

The Community Strategy for Herefordshire

“A Sustainable Future for the County”

Summary

This is a summary of the Community Strategy for Herefordshire and the State of Herefordshire Report. It outlines the Vision, 4 themes, outcomes and the guiding principles.

The Community Strategy for Herefordshire is the culmination of a significant review carried out in 2005, and is based on the views of local people, businesses and organisations. The Community Strategy for Herefordshire provides a strategic framework for local groups and organisations to plan their work and a focus for plans and strategies being developed. It will also be used to maximise funding opportunities.

Further copies of this leaflet, the full Community Strategy for Herefordshire and the State of Herefordshire Report can be obtained by contacting the Herefordshire Partnership Support Team. Contact details are on page 4.

The Community Strategy for Herefordshire sets out a Vision for the future of Herefordshire which gives an idea of the sort of place that people would like it to be in 2020:

Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and well-being for all.

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Economic Development and Enterprise

Improving business, learning and employment opportunities in Herefordshire enabling sustainable prosperity for all

We will be working towards the following outcomes:

- More and better paid employment
- A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce
- Reduced traffic congestion through access to better integrated transport provision

Photo courtesy of the Learning and Skills Council



Herefordshire has a high rate of self-employment compared with regionally and nationally and most neighbouring counties. Unemployment in the County is low. Average wages in the County are significantly below both the regional and national averages whilst average working hours are longer.



Safer and Stronger Communities

Developing stronger, more inclusive communities and creating a safer and greener place to live, work and visit

We will be working towards the following outcomes:

- Reduced levels of, and fear of, crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour
- Fewer accidents
- Cleaner, greener communities
- People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged



Overall crime rates are significantly lower than regionally or nationally. Households in rural Herefordshire tend to live further away from key services, e.g. banks and GP surgeries, than households in rural West Midlands.



Children and Young People

Improving the lives of children and their families, enabling all children and young people to develop the knowledge, skills and judgement they will need to be able to lead fulfilling lives.

We will be working towards the following outcomes:

- Children and young people are healthy and have healthy lifestyles
- Children and young people are safe, secure and have stability
- Children and young people achieve educational, personal, social and physical standards
- Children and young people engage in positive behaviour inside and out of school
- Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school



Herefordshire performs well at GCSE level and has relatively high levels of school leavers entering education, employment and training.



Healthier Communities and Older People

Improving public health, quality of life and promoting independence and well being for disadvantaged groups and older people

We will be working towards the following outcomes:

- Reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles
- Older people and vulnerable adults enjoy more independence and choice



In general, Herefordshire has an older age structure than England and Wales. The population as a whole is healthier than nationally or regionally indicated by mortality rates and life expectancy.



Photo by kind permission of AMD

The Guiding Principles

During the process of developing the Community Strategy, five important principles emerged which will guide everything we do.

These Guiding Principles ensure that we work towards Herefordshire being a sustainable County by taking a co-ordinated approach to communities, the environment and the local economy.

This will involve everyone, including geographically based communities and groups of people with common interests.

It will also ensure that we make the most of what we already have within Herefordshire.



The Five Guiding Principles are:

- Realise the potential of Herefordshire, its people and communities
- Integrate sustainability into all our actions
- Ensure an equal and inclusive society
- Build on the achievements of partnership working and ensure continual improvement
- Protect and improve Herefordshire's distinctive environment



The State of Herefordshire Report

The State of Herefordshire Report has two key functions:

- To maintain a set of indicators to monitor progress towards the outcomes and Vision in the Community Strategy for Herefordshire and present trend data for these.
- To provide other useful contextual statistics and act as a 'signpost' to sources of more detailed information.

The report is intended to provide a resource for those working for organisations involved in the Herefordshire Partnership, both reflecting and informing local strategic thinking.

A copy of the report is available from Herefordshire Partnership's website or alternatively contact the Partnership Research Officers on 01432 383634 or email researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk



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