

Background

2. 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.
3. Work has been completed on the first part of the review. This has included:
 - a review of strategies and other documents that guide the work of organisations in Herefordshire, together with an examination of the environmental, social and economic sustainability of current plans and activity;
 - consultations with a wide range of groups during April to help us hear the views of, and confirm the priorities for people who live in, work in and visit the County (These groups have included: Faith groups, Farmers, Market Towns groups, Older people, Parish Council Networks, People with disabilities, Young people, and Ambition Groups of the Herefordshire Partnership);
 - The Herefordshire Conversation on 13th June in Hereford. This event brought together local people with service providers, to discuss the results of the document analysis and group consultations, in themed and facilitated workshops.
4. From these activities and consultations a set of objectives have emerged. The Herefordshire Partnership Board considered the work and consultation activity undertaken so far on the Herefordshire Plan, and how they saw a new Herefordshire Plan and Partnership taking shape, based on these objectives. The Board agreed that there is clearly a need for a simpler Herefordshire Plan, which is easier to read and implement, and is more action orientated. Undoubtedly it must reflect the views of local people and organisations and remain a strategic planning document for Herefordshire. To this end the Board agreed the following points:

- There will be a revised, simpler vision for the Herefordshire Plan, which reflects: where we want to be in 2020; the outcomes from the consultation; and, the Local Area Agreement. The new vision is:

“Herefordshire is a place where people, business and an outstanding natural environment will together bring about sustainable prosperity and well being for all”.

This may be recognised as the same vision as the Local Area Agreement.

- Merger of the current Golden Threads in the Herefordshire Plan and the cross cutting themes in the Local Area Agreement
 - The new Herefordshire Plan will be structured around the four themes of the Local Area Agreement. These are:
 - (a) Economic development and enterprise
 - (b) Safer and stronger communities
 - (c) Children and young people
 - (d) Healthier communities and older people
 - The outcomes agreed within the Local Area Agreement will form the major part of the work plan for the Herefordshire Partnership.
5. The structure of the Herefordshire Partnership will now be revised to reflect the new Plan and be based on a robust performance management framework to accurately identify and measure the difference working in Partnership can make.
 6. Over the next month the Herefordshire Partnership Support Team will be undertaking further work on the new Plan and Partnership, including meeting with Chairs and facilitators of Ambition and other Partnership Groups.
 7. A draft Herefordshire Plan and a first proposal for a new Herefordshire Partnership structure will be circulated for consultation in November 2005. Consultees will involve those already involved in the first stage, and any other group or organisation who may be effected by the changes. Specific consultation meetings will be held with Ambition Groups and other Groups, and a specific Members briefing will be held on 22nd November 2005 in the Council Chamber.
 8. After the consultation period the feedback will be analysed and changes made as appropriate. New ways of working in the Herefordshire Partnership will also be confirmed. The new Herefordshire Plan will be launched in early 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the work undertaken and consultation proposals be noted, subject to any comments which the Committee wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Jennifer Watkins, Herefordshire Partnership Manager on 01432 260239