

LDF Task Group Meeting
29th January 2008
The Bishops Palace, Hereford

Attendees.

Group Members

Cllr. J. Jarvis – Cabinet Member, Environment & Strategic Housing (Chairman)
Brian Atherton – Herefordshire Partnership (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. B. Wilcox – Cabinet Member, Highways & Transportation
Mark July – Herefordshire Partnership
Wendy Coombey – Herefordshire Partnership

Officers Present

Phillipa Lydford – Herefordshire Partnership
Andrew Ashcroft – Head of Planning Services
Dave Nicholson – Forward Planning
Kevin Nicholson – Forward Planning
Chris Botwright – Forward Planning
Sam Banks – Forward Planning
Jane Reeves – Forward Planning

Apologies:

Cllr. A. Blackshaw – Cabinet Member, Economic Development & Community Services.

Notes of last meeting

Members were happy with the content of the minutes from the last meeting.

Introduction and context for the meeting

The draft options paper was handed out. The main purpose for the meeting was to discuss whether the structure of the options was appropriate and to agree a framework.

The RSS Phase 2 document preferred option, which includes employment, waste and housing, had been published. It states within this that Herefordshire, within the 20-year period of 2006 – 2026, will be required to provide 16,600 new houses, of which half will be within Hereford city. However, there were likely to be delays in the process as the Government was not happy with the levels of housing contained within the RSS, and felt that they should be higher. Further work was to be commissioned by Government. To allow this to be considered, the consultation period has been extended until May, although there are ongoing discussions to extend this period further [NB consultation period subsequently extended to December 8th].

PAS Training

There are 2 dates available for some Government sponsored training. The 27th February 2008 and the 12th March 2008. The majority of the group confirmed that they were available on the 12th March in the afternoon.

Core Strategy

- **Update regarding the Issues Consultation**

The Consultation Statement paper was handed out at the meeting. The statistical analysis on the questionnaires and comments had been completed. Most of the comments could be attributed to one of the key issues identified. There were also 91 genuinely new comments.

To reflect the responses received from the Issues consultation, several of the key issues had been redefined.

KI 1 now includes specific reference to flooding.

KI 6 is now an amalgamation of 'better use of water' and better waste management', and is also expanded to include reference to minerals and other natural resources.

KI 11, a definition has been added to this key issue as it was felt that many people did not understand the term 'regeneration'.

KI 13 and 14 are new and have been added as a result of comments to the Issues consultation.

It was felt that a glossary of terms within the document would be useful.

- **Developing Options**

Proposed Structure of the options document

The draft Spatial Vision of Herefordshire paper was distributed to the group. Most felt that although the content was good, it was too long. A vision needs to be 1 or 2 sentences long and needs to be memorable with aims that would hold through until 2026. It also needs to be clear that the vision is for Herefordshire and not Hereford.

Development of outline options

The amendments to the objectives were discussed:

Objective 1. Securing sustainable development had been changed to securing sustainable communities.

Objective 4. It was debated whether tourism needed an objective of its own. It was decided that as it is an important part of the economy, it did need its own objective, but that the wording in the current objective could read better.

Objective 7. Securing the retention of our younger people. This is a new objective. It was recommended that this objective not only deals with higher education but also with the training and employment of younger people.

Options

Option A: Focus on the Economy

This option incorporates an eastern arc across the county although it was noted that this includes both AONB's that lie within Herefordshire.

Option B: Focus on Regeneration

This option focuses on social and economic deprivation that exists throughout the county; this includes parts of Hereford, Leominster and Bromyard. This option is focussed more on the western side of Herefordshire.

It was pointed out that Bromyard needs to be added to the wording in the main paragraph in the draft options paper.

The focus needs to be on the scale of any developments. The use of parish plans in determining this may be vital.

It was also suggested that this option could incorporate sub-options based around different regeneration packages for different areas. This would also be in line with local distinctiveness.

Option C: Focus on Access to Services and Facilities.

This is similar to the UDP approach and focuses on new growth areas with existing facilities, which means that it is more dispersed. With the possible closure of some rural schools within the county it was asked whether it was wise to put housing around those schools affected. It was agreed that additional discussion was needed with other Council departments.

What roles will the towns; villages and rural areas play in the Herefordshire of the future?

Hereford

The options for Hereford were around whether the City should have a more defined role given that it will be the focus for growth in the County.

Opinion was expressed that in order to plan for the future of Hereford then we must switch from option A (Plan for the city, on a business as usual approach) to option B and try to develop Hereford as a city with a more positive and specific role building upon its strengths.

The proposals for Hereford needed to make clear that they are dependant upon the provision of improved infrastructure including an outer distributor road.

Market Towns

The Market towns need to be looked at separately based on the options provided.

Option A – Continue to plan for each town based on a business as usual approach (current UDP)

Option B – Develop better linkages between the market towns and Hereford both in terms of location of services and transport links between them.

Option C – Develop each market town as a place with a specialist function/role.

The Rural Areas

Discussion included whether an Option should include the creation of a new settlement in the more rural areas of the county, but before discounting the option it would need to be discussed and tested.

Next meeting:

22nd April 2008 at 1:30pm in The Bishops Palace, Hereford.