

Shaping Our Place 2026

Local Development Framework

Hereford Area Plan Scoping Report

January 2010

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 As outlined in paragraph 5.4 of Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning, local planning authorities are obliged to prepare Area Plans, in order to provide a planning framework for areas where significant change or conservation is required.
- 1.2 The latest version of Herefordshire Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS), published in January 2009 (to be updated early in 2010), confirms that a Hereford Area Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) will form part of the Herefordshire Local Development Framework in addition to the emerging Core Strategy; its main objectives being to set out proposals for the delivery of sustainable housing and other growth at Hereford, including proposals for city centre regeneration.
- 1.3 This Scoping Report is the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process to accompany the production of the Hereford Area Plan DPD. It draws from the framework of objectives set out in the General Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework (September 2006), which can be seen on the Herefordshire Council website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is the process by which the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan can be identified and reported. It is a continuous process that informs firstly the evidence gathering stage of the plan's preparation, and subsequently the formulation of alternative options and the preparation of the preferred strategy. It enables potential adverse impacts to be identified at an early stage and where possible avoided, or the impacts reduced via mitigation. The primary purpose of SA is to ensure the consideration of sustainable development is included in the preparation and adoption of plans. SA offers a systematic way of checking and improving plans as they are developed.
- 2.2 Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), sustainability approval is required for new or revised DPDs which form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and other Local Development Documents (LDD) no longer require SA as a result of the changes made to the town and country planning system by the Planning Act (2008).
- 2.3 SA extends the concept of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) brought in by EU Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'SEA Directive') to include economic and social concerns. The Directive came into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of plans and programmes including DPDs and SPDs.
- 2.4 The SEA Directive requires that a scoping report should provide information on the following:
- the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes;
 - relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the implementation of the plan or programme, as well as the environmental characteristics of the areas that are likely to be significantly affected. This, in addition to any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including those that

relate to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated in accordance with Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); and

- the authorities that will need to be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of information included in the report - by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities and likely concerns regarding the impact of implementing plans and programmes.

2.5 In November 2005, the Government published a guidance document entitled Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks. This represents the accepted guidance on the application of SA to Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which also incorporates requirements under the SEA Directive and regulations. This SA scoping report will broadly follow the specific SA process for DPDs set out in the above guidance.

2.6 The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) recommends that **Appropriate Assessments** should take place where a plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, but is likely to have a significant effect thereon. An Appropriate Assessment will be required for the Hereford Area Plan DPD as the level of development allocated as a result of it, may have a significant effect upon the European sites likely to be affected by proposals in the DPD.

3.0 Purpose of this Scoping Report

3.1 The purpose of this SA Scoping Report is to set out the initial context and findings of the SA and the proposed approach to the rest of the appraisal. The aim is to ensure that the SA is comprehensive, and addresses all relevant issues and objectives, by enabling input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage in the process.

3.2 The Scoping Report sets out initial assessment of:

- the relationship of the Hereford Area Plan DPD with other relevant plans and programmes and sustainability objectives established at the national, regional or local level;
- the current environmental, social and economic baseline characteristics and likely evolution thereof;
- the likely key sustainability issues for the DPD – based on assessment of the baseline;
- the likely objectives of the DPD; and
- possible options for how the DPD is produced.

3.3 This report represents the first stage of the SA process and the above effectively sets out the elements of the defined Task A as detailed in the General Scoping Report for the LDF. Section 11, Table 3 of this report summarises the proposed methodology for this and subsequent stages of the SA process.

4.0 Consultation on the Scoping Report

4.1 The aim of the consultation on the Scoping Report was to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it sought to:

- ensure the sustainability appraisal is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the DPD during the later stages of full public consultation;
- seek advice on the completeness of the plan review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate;
- seek advice on the suitability of key sustainability issues; and
- seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

4.2 Comments on this Scoping Report have been received from four bodies, to include English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency, and the Highways Agency.

5.0 Hereford Area Plan DPD

5.1 At regional level, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (RSS) identifies Hereford City as a sub-regional focus in its spatial strategy, where most new development is being encouraged, mainly through urban regeneration projects. At local level, the current development plan for Hereford is the adopted Unitary Development Plan (March 2007), which will become a 'saved plan' for the purposes of the new planning system until March 2010. A proposal has been submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM), to save policies beyond 2010.

5.2 Herefordshire Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) January 2009, outlines the commitment to producing a Hereford Area Plan DPD. This will give effect to Hereford's status as a New Growth Point, and address the emerging RSS phase 2 review proposals for Hereford as a Settlement of Significant Development. As the RSS provides specific guidance in terms of the balanced growth requirements at Hereford, a start can be made on this DPD whilst the Core Strategy is still in preparation. Its early preparation will confirm the feasibility of delivering growth, whilst the area-wide approach will allow the implications of growth proposals in a historic city setting to be assessed comprehensively, including infrastructure needs arising. The focus on a specific location as a basis for the Plan will also help in ensuring that growth is accommodated in a way which recognises, supports and shapes Hereford's 'sense of place'.

6.0 Review of Plans, Programmes & Sustainability Objectives

6.1 The SEA Directive requires local authorities to review other plans, policies and programmes in order to establish the environmental protection objectives at international and national level, which are relevant to the DPD. The SA process should also set out how these objectives have been taken into account during the document's preparation.

6.2 **Appendix A1 of the General Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Herefordshire LDF contains a comprehensive review of all plans, strategies, guidance and legislation which relate to sustainability and which will influence the preparation of the LDF in general. These therefore are not repeated in this document.**

6.3 The list below sets out the other relevant plans, policies and programmes that have been reviewed as part of this SA scoping process - details of which can be found in appendix 1 of this document. This builds on the list of plans, policies and programmes contained in appendix A1 of the General Scoping Report. It should be noted however, that this is not a definitive list and this report will be kept under review, and updated when necessary.

European

- Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006);

National Policy Statements and Strategies

- Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (2008);
- PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development – Consultation Draft (2009);
- PPS12: Local Spatial Planning (2008);
- The Planning Act (2008);
- Climate Change Act (2008);
- Housing and Regeneration Act (2008);
- Soil Strategy for England (Draft) (Defra, 2008);
- Water Strategy – Future Water (Defra, 2008);
- Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (CLG, 2007);
- Energy White Paper – Meeting the Challenge (2007);
- Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: Heritage White Paper (DCMS, 2007);
- Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007);
- Planning for Tourism: A Good Practice Guide (2006);
- Climate Change: The UK Programme (Defra, 2006);
- Code for Sustainable Homes: A Step Change in Sustainable Home Building Practice (CLG, 2006);
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006);
- Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, 2005);
- Game Plan 2020: A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (2002);
- Department for Transport : Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (2008);
- World Class Places: The Government's Strategy for Improving Quality of Place (2009);
- CLG Guidance on Building a Local Sense of Belonging (2009)
- PPS: Consultation Paper - PPS15 Planning for the Historic Environment (2009)

Regional Plans and Strategies

- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Revised: incorporating Phase 1 Review) (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2008);
- West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: Connecting to Success (Advantage West Midlands, 2007);

- Regional Sustainable Development Framework (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006);
- West Midlands Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (RFRA) – Final Update (2009);
- Draft West Midlands Historic Environment Strategy ‘*Putting the Historic Environment to Work*’ (2009) – (currently out to consultation).

Local Plans and Strategies

- Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (Draft) (2008);
- Hereford City Regeneration Strategy (2008);
- Herefordshire Council Sustainability Strategy (2006-2009);
- The State of Herefordshire Report (2009);
- Herefordshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009);
- Herefordshire Water Cycle Study (2009);
- Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy (2007-2010 - Draft);
- Herefordshire Council Archaeology Strategy (2008-2011);

Emerging Local Documents

- Herefordshire Community Strategy (under review)
- Hereford Town Centre: Streetscape Design Strategy (Streetscape Manual) (2009)

7.0 Baseline characteristics

- 7.1 The SEA Directive requires information to be gathered on “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” *and* “the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be most significantly affected”.
- 7.2 Government guidance states that baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. The collection and assessment of broad information about the current and likely state of Hereford is used within the SA to help predict the effect of the Hereford Area Plan DPD.
- 7.3 This Scoping Report presents an outline of baseline data topics to be considered, and are listed in Table 1 below. Other sources will be reviewed as part of the update to the General Scoping Report prior to submission. This will include the characteristics of Hereford.

Table 1 – Summary List of Baseline Data Topics

Data Themes and Topics
▪ Population
▪ Employment
▪ Housing
▪ Transport
▪ Recreation and Leisure
▪ Historic Environment
▪ Town Centres & Retail

▪ Crime and the Fear of Crime	
▪ Quality of Life / Involvement	
▪ Skills and Education	
▪ Health	
▪ Access to Services	
▪ Deprivation	
▪ Environment	➤ Bio-Diversity
	➤ Air Quality
	➤ Water
	➤ SuDS
	➤ Waste Recycling
	➤ Energy Efficiency

(Source: appendix A2 of General Scoping Report for the SA of the LDF)

8.0 Key sustainability issues for Hereford

8.1 The development of the Hereford Area Plan DPD represents a significant opportunity for the enhancement of Hereford. Consultation on this Scoping Report has been a key input into the identification of key sustainability issues that will inform the development of the DPD. The following represents the key issues raised through the consultation on the Core Strategy Developing Options Paper, and through the desk-top analysis of The State of Herefordshire Report (2009).

Table 2 – Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

Key Issue	Summary of issues raised through consultation and through The State of Herefordshire Report 2009
Employment	<p>Improvements are needed to road infrastructure to encourage businesses to relocate to the city.</p> <p>Need to diversify into high-technology industries to provide a wider range of employment opportunities.</p> <p>Need to address the high levels of income deprivation occurring in Hereford City.</p> <p>Need to support the development of agricultural industries.</p> <p>Should encourage town centre industry to relocate to outer industrial parks.</p> <p>Need to encourage 'green' businesses in the county.</p>
Education and Skills	<p>Hereford should be consolidated as the focus for an agricultural county.</p> <p>Higher education should be geared towards research into local needs and renewable materials to meet those needs.</p> <p>There is a marked absence of infrastructure to support research and development, professional support, technology, training and education.</p> <p>Hereford should become a University city, with education focussed on research and development, 'green industries' and agriculture.</p> <p>Need to address deprivation in the city in terms of skills and educational attainment.</p>
Transport and Travel	<p>A scheme of blended transport improvements should be implemented.</p> <p>Sustainable transport modes should be a priority when developing policy on housing, retail and employment.</p> <p>Flexible and integrated public transport is needed (a transport hub) – to include investment in rail infrastructure, buses, cycle routes and pedestrian walkways.</p> <p>A relief road may be needed.</p> <p>Need more convenient parking facilities, to include an increase in short term pay and display.</p> <p>The severing effect of Newmarket Street and Blueschool Street needs to be addressed.</p>
Health	<p>Need to provide opportunity for physical activity in the city.</p> <p>Need to address access issues in the city for people with disabilities.</p>

Town Centres/Market Towns	The ESG must be fully integrated with the city centre. Need to improve the quality of retail offer in Hereford. Limited capacity for grow of office accommodation in the city. Need to provide a wide range of employment and retail opportunities. Need to support smaller businesses. Need to take account of disability access and shopping. Encourage local producers through regular town centre markets and small units. Need for non-retail leisure facilities. Regeneration is needed in some areas of the city, while High Town should be enhanced to attract more visitors. A mix of uses and an evening economy is needed to revitalise the centre.
Historic Environment	Need to look at the current and future likely state of the historic environment, to provide the basis for identifying sustainability issues; to help predict and monitoring effects, and to identify alternate ways of dealing with them.
Provision of Affordable Housing	Need to address the issue of affordable housing in Hereford City, where the demand for housing is much higher than for the rest of the county.
Reduction in waste/increase in recycling	Improvements needed to re-use and recycling efforts across the city.
Biodiversity	Promote green infrastructure across the city. Protect the River Wye SAC.
Energy Use	Need energy efficient design and consideration of renewable energy sources. Ensuring that minimum standards and best practice are met.
Flood Risk	Flood risk needs to be considered as a key issue of sustainability in DPDs.
Climate change adaptation	Greater emphasis is needed on adapting to the impacts of climate change.
Foul Drainage	Sustainable foul drainage systems must be promoted in line with the order of preference in Circular 3/99, in the absence of a mains foul sewer.
Soils	The quality of the land and soils needs to be protect and restored to enable them to be used beneficially and safely, and so that they are not a source of contamination of controlled waters.

(Source: Core Strategy Developing Options Consultation, 2008; The State of Herefordshire Report, 2009)

9.0 Proposed DPD Objectives

- 9.1 The establishment of SA objectives and criteria is central to the SA process. The SA framework, based on these objectives provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, assessed and compared.
- 9.2 It is proposed to base the objectives for the SA of the Hereford Area Plan DPD on those already developed for the appraisal of the LDF as detailed in appendix A3 of the General Scoping Report. However the objectives and detailed criteria will be modified at the next stage of the process to reflect the particular needs and issues identified with regard to the Hereford Area Plan. Those objectives considered relevant are listed in appendix 2.

10.0 Options to be considered

- 10.1 One of the key requirements of SA/SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) is to consider reasonable alternatives as part of the assessment process. Each of the alternative options are outlined below along with advantages and disadvantages for each option. These will be assessed in terms of sustainability at the next stage of the SA process and will be documented in the report accompanying the draft DPD.

10.2 Option 1 – “No Area Plan Approach”

Key features

10.2.1 If the ‘do nothing’ option were to prevail, the emerging Core Strategy would be Hereford’s one and only Development Plan Document (DPD).

Advantages and disadvantages

10.2.2 It could be argued that the option of not preparing the Hereford Area Plan would have mostly negative and some uncertain effects, as there would be no policy framework to deliver Hereford’s development needs and growth aspirations to 2026. Whilst the Core Strategy would identify broad locations for development, it would not provide area specific detail, and would not contain information on non-strategic sites. In that respect, the absence of a Hereford Area Plan would compromise the council’s ability to stimulate regeneration, protect areas particularly sensitive to change and resolve conflicting objectives in areas subject to development pressures.

10.2.3 It should be noted that a short-term positive effect could arise as a result of *not* preparing the Area Plan; in that it would mean that currently vacant sites would not be developed, which would help to conserve (if not enhance) biodiversity. In the longer term however, some form of development would take place on such sites. Subsequently this could lead to negative effects on biodiversity overall if the Plan was not in place to ameliorate them.

10.3 Option 2 – “Site Allocations DPD”

Key features

10.3.1 Whilst the Core Strategy will identify broad locations for development, it would be the role of a Site Allocations DPD to determine the exact sites for the delivery of the overall strategy, and to identify them on a ‘proposals map’. The identification of land within the DPD must be based on strong evidence and the council would need to assess the suitability and availability of all the sites suggested.

Advantages and disadvantages

10.3.2 As the Site Allocations DPD has to be in conformity with the Core Strategy, sites that are selected would have to reflect and deliver its aspirations for Herefordshire to 2026. This would ensure that the growth targets are met and that the DPD accords with the Core Strategy Vision of ‘*a place of distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities, with sustainable development fostering a high quality of life for those who live, work and visit here. A sustainable future for the county will be based on the interdependence of the themes of social progress, economic prosperity and environmental quality with the aim of increasing the county’s self-reliance and resilience.*’

10.3.3 Allocated sites would also have to be in conformity with relevant national and regional policy that the Core Strategy does not repeat; and deliverability would be a key factor as to whether a site could be allocated or not. Ownership and a reasonable prospect that the site will be brought forward before 2026 would also therefore be key considerations.

10.3.4 A disadvantage of a Site Allocations DPD would relate to the fact that it would not be place specific, and would cover the whole of Herefordshire County. In that respect, it would not go into the same level of detail as contained within an Area/Place specific plan, and thus as a result it would not address area specific issues.

10.4 Option 3 – “Area Plan Approach”

Key features

10.4.1 This approach would help identify opportunities for a range of commercial, residential, social, transport, environmental and physical benefits.

Advantages and disadvantages

10.4.2 The advantage of preparing a Hereford Area Plan is that it would set out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Hereford City; and in doing so would provide the framework for how the city can develop. It would provide information on how development can be achieved, what new development is required and where resources are needed; alongside a vision and strategy that would guide development in the city. All planning applications would be measured against the contents of the Plan.

10.4.3 The Hereford Area Plan would deliver the aspirations of the Core Strategy by setting out the policies and proposals that direct development in Hereford. In particular the plan will:

- set the long-term vision and strategy for Hereford;
- set the objectives required to achieve the vision;
- Set out land-use proposals and policies to guide developments;
- provide a realistic and viable plan for the implementation of the proposals;
- be fully embedded within wider strategies, plans and guidance;
- promote the city as the place for investment.

10.4.4 However, it may take up to four years for a Hereford Area Plan to reach adoption, which could hold back progress towards the delivery of the Core Strategy’s aspirations for development and growth in Hereford.

11.0 Proposed Sustainability Appraisal method

11.1 The proposed approach to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Hereford Area Plan DPD is based on the SA process set out in the Government SA Guidance – Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (November 2005). Table 3 lists the proposed SA Stages and tasks, which are based on those set out in the Government guidance.

Table 3 - Proposed Sustainability Appraisal stages and tasks

Pre-Production – Evidence Gathering
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
Tasks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives • A2: Collecting baseline information • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • A4: Developing the SA framework

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Production – Prepare draft DPD
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Tasks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework • B2: Developing the DPD options • B3: Predicting the effects of the draft DPD • B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft DPD • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Task:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Prepare SA Report
Stage D: Consulting on draft DPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report
Tasks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public Participation on the SA report and the draft DPD • D2(i): Appraising significant changes
Examination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
Adoption and Monitoring
Task:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3: Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring • E2: Responding to adverse effects

12.0 What happens next?

12.1 The next stage in the SA process will be to appraise the likely impacts of the Hereford Area Plan DPD. This appraisal will be recorded in a matrix format identifying:

- any positive or negative effects;
- whether the effects are short, medium or long term;
- the likelihood of the effects occurring;
- their geographical impact;
- any possible mitigation measures there may be.

12.2 The results of the appraisal will be published in the next ‘Sustainability Appraisal Report’ which will be made available for consideration alongside the Hereford Area Plan DPD, during formal consultation on the options.

Appendix 1 – Review of additional plans, policies, programmes and key evidence base

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This document sets out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy making.	<p>The strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges until 2010, many of which are predominantly environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport; • Sustainable production and consumption; • Public health threats; • Better management of natural resources; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 	The Hereford Area Plan should take into account the objectives of the Strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.
Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (2008)	This report sets out a vision of flourishing, vibrant communities that will be genuinely sustainable, and delivers a clear message: the planning process has to become an engine of regeneration or we face a future of decline. The overriding objective of the report is to help ensure the planning system brings a positive, lasting legacy of places in which people actually want to live. It suggests changes to the planning system necessary to deliver vibrant communities with a distinct identity; in keeping with the character of their surroundings, and which enhance the local	<p>The review highlights that the future development of rural communities should not be determined against a narrow tick-box approach to sustainable development. It states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a better balance of social, economic and environmental factors is needed to form a long-term vision for all scales of communities; • the Government must set out in new planning policy - a new approach to delivering socially, economically and environmentally vibrant communities; • Local Planning Authorities must develop with communities, a clear evidence based long-term vision for each settlement; and that Exception Site 	The Hereford Area Plan should set out a vision for the development of Hereford, enabling a socially, economically and environmentally vibrant community. The Plan should also address affordability issues within the city, and urban regeneration.

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
	landscape and bio-diversity.	<p>policy be reformulated as a criteria based Community Led Affordable Housing policy within the local plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greater recognition is needed of the ways economic growth can improve sustainability. 	
Draft PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development – Consultation Draft (2009)	Draft PPS4 sets out the Government's aims for delivering sustainable economic development. The PPS sets out a positive and flexible approach to economic development and the supply of suitable land.	<p>In promoting economic growth planning should seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good range of sites identified for economic development and mixed use; A good supply of land and buildings which offers a range of opportunities for creating new jobs in large and small businesses as well as start firms which is responsive to changing needs and demands; High quality development and inclusive design for all forms of economic development; To avoid adverse impacts on the environment, but where these are unavoidable, providing mitigation; To shape travel demand by promoting sustainable travel choices wherever possible. 	The Hereford Area Plan will set out a vision for the delivery of employment land of the right type and quality whilst having regard for the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the city.
PPS12: Local Spatial Planning (2008)	PPS12 sets out procedural policy for the preparation of LDFs. As such, no direct implications for the Hereford Area Plan are listed here.	-	-
The Planning Act (2008)	The Act makes two very important changes to the planning system in England and Wales. Firstly, it	-	-

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
	<p>provides for a new consenting system for major infrastructure projects with a new Infrastructure Planning Commission taking centre stage in the process. It also paves the way for a levy payable upon the carrying out of development, through the Community Infrastructure Levy. Once the relevant regulations and guidance are published it will become possible to assess any implications for the Hereford Area Plan.</p>		
<p>The Climate Change Act (2008)</p>	<p>The Act creates a long-term framework for the reduction on the UK's carbon dioxide emissions to between 26-32% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050.</p>	<p>As well as the key objective of carbon emissions reduction the Act introduces a system of five-year carbon budgets, which set binding limits on CO² emissions and ensure that every year's emissions count. Three successive budgets (set 15 years ahead) will always be in law. The Act also introduces a Committee on Climate Change in an advisory role to the Government</p>	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should directly contribute to the UK's carbon emissions targets by including policies that help reduce carbon emissions in Hereford City.</p>
<p>The Housing and Regeneration Act (2008)</p>	<p>The Act supports the Housing Green Paper delivery targets of three million new homes by 2020.</p>	<p>The Act aims to give Councils more freedom and incentives to build new homes, and making rating against the Code for Sustainable Homes mandatory for new homes.</p> <p>The Act aims to support the delivery of housing supply (and specifically affordable housing) through the creation of the Homes and Communities Agency, and reforms social housing and social housing regulation</p>	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should have regard for the key elements of the Act. Encouraging the development of the appropriate number of houses, with a mixture of the tenure and type of housing, should be a fundamental part of the LDF.</p>

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
		to promote better services for tenants.	
Soil Strategy for England (Draft) (Defra, 2008)	The soil strategy sets out the Government's aim to maximise the economic and environmental benefits of soils for current and future generations. The Strategy identifies pressures on the soil and a number of priority areas to address.	<p>The Strategy includes the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure measures for the production of soil functions for agriculture and forestry soils are effective and take account of future pressures; • Reduce rate of soil organic matter decline and protect habitats based on organic soils, such as peat bogs, to maintain carbon stores and soil quality; • Establish risk of putting organic material on soils and wider consequences of doing, and seek to keep risks at the minimal level; • Ensure that construction industry and planning authorities take account of the need to protect soil resources and ensure they can fulfil functions, especially storing, transporting and filtering water. 	The Hereford Area Plan must have regard to the objectives of the Soil Strategy and ensure that policies do not lead to the degradation of the qualities and functions of the soils in the city.
Water Strategy – Future Water (Defra, 2008)	Future Water sets out the Government's long-term vision for a strategic and integrated approach to water and a framework for water management in England.	<p>The Strategy's proposals include an aim to reduce water usage to 120 litres per person per day by 2030 (from the current level of roughly 150 litres per person per day).</p> <p>Other aims include new proposals to tackle surface water drainage and water pollution by encouraging the development of more adaptable drainage systems and promoting more proactive engagement between water</p>	The Hereford Area Plan should reflect Future Water's key aims and ensure that policies contribute to good ground and surface water management practice. Its policies should also lead to development that does not negatively affect flood risk.

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
		<p>authorities and the planning process. An understanding of the future risks of river and coastal flooding should be fully embedded into the spatial planning system, and public awareness of the causes and consequences of surface water runoff, and actions that can be taken to reduce it, should be improved.</p>	
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (CLG, 2007)	The policy statement sets out the Government's intention for all new homes to be 'zero carbon' by 2016.	Key objectives include meeting the zero carbon standard for all new homes by 2016 by 25% by 2010 and by 44% by 2013).	The Hereford Area Plan should welcome development that reduces overall carbon emissions.
Energy White Paper – Meeting the Challenge (2007)	The White Paper sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to respond to long-term energy challenges; tackling climate change and energy security.	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an international framework to tackle climate change; • Provide legally binding carbon targets for the whole reducing emissions; • Make further progress in achieving fully competitive international markets; • Encourage more energy saving through better information, regulation; • Provide more support for low carbon technologies; • Ensure the right conditions for investment. 	The Hereford Area Plan should seek to reduce energy uses in the city, through locating development sustainably and ensuring that energy efficient measures are employed – ensuring at the same time that minimum standards and best practice is met. In addition, the Plan should consider opportunities for incorporating renewable energy schemes. Policies should positively encourage the use of renewable energy technologies.
Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century: Heritage White Paper (DCMS, 2007)	The Heritage White Paper sets out the need to develop a unified approach to the historic environment; maximise opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and support sustainable communities by	<p>Objectives for Hereford City include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging listed buildings and scheduled ancient building regimes; • Removing conservation area consent; • Making demolition and part demolition works in conservation areas subject to a 	The Hereford Area Plan should have regard for the objectives of the White Paper and ensure that the protection of Hereford's rich built and historic environment is covered within its policies.

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	<p>putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.</p>	<p>requirement for planning permission.</p>	
<p>Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007)</p>	<p>The Waste Strategy builds on PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management and is part of the implementation for England of the requirements within the Framework Directive on Waste, and associated Directives, to produce waste management plans.</p>	<p>The key objectives are to achieve less waste, more material recovery, energy from waste and much less landfill. To achieve this, the Strategy sets objectives for different sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business: Build resource efficiency into business model; produce less waste; design less wasteful products and use recycled inputs; • Retailers: Reduce packaging and usage of single use carrier bags; use influence on consumers and supply chain; • Local authorities: Provide convenient recycling services for household and commercial users; provide local leadership to plan and invest in new infrastructure; • Waste management industry: Provide flexible sustainable waste services to customers; invest in recycling and recovery facilities; and observe high environmental standards. <p>The Waste Strategy sets targets of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual greenhouse gas emissions: 2020: reduction of 10 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents; • Household waste recycling: 2010: 40%; 2015: 45%; 2020: 50% • Household residual waste: 2010: 29% 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should have regard for the importance of good waste management within the city.</p> <p>The Hereford Area Plan should encourage the development of recycling and composting facilities which are easily accessible - preferably by sustainable transport modes.</p>

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		reduction; 2015: 35% reduction; 2020: 45% reduction from 2000 levels.	
Planning for Tourism: A Good Practice Guide (2006)	The Guide sets out how effective planning for tourism can be. The guide ensures planners understand the importance of tourism and identifies the need for planning and the tourism industry to work together effectively.	<p>Those preparing Area Plans need to decide how to deal with tourism issues within the policy framework. This approach should seek to produce a plan which is integrated with other strategies that have been prepared for the area, including any that relate to the future of tourism.</p> <p>In Hereford City, where the future development of tourism is a key issue for the council, it will be appropriate for the Area Plan to cover tourism issues together with any objectives relevant to tourism.</p>	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should take account of the general principles within the good practice guide, which include how to devise good tourism policies.</p> <p>There are a number of assets within Hereford which have potential for promoting tourism. However, measures will need to be identified to protect these key assets from over-exploitation, for example, promoting alternative attractions, and assessing the wider economic and social consequences of tourism growth. This could be achieved through a green infrastructure led approach, which could inform and influence tourism in the county by helping to identify opportunities.</p>
Climate Change: The UK Programme (Defra, 2006)	This programme builds on the initial climate change programme published in 2000. It sets out the UK's policies and priorities for tackling climate change focusing both internationally and domestically.	The UK Programme reiterates and goes beyond the UK's commitment to the Kyoto agreement, aiming to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.	The Hereford Area Plan should include policies that help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
Code for Sustainable Homes: A Step Change in Sustainable Home Building Practice (CLG, 2006)	The Code for Sustainable Homes is a national standard for sustainable design and construction of new homes. It builds upon the previous Eco-	The Code has been introduced to drive a step change in sustainable home building practice. It is a standard for key elements of design and construction which affect the sustainability of a new home. The aim is for	The Hereford Area Plan should encourage all developers to meet with best practice as set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes.

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	<p>Homes standards as developed by the Building Research Establishment.</p> <p>By integrating elements of this voluntary Code into new homes and obtaining assessments against the Code, developers will be able to obtain a 'star rating' for any new home which will demonstrate its environmental performance.</p>	<p>the Code to become the single national standard for sustainable homes, used by home designers and builders as a guide to development, and by homebuyers to assist in their choice of home. Seven areas are considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy efficient/CO² emissions; 2. Water efficiency; 3. Surface water management; 4. Site waste management; 5. Household waste management; 6. Use of materials; 7. Lifetime homes. <p>The Code is now mandatory for publicly funded development and will be enforced at Code level 3 through the Building Regulations from 2010.</p>	
<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</p>	<p>The NERC Act established Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities and sets out how a new duty that all public bodies have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Section 40 of the Act states that "every public authority must, in exercising its function, have regard so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity".</p> <p>The Act stresses that biodiversity conservation should not be viewed solely as an environmental issues, but a core component of sustainable development, which underpins economic development and prosperity and offers a range of quality of life benefits across a range of local authority service areas.</p>	<p>The new biodiversity duty requires local authorities to take their impact on biodiversity into account in all decision-making. It also requires local authorities to not only protect biodiversity but also restore and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The Hereford Area Plan should ensure the Act's key requirements are reflected in its policies.</p>

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Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, 2005)	The aim is to encourage more ambitious strategies to combat environmental degradation including making use of planning obligations to implement spatial policies. It highlights a commitment to addressing the social, economic, and environmental issues together: ensuring sustainable development; and promoting local distinctiveness.	<p>The document seeks encourage development which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is more sustainable, both in built form and location; • Respects the ability of the environment to accommodate change (including climate change); • Avoids damage to and increases or enhances the environmental resource; • Reduces risks to, and potentially arising from, the environment; • Respects local distinctiveness and sense of place and is of high design quality, so that it is valued by communities; • Reflects local needs and provides local benefits. 	The Hereford Area Plan will aim to protect the distinctiveness and character of the local landscape and will aim to prevent any development that is likely to cause irreversible damage to the natural environment. A green infrastructure approach should be adopted which would contribute towards sustainable resource management
Game Plan 2020: A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (2002)	<p>Game Plan sets out the Government's vision for mass participation, and improved performance in sport.</p> <p>(Game Plan was published prior to the award of the 2012 Olympic Games).</p>	<p>Game Plan includes two overarching objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A major increase in participation in sport and physical activity, primarily because of the significant health benefits and reduce the costs of inactivity; and 2. A sustainable improvement in success in international competition, particularly in the sports which matter most to the public, primarily because of the 'feel good factor' associated with winning. <p>The Strategy has a long-term target of achieving 70% mass participation by 2020. This will be achieved through tackling</p>	The Hereford Area Plan should encourage Hereford's residents to make healthy lifestyle choices, and ensure the protection and provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

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		barriers to participation such as cost, information, motivation and improving provision.	
Department for Transport: Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (2008)	<p>The document outlines five goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>It also sets out the first steps of future plans for investment to 2014 and beyond.</p>	<p>The five goals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to support national economic competitiveness and growth,; 2. to reduce transport's emissions with the desired outcome of tackling climate change; 3. to contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy; 4. to promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens; and 5. to improve quality of life, and to promote a healthy natural environment. 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should have regard to the goals of this document, by including a number of sustainable transport measures to improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the county and its residents.</p>
World Class Places: The Government's Strategy for Improving Quality of Place (2009)	<p>This document lays out the Government's approach to improving quality of place – the way the places where we live and work are planned, designed, developed and maintained – and the steps that will be taken to build on recent progress.</p>	<p>The document lays out a vision where 'all places are planned, designed and developed to provide everyone, including future generations, with a decent quality of life and fair chances.' Seven strategic objectives are set out to help achieve this vision, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen leadership on quality of place at the national and regional level. 2. Encourage local civic leaders and local government to prioritise quality of place. 3. Ensure relevant government policy guidance and standards consistently promote quality of place and are user-friendly. 4. Put the public and community at the centre of place-shaping. 5. Ensure all development for which 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan will have regard to the objectives of 'World Class Places'. The Hereford Area Plan will encourage all developers to include the highest standard of design within its allocations.</p> <p>Public consultation on the Hereford Area Plan will also give the community the opportunity to be involved in place shaping.</p>

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		<p>central government is directly responsible is built to high design and sustainability standards and promotes quality of place.</p> <p>6 Encourage higher standards of market-led development.</p> <p>7 Strengthen quality of place skills, knowledge and capacity.</p>	
<p>CLG Guidance on Building a Local Sense of Belonging (2009)</p>	<p>This guidance is aimed at helping local authorities build a sense of belonging, and delivering improved community cohesion. It provides a range of suggested actions that can be taken, depending on the priorities of the local area.</p>	<p>The guidance suggests that local areas may wish to develop a local vision following consultation with the public and other key local stakeholders. It also suggests other specific initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating the local vision; • Using history, key events in the past and local memories; • Using geographical features and key buildings, parks and other symbols; • Using symbolic events – celebrations, festival, carnivals; • Using activities and shared interests, such as arts and culture and sport; • Welcoming new residents • Using activities to promote empowerment – for example encouraging people to get involved in local democracy and decision making 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan will set out a vision for the development of Hereford. Public consultation and engagement at various stages of the Hereford Area Plan will ensure community empowerment in decision making.</p>
<p>PPS: Consultation Paper - PPS15: Planning for the Historic Environment (2009)</p>	<p>The Government is committed to reforming particular aspects of the heritage protection system. One key area is the development of a new planning policy statement which is clear and up to date and brings together planning policy on</p>	<p>The Government's broad aim is that the historic environment, and heritage assets in particular, should be conserved, enhanced and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. To help achieve this vision, the Government's objectives for planning for the historic</p>	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should have regard to the objectives and principles of PPS15 and ensure that the protection of Hereford's rich built and historic environment is covered within its policies.</p>

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	<p>all aspects of the historic environment - the built environment, archaeology and landscape - and underlines their essential place in the planning context.</p> <p>This single new PPS is intended to replace the current planning policy guidance notes (PPG) 15 and 16, originally published in September 1994 and November 1990 respectively.</p>	<p>environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to apply the principles of sustainable development to proposals involving the historic environment • to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance England's heritage assets • to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past <p>The draft PPS highlights/emphasises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the need to establish the significance of each asset; ○ the importance of ensuring that adequate information and evidence bases are available, to ensure that the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets is fully taken into account in plan-making and decision-taking; ○ the importance of integrating conservation of heritage assets into the wider planning context; and. ○ it makes clear how the historic environment is to be viewed in the context of today's major challenges, such as regeneration, housing supply, economic development and the need to address climate change. 	
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Revised: incorporating Phase 1 Review) (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2008)	The purpose of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy is to provide a strategy to guide the preparation of local authority Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport	<p>The RSS aims to achieve a region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there are opportunities for all to progress and improve their quality of life; • With an advanced, thriving and diverse 	The Hereford Area Plan should conform to the overarching policies and themes of the RSS (As a statutory requirement, the RSS forms a part of the Development Plan for

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	<p>Plans so that they can deliver to a coherent framework for regional development.</p> <p>The RSS is undergoing three partial and phased reviews although the 4 key priorities of the Strategy are to remain the same. Phase 1 on the Black County has been completed. Phase 2 is currently ongoing and will set new targets up to 2026 for housing numbers and employment land supply.</p>	<p>economy occupying a competitive position within the European and World markets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where urban and rural renaissance is successfully being achieved; • With diverse and distinctive cities, towns, sub-regions and communities with Birmingham as a 'World City' at its heart; • Which is recognised for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment; • With an effective network of integrated transport facilities and services which meet the needs of both individuals and the business community in the most sustainable way; • Where all regional interests are working together towards a commonly agreed sustainable future. 	<p>Herefordshire).</p> <p>The Hereford Area Plan will seek to embrace the theme of sustainability and sustainable development so that it is consistent with the RSS. It will also be consistent with the aim of tackling the four major challenges identified; Urban Renaissance: Rural Renaissance: Diversifying and modernising the Region's economy: Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands.</p>
<p>West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: Connecting to Success (Advantage West Midlands, 2007)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Regional Economic Strategy is to provide a shared vision and direction for the economic development and regeneration of the region, focusing resources and activities to improve economic performance and competitiveness.</p>	<p>The objectives are set out in the Strategy under four headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business: utilise regional assets and economies with most wealth and employment potential; capitalised on low carbon technologies; promote skills and entrepreneurship; • Place: deliver sustainable communities; regenerate deprived communities; improve transport and accessibility; and maximise on cultural assets; • People: employ a diverse labour force and stimulate demand for tomorrow's products; 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should reflect the objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy by providing sufficient employment land, encouraging the growth of businesses, and improving transport whilst ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful voice: improve evidence base; liaise with key decision makers; and improve image and marketing of the region. 	
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006)	The refreshed Regional Sustainable Development Framework sets out sustainable objectives for the region and a process for incorporating these objectives into policies, strategies and plans in the West Midlands. The Framework is intended to assist in ensuring all policies, strategies and plans play their part in contributing to a sustainable future for the region, and that different policy areas are developed in a way that is complimentary and mutually supportive.	<p>There are four objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable consumption and production; Climate change and energy; Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; Sustainable communities. 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan will need to ensure these four overarching objectives are considered within the options and spatial objectives.</p> <p>The Hereford Area Plan should aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. It should also aim to protect the natural environment from the potential adverse effects of development.</p>
West Midlands Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (RFRA) – Final Update (2009)	This document is an update to the RFRA for West Midlands - to provide a broader, more rigorous assessment of flood risk, that will be used to inform the RSS Phase Three process, and to enable the WMRA to comply fully with government policy as outlined in PPS25.	<p>With respect to local authorities, a number of key recommendations made within the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sequential Approach should be used to aim to locate all new development in Flood Zone 1. Only if insufficient suitable sites are available, should development be allocated to Flood Zone 2; and finally Flood Zone 3; Where the need to apply the Exception Test is identified, a Level 2 SFRA should be undertaken; LAs should consider carrying out surface water mapping as part of a Surface Water Management Plan; 	The Hereford Area Plan should reflect the principles of the RFRA and ensure that policies contribute to surface water management practices. Its policies should also lead to development that does not negatively affect flood risk.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future development proposals should ensure that existing sewer flooding is not exacerbated; • Opportunities to implement managed retreat from the river front should be sought wherever possible; • Relevant CFMPs and SFRAs should be used when considering development proposals and preparing policies. 	
Draft West Midlands Historic Environment Strategy ' <i>Putting the Historic Environment to Work</i> ' (2009)	This document focuses on the historic environment, to include historic buildings, archaeological sites and monuments, as well as cultural landscapes and townscapes. It sets out the strategy – 'People, Places and Policies' for making the most of the positive contribution of the historic environment; and an action plan to work towards realising the strategy vision.	The strategy outlines 9 priorities for action as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce barriers to engagement; 2. Increase community engagement; 3. Develop traditional building and craft skills; 4. Better understand the historic environment; 5. Respect character; 6. Contribute to sustainable development; 7. Influencing others and raising the profile; 8. Better understand the contribution to economy and quality of life; 9. Align the objectives of the historic environment sector. 	The Hereford Area Plan should have regard to the priorities of the strategy, and ensure that Hereford's rich and historic environment is taken into account within its policies.
Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (2008)	The Plan sets out the priorities of reducing crime and promoting, safer, healthier communities throughout Herefordshire. The Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership reports to the Local Strategic Partnership.	The Plan sets overarching aims under which objectives are set, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime through offender management and other interventions; • Reduce drug and alcohol harm; • Promote and deliver increased road safety; • Provide community reassurance in anti-social behaviour, disorder and crime; 	The Hereford Area Plan should reflect the key objectives of the Strategy. It should promote safe and healthy communities throughout the city and have regard to the Strategy's overall aims.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency and community dynamic tasking and co-ordination. 	
Hereford City Regeneration Strategy (2008)	<p>The Strategy sets out a 10-year ambition for the regeneration of Hereford City. It is guided by 5 key principles and the aspiration that in 10-years time:</p> <p><i>“Hereford will have a thriving City Centre that residents are proud of, people choose to visit and where private enterprise prospers. A City Centre where rich heritage is evident in a well-designed environment that marries well with contemporary lifestyles.”</i></p>	<p>The Strategy sets overarching aims under which objectives are set, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a vibrant City Centre that offers a whole day experience Create a comprehensive solution for transportation and parking Regenerate Hereford City Centre through our Heritage Support businesses in the city to help them thrive and flourish Ensure the City a great place to visit Use marketing and promotion to encourage more people to visit Hereford City Centre 	<p>The Strategy will provide a broad-based framework for the future development of Hereford City Centre, however in order to succeed it will require the combined effort of all those involved; which means that the Hereford Area Plan should be in general conformity with the Strategy’s aims and objectives.</p>
Sustainability Strategy (2007)	<p>The Sustainability Strategy for Herefordshire Council is inspired by, and builds upon and contributes to the Community Strategy for Herefordshire – the top-level plan for the County – in which the Herefordshire Partnership sets out its Vision for Herefordshire.</p> <p>The Vision of the Community Strategy for Herefordshire is:</p> <p><i>“Herefordshire will be a place</i></p>	<p>The overarching objective of the Sustainability Strategy is to “guide the Council in integrating and co-ordinating the principles of sustainability across its strategies, plans, policies and actions.</p> <p>Its strategic aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and co-ordinate council activities that further sustainability objectives; Increase awareness and provide a point of reference for all interested in maximising sustainable development 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should be in general conformity with the Strategy’s aims and objectives.</p>

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	<p><i>where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about prosperity and well being for all</i>’.</p>	<p>within their work for the Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a framework for streamlining sustainability objectives across the council’s plans, policies, budgets and strategies. <p>The framework will identify and encourage shared, quantified outcomes that contribute to a sustainable Herefordshire; and communicate the council’s commitment to sustainable development to the public.</p>	
<p>Herefordshire Council Sustainability Strategy (2006-2009)</p>	<p>The purpose of this strategy is to coordinate the diverse work of the council so that the principles of sustainability apply across all of its strategies, plans, policies and actions. The strategy builds on the Community Strategy for Herefordshire.</p>	<p>The overarching objective of the strategy is to ‘<i>Guide the council in integrating and coordinating the principles of sustainability across its strategies, plans, policies and actions.</i>’</p> <p>Sustainable development objectives for Herefordshire include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing its outstanding landscape and high quality rural environment; • Encouraging policies and plans that support access to essential facilities and sustainable transport, especially for rural settlements; • Providing and caring for an increasingly ageing population; • Creating educational and economic opportunities; • Promoting investment and engagement in learning and skills; • Supporting the vitality and viability of town centres and market towns; 	<p>The Hereford Area Plan will need to ensure that the objectives of the strategy are considered with its objectives and policies. The Hereford Area Plan will seek to include policies to encourage a sustainable city.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health and reducing health inequalities. 	
The State of Herefordshire Report (2009)	<p>The two key functions of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Key outcomes measured as part of the report, are those detailed in the Community Strategy for Herefordshire, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More and better paid employment; A more adaptable and higher skilled workforce; Reduced traffic congestion; Reduced health inequalities and promotion of healthy lifestyles; 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; Children and young people engage in further education, employment and training on leaving school; Reduced level of, and fear of, crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour; Fewer accidents; Cleaner, greener communities; People are active in their communities and fewer are disadvantaged. 	The Hereford Area Plan should have regard to the issues raised by the State of Herefordshire Report, and seek to positively address them through its policies.
Herefordshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)	The primary aim of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is to determine whether planning policies or development land allocations will increase the risk of flooding, both within the	The assessment confirms that the greatest fluvial risks to existing property lies along the main corridors of the Rivers Lugg and the Wye, where there is the greatest concentration of property. It is stressed that development in these areas must be	The Hereford Area Plan should reflect the principles of the SFRA and ensure that its policies contribute to surface water management principles. Its policies should also lead to

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	development and the surrounding area, and to identify and promote measures that will minimise flood-risk and/or enhance flood resilience at all levels, particularly with regard to future development and existing critical infrastructure. Within the framework of the SFRA, the areas at highest risk of flooding have been identified for urgent active policy consideration.	located outside the zone 3 and 2 floodplains. Hereford City has been identified as being at risk from fluvial flooding; with flood hotspots being identified which represent those areas where there has been a significant collection of individual reports.	development that does not negatively affect flood risk.
Herefordshire Water Cycle Study (2009)	The Water Study is part of the Growth Point Study and investigates the availability of water supply, treatment and infrastructure. It can be used to inform the planning process about water cycle issues and constraints in relation to emerging spatial strategies for new housing.	The study sets out a number of key areas for action, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water efficiencies, reduced demand and aims of 'water neutrality' should be priority areas for investigation, in terms of the impact of new housing; • Sewerage infrastructure could prove to be a principal constraint for new RSS housing – a time-line matrix should be developed for every sewage treatment works, showing against housing trajectories, when operational limits will be reached; • In view of forthcoming intense housing pressures and historical flood risk, Surface Water Management Plans should be developed – in particular for Hereford City. 	The Herefordshire Area Plan should take on board the key areas for action detailed within the Water Cycle Study. Its policies should reflect the need for water neutrality and surface water management within the city. Infrastructure planning should have regard to Hereford's need for future growth.
Herefordshire Council Biodiversity Strategy (2007-2010 - Draft)	The strategy outlines a vision for the council, whereby the council will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a service that improves the understanding 	Six objectives set out in the strategy, detail Herefordshire Council's commitment to priority actions and projects. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support co-ordination of the Local 	The Hereford Area Plan should include policies which help to protect and enhance the city's rich biodiversity.

Plans, Policies & Programmes	Main elements	Key Issues/Objectives Relevant to the Hereford Area Plan and SA	Implications for the Hereford Area Plan
	<p>of the county's biodiversity resource with particular emphasis on access to information on the resource;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the county on land where we have an influence; • Work with our partners to achieve the successful implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets. 	<p>Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To promote an understanding and support for biodiversity by local communities; 3. To guide sustainable development through planning policy and development control; 4. To apply a best practice approach when managing council land 5. To collect and maintain data and ensure its effective use; 6. To secure the protection, management and enhancement of sites of biodiversity interest through assisting other land managers and owners. 	
<p>Herefordshire Council Archaeology Strategy and Strategic Plan (2008-2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy sets out the policy framework and strategic agenda for the county Archaeological Service up to 2011. It prefaces the 'Strategic Plan for Herefordshire Archaeology 2008-2011', which identifies the service delivery framework and targets for archaeology that will link into annual Conservation Section Service Plans during the strategy period. 	<p>The Strategic Plan sets out priority core service delivery targets. Those of particular relevance to Hereford City are as follows:</p> <p>T1 Making contributions to the place-shaping exercises that will help influence the Core Strategy;</p> <p>T10 Review historic asset designations for both nationally and locally important assets;</p> <p>T13 Scope and support a Blackfriars (Hereford) project;</p> <p>T15 Promote and develop a Rotherwas complex project;</p> <p>T16 Stimulate and coordinate a Hereford City walls project;</p> <p>T19 Assist in the Castle Green conservation and amenity project;</p> <p>T34 Complete the programme of urban assessment and characterisation projects.</p>	<p>The Hereford Area Plan should reflect in its policies, the priorities and programmes contained within the strategy; in order to help protect and promote Hereford City's historic context and sense of place.</p>

Appendix 2: SA Objectives

1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities
2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment
4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all
7. Sustainable regeneration
8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county
9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and anti social behaviour in the county
10. Reduce poverty and promote equality, social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county
11. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage