

Minutes of Meeting of LDF Task Group
12th December 2007

Group Members Present:

Cllr. J. Jarvis (Chairman) – Cabinet Member, Environment & Strategic Housing
Brian Atherton (Vice Chairman) – Herefordshire Partnership
Cllr Brian Wilcox – Cabinet Member, Highways & Transportation
Cllr Adrian Blackshaw – Cabinet Member, Economic Development & Community Services
Mark July – Herefordshire Partnership.
W. Coombey – Herefordshire Partnership

Officers Present:

D. Nicholson – Forward Planning
K. Singleton – Forward Planning
S. Banks – Forward Planning
J. Reeves – Forward Planning

Apologies

A. Ashcroft Head of Planning Services
P. Lydford Herefordshire Partnership

1. Notes of last meeting were agreed subject to clarification and correction of paragraphs 5, 9, 13 and 14. It was reported that CPRE had requested that the notes of the LDF Task Group meeting be posted on the Council's website. The publication of the meeting notes was agreed by the group in order ensure that the plan making process was as transparent as possible.
2. As part of setting out the context for the meeting it was explained that revisions to Government Policy had been published in draft PPS12 and the Planning Bill. These documents, amongst other things:
 - emphasised the role of Local Development Frameworks (LDF's) and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) as "place shapers" much more than the existing PPS12;
 - provide for allocating strategic sites in core strategies; and
 - introduce the concept of the community infrastructure levy.What is clear from these documents is that the Government expect the "hard decisions" in respect new development and its associated infrastructure requirements to be made in the Core Strategy.
3. Also providing context for the Core Strategy was the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS Phase 2 preferred option with enhanced levels of housing growth across the West Midlands would be submitted to the Secretary of State in December while the project plan for Phase 3 which includes examining rural services and environmental policies, has recently been published.
4. Delivering Growth was a key priority of national government. Hereford had been identified as a growth point and funds were available to advance the growth agenda. In parts of the country where growth programmes were further advanced significant amounts of government funding had been set aside to help with its delivery.
5. The group then received a report providing a statistical summary of the preliminary results of the issues consultation (attached in appendix A). A further report would be brought to the next meeting of the group.
6. In respect of the issues it was agreed that the reference to "flooding" would be more appropriately included within the issue of climate change rather than "managing the use of water". In addition, the Group felt that the Parish Plans

produced across the County could also provide a useful source of information for identifying local issues. It was agreed that these would be examined to scope out any useful information for the process of plan preparation.

7. Brief discussions continued around the vision and draft objectives of the Core Strategy. The community strategy contains a vision which can be used as a starting point for the Core Strategy to further develop in a spatial way. In addition the Issues consultation had provided a flavour of the public views of a vision for Herefordshire.
8. Draft objectives had been suggested to the group to help with the development of options. They were not discussed in detail at the meeting but members of the Group were invited to provide comments to officers in email form by early January, any comments provided to be collected and circulated prior to the next meeting. It was noted that further analysis of issues responses may also necessitate amendments to the draft objectives.
9. An introduction to the workshop session followed, this outlined: why it is necessary to consider options; the need to ensure that options were reasonable and realistic; and what "spatial planning" means. The meeting then divided into two groups to start to develop a set of options. One group considered an objective-led approach to option development while the other considered different options related to what "roles" different places could have.
10. Both groups developed several options, considered their implications and advantages/disadvantages. A feedback between the groups followed and it was agreed that officers should take these ideas/thoughts away to work up into a reasonable and realistic set of options for consideration at the next meeting.
11. Discussion regarding the next steps in the Core Strategy process then took place. Following the next Task Group meeting it was intended that a seminar for all Council Members should be held to explain the emerging options and allow discussion. A full options document would then be written on this basis and presented to Cabinet. There would then be public consultation.
12. It was acknowledged that discussions with town and parish council's would be an important element of this and that meetings/seminars should be held with parish council representatives during the consultation. They should be informed of the process and given feedback on the issues consultation prior to the beginning of the consultation period.
13. The next meeting of the group was to be held from 1.30 to 4.30 on 29th January 2008 at the Bishop's Palace, Hereford.

Appendix A: Summary of initial consultation analysis

Shaping our Place 2026

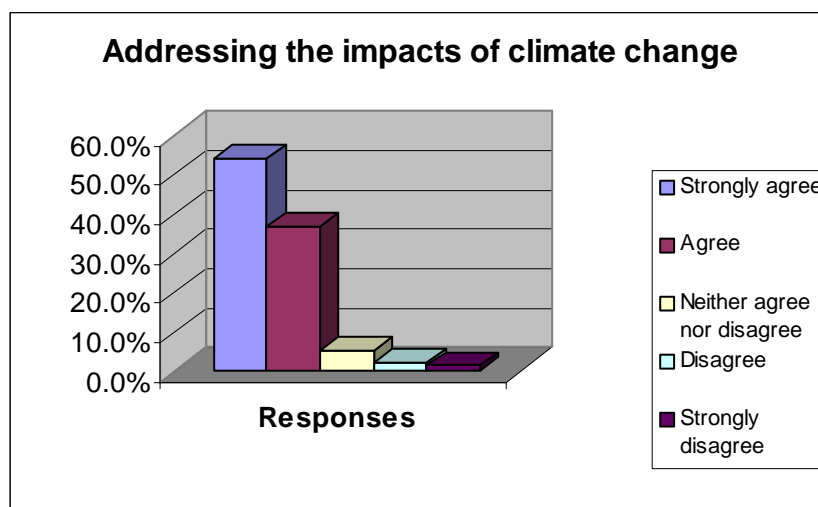
Core Strategy – Issues Consultation – Initial Summary

What responses did we receive?

The following analysis is structure around the 14 key issues, and is a statistical analysis of the responses to the statements set out within the questionnaire or comment cards. As it was not compulsory to complete every question on the questionnaire or fill all of the 14 comment cards, it is difficult to compare or rank issues.

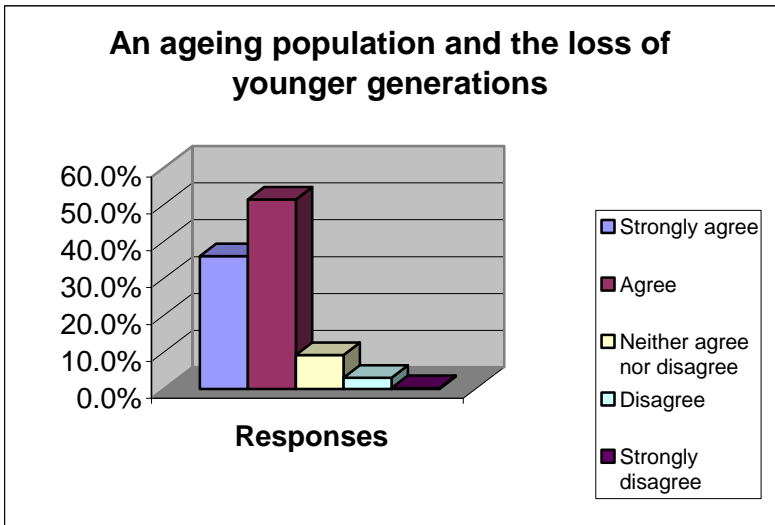
Addressing the impacts of climate change

343 people commented on this issue and 54% strongly agreed with the statement 'addressing the impacts of climate change such as flooding, energy use and pollution is a key issue in preparing a new development plan for Herefordshire'. Only 3.8% of respondents disagreed to some extent that climate change was a key issue.



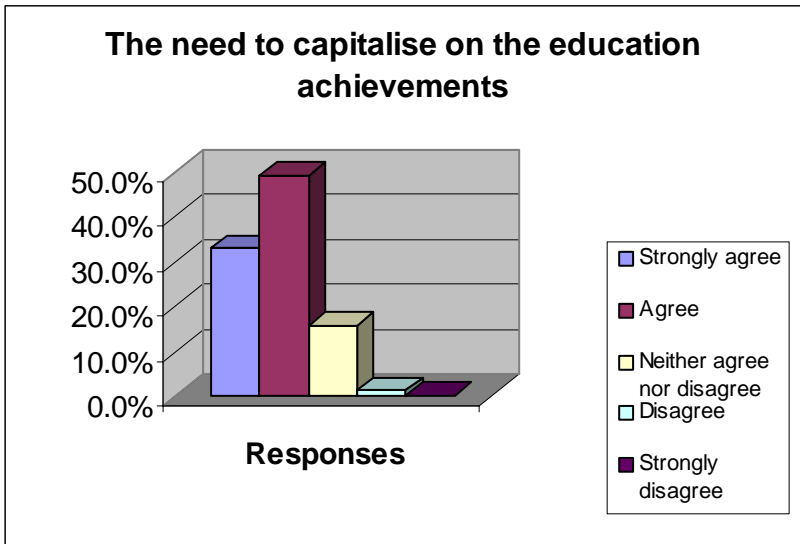
An ageing population and the loss of younger generations

51% of the 358 respondents agreed that 'the high rate of growth in the County's older population combined with the loss of young people is an issue to be addressed in planning the future of Herefordshire'. Again the majority of respondents (87%) agreed that this was an issue.



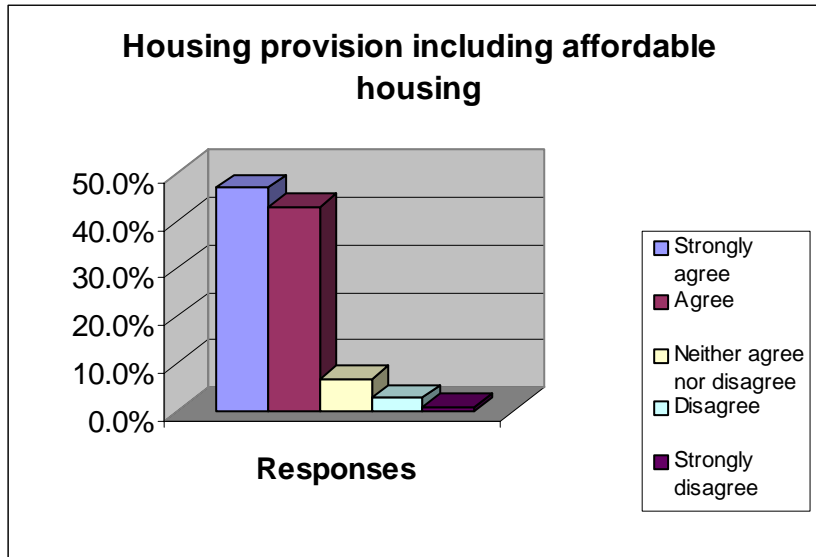
The need to capitalise on educational achievements

To the statement 'providing people with better access to education and skills for life is an issue to be addressed in the new development plan', 82% of the 333 people responding agreed to some extent with only 1.8% of people disagreeing that this wasn't an issue for the County.



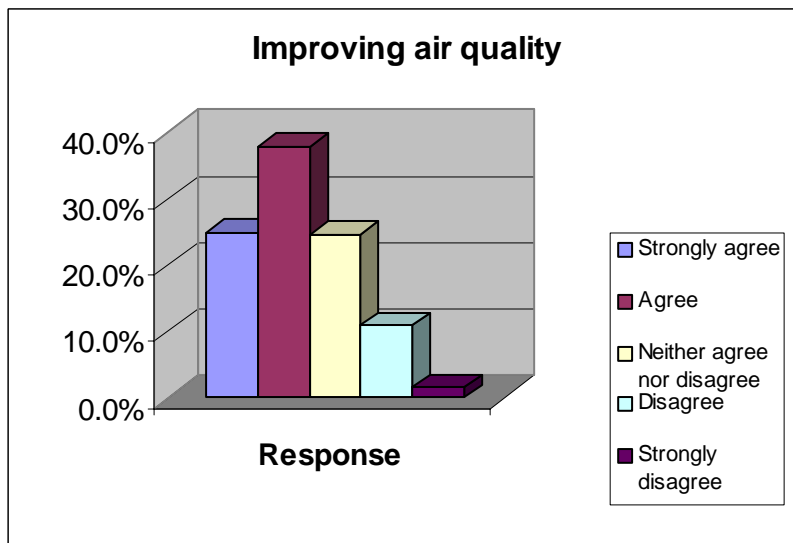
Housing provision including affordable home

47% strongly agreed that 'people should have access to a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live', with nearly 90% agreeing to some extent that this is an issue to be addressed by the Local Development Framework.



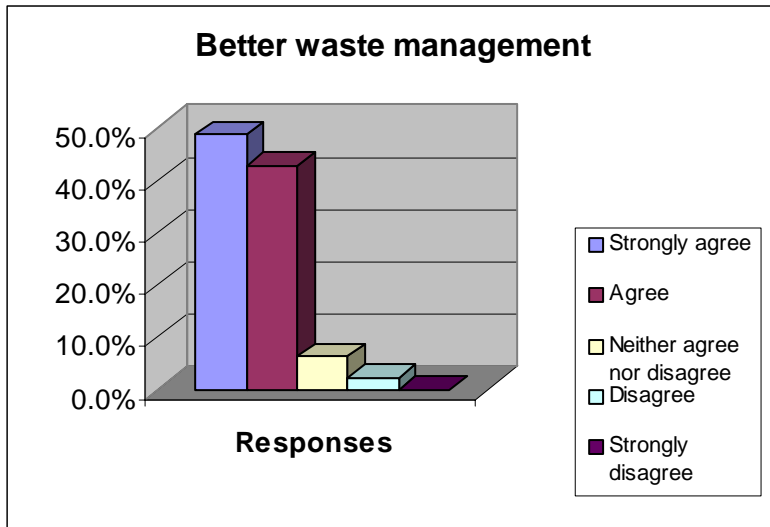
Improving air quality

The responses were more mixed to the statement 'reducing air pollution and improving air quality is a key consideration in preparing a new development plan in Herefordshire.' Nearly a quarter of the 329 replies received had no opinion but 38% agreed that air quality was an issue for the County.



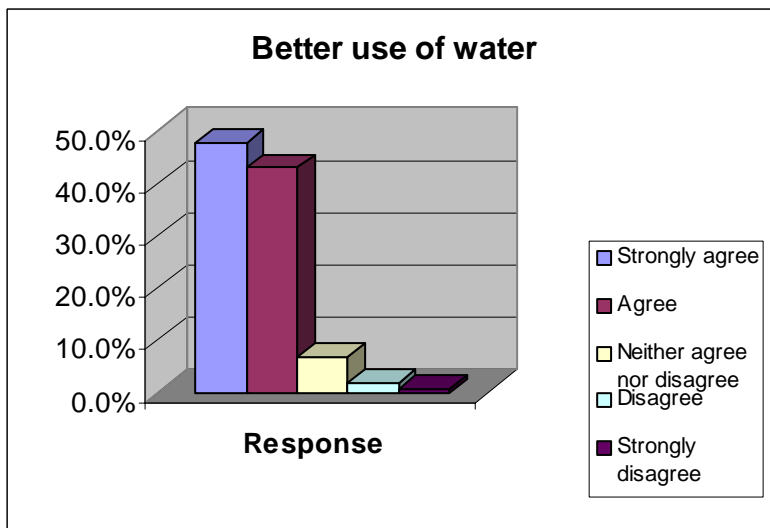
Better waste management

'The management of waste and the production of waste was an important key issue for the new development plan' according to 91% of respondents of which 49% strongly agreed it was an important issue.



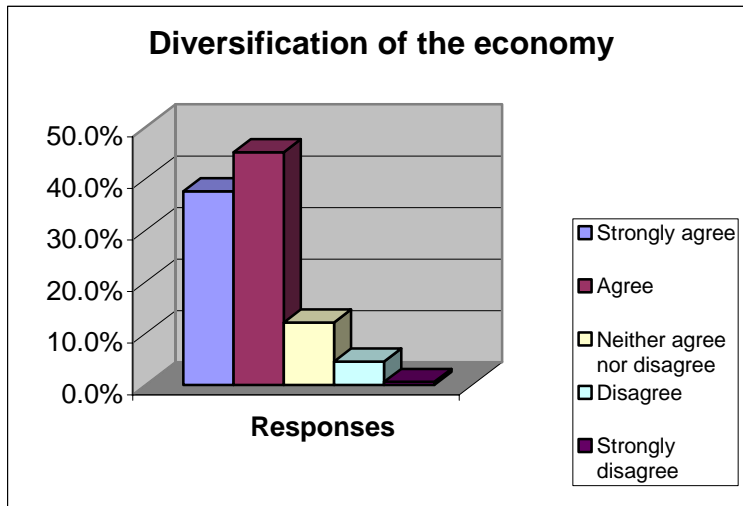
Better use of water

90% agreed to some extent that 'the management of water in terms of supply, sewerage and flooding is a key issue to be considered in the new development plan for Herefordshire'. 2.5% of the 326 people responding didn't feel that this was an issue to be addressed.



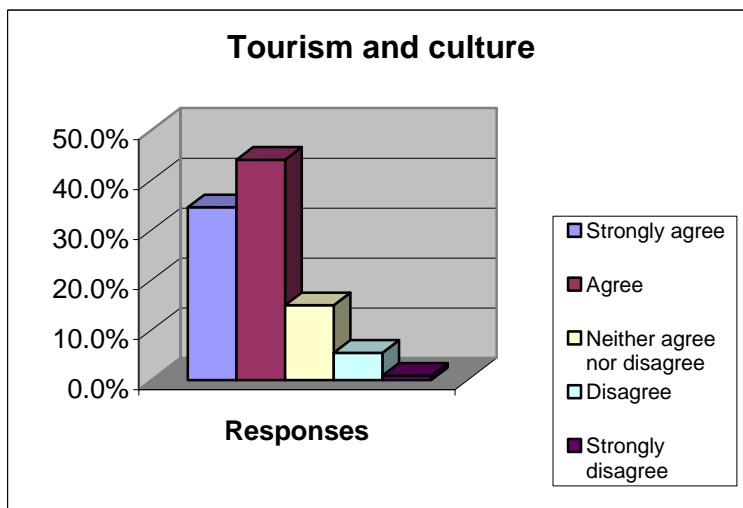
Diversification of the economy

To the statement 'better quality and more diverse employment opportunities is a key issue to be addressed in the new development plan, 330 people gave a response. 12% had no specific opinion but 82% agreed to some extent that diversifying the economy of the County was important.



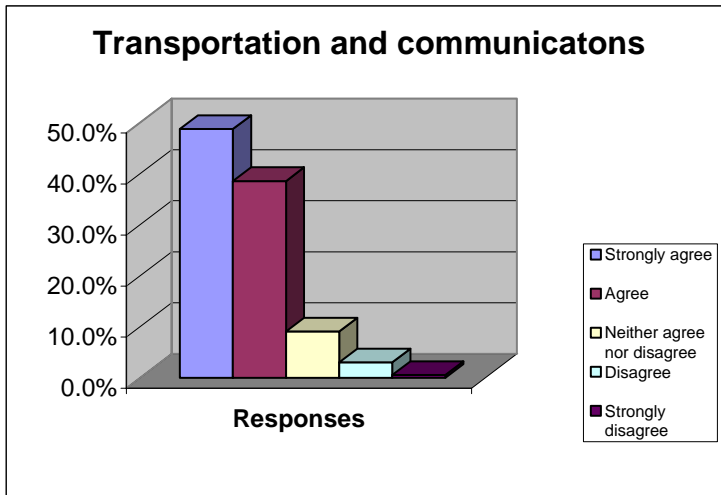
Tourism and culture

44% agreed that 'the promotion of tourism and culture should be one of the key issues within the new development plan' with 15% of the 347 respondents having no opinion.



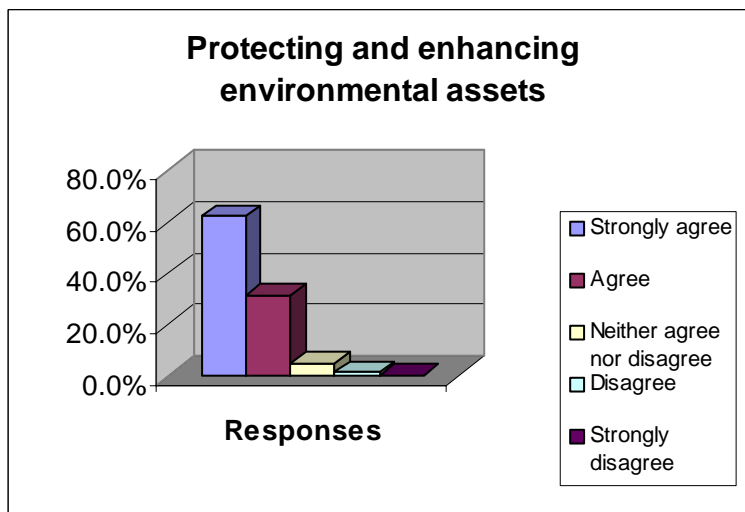
Transportation and communications

'The County's high car dependency, traffic congestion and limited crossing across the River Wye in Hereford is a key issue for the County' according to 87% of the 363 respondents. 3.6% of people disagreed that transportation issues were a key issue for the County.



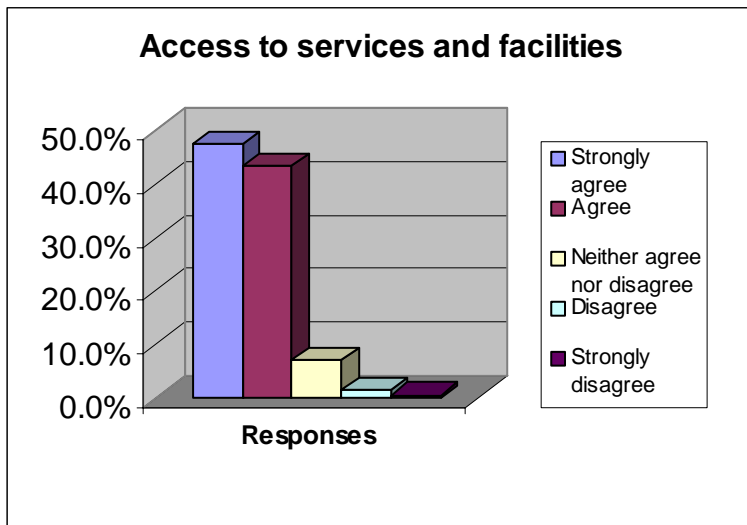
Protecting and enhancing environmental assets

The majority (62%) of the 336 comments strongly agreed that 'the County's environmental assets such as its landscape character, historical assets and wildlife should be an important consideration in the new development plan'



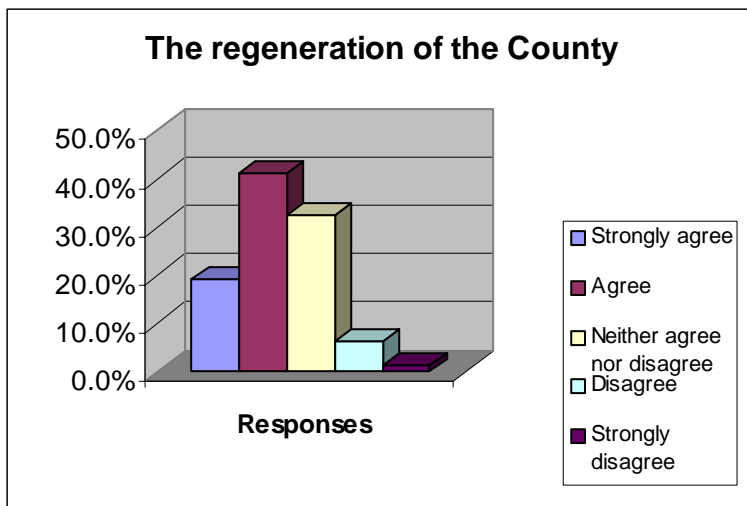
Access to important services and facilities

'Enabling people to easily access important services such as health, education, shopping and leisure' was considered to be important by 90% of the 339 respondents.



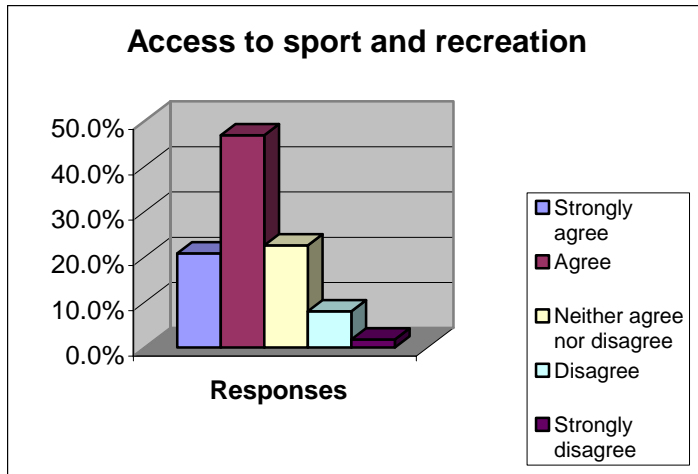
The regeneration of the County

The regeneration of the County was another issue with a mixed response. Of the 331 responses to the statement 'are there areas of the County that are in need of regeneration with the Core Strategy', 32% has no opinion and only 19% strongly agreed.



Access to sport and recreation

The access to formal and informal sport and recreation for people within Herefordshire should be a key issue according to 47% of respondents. 22.6% of 337 respondents neither agreed nor disagree that access to sport and recreation was important.



Other important issues

A further question was asked on the questionnaire and available on the comment cards to ascertain if there were any additional issues which had not been highlighted; 'Are there any other key issues that you consider should be included within the new development plan that are not addressed above'. A large number of comments were received, however there were no new significant issues raised which could be addressed through spatial planning.