

# Shaping Our Place 2026

## Local Development Framework

# Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Place Shaping Paper

January 2010



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## Non-Technical Summary

In accordance with European legislation and UK regulations a Sustainability Appraisal General Scoping Report for the Local Development Framework (LDF) was approved in June 2007. The purpose of the LDF Scoping Report is to provide a general framework for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of future documents produced as part of a new planning system for Herefordshire. It was the first stage in an iterative process of, predominantly, Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. The scoping report and previous volumes of the Core Strategy SA process have been used as the foundation of this report. This report continues with a focus on Stage B to evaluate the effects of the plan, however all the stages can be viewed on page 9 of the General Scoping Report, June 2007.

The role of the Core Strategy is to create a spatial plan to guide growth and change in the county, replacing the current adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP), March 2007. The Core Strategy will set out a spatial vision; objectives; core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework to guide the sustainable development of the county up until 2026. The SA will aid this process by ensuring that the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the plan based on a clear understanding of economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of the county and identify constraints in meeting these requirements.

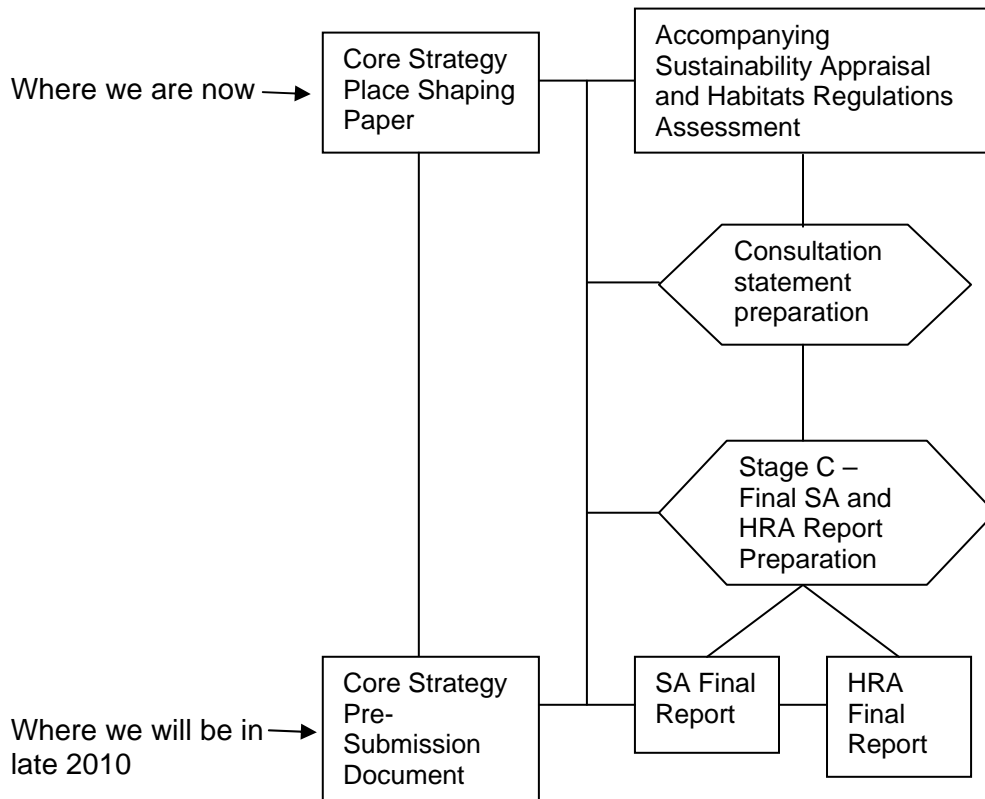
Herefordshire Council has taken a volume approach, to avoid repetition, to the required SA reports at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. This methodology will show how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development in an integrated way into its Core Strategy. The first volume of the SA set out the background to the SA process and detailed the results of a series of workshops on the prediction of the effects of the Strategic Options for the county and the Place Shaping Options at Developing Options Stage of the Core Strategy. An addendum to this first stage was published on our website in March 2009. This report gave the results of a compatibility test of the plan objectives against one another to highlight any areas of conflict and also to show the predicted effects of the Place Shaping Options and Policy Options. These documents at Developing Options Stage were consulted on and the comments have been considered and will be published with the final submission document in a formal consultation statement.

This latest stage of the SA process (Stage B – Evaluating effects of the Plan) has used the evidence base to evaluate the preferred, refined, significantly changed and newly emerged Core Strategy Strategic Options, Place Shaping and Policy Directions. The following gives a brief summary of the SA findings:

Appendix B3 shows the results of the SA workshops held in August and September 2009. It was based on the provision of 16,600 new dwellings as indicated in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2 submission document (and later amended 18,000 from the Panel Report of the West Midlands RSS Examination In Public of the extra 1400 homes, 200 are assigned to Hereford and 1200 to improve rural affordability). In addition, the RSS phase 2 Panel Report indicates a requirement for a rolling 5-year requirement of 37ha of employment land. Acknowledgement of the strategic housing figures set out in the place shaping Options section was considered when assessing the Spatial Strategy Preferred Option whilst their broad distribution was considered when assessing the Place Shaping Options in more detail.

The results of the assessment generally showed that most options would move towards sustainability following the implementation of mitigation and enhancement, such as landscaping and landshaping. Those Place Shaping and Policy Directions of

concern include the Hereford Dispersed Option 4; the racecourse housing option not yet rejected, for Hereford; Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury and Bromyard Options; the additional rural housing option; and the affordable housing policy direction.



This report includes the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as a separate chapter and the recommendations from this process are included within the SA Appendix B3 evaluating the effects.

The key issues arising from the HRA are impacts on water quality, water levels and flow, bat species and disturbance. The key European sites affected by development in the county are likely to be the River Wye and Lugg, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites and The Wye Valley Woodlands. The mitigation measures considered necessary to overcome these impacts include surface water management plans, sustainable drainage systems, water saving technologies, habitat and species protection through the use of buffer zones and areas.

## **1.0 Appraisal Process**

- 1.1 Herefordshire Council has published a separate SA report at each key stage of developing the Core Strategy. Details of this can be seen in the Herefordshire Council General Scoping Report, the SA of the Developing Options Paper June 2008 and its addendum dated March 2009. These can be viewed on the council's website at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf). This methodology shows how Herefordshire Council have incorporated sustainable development, in an integrated way, into the development of the Core Strategy. With particular focus on inter-relationships between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1, Delivering Sustainable Development.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the Task B Stage of the SA process, namely Task B3 evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy (see section 3.1 and 3.2 below).

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The background to the SA process can be found in the SA of the Developing Options Paper, June 2008 on the council's website at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf). The requirement for all responsible authorities in the UK to carry out an SA derives from the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the "assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment": the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) (the SEA Directive).
- 2.2 The main purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. Essentially the SA process goes beyond the environmental issues (the SEA Directive) to include social and economic issues as well. It has been designed so that by carrying out SA the responsible authority can satisfy the requirements of both SA and the SEA Directive. In this report, SA should be taken to mean that the SEA Directive has been incorporated. (Appendix i identifies how this report complies with the SEA Directive).

## **3.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 3.1 This report forms the second volume of the SA of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy and follows the March 2009 addendum to the Developing Options Paper SA. This report mainly covers the later stages of Task B3 of the SA process and provides the outcomes of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Strategic Option and most of the Place Shaping Options. The full report will be published at submission stage.
- 3.2 Task B3 involved assessing the preferred and refined options following consultation and evaluating their effects. In addition, the strategic plan objectives were assessed against the SA objectives set out in the General Scoping Report and a compatibility test of the plan objectives against one another were tested to highlight any conflicts of interest.
- 3.3 Consideration was given to how the effects of the options could be mitigated and beneficial effects maximised. The monitoring framework of the significant

effects of implementing the Core Strategy will be covered in the submission SA document.

#### **4.0 Key Sustainability Issues**

- 4.1 The previous SA report highlighted the process taken in identifying key sustainability issues for Herefordshire. Since then no changes have been made.

#### **5.0 Developing Objectives - How has the SA influenced the development of the objectives?**

- 5.1 Since the June 2008 as amended (March 2009) SA report was published no changes have been made to the SA objectives. However, there has been the addition of two Core Strategy Objectives which have been assessed for their sustainability and compatibility. These can be viewed in appendix B1i September 2009 (for the sustainability objectives compatibility test) and Appendix B1ii September 2009 (for the compatibility of Core Strategy plan objectives against one another). The new Core Strategy objectives have resulted from the splitting of objectives numbers 7 and 9 contained in the Developing Options Paper. This has created separate objectives on Hereford, the Market Towns and Rural Areas giving a greater emphasis on economic prosperity, now objective 8, and on the environmental quality objective with greater emphasis on climate change, now objective 11.
- 5.2 Appendix B1i on the sustainability objectives compatibility test of objective 8 revealed that overall the objective was moving towards sustainability. It was concluded that the negative impacts regarding waste, pollution and use of natural resources are still evident through these objectives. However, these are mitigated by other plan objectives which seek to even out the negative compatibilities creating a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives for balanced sustainable growth in Herefordshire. It was recommended that “affordable housing needs” be added to objective number 8.
- 5.3 Appendix B1i on the sustainability objectives compatibility test of objective 11 revealed that overall the objective was moving towards sustainability. It was concluded that the only SA objective which has the potential to be compromised is the historic environment objective which is dependant on the design of new development being to the highest standards in order not to detract from historic heritage and to create valued and enhanced built quality. This issue would need to be reflected in any local distinctiveness or design policy wording.
- 5.4 The compatibility test of the plan objectives revealed that there were conflicts between objective 12 (to conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets) and objectives 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 regarding housing; education and skills; access to services in rural areas and movement in urban places; job opportunity; and strengthening Hereford’s role as a sub regional focus.
- 5.5 The sustainability appraisal is a balancing act between social, economic and environmental impacts and the compatibility test of the plan objectives against one another has highlighted where particular focus is necessary to mitigate any conflicts of interest. However, it should be recognised that the plan

should be read as a whole and therefore objective 12 is aiming to promote environmental assets for the benefit of the whole community. In using this objective plans, policies and proposals that aim to meet objectives 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 will also be required to consider objective 12. In so doing any conflict is likely to be lessened and negative impacts from proposed development highlighted and mitigated for. The assessment of compatibility did however raise a few areas which could be improved upon; including reference to affordable housing and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in objective 8; and reference to appropriate locations for tourist infrastructure in objective 9.

- 5.6 The recommendations set out above have been incorporated and highlighted in the appropriate section in the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010.

## **6.0 Appraisal of the Options**

- 6.1 SA workshop groups were organised comprising of appropriate Herefordshire Council officers with expertise in a variety of areas, for example Economic Development, Housing, Education and Development Management as well as external organisations including the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage and a member of the Youth Council. The results of the separate workshops were combined and considered in the assessment of the options. Limitations in this approach are discussed later in this report (section 9.0). The appendices set out in full the outcomes from the workshops undertaken in August and September 2009. These can be viewed in Appendices: B3-1 (September 2009) to B3-24 (September 2009).

- 6.2 Table 1 overleaf shows the list of representative SA objectives and questions which were used to evaluate the Core Strategy preferred, refined, significantly changed and newly emerged Place Shaping Options and Policy Directions. The selected SA questions allowed the evaluation of the options to incorporate the main themes of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) at the most appropriate level. However, the Preferred Strategy for Herefordshire had additional SA questions applied to it as the overriding Spatial Strategy for the whole of the county. These additional questions were 2.2; 7.1; 8.2; 9.1; 10.4; 13.1; 13.3; 13.5; 14.1; 14.2; 17.1; 18.2; 18.3; 18.4; and 19.1 and can be viewed in the General Scoping Report June 2007 in Appendix A3 or in this report at Appendix B3 – 1 (September 2009).

- 6.3 Before the results of this process are revealed it is important to read the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010. This sets out what each option is aiming to achieve. The SA was used to assess whether each option was aiming to achieve each of the SA questions. The results were recorded on a scale as follows:

- Significantly moving towards sustainability;
- Marginally moving towards sustainability;
- Neutral;
- Marginally moving away from sustainability;
- Significantly moving away from sustainability; or
- Unknown - More information needed.

It is also important to recognise that the plan needs to be considered as a whole, and reference to this is made on occasion in the assessment appendices.

**Table 1: List of chosen SA objectives and questions used to evaluate Place Shaping Options and Policy Directions.**

<b>Economic SA Objectives – Will the option/policy -</b>	
1.	Support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities  1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?
3.	Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment  3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?
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  4.1 ...reduce the need to travel? and  4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?
<b>Social SA Objectives</b>	
5.	Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all  5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?
6.	Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all  6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?
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  11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?
<b>Environment SA Objectives (Objective 15 to inc. Biodiversity, Objective 16 to including Flood Risk and Objective 20 to inc. Archaeology)</b>	
12.	Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling  12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?
15.	Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces  15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?
16.	Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.  16.1 ...reduce the County's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?
20.	Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage  20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?

- 6.4 The following section describes the outcomes of the SA process for each of the options, first providing the assessment result without mitigation and enhancement considerations and outlining any further information needed to complete the assessment. Acknowledgements are then made of where the options are moving away from sustainability. Mitigation and enhancement proposals are suggested and the expected outcome following appropriate integration of such recommendations is highlighted. The Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 reflects this rating for the options i.e. after mitigation. Finally, how the process has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 is outlined.
- 6.5 It is the first time in the SA process of the Core Strategy that mitigation and enhancement has been highlighted. It is the first stage in front loading what considerations for change may be necessary to improve the plan. The Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 only highlights where the SA has influenced this stage of the paper. However, the mitigation and enhancement measures in this SA report look beyond the recommendations for the Place Shaping Paper and begin the process of considering the content of other plans, policies, planning briefs and master plans that will be prepared as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

## **7.0 Evaluating the Effects**

### **7.1 The Preferred Spatial Strategy for Herefordshire**

- 7.1.1 The SA demonstrates that overall the Preferred Spatial Strategic Option for the county of Herefordshire is moving towards sustainability. However the areas of further information that are required include the transport study relating to sustainable modes of travel in Hereford. This study should provide enough information to assess what the impacts are likely to be on movement patterns taken by sustainable modes of transport and assess the impacts for the identified Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). The Habitats Regulations Assessment is covered in a separate chapter. However, the SA on protected and enhanced habitats revealed that more information on water quality was needed to be able to assess the strategy, although it was acknowledged that the plan is aiming to protect such sites through avoiding areas of known importance. Related to this, the question on quality of watercourses also raises the unknown impacts at this stage on water quality but specifies that information on sewage treatment is needed to make a fuller assessment of the strategy. Finally, again the information awaited from transport studies are needed (with regards to the proposed Hereford and Leominster relief roads) to assess whether objectives on air quality management plans are likely to be achieved.
- 7.1.2 The Preferred Spatial Strategic Option moves away from sustainability on a number of issues. These relate to the generation of waste; potential adverse impacts on wildlife corridors and the fragmentation of ecological areas and green space; pressure from development to build on greenfield land potentially affecting landscape quality; and similarly the loss of high grade agricultural land.
- 7.1.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- encouraging greater use of public transport;
- behavioural changes in travel;
- walking and cycling routes that are well connected to places and spaces;
- broadband provision;
- re-use of buildings and sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield;
- the inclusion of live work units;
- flexible land uses;
- park and ride schemes;
- sheltered housing and appropriate housing type, for example, bungalows for the elderly population;
- design and functionality of buildings and spaces;
- provision of open space;
- designing out crime;
- distinctive character of buildings;
- the composting, re-use, recycling and minimising of waste;
- inclusion of waste management plans in new development;
- investment in sewage treatment works;
- use of sustainable drainage systems and surface water management plans;
- habitat creation;
- energy and building efficiency;
- renewable sources of energy;
- the use of various insulation techniques including green roofs, roof top gardens, sequential approach to flood risk areas when selecting development sites;
- flood management areas; and
- reference to air quality.

7.1.4 The Preferred Spatial Strategy was considered to remain moving towards sustainability if these measures are integrated at the appropriate time into the plan making process.

7.1.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 following the SA with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:

- the strategy section of the plan to explain smaller sites will be allocated in Hereford and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plans.
- affordable housing in the spatial strategy section and reference to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) target.
- integrated waste management plans in the waste policy direction.
- agricultural land, including its loss, in strategy section.
- inclusion of air quality in the movement section.

## **7.2 Hereford Place Shaping Options**

### **Hereford Urban Expansion**

7.2.1 Since the SA of the Hereford Urban Expansion Option was assessed the options have changed. The options have been separated from the issue of the relief road. A sustainability appraisal of this will be undertaken at

submission stage. This is why Option 4 for dispersed development is considered separately in the SA appendices.

- 7.2.2 Overall all the Options 1 to 4 were considered to be moving away from sustainability. The dispersed Option (Option 4) raised questions on scale and demand for services in neighbourhoods, more information is needed from the Primary Care Trust. More information may be needed on the quality of minerals. Since the workshops more information from the water cycle study shows that water supply for Hereford is likely to be met whilst more information is still required regarding sewage treatment to assess water quality issues.
- 7.2.3 The workshop groups considered that the options moved away from sustainability due to the location of some sites for new business opportunities, potentially resulting in the loss of high quality agricultural land for Options 1 to 3; and that all the options were likely to adversely impact on transport patterns, increase waste production, level of growth is likely to have some impact on the natural and historic environment and contribute to climate change, increasing flood risk, energy consumption etc.
- 7.2.4 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- sustainable modes of travel including walking and cycling routes that are well connected to places and spaces;
  - bus priority (Option 4), appropriate car parking facilities (Option 4) and the sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield;
  - flexible and compatible land uses;
  - park and ride schemes;
  - sheltered housing and appropriate housing type, for example, bungalows for the elderly population;
  - design and functionality of buildings and spaces, inclusion of water saving measures;
  - water resource management plans (Option 4), distinctive character of buildings;
  - compost, re-use, recycle and minimise waste production;
  - include waste management plans;
  - safeguard mineral reserves (Option 4), investment in sewage treatment works;
  - use of sustainable drainage systems and surface water management plans;
  - energy and building efficiency;
  - renewable sources of energy;
  - various insulation techniques including green roofs, roof top gardens, sequential approach to flood risk areas when selecting development sites;
  - flood management areas;
  - limited innovative city centre car parking;
  - location of development next to services, including schools; and
  - a variety of affordable housing provision.

- 7.2.5 If these measures were integrated at the appropriate time into the plan making process Options 1 to 3 would be considered to move towards sustainability. However, the dispersed Option 4 was likely to only have a marginal improvement to become neutral following mitigation measures.
- 7.2.6 Of all the Hereford options, Options 1 and 2 are considered to perform better from the SA outcomes because following mitigation these have no outstanding negative impacts which are unlikely to be improved. In addition the negative impacts associated with Option 2 on the natural and historic environment and upon flood risk are likely to be more easily mitigated considering that the proposed development sites are of medium to large scale. This will enable more meaningful mitigation to be implemented within the development areas, particularly for flood risk and the natural environment.
- 7.2.7 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 following the SA with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:

- Development requirements were added.

### **Hereford Racecourse – Alternative location not included with options**

- 7.2.8 The Place Shaping Paper identifies the Hereford Racecourse as a potential alternative site for 600 homes however, it has significant constraints and has not been included within any of the options highlighted above. Questions remain on the deliverability of the site within the plan period; the loss of public open space and recreation facilities; the potential for some of the site for a Park and Ride facility; and the need for an alternative site for the racecourse and recreation facilities. If the site is deemed suitable it could form part of any of the options highlighted above.
- 7.2.9 The not yet rejected alternative additional locations for housing at the Hereford Racecourse concluded that overall this option was neutral. More information is needed on whether this alternative housing location will support or stretch existing healthcare services.
- 7.2.10 The workshop groups considered that this alternative location moved away from sustainability on the loss of recreational space including a golf course; commercial loss from the leisure centre and informal and open space, the development would also increase waste production. It was also considered that a replacement site for the gold course etc, is likely to be in a less sustainable location.
- 7.2.11 The mitigation required for this is similar to that outlined above for the Hereford Urban Expansion Options. Following such measures the alternative location was considered to remain as neutral.
- 7.2.12 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 following this assessment.

### **7.3 Bromyard Place Shaping Options**

- 7.3.1 Overall Options 1 and 2 for Bromyard were considered to be moving away from sustainability. More information is needed on whether Bromyard will have sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth.

- 7.3.2 The options were considered to be moving away from sustainability on waste production, impacts on landscape sensitivity, climate change contributions and on the high historic environmental assets.
- 7.3.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- employment needs through the provision of non strategic employment sites;
  - improvements to the centre which are vital to retain business interest and custom;
  - creation of permeability to the secondary school under Option 1 or to the town centre and schools in Option 2;
  - sustainable transport links;
  - access to the A44 where Option 2 will require more mitigation than Option 1;
  - Broadband provision;
  - identification of percentage of affordable housing; good quality design, type, tenure and size of dwellings;
  - waste policies to follow the waste hierarchy;
  - address design, layout, landscaping and landshaping and historic heritage quality;
  - increase the use of surface water management plans, managing drainage issues;
  - increase renewable sources of energy, location of which will need to be carefully considered; and
  - promote carbon neutrality.
- 7.3.4 Both options were considered to become neutral overall if these measures were integrated at the appropriate time into the plan making process. Particular reference was made to the fact that whilst design policies will try to address the impact on the natural environment assets these areas are considered of such high landscape sensitivity that building here would have a marginally negative impact even with mitigation.

### **Bromyard Option 3**

- 7.3.5 Overall Option 3 for Bromyard was also considered to be moving away from sustainability. As with the other options more information is needed on whether Bromyard will have sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth.
- 7.3.6 The outcomes for Option 3 are very similar to the assessment of Options 1 and 2 for Bromyard. The only differences being that the location of Option 3 is that it is equidistant to both the town centre and the schools; and that this option also allocates for recreational space between the two proposed growth areas. The outcome following mitigation is also the same, with an overall improvement to neutral. This assessment of all the options has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:
- Improve accessibility to the existing road network but particularly improve walking and cycling links to the town centre.

## **7.4 Ledbury Place Shaping Options (including the 2 sub options)**

- 7.4.1 Overall the Ledbury options and sub options were considered to be neutral. More information to assess the options is needed on whether Ledbury has sufficient healthcare provisions for the proposed growth.
- 7.4.2 All the options were considered to be moving away from sustainability on the production of waste; and on biodiversity impacts, which were considered to be greatest with Option 2. However, both options are in areas of medium to high landscape quality and this impact would require significant mitigation, impacts from contributions to climate change and also impacts upon the historic assets of the railway viaduct, which is a listed building and scheduled ancient monument, would also need to be addressed.
- 7.4.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- permeability and connectivity across the existing bypass to connect new and existing places including employment sites;
  - reduce congestion and encourage walking and cycling, with the use of the old railway line and canal for such links;
  - encouragement to access rail facilities;
  - maintain the role and the attraction of the town for improved vibrancy and economic growth;
  - consider design, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully for housing provision, including the identification of the percentage of affordable housing required;
  - address waste issues including the development of waste management plans;
  - improve biodiversity and landscape quality, identifying buffer areas for wildlife;
  - design of development;
  - the requirement of surface water management plans;
  - deal with drainage issues;
  - incorporate renewable sources of energy;
  - engaging with developers to gain more sustainable methods of construction; and
  - give consideration to carbon neutrality.
- 7.4.4 All the options were considered to remain as neutral following the integration of mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 7.4.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:
- Waste policy direction has been altered to refer to waste management plans.

## **7.5 Leominster Place Shaping Option**

- 7.5.1 Overall the option for Leominster is considered to be moving towards sustainability. The urban extension proposed for Leominster may need

enhanced healthcare facilities, potentially secured through developer contributions. However, further information from the Primary Care Trust is required on local need.

7.5.2 The option was moving away from sustainability on waste production; impacts upon landscape and environment assets; and on contributions to climate change.

7.5.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- address waste issues including the development of waste management plans;
- design of development;
- provision of open space;
- permeability and connectivity to connect new and existing places including employment sites;
- to ensure local distinctiveness by improving biodiversity and landscape quality, identifying buffer areas for wildlife and listed buildings to protect historic heritage and archaeology; and
- incorporate renewable sources of energy to increase energy efficiency and give consideration to carbon neutrality.

7.5.4 The outcome following mitigation is considered to remain moving the county moving towards sustainability.

7.5.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:

- Walking and cycling links to the employment section.

## **7.6 Ross-on-Wye Place Shaping Options**

7.6.1 Overall both options for Ross-on-Wye are considered to be moving away from sustainability. More information is needed on healthcare provision, as with the other Place Shaping Options.

7.6.2 The options were moving away from sustainability on transport patterns and congestion issues, particularly around the A40 roundabout; the lack of appropriate open space; the production of waste; the loss of medium to high agricultural land and biodiversity, which is most affected under Option 2 with regards to the impact on bat species; contributions to climate change and Option 2 could also have adverse impacts on local buildings of interest.

7.6.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- better sustainable transport links to and from Model Farm and the proposed development sites, and the encouragement of sustainable travel links into the town centre including better cycling, walking and bus links;

- the use of the old rail line for such new routes to help connect various places;
- strengthen the comparison offer for retail shops;
- improve links across the A40 road to maintain the attractiveness of the centre and reduce congestion;
- provision of recreation and open space in Ross-on-Wye;
- percentage of affordable housing, tenure, size, type and aspirations;
- address waste issues including the development of waste management plans;
- design and layout of development will be important to lessen the impacts upon landscape quality;
- the requirement of surface water management plans;
- deal with drainage issues;
- incorporate renewable sources of energy;
- get developers to engage in more sustainable methods of construction;
- consider carbon neutrality;
- archaeology; and
- identify buffers around listed and locally important buildings.

7.6.4 Following mitigation the options were considered to be neutral.

7.6.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:

- The proposals were amended to refer to sustainable transport links.
- Inclusion of open space within the proposal site has been added to the option.
- Text has been changed to reflect that other plans will need to consider the design and layout of development to lessen the impacts upon landscape quality and set out particular requirements such as requirements for surface water plans, incorporation of renewable sources of energy, consideration to carbon neutrality etc.

7.6.6 Overall in respect of the SA outcomes Option 2 was considered to be marginally better than Option 1.

## **7.7 Rural Areas - New Jobs and Shops Place Shaping Option**

7.7.1 Since the SA was done the rural areas Options in the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, changed quite significantly. Since the workshops, a new option in the Rural Areas Settlement Hierarchy Section, Option 2 for tier 2 housing in the paper, has emerged. This second option has not been through a SA and will need to be assessed before the submission document stage of the Core Strategy.

7.7.2 The option that was assessed considered the Rural Areas Place Shaping Option in relation to new jobs and shops. Overall it was considered that this option was neutral. More information is needed on where development is going to be located in the rural areas before an assessment on the impacts to the natural and historic environment can be determined. The option was moving away from sustainability on the production of waste and climate change contributions.

- 7.7.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- safeguarding employment land;
  - ensuring flexible land in rural areas;
  - integration of brownfield land use into policy;
  - promotion of sustainable means of travel;
  - improvements to walking and cycling networks;
  - ensuring accessibility to facilities;
  - reduction of waste by means of the waste hierarchy;
  - consider outcomes of the green infrastructure strategy and landscape and archaeology study in considering the location of development; and
  - encourage carbon neutrality where possible.
- 7.7.4 The option was considered to move towards sustainability following the integration of these mitigation measures.
- 7.7.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:
- The promotion of sustainable means of travel, have been added in reference to community need.
  - Walking and cycling has been reflected in the new jobs section.
  - The option has been related better to the Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper.
  - Safeguarding of employment land and ensuring sufficient supply of flexible land in rural areas have been reflected.
  - Brownfield land priority has been added.
  - Contributions have been added to ensure provision of community facilities.
  - Waste policy direction has been altered to refer to waste management plans.

### **Additional Housing to the Rural Areas**

- 7.7.6 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Panel Report (September 2009) has recommended an additional 1400 dwellings to Herefordshire, 200 for Hereford and 1200 for the rest of the county. Prior to the Panel Report it was considered reasonable to identify an option that split the 1200 dwellings between Ledbury and the rural areas and a separate option that considered directing development only to the wider rural areas outside of the market towns. However, the assessment on the former has not been included since the Panel Report confirmed that the additional housing allocated to the county was to improve rural affordability. Therefore the option to split the housing between Ledbury and the rural areas was no longer considered reasonable as it would not be compliant with the RSS. Ledbury was originally considered for part of the additional housing because of its sustainable transport advantages and general demand for market housing.

### **Option for Additional Housing to the Rural Areas**

- 7.7.7 Overall the additional housing option for the rural areas is considered to be moving away from sustainability. More information on the location of

development from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is necessary prior to the assessment of the impact on the natural and historic environment being made and upon areas which are liable to flood in the rural areas.

7.7.8 The option was considered to be moving away from sustainability on the impact of reducing the need to travel, since dispersed development is likely to result in more journeys to larger centres for jobs and services; the increased production of waste; and negative contributions to climate change.

7.7.9 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- ensure that transport access is focussed on the Rural Service Centres to improve rural public transport;
- identify the type of community facilities needed and allocate an appropriate portion of housing to support the need;
- ensure good design, affordability etc, to improve housing quality;
- address waste issues and require waste management plans;
- consider carbon neutrality;
- ensure development avoids high flood risk areas; and
- design should include layout, landscaping and landshaping.

7.7.10 Following mitigation and enhancement measures the option was considered to move towards neutrality. The cumulative impacts of the additional housing on the whole strategy are likely to effect waste production increases, climate change contributions, water quality and quantity issues and design. However, these are not considered to significantly affect the outcome of the original assessment.

7.7.11 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment. The additional housing requirements have been incorporated into the place shaping paper spatial strategy.

## **7.8 Settlement Hierarchy Place Shaping Options**

7.8.1 At the time of the workshops the options assessed were as set out in the Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper, June 2009:

- Option 1 – Rural Service Centre (RSC) development only
- Option 2 – Development in the villages within 5km of a RSC or market town
- Option 3 – Development of smaller settlements with good public transport
- Option 4 – Development of smaller settlements with at least 5 key services regardless of public transport availability.

7.8.2 All the options were considered to be moving towards sustainability. More information is considered necessary with regards to whether the proposed growth in rural areas would have sufficient capacity for the provision of healthcare. The Market Towns and Rural Areas plan is likely to need to address this issue. The location of development from the SHLAA in order to be able to assess any adverse impacts on the natural and historic assets in rural areas.

- 7.8.3 The options were considered to be moving away from sustainability on the need to travel (Option 4), production of waste, and negative contributions to climate change.
- 7.8.4 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- ensure that brownfield land is considered prior to good quality greenfield land;
  - improve sustainable transport links and walking and cycling to improve access to facilities and services on offer;
  - delivery of affordable housing and other rural services;
  - ensure developer contributions aid improvements to services;
  - ensure that design, layout, type, size and materials are of good quality and locally distinctive;
  - address waste issues by use of the waste hierarchy;
  - safeguard landscape quality by appropriate design, layout, avoidance of high quality landscape areas;
  - design and layout of development to reduce carbon footprint, surface water management plans, improvements to sustainable transport links to RSCs and market towns;
  - creation of pleasant green infrastructure; and
  - design, layout, landscaping and landshaping to address historic heritage and ensure local distinctiveness.
- 7.8.5 Following these mitigation measures all the options were considered to remain moving towards sustainability.
- 7.8.6 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.
- 7.8.7 Following consultation responses to the Draft Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper, June 2009, the options were reviewed and considered in addition to the panel report on the RSS. Section 6.8 of the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, and particularly paragraph 6.8.17 provides more information. Option 3 above is the only option taken forward in the Place Shaping Options Paper, January 2010. It is referred to in the paper as Option 1 – local centres. Option 2 in the paper is a new option for a criteria based approach. Option 2 has not been through the sustainability process and this will be completed prior to submission. Although the sustainability appraisal process has influenced the writing of the Option 2 criteria.

## **General Core Policies**

### **7.9 Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Policy Direction**

- 7.9.1 Overall the policy direction on renewable energy and energy efficiency was considered to be neutral. More information is needed on the type of facilities that could be utilised most efficiently within the county.
- 7.9.2 The policy was considered to be moving away from sustainability on landscape quality and upon the character of historic places.

- 7.9.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- The final policy should set targets for and design energy saving technologies into new developments;
  - any potential design code SPD should highlight requirements for climate change and energy security;
  - consideration needs to be given to potential trade offs between allowing renewable energy schemes which may not satisfy other sustainability objectives; and
  - a complete evidence base on renewable energy feasibility in the county would be ideal to support any argument.
- 7.9.4 This information could then be used to guide appropriate targets, locations and technologies proven to be appropriate in the county. Following mitigation the policy is likely to move towards sustainability.
- 7.9.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

## **7.10 Water Resource Policy Direction**

- 7.10.1 Overall the policy direction on water resources is moving towards sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the policy direction.
- 7.10.2 The policy was considered to be moving away from sustainability on waste, since some waste processes use large volumes of water; and the potential to adversely impact upon the historic environment if retro fitting of water efficiency measures were implemented in conservation areas or in/on listed buildings.
- 7.10.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- policy wording needs to be strengthened to “require” rather than encourage new infrastructure to be put in place prior to commencement of development, ensuring sites are deliverable and serviceable; and
  - to encourage and where practical, require the inclusion of low use water processes and appliances to reduce water consumption in the design of new development.
- 7.10.4 Following the implementation of these mitigation measures the policy was considered to remain moving towards sustainability.
- 7.10.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:
- The requirement and phasing of new infrastructure to new development added to water resource policy direction.

## **7.11 Local Distinctiveness Policy Direction**

- 7.11.1 Overall the local distinctiveness policy direction was considered to be moving towards sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the policy direction.
- 7.11.2 The policy direction was considered to be moving away from sustainability on the provision of flexible employment land and allow new business opportunities because it may restrict or prevent development in sensitive locations.
- 7.11.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- any possible design code SPD should ensure that new developments, whether for housing, business, waste facilities etc, are designed to a high standard, having consideration to scale, massing and orientation of development to reduce the impact that they may cause to local distinctiveness; and
  - ensure that developers value, enhance and or protect landscape and historic heritage quality and address climate change through the use of this policy, maximising the potential sustainability benefit.
- 7.11.4 Following the implementation of such mitigation the policy is likely to continue to move towards sustainability.
- 7.11.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

## **7.12 Health Policy Direction**

- 7.12.1 Overall the health policy direction is likely to move towards sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the impact of the policy direction.
- 7.12.2 None of the sustainability questions were considered to be moving away from sustainability.
- 7.12.3 The SA enhancement proposals suggest that most of the aspects raised could be enhanced through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted:
- the importance to ensure that the delivery of healthcare is recognised as infrastructure in the same way as other utilises are, such as water, ensuring that developments contribute appropriately to any healthcare requirements;
  - delivery of high quality open space will be important to bring forward to benefit the populations health and well being; and
  - Section 106 agreements need to ensure that they optimise gain to maximise health benefits from development.
- 7.12.4 Following these enhancement measures the policy is likely to improve significantly.

7.12.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

### **7.13 Movement in Herefordshire Policy Direction**

7.13.1 Overall the movement policy direction is likely to move towards sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the impact of the policy direction.

7.13.2 None of the sustainability questions were considered to be moving away from sustainability.

7.13.3 The SA enhancement proposals suggest that most of the aspects raised could be enhanced through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted:

- in order to gain the full positive effect of the policy its wording should be strengthened to "require" rather than "promote" walking and cycling routes, and also ensure that conditions of planning permissions "require" travel plans for urban extensions and larger sites, which should be well connected to the existing network by creating new routes with greater permeability.
- Joint working with council and public transport providers will be essential to ensure the aim of the policy also allows rural areas to be well connected with their nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel.
- The location of development will also be important to ensure that these can be accessed easily by the emergency services, which can be dealt with through master planning and development briefs.

7.13.4 Following the integration of these enhancement measures the policy was considered to remain moving towards sustainability.

7.13.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

### **7.14 Minerals Policy Direction**

7.14.1 Overall the minerals policy direction is likely to be neutral. No further information is needed to assess the impact of the policy direction.

7.14.2 The minerals policy direction was considered to be moving away from sustainability on landscape quality issues, contributions to climate change depending on the location of the mineral resource and the place of need traffic movements may increase impacting on air quality, and historic heritage may be adversely impacted by excavations through archaeological finds or impacts on the settings of listed buildings and conservation areas.

7.14.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- the use of secondary and recycled aggregate prior to primary aggregate and the restoration of mineral sites for ecological and landscape benefit.

- Where primary aggregate is required developments should utilise materials which are located close to the site wherever possible, to reduce the distance materials need to travel, in addition rail freight should be maximised.
- Policies and site considerations need to be given to archaeological remains, listed buildings settings and conservation areas to ensure that mineral extraction does not adversely affect these places.

7.14.4 Following the implementation of these measures the policy was considered to move towards sustainability.

7.14.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

### **7.15 Employment Land Provision Policy Direction**

7.15.1 Overall the employment land provision policy direction was considered to be moving away from sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the impact of the policy direction.

7.15.2 The employment land provision policy direction is considered to be moving away from sustainability on waste production, impacts upon the natural (landscape) and built (historic heritage) quality of places, and contribute to climate change.

7.15.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- monitoring the aims to ensure they are being met;
- ensure clarity on considering policies together, these include waste, local distinctiveness (to include landscape and historic heritage) and natural resources, for example, water resources and energy use;
- the opportunity to address new business travel to work plans which encourage walking and cycling and also consider the design of businesses and their car parking standards;
- bus links and rail links should be improved where possible, all of which will assist in reducing congestion and air pollution; and
- the policy could also be utilised to control the type of business in the county, for example, attracting greener companies.

7.15.4 Following the integration of these measures the policy was considered to move towards sustainability.

7.15.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

### **7.16 Education and Skills Policy Direction**

7.16.1 Overall the education and skills policy direction was considered to be neutral. A connection between the policy direction on movement in Herefordshire has been directly linked to the education and skills policy direction to assist in enabling access to services and facilities by improved sustainable modes of travel. No further information is needed to assess the policy direction.

7.16.2 The education and skills policy direction was considered to be moving away from sustainability on sustainable transport patterns since education facilities may attract more people and create more congestion, increase waste production, and contribute to climate change.

7.16.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- the requirement of site waste management plans at all education facilities could assist in the recycling and reduction of waste;
- encouraging carbon neutral development would also help in moving towards sustainability; and
- design, layout and orientation of buildings will also be important to ensure development fits in with the historic core of places.

7.16.4 Following the integration of these mitigation measures the policy is considered to move towards sustainability.

7.16.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

## **7.17 Density Policy Direction**

7.17.1 Overall the density policy direction was considered to be moving towards sustainability. More information is needed on how the density policy will be applied in the different places in order to assess what the impact is likely to be on the historic heritage of each place. However, the density policy direction is aiming to be in accordance with the character of an area and as such the impact is likely to be neutral.

7.17.2 The density policy direction was not considered to be moving away from sustainability on any of the sustainability questions.

7.17.3 The SA enhancement proposals suggest that most of the aspects raised could be enhanced through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted:

- The Core Strategy and other plan policies need to ensure that density targets are set dependant on location reducing the need to travel.
- Design policies need to be considered to ensure that higher densities in urban areas are well thought through.
- Further evidence base on affordable housing will assist in identifying local need in different locations which should be used to guide density requirements.
- Policy wording should concentrate on making clear what the efficient use of land means, it does not necessarily mean high density but a more balanced approach to housing need should consider social and environmental outcomes.
- Open space and recreation will be important too.
- A completed evidence base on the characterisation of each place should also be taken into account to ensure that impacts on landscape quality and historic heritage are avoided.

- 7.17.4 Following the implementation of these enhancement measures the policy is likely to remain moving towards sustainability.
- 7.17.5 There were no changes to the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, following this assessment.

## **7.18 Affordable Housing Policy Direction**

- 7.18.1 Overall the SA of the affordable housing policy direction has indicated that a target of 40% would be the best at this stage with a threshold of 15 dwellings in urban areas and any dwelling in rural areas being required to provide affordable units. However, it was recognised that further information from the emerging evidence base was necessary to confirm this assessment.
- 7.18.2 The options were considered to be moving away from sustainability on increasing good quality housing for Option 1 at a percentage target of 25% of affordable units only.
- 7.18.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:
- Place specific affordable housing percentages and thresholds to deal with the variety of need around the county, making this particular policy locally distinctive. This will also ensure that housing is providing where there is a demonstrated need.
  - Ensure that policies in the Core Strategy and other plans require affordable units to be built to the highest possible standards of the code for sustainable homes which will assist in reducing the housing contribution to climate change.
- 7.18.4 Following mitigation the 6 options on percentage and threshold recorded no change in effect.
- 7.18.5 Since the affordable housing policy direction was assessed further information from the emerging affordable housing viability study has informed the development of the affordable housing policy direction. It has also been influenced by the mitigation and enhancement mentioned above. The new policy options as set out in the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, are as follows: The options for establishing indicative percentages of affordable housing:
- Option 1 – continue to apply an indicative target of 35% for all of Herefordshire
  - Option 2 – set an indicative target of 35% for the entire county except for Leominster where a target of 25% would be set
  - Option 3 – set an indicative target of:
    - 40% affordable housing for sites in Ledbury, Ross and their rural hinterlands and in the rural north of the county (including Bromyard);
    - 35% for Hereford and its rural hinterland, Kington and the west of the county; and
    - 25% in Leominster.

In addition, affordable housing policy will define site size thresholds for affordable housing. In urban areas (i.e. Hereford and market towns) it is proposed to retain the existing threshold of 15 dwellings, however, in rural areas the options for thresholds are:

Option 1 – Retain a threshold of 6 dwellings;

Option 2 – Reduce threshold to 1 dwelling (requiring a financial contribution on sites of 1 and 2 dwellings).

Affordable housing policies will also: maximise the opportunities to deliver affordable housing within the policy framework of any rural settlement hierarchy; and maximise opportunities to deliver affordable housing through the rural exceptions scheme.

7.18.6 As can be seen from the above there remain a number of options for the policy on affordable housing. The sustainability appraisal generally suggests that increasing the target for affordable housing on sites and lowering site size thresholds will be moving towards sustainability. However, the policy Options now set out a range of options, including varying targets for different parts of the county based upon the evidence base including the results of the SA above, which will require further sustainability appraisal prior to submission.

## **7.19 Gypsy and Travellers Policy Direction**

7.19.1 Overall the policy direction on Gypsies and Travellers was considered to be moving towards sustainability. No further information is needed to assess the policy direction.

7.19.2 The policy direction was considered to be moving away from sustainability on protection of the natural environment (landscape quality) and impacts upon the built historic environment.

7.19.3 The SA mitigation and enhancement proposals suggest that most of the issues raised could be addressed through changes to the Place Shaping Paper, appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans including master plans and planning briefs. It highlighted the inclusion of:

- Allocation of sites well located to facilities and services to reduce the need to travel;
- Sites to be located close to sustainable modes of travel;
- Ensure play areas, access to facilities and landscaping on site are included in policy;
- Collaborative working with Gypsies and Travellers on site locations and design aspects;
- Ensure waste issues are addressed and facilities made available in the design of sites; and
- Utilise sensitive design to lessen impacts on quality landscape and historic environments.

7.19.4 Following the implementation of the mitigation measures it is considered that the policy is likely remain moving towards sustainability.

7.19.5 This assessment has influenced the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010 with the following changes, references, and inclusions to:

- Working with Gypsy and Travellers in design site allocation areas in other plans.

## 8.0 Exclusions

- 8.1 Not all of the Place Shaping Options and Policy Directions have been assessed at this latest SA stage. This was generally because since the Developing Options Paper no significant changes were recorded to their fundamental nature. The sustainability assessments can be reviewed in the Sustainability Appraisal to the Developing Options Paper, June 2008 and in the Addendum document dated March 2009 available on the council's website at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf).
- 8.2 The options set out in the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, which have not been assessed at this stage, will require a final assessment at submissions stage.
- 8.3 **Transport Options for Hereford.** At this stage the sustainability workshop did not fully SA the options for a western or eastern relief road because the environmental evidence base was not fully available in order to make an assessment of the impacts of the road options. An SA was undertaken on the directional options during the Developing Options stage and the western route was found to be neutral with the eastern route moving away from sustainability. Although, further information is included within the Place Shaping Paper it is considered that the most appropriate stage to SA a potential direction for a road would be following the result of the 'Study of Options for the Hereford Relief Road Report' which is anticipated in summer 2010.
- 8.4 **Kington Place Shaping Options.** Neither of the Developing Options Paper options have been rejected as directions for growth for Kington. The Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan will address these options as they are considered non-strategic for the purposes of the Core Strategy. The SA highlighted both options as moving towards sustainability.
- 8.5 **Managing flood risk.** This policy direction based on the sequential approach of PPS25 is in line with Option 1 of the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the policy direction was working towards sustainability. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.6 **Design.** This policy direction is based on Option 1 as set out in the Developing Options paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the policy direction was working towards sustainability. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.7 **Infrastructure delivery.** A Sustainability Appraisal has not yet been undertaken upon this policy direction as it has not been previously identified as a specific policy direction. Sustainability assessment of this policy area will be undertaken prior to the submission.
- 8.8 **Waste.** The policy direction is based on Option 1 as set out in the Developing Options paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the

policy direction was considered to be neutral. Further sustainability appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.

- 8.9 **Maintaining supply.** The policy direction is based on Option 3 as set out in the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time considered the policy direction to be neutral. Further appraisal of the detailed wording at Submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.10 **Tourism, culture and leisure.** This policy direction is based on Option 2 as set out in the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the policy direction was considered to be neutral. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.11 **Type and mix.** The policy direction is based on Option 2 as set out in the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the policy direction was considered to be neutral. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.12 **Open space, sport and recreation.** The policy direction is based on Option 2 as set out in the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested the policy direction was considered to be working towards sustainability. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.
- 8.13 **Green infrastructure.** The policy direction takes forward all three options set out in the Developing Options Paper. The SA of this option undertaken at the time suggested all policy options were working towards sustainability. Further appraisal of the detailed policy wording at submission stage will be necessary.

## 9.0 Limitations

- 9.1 When identifying the effects of the Objectives and Options against the principles of sustainable development and specific identified sustainability objectives, professional judgement has been used along with workshop group discussions and assessment. A consensus was not always reached since varying views were expressed on what the impacts could be. In order to maintain a non biased approach to the SA process all the comments were recorded. There were instances where the workshop comments were not specific to the question being asked and in these situations comments were either prefixed with the fact they were workshop comments or additional text to capture the essence of the sustainability question, using professional judgement, was supplemented.
- 9.2 Inaccuracies are possible in the discussion based assessment process creating potential uncertainties and risks in the assessment outcomes. However, it is considered that these risks are negated since, where possible, evidence base has informed the assessment outcome and as this document is open to consultation, any errors may be highlighted and amended as necessary. The process is also iterative and will be reviewed and updated again at submission stage.

- 9.3 At submission stage, the General Scoping Report will be updated to reflect the latest information, updating the baseline information and indicators of each of the sustainability objective questions. This has meant that the assessment of the Place Shaping Options and Policy Directions has been undertaken with trend data which is a little out of date.

## **10.0 Further Work**

- 10.1 Following consultation upon the Place Shaping Paper on the final stages of the SA, as outlined in the General Scoping Report, June 2007, will be undertaken. This will also involve a review of the General Scoping Report to update the baseline date and indicators. There will also be a review of significant changes made to the Place Shaping Paper to establish if any additional SA assessments are needed and where options have not been assessed in this report, assessments will be completed.
- 10.2 In addition, consultation responses to the Place Shaping Paper and this Report will be considered and changes made as necessary. The submission Core Strategy will be accompanied by a final Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Statement with a formal Consultation statement which will outline how the comments have been taken into account.

## 11.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment

### Introduction

- 11.1 Herefordshire Council is required under Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ensure that its plans do not adversely affect a European protected site. European Sites are designated for their habitat, flora, fauna or birds under the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive, respectively. The purpose of this report is to provide an update and set out in summary the preliminary findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA of the Place Shaping Options Paper, January 2010.
- 11.2 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Phase Two revision was considered at the RSS examination. The Panel Report recommends the inclusion of a new policy (SR4) which aims to safeguard the integrity of European sites. The policy requires that local authorities will need to avoid adverse effects through testing distribution and phasing options.
- 11.3 Therefore, the RSS Phase 2 revision, assumes that the 18,000 homes and associated development including any required relief roads, allocated to Herefordshire is compliant with the Habitats Regulations Assessment. However, policy SR4 indicates that if the only means of avoiding an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site is to reduce the housing allocation to a lower level, this should be agreed by an Inspector at Development Plan Document (DPD) examination. In Herefordshire, there are particular issues regarding the need to ensure no likely significant effect on the integrity of any European sites, particularly on the River Wye and Lugg, the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites and Wye Valley Woodlands.

### What are the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)?

- 11.4 The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) define a Special Area of Conservation as follows:
- “Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Of the Annex I habitat types, 78 are believed to occur in the UK. Of the Annex II species, 43 are native to, and normally resident in, the UK.”*  
(Source: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-23>, accessed 22-11-09)
- 11.5 Following the HRA report on the Developing Options Paper, June 2008, and its addendum dated March 2009, Countryside Council for Wales have confirmed that a number of the sites screened in within Wales are unlikely to be affected by development occurring in Herefordshire and these sites have therefore been screened out from future stages. The Severn Estuary was ruled out in the previous report, however since then the RSS considers that

impacts may be likely, it has therefore been re-established in this assessment.

11.6 The European Sites that have been taken on into the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, were:

- Downton Gorge
- Drostre Bank
- Llangorse Lake
- Rhos Goch
- River Clun
- River Wye and Lugg
- Severn Estuary
- Usk Bat Sites
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
- Wye Valley Woodlands

The maps and associated information on these sites can be found in the HRA Screening Report, June 2008 available at [http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/FINAL\\_HRA\\_June\\_08.pdf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/docs/FINAL_HRA_June_08.pdf)

11.7 The reasons why these sites are designated, their site integrity, are set out in the first HRA screening report, June 2008, and this report should be referred to when reading the following summaries of the effects that have been assessed at this stage.

#### **What are the issues?**

11.8 The issues associated with maintaining the sites integrity include water level and flow, water quality, air pollution, air quality, humidity, eutrophication (nitrogen enrichment), sedimentation, disturbance, erosion and species maintenance. Each of these were considered in turn when assessing whether the Place Shaping Options would have an adverse effect on each of the sites' integrities. The results of the assessment follow.

#### **What are the effects?**

11.9 The following describes the outcomes of a workshop held in September 2009 of the effects of the proposals in the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, upon each of the European sites. Similarly to the SA results above this section should be read in association with the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, as it explains each of the options being addressed.

#### **Effects upon the Place Shaping Options**

##### **Vision and Objectives**

11.10 High level vision and objectives have not been assessed, however the strategy and Place Shaping Options which stem from them have been. The policies in the plan will be assessed prior to submission.

##### **The Preferred Strategic Option**

11.11 The most critical European protected sites likely to be affected by the strategy are the Rivers Wye and Lugg, the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley

and Forest of Dean Bat sites. Due to a lack of information/evidence base at this stage it is concluded that the Spatial Strategy could have a potential effect on the European protected sites from the amount and location of development proposed. At this stage however, it is considered that mitigation measures, including improvements to sewage treatment works, inclusion of sustainable drainage systems and specific site design requirements are likely to negate these adverse effects. However, any potential cumulative impacts of the whole strategy on any of the following European sites would need to be fully assessed before submission of the Core Strategy: Rivers Wye and Lugg, Severn Estuary, Llangorse Lake, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites. No allocations of housing within the Pilleth water resource zone have been proposed since the zone is reported to have no available water. However, any development proposed within this water resource zone, of whatever scale, will be required to be water neutral.

- 11.12 Policy SR4 indicates that if the only means of avoiding an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site is to reduce the housing allocation to a lower level, this should be agreed by an Inspector at Development Plan Document (DPD) examination.

#### **Hereford Transport Options**

- 11.13 The HRA would favour the western alignment of the relief road because that would avoid the additional bridge(s) over the River Lugg needed for an eastern alignment. However, whichever route is chosen, once it is completed and suitable run-off drainage measures are in place, there should be no long term, direct adverse impacts on the quality and quantity of the water in the rivers concerned.

#### **Hereford Urban Extension Options**

- 11.14 The urban extensions proposed have the potential to have an adverse effect on the River Wye by affecting the characteristics of the River Wye. However, provided appropriate surface water management measures are included there will be no direct adverse effect. Park and Ride Schemes will not have an effect on the River Wye subject to appropriate surface water discharge controls and, if effective in reducing cross river traffic, will have a beneficial impact on the air quality in the vicinity of the River Wye (although air quality is not a site integrity issue for the River Wye). Other European sites in the initial assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch, Severn Estuary, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites, however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Hereford Options and will not be subject to direct impacts on their integrity.

#### **Bromyard**

- 11.15 The key HRA issue is to prevent any reduction in quality of the water in the River Frome below Bromyard (which ultimately flows into the River Lugg and Wye SAC). Development in Bromyard is therefore dependent on ensuring adequate capacity in sewerage infrastructure combined with surface water management plans and measures to move towards water neutrality. These mitigation measures will need to be sufficient to prevent any adverse impacts on any European sites.

## **Kington**

- 11.16 The existing sewage treatment plant serving Kington has 10% headroom with capacity up until 2016, which may require investment. The review of consents process by the Environment Agency is likely to enable Welsh Water to meet the proposed growth in Kington. The allocation of 50 homes is too far away to have any air quality issues upon Downton Gorge. The mitigation measure will need to be sufficient to prevent any adverse impacts on any European sites.

## **Ledbury**

- 11.17 No HRA issues have been identified which would favour any one option for the growth of Ledbury over any other. Whilst water supply is sufficient for new housing in Ledbury there may be issues over supply for new employment uses. It will need to be established before submission stage that there will be no adverse impact on the River Wye from further extraction for this purpose.

## **Leominster**

- 11.18 The Rivers Lugg and Arrow, although not SACs in the Leominster area, join and subsequently, downstream, become the River Lugg SAC. Consequently any adverse impact on the water environment in Leominster is likely to have adverse impacts of significance for HRA purposes. For this reason, a Surface Water Management Plan is essential for any development site which drains into the River Arrow and/or the River Lugg. Development could be managed to mitigate the effects on the SAC given adequate control measures and additional capacity in water treatment infrastructure.

## **Ross-on-Wye**

- 11.19 Water supply is jointly provided by Welsh Water and Severn Trent in Ross-on-Wye. There is capacity for limited growth, although some new water infrastructure may be needed for both water supply and water treatment. Development sites in or near Ross will need site specific assessment because they are within 10kms of the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Woodland Bat Sites. This should ensure that there are no significant impacts upon the SACs. The HRA demonstrated a preference for sites to the north east because these would be least likely to impact on Bat foraging areas.

## **The Rural Areas**

- 11.20 The HRA raised no new issues in respect of water supply or water treatment for the rural areas. Local improvements in water treatment capacity may be required whichever option is chosen. The northernmost village, Leintwardine, is approximately three kilometres from the Downton Gorge SAC where the key issue is to prevent any reduction in air quality. However, the level of growth likely to take place at Leintwardine and its location (which will not require any access or other disturbance in the Gorge) are such that no adverse effect on the air quality in the Gorge is anticipated. Significant development sites in the south of the county (i.e. within 10 kms of the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Woodland Bat Sites) may require detailed assessment on a site-by-site basis and as part of the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan to ensure that no known bat foraging sites are compromised.

## **Limitations**

- 11.21 The main limitations in the assessment of the Place Shaping Options are the lack of information relating to capacity of sewage treatment to allow for new development and what the impacts upon water quality are likely to be. The assessment of the policy directions has also not been undertaken and therefore their potential impacts are currently unknown. However, the policies are developed in order to protect, enhance, and promote aspects which are likely to improve the issues raised in the HRA assessment. The policy directions most likely to assist in lessening impacts upon European sites include: Renewable energy, managing flood risk, water resources, design, movement, infrastructure delivery, local distinctiveness, and green infrastructure.

## **Further work**

- 11.22 Following consultation on the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010, further assessment on those areas highlighted of concern for the European Sites will be assessed including the policy wording. The Core Strategy submission document will be accompanied by a final HRA report which will be separate from the final Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Statement. A consultation statement for both documents will also be included.

## Appendix 1 - Compliance with the SEA Directive

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
SEA Directive	Core Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.</li> </ul>	Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Place Shaping Paper, January 2010.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives are considered in developing indicators and targets.</li> </ul>	Section 5 and Appendices A1 and A2 of the General Scoping Report, June 2007.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.</li> </ul>	This report in section 6.0, Table 1. Indicators and targets are in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report June 2008 Appendix A3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.</li> </ul>	Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report June 2008 Appendix A2.
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.</li> </ul>	Consultation with various organisations including the statutory consultation bodies has been carried out. This will be ongoing as the appraisal process continues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The appraisal focuses on significant issues.</li> </ul>	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in section 7 and Appendices B3-1 to B3-24 of this report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed, assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout this report where appropriate and in sections 8, 9 and 10.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout the General Scoping Report, June 2007, where appropriate.
Baseline Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relevant aspects of current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.</li> </ul>	General Scoping Report, June 2007, section 4 and Appendix A2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.</li> </ul>	General Scoping Report, June 2007, sections 4, 5 and A2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Difficulties such as deficiencies in method or information are explained.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout this report, particularly sections 8, 9 and 10.

## Final Core Strategy Objectives 8 and 11 and Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Test

### Key:

- ☺ = Moving towards sustainability
- ☹ = Moving away from sustainability
- ☺ = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

### Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the final Core Strategy Plan Objectives that have significantly changed since the Developing Options Paper, June 2008, in terms of their reasonableness and their sustainability using the Sustainability Objectives as set out in the General Scoping Report, June 2007 – See council's website [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf) . This assessment follows previous assessments of compatibility on the developing of the Plan Objectives, as these have evolved through consultation.

<p><b>Reasonable Test</b></p>	<p><b>Core Strategy Objective 8:</b> It is reasonable to grow the market towns for economic gain and to diversify the rural economy that values environmental assets.</p>	<p><b>Core Strategy Objective 11:</b> It is reasonable to consider climate change in terms of its causes and impacts and how these might be mitigated against.</p>
<p><b>Core Strategy Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Sustainability Objectives</b></p>	<p><b>Objective 8 (Economic):</b> To improve the economic viability of the market towns, villages and their rural hinterlands by facilitating employment generation and diversification, improving delivery and access to services and realising the value of the environment as an economic asset.</p>	<p><b>Objective11 (Environmental):</b> To address the causes and impacts of climate change by ensuring new development: uses sustainable design and construction methods to conserve natural resources, does not increase flood risk to new or existing property, increases the use of renewable forms of energy to reduce carbon emissions, minimises waste and pollution, manages water supply and conservation and conserves and protects biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>
<p><b>1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</b></p>	<p>☺ - The plan objective is directly aiming to create accessible employment in a range of sectors appropriate for local workforces.</p>	<p>☺ Marginal – The requirement for sustainable design and construction and new technology to expand renewable sources of energy and waste management techniques is likely to improve employment opportunity. The location of development near to the workforce will reduce journeys and therefore work towards reducing carbon emissions.</p>
<p><b>2. Secure a more adaptable and higher skilled workforce</b></p>	<p>☺ - The plan objective is aiming to facilitate employment creation and diversification and thus secure an adaptable and potentially higher skilled workforce.</p>	<p>☺ Marginal – The requirement for sustainable design and construction and new technology to expand renewable sources of energy and waste management techniques may improve employment opportunity including in higher skilled areas in a small way.</p>
<p><b>3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment</b></p>	<p>☺ - The plan objective is seeking to create the type of environment in which conditions can prevail that will aid a sustainable economy to prosper.</p>	<p>☺ - Addressing causes and impacts of climate change, Herefordshire is likely to be best placed to maintain a sustainable economy; however financial costs may be higher.</p>
<p><b>4. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical</b></p>	<p>☺ - Economic growth may result in increased traffic movements and therefore may not be compatible with reducing road traffic and accidents for example. However,</p>	<p>☺ - The means by which to address the causes and impacts of climate change is through putting into place this SA objective, in terms of reducing road traffic and increasing</p>

<p><b>activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking</b></p>	<p>providing employment and improving delivery and access to services near to where people live is a positive thing in encouraging sustainable modes of travel.</p>	<p>walking and cycling journeys.</p>
<p><b>5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically and encourage healthy living for all</b></p>	<p>☺ Marginal – The concept that people are often healthier if they are in work, enables a marginal positive compatibility to be recorded.</p>	<p>☺ Marginal – By addressing climate change it could marginally be said to assist the health of people as they walk and cycle more.</p>
<p><b>6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all</b></p>	<p>☺ - The objective directly promotes delivery and access to services in the market towns.</p>	<p>☺ - Providing facilities near to where people live is likely to reduce carbon emissions.</p>
<p><b>7. Sustainable Regeneration</b></p>	<p>☺ - Creating an environment in which economic viability can be achieved will support regeneration.</p>	<p>☺ - Addressing climate change is likely to enable the sustainable regeneration of a place.</p>
<p><b>8. Raise educational achievement levels across the county</b></p>	<p>☺ Marginal – There is a potential link between economic viability and educational achievement as the aspirations of students is likely to grow if there are good prospects of gaining good employment following education.</p>	<p>X – There is no direct relationship between addressing climate change and education.</p>
<p><b>9. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and antisocial behaviour in the county</b></p>	<p>☺ Marginal – The concept here is that if there are more jobs which fit the community’s skills less people will be unemployed and have more disposable income to meet their needs, potentially reducing anti social behaviour and crime.</p>	<p>X – There is no relationship between addressing climate change and crime.</p>
<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>☺ - Improved employment opportunity is likely to help more people into work or into higher paid work assisting in reducing poverty.</p>	<p>☺ Marginal – As the environmental standards rise energy and other utility expenses have the potential to decrease and as such may assist in reducing poverty.</p>
<p><b>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</b></p>	<p>☺ - Improving delivery and access to services includes affordable housing, which is missing from the objectives wording, if incorporated into the core strategy objective this will be moving towards sustainability - ☺</p>	<p>☺ Marginal – A well designed home using sustainable design and construction is likely to improve housing quality and create a pleasant environment in which to live and work towards addressing climate change.</p>

<b>12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling</b>	☹ - Employment growth is likely to result in more waste requiring disposal and more use of natural resources.	☺ - The plan objective is seeking to develop sustainability, taking into account the conservation of natural resources in building and minimising waste.
<b>13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity</b>	☺ Marginal – realising the value of the environment as an economic asset will marginally assist biodiversity.	☺ - In addressing climate change the plan objective is also seeking to conserve and protect biodiversity and geodiversity.
<b>14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</b>	☹ - A growing economy is likely to deplete natural resources. Unless mitigating circumstances are used such as renewable energy.	☺ - The plan objective is aiming to use natural resources efficiently and seek more renewable energy sources.
<b>15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces</b>	☹ - New development may have adverse impacts on landscape value but developer contributions may lead to enhancements.	☹ - Addressing climate change may use the landscape in a holistic way which may, depending on implementation and location, either be positive or negative to landscape quality.
<b>16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem</b>	☹ - A growing economy which is likely to deplete natural resources, create waste and increase traffic movements is unlikely to reduce the impacts of climate change. However, avoiding floodplains and working towards carbon neutrality could alleviate concerns.	☺ - The plan objective is seeking to directly achieve this SA objective.
<b>17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</b>	☹ - Development may affect floodplains which would need a sequential test to find more sustainable sites and or mitigation.	☺ - Similar to above the plan objective is aiming to achieve this SA objective.
<b>18. Minimise local and global</b>	☹ - Growth in the economy is likely to increase pollution	☺ - Similar to above the plan objective is aiming to minimise

<b>pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</b>	either directly from the type of business or from associated business activity, for example traffic generation, waste creation, contaminated land etc, without mitigation	pollution including carbon dioxide emissions.
<b>19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use</b>	☺ - Policies would need to reflect use of brownfield land first, higher densities and integrated transport.	☺ - The plan objective is looking to conserve natural resources, which is likely to include soil and land and thus ensure integrated efficient and balanced land use.
<b>20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage</b>	☺ Marginal – The plan objective is aiming to value the environment as an economic asset and as such will aim to protect the historic environment.	☺ Marginal – There is potential that new technology and new building design may not be compatible with the county's historic environment.
<b>Overall Sustainability Outcome</b>	Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Marginally moving towards sustainability.
<b>Conclusions and recommendations</b>	Negative impacts regarding waste, pollution and use of natural resources are still evident through these objectives. However, these are mitigated by other plan objectives which seek to even out the negative compatibilities creating a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives for balanced sustainable growth in Herefordshire. Affordable housing needs to be added to objective number 8.	The only SA objective which has the potential to be compromised is the historic environment objective which is dependant on the design of new builds being to the highest standards in order not to detract from historic heritage but to create valued and enhanced built quality. This issue would need to be reflected in any local distinctiveness or design policy wording.

Core Strategy Objectives	Core Strategy Objective 1: To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community (especially those in need of affordable housing), by providing a range of quality, energy efficient homes in the right place at the right time.	Core Strategy Objective 2: To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of all residents by ensuring new developments positively contribute towards better access to, provision and use of, improved public open spaces, sport and recreation, education, cultural and health facilities.	Core Strategy Objective 3: To support existing education, life-long learning and the retention of our young people through the provision and/or improvement of higher education, skills development and training facilities.	Core Strategy Objective 4: To reduce the need to travel and lessen the harmful impacts from traffic growth, promote active travel and improve quality of life by locating significant new development where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation, leisure and other services are, or could be made available by walking, cycling or public transport.	Core Strategy Objective 5: To improve access to services in rural areas and movement and air quality within urban areas by ensuring new developments support the provision of an accessible, integrated, safe and sustainable transport network and improved traffic management schemes.	Core Strategy Objective 6: To provide more local, better paid job opportunities to limit out-commuting and strengthen the economy by attracting higher value-added, knowledge based industries and cutting-edge environmental technologies to new/existing employment land and enabling existing businesses to grow and diversify, facilitated by the universal provision of a high bandwidth broadband service.	Core Strategy Objective 7: To strengthen Hereford's role as a sub-regional focus for the county, through city centre expansion as part of wider city regeneration and through the provision of a balanced package of transport measures including park and ride, bus priority schemes and a relief road including a second river crossing.	Core Strategy Objective 8: To improve the economic viability of the market towns, villages and their rural hinterlands by facilitating employment generation and diversification, improving delivery and access to services and realising the value of the environment as an economic asset.	Core Strategy Objective 9: To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by enabling the provision of new, as well as enhancement of existing, tourism infrastructure.	Core Strategy Objective 10: To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment by delivering well-designed places, spaces and buildings, which use land efficiently, reinforce local distinctiveness and are supported by the necessary infrastructure including green infrastructure.	Core Strategy Objective 11: To address the causes and impacts of climate change by ensuring new development: uses sustainable design and construction methods to conserve natural resources, does not increase flood risk to new or existing property, increases the use of renewable forms of energy to reduce carbon emissions, minimises waste and pollution, manages water supply and conservation and protects biodiversity and geodiversity.	Core Strategy Objective 12: To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the county's current stock of environmental assets from loss and damage, reversing negative trends, ensuring best condition and encouraging expansion, as well as appropriately managing future assets.
Core Strategy Objective 1: To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community (especially those in need of affordable housing), by providing a range of quality, energy efficient homes in the right place at the right time.		Objective 1 and 2 are generally compatible. Developer contributions may help provide for and improve services/facilities. However, new housing may place a strain on existing services if not matched with new/additional provision.	Objective 1 and 3 are compatible, although not directly related. Developer contributions may support education and skills development in the future. More affordable housing and low cost housing could help to retain young people.	Objective 1 and 4 are compatible providing sustainably located new housing is in the same areas that employment, retail, health services are also planned to be located.	Objective 1 and 5 are compatible. Contributions raised by housing development may contribute to financing transport infrastructure schemes and improvements.	Objective 1 and 6 are indirectly compatible since employment and housing will be planned together - one supporting the other. For higher value technology industries, executive homes may be required.	Objective 1 and 7 are compatible. The expansion of the city and its regeneration includes new housing.	Objective 1 and 8, are compatible as improving access to services includes affordable housing provision.	Objective 1 and 9, are unrelated as there is no connection between housing need and leisure visits, sustainable tourism and tourism infrastructure.	Objective 1 and 10 are compatible. Sustainable communities will require housing and these will also need to be well designed in place, space and building etc.	Objective 1 and 11 are compatible. New housing is going to be required to reach carbon zero by 2016 through the code for sustainable homes. This will assist in reducing contributions to climate change including on water conservation.	Objective 1 and 12 may cause conflict. New housing in areas of high environmental, historic value etc may have adverse impacts.
Core Strategy Objective 2: To improve the health, well-being and quality of life of all residents by ensuring new developments positively contribute towards better access to, provision and use of, improved public open spaces, sport and recreation, education, cultural and health facilities.		Objective 2 and 3 are directly compatible as improved health and well being and education will improve skills and training for all members of the community, the young and those seeking life long learning.	Objective 2 and 3 are directly compatible as improved health and well being and education will improve skills and training for all members of the community, the young and those seeking life long learning.	Objective 2 and 4 are compatible. Links to public transport in objective 4 will also aid reductions in air emissions improving the quality of the air particularly helping those with respiratory problems.	Objective 2 and 5 are indirectly compatible but are aiming for different outcomes.	Objective 2 and 6 are unrelated.	Objective 2 and 7 are broadly compatible. A balanced package of transport measures will help improve air pollution and encourage more people to walk and cycle improving health and well being. New housing will bring forward community benefits too.	Objective 2 and 8 are compatible. Improving access to services is likely to generate some employment and help in improving delivery of services.	Objective 2 and 9 are compatible. Improving tourism and leisure activities is likely to assist in greater health benefits and improve well-being.	Objective 2 and 10 are compatible. Sustainable communities are about providing the right infrastructure.	Objective 2 and 11 are compatible. Reducing emissions and improving waste and pollution issues is likely to benefit health.	Objective 2 and 12 are compatible. The safeguarding of our natural, built, historic and cultural assets is likely to contribute to greater well-being.

<p><b>Core Strategy Objective 3: To support existing education, life-long learning and the retention of our young people through the provision and/or improvement of higher education, skills development and training facilities.</b></p>		<p>Objective 3 and 4 are indirectly compatible. Development located in sustainable locations with good public transport links will be essential to enable improvements and provision of higher education, skills and other training facilities that will support the economy.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 5 are compatible because improved accessibility to higher education establishments and other training facilities, will promote their utilisation.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 6 are compatible. The establishment of a higher education facility and other training establishments in the county will help towards supporting the economy.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 7 are compatible. The expansion of the city is to include the provision of higher education facilities which will assist in the role of Hereford as a sub-regional focus for the county.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 8 are compatible. Higher education provision is likely to support the rural economy.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 9, are indirectly compatible. Sustainable tourism may be related to higher education offer.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 10 are compatible. Encouraging the retention of younger generations in the county through the provision of education is likely to assist in achieving sustainable communities.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 11, are compatible. New education establishments will be expected to comply with this objective.</p>	<p>Objective 3 and 12, may have conflict if new education provision was to affect environmental assets.</p>
<p><b>Core Strategy Objective 4: To reduce the need to travel and lessen the harmful impacts from traffic growth, promote active travel and improve quality of life by locating significant new development where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation, leisure and other services are, or could be made available by walking, cycling or public transport.</b></p>			<p>Objective 4 and 5 are compatible. Improved accessibility and movement will support the location of development in sustainable locations.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 6 are compatible. Existing and new employment land will generally be located in central locations.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 7 should be compatible provided any new relief road does not result in an increase to harmful emissions.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 8 are compatible. Locating new development in settlements with a level of existing services will reduce the need to travel.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 9 are compatible, providing new tourist facilities are sustainably located.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 10 are compatible. Sustainable communities and protection of the environment are likely to be assisted by measures to reduce the need to travel.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 11 are compatible. Reducing journey's taken by car is likely to benefit air pollution and emissions and thus reduce contributions to climate change.</p>	<p>Objective 4 and 12 are compatible overall. Reducing emissions by reducing the need to travel and increasing journey's taken by sustainable modes of travel is likely to benefit the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the county making them more attractive places. New development may have harmful effects on environmental assets.</p>
<p><b>Core Strategy Objective 5: To improve access to services in rural areas and movement and air quality within urban areas by ensuring new developments support the provision of an accessible, integrated, safe and sustainable transport network and improved traffic management schemes.</b></p>			<p>Objective 5 and 6 are generally compatible. Industry will be attracted by a good transport network. Although some rural businesses may struggle in terms of employee accessibility to public transport.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 7 are compatible. Improvements to services and movements are likely to assist in the role of Hereford as a sub-regional focus.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 8 are compatible. Improvements to services and movement are likely to help in improving economic viability.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 9 are compatible. Tourism is likely to be improved by better services and improved movement in the county.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 10 are compatible. Improving accessibility to services and movement is likely to assist in delivering well-designed places and spaces.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 11 are compatible. Improvements in transport measures for accessibility and movement are likely to help in reducing contributions to climate change.</p>	<p>Objective 5 and 12 may cause conflict if new roads are considered as part of sustainable transport measures. Could have harmful impact on environmental assets without mitigation.</p>	

<p>Core Strategy Objective 6: To provide more local, better paid job opportunities to limit out-commuting and strengthen the economy by attracting higher value-added, knowledge based industries and cutting-edge environmental technologies to new/existing employment land and enabling existing businesses to grow and diversify, facilitated by the universal provision of a high</p>		<p>Objective 6 and 7 are compatible. Providing job opportunities is likely to assist in strengthening Hereford's role as a sub-regional focus.</p>	<p>Objective 6 and 8 are compatible. Providing job opportunities is directly going to assist in improving economic viability of the market towns and villages.</p>	<p>Objective 6 and 9, are compatible as objective 6 aims to help existing businesses for example related to tourism, to grow.</p>	<p>Objective 6 and 10, are compatible. One objective works alongside the other.</p>	<p>Objective 6 and 11, are compatible. New employment provision will need to address aims of objective 11.</p>	<p>Objective 6 and 12, could cause conflict as new employment uses may adversely affect environmental assets without mitigation.</p>
<p>Core Strategy Objective 7: To strengthen Hereford's role as a sub-regional focus for the county, through city centre expansion as part of wider city regeneration and through the provision of a balanced package of transport measures including park and ride, bus priority schemes and a relief road including a second river crossing.</p>		<p>Objective 7 and 8 are compatible. Strengthening Hereford's role as a sub-regional focus will help improve the economic viability of the whole county.</p>	<p>Objective 7 and 9 are compatible. Strengthening Hereford's role is likely to improve the whole county's attraction for tourism.</p>	<p>Objective 7 and 10 are generally compatible. The objectives are aiming to achieve the same things, through strengthening Hereford's sub-regional role and create sustainable communities both dependent on implementation particularly of sustainable modes of travel.</p>	<p>Objective 7 and 11 are generally compatible. Providing any relief road results in overall reductions of pollution.</p>	<p>Objective 7 and 12 could cause conflict. Hereford's strengthened role is likely to promote and utilise the city's and county's assets whilst increased development could also detrimentally affect the local distinctiveness of the historic, built, natural and cultural assets.</p>	
<p>Core Strategy Objective 8: To improve the economic viability of the market towns, villages and their rural hinterlands by facilitating employment generation and diversification, improving delivery and access to services and realising the value of the environment as an economic asset.</p>		<p>Objective 8 and 9, are compatible. Economic viability, diversification and valuing our environment as an economic asset could be viewed in terms of developing the county as a sustainable tourist destination.</p>	<p>Objective 8 and 10 are compatible. Delivering well-designed places with improved access to services is likely to improve economic viability and employment generation.</p>	<p>Objective 8 and 11, are compatible as they would work alongside each other.</p>	<p>Objective 8 and 12 are compatible because of the specific reference to the environment as an asset.</p>		
<p>Core Strategy Objective 9: To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by enabling the provision of new, as well as enhancement of existing, tourism infrastructure.</p>		<p>Objective 9 and 10 are compatible. By protecting the environment through creating sustainable communities destinations are likely to remain of interest to tourists.</p>	<p>Objective 9 and 11 are compatible because of reference to sustainable tourism and the fact that objective 11 aims to promote sustainable construction etc.</p>	<p>Objective 9 and 12 are compatible because of reference to sustainable tourism implying aims of objective 12 would be taken into account.</p>			
<p>Core Strategy Objective 10: To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment by delivering well-designed places, spaces and buildings, which use land efficiently, reinforce local distinctiveness and are supported by the necessary infrastructure including green infrastructure.</p>		<p>Objective 10 and 11 are compatible. The achievement of a sustainable community with well-designed places, spaces and buildings, including the provision of green infrastructure is likely to contribute to the reduction in emissions and therefore assist in reducing contributions to climate change.</p>	<p>Objective 10 and 12 are compatible. The achievement of a sustainable community with well-designed places, spaces and buildings, including the provision of green infrastructure is likely to contribute to conserving the local distinctiveness of our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for their promotion, utilisation and enjoyment.</p>				

<p>Core Strategy Objective 11: To address the causes and impacts of climate change by ensuring new development: uses sustainable design and construction methods to conserve natural resources, does not increase flood risk to new or existing property, increases the use of renewable forms of energy to reduce carbon emissions, minimises waste and pollution, manages water supply and conservation and conserves and protects biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>		<p>Objective 11 and 12 are compatible. By addressing the causes and impacts of climate change the natural, built, historic and cultural assets of the county are likely to be improved.</p>
<p>Core Strategy Objective 12: To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the county's current stock of environmental assets from loss and damage, reversing negative trends, ensuring best condition and encouraging expansion, as well as appropriately managing future assets.</p>		

## Preferred Strategy for Herefordshire

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The strategy locates new employment land near to new housing and in main urban areas. Proposals are unlikely to expand accessibility to public transport. Currently highest demand is for concessionary fares which is contributing to increases in public transport usage. Evidence Base: Rural Settlement Hierarchy and Employment Land Study. Cannot dictate where bus routes are located e.g. cannot build a factory in a certain location just because there are bus route links nearby. Park and Ride in Hereford only - market towns are too small, new job opportunities, flexibility for some jobs outside of the catchment areas. How likely are people to use public transport? The type of housing has got to match the type of employment i.e. industrial workers would not be able to afford larger properties for example. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording will need to address development location with sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling, Broadband connections, the re-use of farm buildings and a sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield land. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	2.2 ...help to increase diversity of job opportunities?	Employment by sector - Agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing 4,091 (5.9%), electricity, gas and water supply (primary) 100 (0.1%), mining & quarrying (primary) 100 (0.1%), manufacturing industries 11,685 (17%), construction 4,136 (6%), transport, storage & communications 2,794 (4.1%), wholesale, retail, repair trades 13,679 (19.9%), Hotels & restaurants 4,164 (6%), real estate, renting & other business activities 6,671 (9.7%), financial intermediation 813 (1.2%), other community, social & personal service activities 2,829 (4.1%), education 6,103 (8.9%), health & social work 9,512 (13.8%) and public administration & defence 2,204 (3.2%) Total 68,906. The desired direction of change is for a better balance with higher percentage of employment in growth sectors i.e. knowledge based sector. The data here does not include the self employed and as 20% of the working population is self employed and a reliance on agriculture are key issues, these need to be supported.	Although it was recognised that the overall strategy for Herefordshire was a strategic approach it was considered that smaller sites should be recognised, particularly in the market towns and in relation to larger companies. This was considered important since the county has 20% of working aged people in self employment. Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury were considered to be strategic county areas to encourage employment land use to support the existing employment offer such as at Model Farm which also have access to the M50 motorway and diversity of opportunities on offer. Evidence Base: Employment Land Study - Chapter 8. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The strategic option needs to consider smaller sites for allocation in the Hereford and Market Towns and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The economic development policy wording should include live work units. Outcome following mitigation Marginally moving towards sustainability.

Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of development on previously developed land. Here between the 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The Core Strategy is proposing to provide a readily available supply of employment land which will support this objective. The strategy is likely to result in greater use of greenfield land than in previous plan periods. Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury are more attractive as they have the accessibility to the M50. In addition open space is highly valued, greenfield is not always good land, site specifics would be necessary. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policies and plans will need to ensure site specific employment opportunity in areas of need. This would therefore reduce the need to build on greenfield land. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43% to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947 passengers to 3355 in 07/08 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The strategy aims to reduce the need to travel by placing the majority of housing to areas with access to services. Some housing is located towards rural areas to support local services. The rural environment restricts people's freedom of access to facilities and services due to a lack of bus routes which results in a higher dependency on the private car. Closures of local amenities such as post offices, local shops, schools results in people having to travel further as they still need to be able to access services. Putting new development where the existing services/employment are will reduce this negative impact. The aim is to encourage behavioural change. Evidence Base: Local Transport Plan 2 - page 27. Broadband availability is an issue within Herefordshire - accessibility and shopping on the internet is becoming more popular - with potential increases in delivery of goods via HGV's. Location of employment in relation to access to broadband is important. Working from home is difficult due to band width. People who live near the M50 at Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye are travelling to Birmingham and Cardiff to work. Regardless of where people work they are likely to want to live in a nice, pretty area and keep on commuting to work. There are fewer job opportunities in the west of the county and it is more economically viable to the east at Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole and the movement policy is aiming to change behaviour, for example; by encouraging people to car share. Policy wording needs to ensure cycle tracks are built in new developments and that multiple bus routes are encouraged. Flexible land uses and housing offer are needed, whilst access to an improved rail network would be beneficial. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

cont...	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	The strategy is promoting the limitation of travel and movement. An Air Quality Management Area along the A40 at Pencraig is likely in the short term, but has not yet been designated. Locating the livestock market to the outside of Hereford City is likely to reduce congestion and enable the delivery of a park and ride scheme. More information is needed from transport study relating to sustainable modes of travel in Hereford, expected in 2010. Therefore the outcome: is unknown.	It will be important to de-trunk the A49 through Hereford City to deliver a package of sustainable modes of travel with or without the proposed relief road, and delivery of the Connect 2 cycle project. Congestion in market towns will have to be reduced to deliver pedestrian and cyclist safety. Evidence Base: Multi Model Study - page 64. The park and ride scheme should be considered for more than one site in Hereford. Traffic management to include bus lanes, traffic light controls and cycle lanes. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown, awaiting information from transport study.
Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	Although every household is in need of a GP surgery not every household is likely to have a school aged child. A large percentage of Herefordshire's population is elderly. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) have identified that no new hospital is needed and that there are sufficient GPs to accommodate the growth. However the size and type of housing provision is likely to be affected by the PCT's policies to enable more elderly people to be cared for in their own homes. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Housing and development requirements policy wording will need to address sheltered housing and housing type such as bungalows, which are in greatest need due to the increase in elderly people and plans to care for more people in their own homes. In terms of design this will require greater flexibility in internal workings and functionality to be included. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability and more information from the Primary Care Trust will be needed for progressing other plans.
Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The Open Space Study and Green Infrastructure Study have outlined areas of under provision. Some people are still travelling for activities e.g. water activities - Llangorse Lake, River Wye activities - access to the Wye recreational access, tourism is built up around many water activities - canoeing/rowing clubs etc. Rural areas would benefit from mobile libraries. There are different types of activities needed in different areas e.g. South Wye has more activities and parish plans may identify what local people would like. The demographics of a place are also important. Outcome: More information is needed from the Open Space Assessment although generally considered to be neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Plans and policies need to consider wording to address the deficiencies outlined by the evidence base. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

Sustainable regeneration	7.1 ...support viability or develop services and facilities appropriate to the community, function, character and scale of the centre and existing facilities using sustainable, resource efficient designs?	The annual monitoring report highlights retail completions etc however no targets are set. The desired direction of change would be for services and facilities to be developed with the community to ensure the required functions and to a high design standard to ensure appropriate scale, character, location and resource efficiency.	The retail study identifies retail needs and areas of low vitality. Outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Plans and policies need to consider wording to address the deficiencies outlined by the evidence base. In addition further enhancement can be ensured at a site specific level. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Raise educational achievement levels across the county	8.2 ...provide or facilitate through investment, appropriate training and learning to help build, attract and retain a highly skilled workforce that meets existing and future needs?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to achieve an increase from 851 to 922 of the number of working age adults achieving NVQ level 3 or equivalent. The State of Herefordshire Report uses percentages and beyond 2005 is seeking to improve and increase the proportion of working age population with higher qualifications and improved skills a key issue for the County. Since 2000 the percentage has been steady and in 2004-2005 was at 43%. The desired direction of change is to increase the number and therefore percentage of people achieving higher qualifications.	Herefordshire Council is working on funding to provide a university gateway which will promote higher education in the county. Edgar Street Grid has land allocated for educational facilities in the place shaping section which has the potential for student accommodation. The courses offered are with local businesses well involved to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the workforce. Overall outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	If funding comes forward to deliver the package of university gateways it is likely to assist in developing skills across the county. The outcome is dependant on implementation. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and anti social behaviour in the county	9.1 ...enhance community safety, security and reduce crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour?	The State of Herefordshire Report is seeking to reduce crime locally by 15% by 2008 from the baseline of 12,034 in 2004-2005. The previous 4 years reported a steady reduction of 19% of total crime. The desired direction of change is to continue this pattern of reducing crime.	The strategy does not directly address crime other than through promoting affordable housing delivery. Recession increases housing need as more people lose their jobs and place increasing pressure on the availability of affordable housing. Police evidence shows that crime generally increases during such economic conditions, including linkages with homelessness and increased need for sheltered housing. Evidence Base: Community Strategy (Herefordshire Partnership) and Strategic Market Housing Assessment. Outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. The design policy wording needs greater reference to address the issues of designing out crime in new developments. The Core Strategy, other plans, policies and master planning should enable the delivery of affordable housing including type, tenure and size etc to meet needs. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	10.4 ...address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantages?	The percentage of population who live in areas that rank within the 25% most deprived in England. 7 areas in Herefordshire are in the top 25% most deprived in England. The desired direction of change would be for a reduction in this percentage figure and thus improve prosperity, reduce poverty and social exclusion.	The strategy promotes affordable housing and new jobs in Hereford and Leominster and is therefore likely to address the issue of poverty and disadvantage. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording needs to address income deprivation and ensure that the Settlement Hierarchy identifies those services and facilities needed that will be important in reducing poverty. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was £185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities. Number of affordable homes in 2004-2005 totalled 114. However, the provision of affordable homes both in urban and rural areas is an issue as a result of the right to buy scheme which has resulted in a net loss of affordable homes. The desired direction of change is to increase the number of affordable homes, which is a target requirement in the RSS.	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment evidence base highlighted that there was a significant need for affordable housing and the strategy is aiming to provide for this by requiring almost a third of all new homes to be affordable. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Need reference to affordable housing in spatial strategy option and reference to RSS target. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any type of development is going to create waste. Sensible to fit in with employment land allocations. Evidence Base: Waste Study - Entec Report. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Strategy does not cover the location of waste facilities specifically, waste policy wording needs to include reference to composting provision, recycling and minimising waste and the integration of waste management plans. The reuse of buildings materials is covered in the minerals policy direction and needs to transpire into policy wording. Outcome: Neutral.
Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity	13.1 ...protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance - is an Appropriate Assessment required?	The EU sustainable development strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and this is monitored by measuring changes in area and population of biodiversity importance in priority habitats. The desired direction of change would be to achieve the EU target.	An appropriate assessment of the Core Strategy is necessary and the results of this process are reported separately. The strategy aims to protect such sites through avoiding areas of known importance. However, the River Wye, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and impact of growth of the whole of the county on them in water quality, protected species, disturbance terms is as yet unclear. Outcome: Unknown, more information is needed.	Preliminary results of the HRA are suggesting that investment into sewage water treatment may be necessary, sustainable drainage systems and surface water management plans may also be likely mitigation to reduce any impact. However, more information is needed from the HRA before final effects and mitigation can be provided. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown.
	13.3 ...maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces?	When considering question 13.1 above need to include this question 13.3 when assessing the options.	The Strategy could adversely affect wildlife corridors and potentially fragment areas. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. The green infrastructure, design and local distinctiveness policy wording needs to ensure that appropriate mitigation is implemented where adverse affects are likely. Overall outcome: Neutral.
	13.5 ...create new appropriate habitats?	Although no data is currently available the percentage of biodiversity action plan habitat restored and expanded is due to be monitored under the BAP by 2010 and each habitat is going to have a specific target. A trend of increasing percentages of habitats was recorded since the BAP was formulated in 2000 and the desired direction of change is to continue maintaining, restoring and creating habitats.	The Core Strategy is seeking to create new natural areas for example country parks, open space and parkland. Overall outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Local distinctiveness policy should promote the creation of new habitats, which ought to include locally native species. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

Use natural resources and energy more efficiently	14.1 ...maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.	The energy white paper 2003 aims to achieve carbon cuts of between 15 - 25 million tonnes of carbon by 2020 and a 30% reduction in energy consumption by 2011. Domestic gas consumption, except in 2003 has reported an increase and electricity consumption has seen a very slight reduction. The desired direction of change is to see reductions in the consumption of gas to reverse current trends and see more significant cuts in electricity consumption.	The Local Transport Plan is making progress on changing behaviour around the way people travel locally. Reductions in the use of the private car is assisting in reducing the use of non renewable sources such as petrol and diesel from fossil fuels. Evidence Base: LTP2. The strategy aims to reduce the need to travel in its location of housing and employment and therefore reduce fossil fuel consumption. Overall outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording needs to ensure that more detailed issues of energy efficiency are covered including building efficiency and renewable sources of energy. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
	14.2 ...minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods and materials? (During the appraisal, each of these resources should be considered separately)	A number of indicators are relevant here as each element is considered separately. Water consumption - no trend but currently consume 148L per person per day and is identified as a key issue for the county, a desired direction of change is to reduce consumption. Land consumption - percentage of homes built on previously developed land (pdl) has steadily increased over the past decade exceeding the regional target of 68% in recent years. The desired direction is to continue building on pdl where possible and to consider a greater focus on efficient use of land. Aggregate production - no specific targets for secondary and recycled. A target of 7 years supply is to be maintained for primary won aggregates. Total volumes of sales has increased between 2003 and 2004 from 674,000 to 710,000 tonnes. Extractions are stable and follow national trends and no significant local development has been affected. A desired direction of change is to use secondary aggregates where ever possible to reduce primary production whilst maintaining primary aggregate reserves as required, and when produced done so in ways that safeguard landscapes.	In relation to the amount of houses a new sewage treatment works is required in Hereford. However, other market towns such as Bromyard may also have sewage treatment concerns. The water supply in Hereford is satisfactory even if each household should use the top end of water supply/sewerage. Principal is to use brownfield land prior to greenfield, to remediate contaminated soil, minimise excavation of minerals in the short term. Evidence Base: Water Cycle Study and the waste study. Overall outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Density policy wording needs to ensure that efficient use of land is encouraged, using the sequential approach to using brownfield land first, water saving measures are brought forward through the design policy, and that the minerals policy looks at utilising secondary aggregate safeguarding resources. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	The number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gain in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	There is a capacity issues with some market towns such as Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury, which are likely to continue to grow in response to market demand. Pressure for development on greenfield land and open space will then be likely, creating potential negative effects. Outcome: Significantly moving away from sustainability. Overall outcome: More information is needed although this is generally considered to be moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. There are 2 development sites in Ledbury located in the south and east of the town, there is the potential that this would create a separate community from the existing town. The Local distinctiveness and green infrastructure policies should ensure that developments value, enhance and protect the natural environment. The Green Infrastructure Strategy should be used to provide greater certainty on the impacts of the strategy and what can be done to mitigate sites affecting landscapes of high sensitivity or high ecological value. Outcome following mitigation: Unclear.

Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 State of Herefordshire Report states that in an experimental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the County and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Strategy aims to reduce emissions by locating the majority of development to existing service centres reducing the need to travel. Household composition, aging population - therefore their needs are going to differ. Evidence Base: Sub County Natural Change Population and Household Projection - page 6. Development is likely to increase flooding, increase greenhouse gases and therefore contribute to climate change. Outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording will need to address carbon neutrality in buildings and design, renewable energy and movement policies need to ensure the introduction of surface water management plans, sustainable drain systems, community heating, behavioural change in transport is important to reduce the need to travel. Domestic properties also need to consider design, and the existing housing stock should not be side lined. Grants for insulation, renewable sources of energy etc should be considered as well as measures to address fuel bills, particularly for the older generation. Roofs of buildings could be grass lined or used to created roof top gardens in high density areas. Council properties should lead the way with using renewable energy were possible and being more efficient. Evidence Base: Climate Change Paper, Water Cycle Study. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	17.1 ...reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction of change would be to reduce the number of properties affected by flooding and prevent development in flood known areas. The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice regarding flood risk, from the Environment Agency, is low at around 1 per year. The desired direction of change would be to develop appropriate flood protection prevention schemes and to minimise new development in flood prone areas.	The strategy takes into account climate change and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) has identified sites for the majority of the 16,000 (18,000) houses allocated to the county from the West Midlands region and have been identified with a range of constraints included, and do not fall within flood plains. Evidence Base: SFRA and SHLAA. Outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. The SFRA introduces sequential approach to site selection and recommends surface water management plans to reduce non-fluvial flooding. Policy wording will need to reflect this. The north of Hereford has the potential to prevent the city and surrounding areas from flooding through flood management including areas out of county, for example at Letton Lakes. Catchment area management will be important to recognise and farm management could also be used as a tool to assist in safeguarding water resources and flooding issues. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	18.2 ...protect and enhance the quality of watercourses?	The State of Herefordshire Report 2006 aims to achieve a good ecological status of rivers by 2015. Since 1999 improvements in both chemical and biological quality have been reported. The desired direction of change is to continue this improvement and maintain being in the top quartile of all English authorities.	Quality of water courses are poor to good and need to be improved and maintained. There is sufficient water supply in the Wye and Lugg however they can be affected by extraction. In relation to impacts on water quality the spatial location of housing makes no difference. Agricultural land can contribute to poor quality waterbodies from run off. Outcome: Unknown - More information is needed particularly on sewage treatment aspects of water quality.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. With regards to sewage treatment more information is needed from Welsh Water and Severn Trent regarding cost and capacity of sewage treatment to assess the impact of growth on water quality. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown - More information is needed.

	18.3 ...provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land?	Not currently monitored. The desired direction of change is to improve soil quality and remediate increasing amounts of known contaminated sites.	Contaminated land is often a commercially and sensitive issue where often there is no evidence. Greenfield land use for urban extensions will inevitably result in loss of high grade agricultural land. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Soil contamination is not a major issue for the strategy and should be covered by policy wording. The strategy does however require reference to be made on agricultural land loss. Site specific information is likely to be needed to ensure that the appropriate action is taken to remediate, where necessary and appropriate, any contaminated site. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving away from sustainability due to greenfield loss.
	18.4 ...help achieve the objectives of air quality management plans through for example increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking?	By 2025 the target is to reduce the number of properties in an AQMA to 0. In 2006 Hereford had 115 and Leominster 22. The desired direction of change is to reduce new dwellings being built within a designated AQMA and aim to reduce the existing properties affected by an AQMA to 0 by 2025.	The current Local Transport Plan 2 is aiming to reduce air pollution and tackle areas designated with an Air Quality Management Area to improve the health of local people and reduce contributions to climate change. The Core Strategy will be supporting the LTP2. The strategy is also proposing relief roads in Leominster and Hereford which could assist in reducing congestion and since they will be delivered as a package, sustainable modes of travel will be included with the road developments. Outcome: Unknown - Awaiting further transport studies for Hereford and Leominster.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Measures to increase the number of journeys taken by walking and cycling and public transport should be covered in the movement policy wording. The strategy should also add reference to air quality. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown - More information is needed.
Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use	19.1 ...ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel?	No specific target for employment land however the aim is to reuse previously developed land prior to greenfield. In 2005-2006 there was a reduction in the amount of employment land developed upon previously developed land seen in 2004-2005, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. The desired direction of change is to ensure development occurs where ever possible on previously developed land prior to greenfield to optimise land use and also develop within sustainable transport routes. The UDP target for housing on pdl is 68% and the corporate plan 2005-2008 60%, housing completions on pdl totalled 564 (71%) in 2005-2006. There has been a consistent increase since 2001 and targets are often exceeded. The desired direction is to continue this increase where possible and meet any new targets.	Strategy aims to locate most development in urban areas, which are most likely to be served by public transport, however greenfield land will be required. Cannot dictate where bus routes will be located. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording will need address development location with sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling. Broadband connections, the re-use of farm buildings and a sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield land. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to lose assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Design and individual site level information is needed to be able to assess the impacts of the plan on the historic environment. Conservation areas and listed buildings are generally avoided in strategic allocations. Outcome: Neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policies that include the local distinctiveness and design policy wording will need to ensure that the impacts of growth on the county's historic heritage are minimised through good design, location, size and scale and connections with green infrastructure. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				

<p><b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b></p>	<p>The assessment of the impacts of the strategy have highlighted areas of mitigation and enhancement which could be used to improve the impact or enhance features for beneficial gain. Most of the issues raised should be addressed through the appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans such as the Hereford Area Action Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents (DPDs). However some changes to the strategy and through lower level detail in master plans and planning briefs could also be beneficial. Such issues to be addressed include: encouraging greater use of public transport; behavioural changes in travel; walking and cycling routes that are well connected to places; broadband provision; re-use of buildings and sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield; the inclusion of live work units; flexible land uses; park and ride schemes; sheltered housing and appropriate housing type, for example, bungalows for the elderly population; design and functionality of buildings and spaces; provision of open space; designing out crime; distinctive character of buildings; compost, re-use, recycle and minimising waste production; include waste management plans; investment in sewage treatment works; use of sustainable drainage systems and surface water management plans; habitat creation; energy and building efficiency; renewable sources of energy; various insulation techniques including green roofs, roof top gardens, sequential approach to flood risk areas when selecting development sites; flood management areas; and reference to air quality.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusions</b></p>	<p>Overall the strategic option for the county, prior to mitigation and enhancement, is marginally moving towards sustainability.</p>	<p>Following mitigation and enhancement the strategy is likely to remain marginally moving towards sustainability.</p>
<p><b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Investment for sewage treatment will be vital to implement prior to 2015 and the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems will be important to assist in water quality issues. The roosts, flight paths and feeding grounds of bats will need to be safeguarded and any impacts found mitigated so not to adversely impact upon the species. The most critical European sites affected by the strategy are likely to be River Wye and River Lugg, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites. Other European sites in the initial assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch, Severn Estuary and Downton Gorge but these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the strategy and will not be subject to direct impacts on their integrity.</p>	

## Hereford Place Shaping Options: Option 1 - North Western Focus, Option 2 - South Western Focus and Option 3 - North South Focus

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Public transport services are likely to migrate to developments. All options have an emphasis on providing employment opportunities at Rotherwas and an additional 15ha generally in the north. Public transport links are dispersed throughout Hereford, although the Connect 2 cycle route is proposed. Options 2 and 3 provide housing near to Rotherwas to support it as an employment site whilst option 1 does not provide any housing to the south of Hereford. Outcomes All the options are marginally moving towards sustainability. Evidence base: proposal maps.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policies and plans including master plans and planning briefs will need to include detailed design, including consideration of different types of uses being appropriately associated with other uses. Provision of services and facilities need to meet local needs. Outcome following mitigation: All options are likely to move significantly towards sustainability.
Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Workshop considered that: Construction materials are likely to come from outside the vicinity. Option to the west would impact negatively upon the high agricultural quality of the land. All options are likely to adversely affect water, sterilisation of minerals, agricultural land quality, surface water issues, air quality and soil. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving away from sustainability. Option 3 slightly less impact on agriculture quality. Lacking information on minerals (i.e. quality of resource) and water resources, information may be obtained from DEFRA and the Environment Agency. Evidence Base: Hereford Map.	Air and water quality can be mitigated by requiring the consideration of the location of new businesses to ensure travel needs are met by sustainable methods and water saving technologies are integrated into the design of premises. Contaminated soils should be remediated where necessary and appropriate and it should be acknowledged that any proposed loss of high quality agricultural land cannot be reversed or mitigated once developed upon. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Neutral.

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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The strategy aims to reduce the need to travel by placing the majority of housing to areas with access to services, of which half of the requirement is going to Hereford. There is concern that development growth will increase traffic movements and impact upon air quality. However all the options highlight the need to include walking and cycling links to the town centre and to schools. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Park and Ride, bus priority, cycle routes, to reduce the need to travel by car to the city centre. Any limited car parking provision could save on space by being constructed underground. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.
	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Increased numbers of housing will likely result in an increase in the school catchment area if these are left as they currently are. Evidence suggests that *3 miles is seen to be a decent distant to walk to school for those over 8 years old. However, existing congestion issues would likely increase with the option to spread out housing growth around the city. The option is aiming to provide walking and cycling routes from the urban extensions to city centre and local schools. Promoting employment on a good distribution route may improve congestion as dispersed travel to work and out of city. The promotion of broadband for online shopping may come as a result of changes in shopping patterns, however the vibrancy and vitality of the city may be lost as a result. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving away from sustainability. Evidence base: *Accessed 17-11-09 <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/SchoolLife/DG_10013990">http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/SchoolLife/DG_10013990</a>	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policies and plans need to consider all of the following aspects. The need to add links to the urban extensions to sustain methods of transport, cycling, walking, park and ride to the city, schools, employment and local facilities, to reduce the need to travel to the city centre. Hereford becoming a walkable city, cycling and increases in bus services. Catchment areas for schools could be considered when concentrating housing, however it is recognised that parents have an element of flexibility and choice on where their children attend education. Consideration should be given to additional park and ride. Increased provision of primary schools and community services will need to be explicitly identified where the need is proven. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	The elderly are likely to place greater pressure on the provisions of the health care system. Masterplans are needed for particular locations. At a strategic level the Primary Care Trust (PCT) consider that there are enough GPs and a new hospital is not necessary for Hereford. Sheltered housing requirements are also likely to increase and should be located appropriately to facilities and services. Provide local neighbourhood services for new development. If sustainable modes of transport are available in the city then all the services should also be in centre creating greater accessibility. Outcome: All options - Neutral.	Plans and policies will need to consider sheltered housing and housing type such as bungalows as these are considered to be in greatest need due to the increase in elderly people and plans to care for more people in their own homes. (The PCT and the Local Housing Market Assessment). Design policies will need to consider this too and will also require consideration for greater flexibility in internal workings and functionality that can be included in master plans or planning briefs. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.
Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	All 3 options show the same community activity proposals on the maps. Multiple bus routes are likely to come forward with development that is located further than the city centre. Care needs to be taken that the areas are not too small that the space located in the middle of a community has limited appeal. Outcome: All options Neutral.	The options need to have greater identity with community activities so that they are clearer and stronger, ensuring that different distribution needs are planned for in the strategy. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.

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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	All 3 options are proposing housing which directly meets this SA objective to create access to good quality housing. Depending on the thresholds of affordable housing set in policy the number of housing could be affected, however an increase in affordable housing levels will be advantageous. Type of housing proposed could place pressure on existing buildings to be developed such as farmhouses in to flats which could ruin the surrounding area. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies and plans will need to be clear on levels of affordable housing; type of housing such as social, low cost, buy to rent, 50/50 government scheme etc but also to ensure that the built quality is to a high standard. Where appropriate high density may be necessary and the utilisation of smaller plots should also be considered. Design should include quality standards on materials, water and energy usage etc. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Significantly moving towards sustainability.
Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will produce waste. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The waste policy wording needs to include reference to composting provision, recycling and minimising waste and the integration of waste management plans. The reuse of buildings materials is covered in the minerals policy direction and needs to transpire into policy wording. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Neutral.
Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Proposed level of housing will have a certain of degree of negative impact. Options 1 and 3 are similar and have the greatest impact in terms of landscape sensitivity than option 2. Option 3 is considered to be the least sustainable since the proposed strategic sites are located more within identified sensitive landscapes. Outcome: Option 1 - Marginally moving away from sustainability, Option 2 - Marginally moving away from sustainability, Option 3 - Significantly moving away from sustainability. Evidence Base: Landscape and HEDIDS sensitivity maps.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole and plan policies including master plans and planning briefs will need to include the requirement for creation of new landscape on the urban fringe, additional open space, green infrastructure etc. Where possible the master planning and planning briefs should be council led to gain the best from the available resources and plan appropriately. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1 - Neutral, Option 2 - Neutral, Option 3 - Marginally moving away from sustainability.
Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	All the options have adverse effects from flood risk since some of the identified strategic sites are partially within the flood plain. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Combined sewage systems should be seperated in order that surface water treatment can be resolved as a seperate issue more easily and also reduce the risk of flooding to proposed development sites and assist in lowering the risk to existing development. Opportunities exist to use natural areas (undeveloped areas) that already flood, to construct flood attenuation schemes. The design and layout of new development should require developers to both use construction methods and materials that will reduce the flood risk. Outcome following mitigation: All options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.

<p>Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage</p>	<p>20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?</p>	<p>No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.</p>	<p>Large urban extensions are more likely to have an adverse effect. The Historic Environment Map of Hereford indicates areas that are assessed as the lowest level 3 sensitivity. However, this is not exclusive as areas of higher sensitivity may exist in lower sensitivity assessed places. Options 2 and 3 in the south have greater sensitivities upon historic heritage than option 1. In terms of archaeology there is uncertainty about the existence of pockets of sensitivity. These could be anywhere in the area of Hereford. Further information on listed buildings is also needed. Outcome: All options - Marginally moving away from sustainability.</p>	<p>Plans and policies including master plans and planning briefs of the urban grain will be important to ensure that the significant areas of historic heritage are preserved and where possible enhanced. The design of new development will be important to protect the quality and character of place and should also prevent impacts on the setting of listed buildings. Outcome: All options - Neutral.</p>
<p><b>we</b></p>				
<p><b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b></p>		<p>The assessment of the impacts of the strategy have highlighted areas of mitigation and enhancement which could be used to prevent the issue from getting worse, improve the impact or enhance features for beneficial gain. Most of the issues raised should be addressed through the appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans such as the Hereford Plan. However some changes to the strategy and through lower level detail in master plans and planning briefs could also be beneficial. Such issues to be addressed include: sustainable modes of travel including walking and cycling routes that are well connected to places; sequential approach to the use of brownfield land prior to greenfield; flexible and compatible land uses; park and ride schemes; sheltered housing and appropriate housing type for example bungalows for the elderly population; design and functionality of buildings and spaces, including water saving measures; distinctive character of buildings; compost, re-use, recycle and minimise waste production; include waste management plans; investment in sewage treatment works; use of sustainable drainage systems and surface water management plans; energy and building efficiency; renewable sources of energy; various insulation techniques including green roofs, roof top gardens, sequential approach to flood risk areas when selecting development sites; flood management areas; limited innovative city centre car parking; location of development next to services, including schools; and a variety of affordable housing provision.</p>		
<p><b>Conclusions</b></p>		<p>Overall option 1 is likely to be marginally moving away from sustainability.</p>	<p>Following mitigation and enhancement this option is likely to move towards sustainability.</p>	
<p></p>		<p>Overall option 2 is likely to be marginally moving away from sustainability.</p>	<p>Following mitigation and enhancement this option is likely to move towards sustainability.</p>	
<p></p>		<p>Overall option 3 is likely to be significantly moving away from sustainability based on being the worst in landscape terms.</p>	<p>Following mitigation and enhancement this option is likely to move towards sustainability.</p>	
<p><b>SA Outcome</b></p>		<p>All the options are very similar in terms of the SA outcomes. However, options 1 and 2 are considered to perform better from the SA outcomes because following mitigation these have no outstanding negative impacts which are unlikely to be improved. In addition the negative impacts associated with option 2 on the natural and historic environment and upon flood risk are likely to be more easily mitigated.</p>		
<p><b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b></p>		<p>The Edgar Street Grid development has the potential to have an adverse effect on the River Wye by affecting the characteristics of the Widemarsh Brook (a tributary of the River Wye) as it passes through the site. However, provided appropriate surface water management measures are included in the the scheme there will be no direct adverse effect. Park and Ride Schemes will not have an effect on the River Wye subject to appropriate surface water discharge controls and, if effective in reducing cross river traffic, will have a beneficial impact on the air quality in the vicinity of the River Wye (although air quality is not an HRA issue for this European site). Other European sites in the initial assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch, Severn Estuary, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites, however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Hereford option and will not be subject to direct impacts on their integrity.</p>		

**Hereford place shaping Option 4 dispersed option**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Provision of employment land continues to be supported at Rotherwas and in addition, two new employment sites are allocated in the north. These are in close proximity to existing housing or proposed urban extensions. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Ensure links between the housing and employment sites are needed to ensure connectivity between places. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Employment emphasis remains at Rotherwas, to bring forward land currently constrained. The option provides for new business opportunity however the sites are located in greenfield areas and the use of natural resources is highly likely. Outcome: Neutral.	Mineral reserves need to be safeguarded, soil quality needs to be protected, water resource management plans all need to be incorporated into the design of the development. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Urban expansions may not reduce the need to travel however sustainable modes of travel will be incorporated into the developments. Smaller dispersed sites may have difficulties in obtaining financial contributions for sustainable modes of travel. Outcome: Neutral.	The following sustainable modes should be incorporated were appropriate: Park and ride, bus priority, cycle routes, appropriate car parking facilities. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Greater dispersed development may be more difficult to control traffic management. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The following sustainable modes should be incorporated where appropriate: Park and ride, bus priority, cycle routes, appropriate car parking facilities and the integrated transport management system. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	The dispersed option is likely to have neighbourhood services created within the new developments, however the scale of the provision will be dependant on this. More information is needed from the PCT on scale and demand. Outcome: Unknown.	More information is required from the Primary Care Trust to assess need and demand.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	A more dispersed option has the potential to be unable to bring such a comprehensive package of community activities due to a potential reduction in developer contributions. Outcome: Neutral.	Policies, master plans and planning briefs will be important to ensure that facilities are provided to meet the need. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The aim of the option is to provide houses which will have a proportion of affordability, type, size and tenure. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies need to ensure that housing design, type, size and level of affordable housing is identified is appropriate for the City. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies and plans will need to be developed in connection with the waste study to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and specie loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	A more dispersed option could result in development better integrating into the existing historic townscape fabric, protecting the landscape quality, however the quantity of the proposed housing is still significant. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Plans, policies, master plans and planning briefs will be important to ensure that design quality is maximised and adverse impacts to the landscape are minimised. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The option is likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Policies should ensure all aspects of design, renewables, climate change are taken into account in any development. Including waste reduction and surface water management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Due to the smaller sites, a more dispersed option is likely to have a lesser negative effect upon the character of the historic area. However, there are still pockets of archaeological areas, listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas which will need to be considered. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Plans, policies, master plans and planning briefs will be important to ensure that design quality is maximised and adverse impacts to the historic environment are minimised. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Dispersed development is likely to be more difficult to control traffic management. All development will increase waste production. Dispersed development is likely to better integrated into the existing historic townscape fabric, protecting the landscape quality due to smaller sites, however the quantity of the proposed housing is still significant. The option is likely to increase the amount of surface water runoff from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Smaller more dispersed sites are likely to have a lesser negative effect upon the character of the historic area. However, there are still pockets of archaeological areas, listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas which will need to be considered.	
Neutral			The option provides for new business opportunity at Rotherwas however new sites in the north are located in greenfield areas and the use of natural resources is highly likely. Urban extensions may not reduce the need to travel however sustainable modes of travel will be incorporated into the developments. Smaller dispersed sites may have difficulties in obtaining financial contributions for sustainable modes of travel and as such a comprehensive package of community activites.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			Two new employment sites in the north are allocated in the dispersed option with some of the new housing in the south which will increase the number of the workforce close to the existing Rotherwas Industrial Estate. The aim of the option is to provide houses which will have a proportion of affordability, type, size and tenure.	
Further information required			The dispersed option is likely to have neighbourhood services created within the new developments however the scale of the provision will be dependant on this. More information is needed from the PCT on scale and demand.	

<b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b>	The assessment of the impacts of the strategy have highlighted areas of mitigation and enhancement which could be used to prevent the issue from getting worse, improve the impact or enhance features for beneficial gain. Most of the issues raised should be addressed through the appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans such as the Hereford Area Action Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents (DPDs). However some changes to the strategy and through lower level detail in master plans and planning briefs could also be beneficial. Such issues to be addressed include: connectivity between places; the safeguarding of mineral reserves; surface water management plans including water resource management plans; park and ride; bus priority; cycle routes; appropriate car parking facilities; housing type, size and affordability; address waste issues including the development of waste management plans; consideration of landscape and historic heritage quality; climate change considerations including renewable energy sources and carbon neutrality; and design.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the Hereford Dispersed Option is moving away from sustainability	Following mitigation the option has the potential to be neutral.
<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	This option is for growth without provision of a Hereford Relief Road. The potentially adverse (and time-limited) impacts of construction would thereby be avoided. However, the Multi-Modal Model demonstrated that traffic levels arising from the growth of Hereford would have a serious detrimental effect on the operation of the highway network. Many junctions would reach capacity with slowing traffic and regular delays, causing congestion and increased air pollution. This could also prevent effective traffic reduction/management measures in the urban area, giving rise to increased disturbance generally and increased pollution from traffic congestion. There may therefore be some adverse impact on the run-off from road drainage eventually reaching the River Wye. Note that the key HRA impact for the River Wye is not air pollution but water quality and quantity. Other European sites in the initial assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch, River Lugg, Severn Estuary, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites, however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by this option.	

**Hereford Racecourse Not Yet Rejected Place Shaping Option**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no relationship between the potential racecourse housing site and flexible employment land.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - There is no connection between new business opportunity and the potential racecourse housing site.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVP1102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The site is considered to be in a good location to reduce the need to travel since it is close to the city centre, employment offer, leisure facilities and potential neighbouring park and ride site. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Improve walking and cycling routes and connectivity, public transport links between the site and the town centre and the potential for park and ride on the site needs to be considered in greater detail. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	The site is considered to be in a good location to reduce the need to travel since it is close to the city centre and employment offer and leisure facilities. Potential site for park and ride is also being investigated in this location. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Improve public transport links between the site and the town centre and the potential for park and ride on the site needs to be considered in greater detail. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	It is unknown as to whether the additional housing would support or stretch existing services. Outcome: Unknown.	Further information is needed from the PCT.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The additional housing on the site would result in the loss of some recreational space including a golf course, commercial loss from the leisure centre and informal space which is used by dog walkers. The existing sports ground, running track and allotments would remain, allowing facilities close to homes and the city. Any replacement site is likely to be in a less sustainable location. However, the development would benefit the facilities in the leisure centre. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Developer contributions to assist in improving the leisure centre facilities and ensure that the design of the new development incorporated open space to mitigate the loss resulted. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The additional housing would be aiming to achieve this SA objective question. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Policies need to ensure that housing design, type, size and level of affordable housing identified is appropriate for the City. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the Entec Report and other plans will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	The additional housing would result in a loss of open space which is currently utilised by dog walkers and runners. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Ensure that developers integrate open space into the new development site. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Part of the site is a flood risk area. The site is well located in order to reduce the need to travel and therefore reduce air pollution from car emissions and adjacent to potential park and ride site. The development itself will create carbon emissions from energy use. Outcome: Neutral.	The development will need to consider sustainable routes to reduce car usage integration with park and ride and design requirements to reduce use of natural resources and encourage the use of renewable energy sources and avoid flood prone areas. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The site is unaffected by conservation areas and listed buildings, however the archaeological value of the area is unknown. Outcome: Neutral.	Ensuring good design and local distinctiveness is considered and that archaeological finds are recorded appropriately. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			The additional proposed housing at the racecourse would result in the loss of recreational space including a golf course, commercial loss from the leisure centre and informal space which is used by dog walkers. A replacement site would be likely to be in a less sustainable location. However the development would benefit facilities in the leisure centre. All development will increase waste production. Part of the site is within a flood risk area. The development itself will create carbon emissions from energy use.	
Neutral			Part of the site is in a flood risk area and the site is also adjacent to a potential park and ride scheme. The site is unaffected by conservation areas and listed buildings, however the archaeological value of the area is unknown.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			The site is considered to be in a good location to reduce the need to travel since it is close to the city centre, employment offer, leisure facilities and potential park and ride site, which should assist in reducing air pollution and congestion hotspots in Hereford. The additional housing would be aiming to achieve the SA objective to provide good quality housing.	
Further information required			It is unknown as to whether the additional housing would support or stretch existing health care services.	

<b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b>	<p>The assessment of the impacts of the strategy have highlighted areas of mitigation and enhancement which could be used to prevent the issue from getting worse, improve the impact or enhance features for beneficial gain. Most of the issues raised should be addressed through the appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans such as the Hereford Area Action Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents (DPDs). However some changes to the strategy and through lower level detail in master plans and planning briefs could also be beneficial. Such issues to be addressed include: Improved walking and cycling routes and connectivity between places; public transport links; park and ride scheme; improved leisure facilities; design of development including incorporating open space; housing type, size and affordability; addressing waste issues including the development of waste management plans; carbon neutral development; and ensure well designed buildings and spaces considering local distinctiveness and archaeology; reduce energy consumption by encouraging renewable sources of</p> <p>energy; and avoid flood prone areas.</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the Hereford racecourse option is neutral.	Following mitigation the option is likely to remain as neutral.
<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The Edgar Street Grid development has the potential to have an adverse effect on the River Wye by affecting the characteristics of the Widemarsh Brook (a tributary of the River Wye) as it passes through the site. However, provided appropriate surface water management measures are included in the the scheme there will be no direct adverse effect. Park and Ride Schemes will not have an effect on the River Wye subject to appropriate surface water discharge controls and, if effective in reducing cross river traffic, will have a beneficial impact on the air quality in the vicinity of the River Wye (although air quality is not an HRA issue for this European site). The proposed Hereford Relief Road would likewise only have a direct impact on the water quality of the River if surface water discharge from the road is not properly handled. The road will require at least one new road bridge over the River Wye and, if the eastern alignment is chosen, there may be up to two additional road bridges across the River Lugg. This may give rise to potential disturbance of the water environment during construction and appropriate measures to protect the water environment</p> <p>during construction will therefore be required. Other European sites in the initial assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch, Severn Estuary, Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Hereford option and will not be subject to direct impacts on their integrity.</p>	

**Bromyard Place Shaping Options 1 and 2** - It was suggested at the beginning of assessing the Bromyard Options that the distribution of housing in Bromyard could be similar to that done for Ledbury, i.e. divide the 250 homes into equal 125 properties between the north west and west of Bromyard. The plan writers considered this to be a feasible and reasonable new option which has subsequently been appraised, see appendix B3 - 10.

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Although Bromyard has an area of employment land at Linton it is not considered to be a feasible site and furthermore is not a very accessible site, and therefore an alternative area was recommended to be located in the Employment Land Study (ELS). There is limited employment land in the town. Live work units are highlighted for Bromyard in both options. There is a replacement strategic, 5ha or over site, for employment land proposed for Bromyard, although it is still at Linton. Other plans are likely to allocate smaller employment sites to cater for the employment requirements highlighted in the ELS. Outcome: Both options were considered to be Neutral.	The plans needs to be considered as a whole and policy wording needs to ensure that flexible employment land is brought forward in accessible areas. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to remain as neutral.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	New housing will support existing and encourage new business growth. Option 2 may allow greater access out of county, for example to Worcester, but also to Hereford and Leominster to the loss of Bromyard's centre. Outcome: Both options are likely to be neutral.	Improvements to the centre will be vital to retain business interest and custom. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to remain as neutral

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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVP1102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Option 1 is closer to the town centre whilst option 2 is closer to schools. Option 2 is not as easy to access the centre for its retail offer because of the A44. Outcome: Option 1 is moving marginally towards sustainability whilst option 2 is neutral.	Permeability is key for both options whether that be to the secondary school under option 1 or to the town centre and schools in option 2. Improvements to sustainable transport links will be important. The southern site of option 2 will require more mitigation as there are difficulties accessing the A44. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1 marginally moving towards sustainability; option 2 neutral.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	There is not enough info to assess whether Bromyard has sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth. Outcome: Unknown.	More information is needed.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The options could provide for some limited open space although the options will have to make contributions to open space generally. Outcome: Both options are marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole and policies need to reflect the need for broadband provision that will be an essential to access services and facilities easily. Policy wording will also need to reflect the need for improved access to sustainable modes of travel to facilities. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to remain marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The options do provide for houses, however they do not provide detail on percentage of affordable housing required. Development should occur on land with less constraints, not just in areas of need and demand. Increasing access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not all. Outcome: Both options marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording, design briefs and master plans need to identify the percentage of affordable housing needed and detail good quality design, type, tenure and size etc and reflect aspirations for living in wealthy areas. Good links are needed to assist businesses too. Outcome following mitigation: significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any new development is going to create waste. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support policies that aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to become neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Option 2 is slightly better than option 1, however both options are in high landscape sensitivity areas. Whilst design policies will try to address this impact the areas affected are considered of such high sensitivity in landscape terms that building here would have a marginally negative impact even with mitigation. Outcome: Both options are significantly moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies on design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address the negative impacts in the Core Strategy and other plans. However, due to the nature of the sensitivity the outcome following mitigation is likely to be that both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experiemntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Both options involve growth which will increase energy usage, traffic generation, business uses which will cumulatively affect climate change, for example by increasing surface water runoff. Outcome: Both options marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies will aim to create good design, achieve higher levels of the code for sustainable homes, increase recycling, reduce waste, increase the use of surface water management plans, manage drainage issues, increase renewable sources of energy. However, costs involved are expensive and may prevent developers being able to achieve these high standards. Location of renewables will also need to be carefully considered. Promote carbon neutrality. Outcome following mitigation: Both options neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The HEDIDS report identifies that both options are likely to adversely impact upon the historic environment sensitivity assets. Outcome: Both options are marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies on design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address in the Core Strategy and other plans. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to become neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Any new development is going to create waste. Although option 2 is slightly better both options are proposing to develop in areas of high landscape sensitivity. Both options involve growth which will increase energy usage, traffic generation, development that contributes to climage change and is likely to increase surface water runoff. The HEDIDS report identifies that both options are likely to adversely impact upon the historic environment assets.	
Neutral			Although Bromyard has an area of employment land at Linton it is not considered to be a feasible site and furthermore it is not a very accessible site. Therefore, the Employment Land Study (ELS) recommended identifying an alternative area, however there is limited employment land in the town. Thus, live work units are highlighted for Bromyard in both options. There is a replacement strategic (5ha or over site) for employment sites proposed for Bromyard although this is still at Linton. Other plans are likely to allocate smaller employment sites to cater for the employment requirements highlighted in the ELS. New housing will support existing and encourage new business growth in the locality. Option 2 may allow greater access out of county for employment offer, for example to Worcester, but also to Hereford and Leominster to the loss of Bromyard's centre. In terms of reducing the need to travel option 1 is closer to the town centre whilst option 2 is closer to schools and therefore option 2 is not as easy to access the centre for retail offer to aid its vitality. However, it is the least likely to contribute to congestion during school drop off periods.	

Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	The options could provide formal open space on site but will have to make contributions to open space generally. The options do provide for houses, however they do not say anything about the percentage of affordable units. Both options are in areas of high landscape sensitivity and so development locations should be chosen with regards to land with the least constraints and not just in areas of need and demand. Increasing access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not all.	
More information needed	There is a lack of information with regards to health care needs in some areas of Herefordshire, engagement with the Primary Care Trust is needed.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	<p>Plans and policy wording need to account for employment needs through the provision of non strategic employment sites. Improvements to the centre of Bromyard will be vital to retain business interest and custom. Permeability is key for both options whether that be to the secondary school under option 1 or to the town centre and schools in option 2. Improvements to sustainable transport links will also be important. The southern site of option 2 will require more mitigation than option 1 as there are difficulties accessing the A44. Broadband provision will be an essential element in order to access services and facilities easily. Access to sustainable modes of travel to facilities will also need to be improved. The percentage of affordable housing needs to be identified including its need and demand. Also the need to detail in planning briefs and master plans good quality design, type, tenure and size of dwellings and deal with aspirations for living in wealthy areas. Good links to assist businesses will also be important. Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support policies which should aim to reduce</p> <p>waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose. Similarly to housing policies, planning briefs and master plans need to address design, layout, landscaping and landshaping and historic heritage quality which are important to address, including the need to achieve higher levels of the code for sustainable homes. Increasing recycling, reducing waste, increasing the use of surface water management plans, managing drainage issues, increasing renewable sources of energy, whilst acknowledging cost will assist in the climate change agenda too. However the location of renewable energy facilities will need to be carefully considered. Promoting carbon neutrality will help towards meeting the ideal situation.</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Both options overall are considered to be moving away from sustainability.	Following mitigation both options are likely to become neutral.
<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	The River Frome is in poor ecological status upstream of Bromyard, largely due to low summer flow levels. Development in Bromyard will not impact on the upstream status of the River Frome. It is, however, important that the existing improvement in river quality downstream of Bromyard is not compromised by development in the town itself because the River Frome flows ultimately into the River Lugg and the River Wye SAC. The key HRA issue for any development in Bromyard is thus to ensure through Surface Water Management Plans and adequate capacity (including improvements if necessary) in the sewage treatment infrastructure that water quality in the River Frome is not reduced to an extent which would impact on the River Lugg or River Wye downstream. The most critical European site relevant to Bromyard is the River Wye. Other European sites in the initial assessment included the Severn Estuary, however this is not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Bromyard options and will not be subject to direct impacts on its integrity as a result of development in Bromyard.	

**Bromyard Place Shaping Option - Bromyard Alternative Option 3**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependent on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Although Bromyard has an area of employment land at Linton it is not considered to be a feasible site and furthermore is not a very accessible site, and therefore an alternative area was recommended to be located in the Employment Land Study (ELS). There is limited employment land in the town. Live work units are highlighted for Bromyard in both options. There is a replacement strategic, 5ha or over site, for employment land proposed for Bromyard, although it is still at Linton. Other plans are likely to allocate smaller employment sites to cater for the employment requirements highlighted in the ELS. Outcome: Option 3 - Neutral.	The plans needs to be considered as a whole and policy wording needs to ensure that flexible employment land is brought forward in accessible areas. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to remain as neutral.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	New housing will support existing and encourage new business growth. Option 3 may allow access out of county, for example to Worcester, but also to Hereford and Leominster to the loss of Bromyard's centre. Outcome: Option 3 neutral.	Improvements to the centre will be vital to retain business interest and custom. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVP1102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Option 3 is equidistant to the town centre and schools providing reasonable access to retail offer and education because of the A44. Outcome: Option 3 marginally moving towards sustainability.	Permeability is key for the option whether that be to the secondary school or to the town centre. Improvements to sustainable transport links will be important. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	There is not enough information to assess whether Bromyard has sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth. Outcome: Unknown.	More information is needed.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	Option 3 has proposed recreational space allocated between the proposed growth areas, although all the options will have to make contributions to open space generally. Outcome: Option 3 significantly moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole and policies need to reflect the need for broadband provision that will be essential to access services and facilities easily. Policy wording will also need to reflect the need for improved access to sustainable modes of travel to facilities. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The option does provide for housing, however it does not provide detail on percentage of affordable housing required. Development should occur on land with less constraints, not just in areas of need and demand. Increasing access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not all. Outcome: Option 3 marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording, design briefs and master plans need to identify the percentage of affordable housing needed and detail good quality design, type, tenure and size etc and reflect aspirations for living in wealthy areas. Good links are needed to assist businesses too. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any new development is going to create waste. Outcome: Option 3 marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support policies that aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Option 3 is in an high landscape sensitivity area. Whilst design policies will try to address this impact the areas affected are considered of such high sensitivity in landscape terms that building here would have a marginally negative impact even with mitigation. Outcome: Option 3 significantly moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies on design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address the negative impacts in the Core Strategy and other plans. However, due to the nature of the sensitivity the outcome following mitigation is likely to be: Marginally moving away from sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experiemntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Option 3 involves growth which will increase energy usage, traffic generation, business uses which will cumulatively affect climate change, for example by increasing surface water runoff. The new development sites are located with good proximity to the town centre and other amenities. Outcome: Option 3 neutral.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies will aim to create good design, achieve higher levels of the code for sustainable homes, increase recycling, reduce waste, increase the use of surface water management plans, manage drainage issues, increase renewable sources of energy. However, costs involved are expensive and may prevent developers being able to achieve these high standards. Location of renewables will also need to be carefully considered. Aiming for carbon neutrality would be ideal, by promoting its use. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The HEDIDS report identifies that option 3 is likely to adversely impact upon the historic environment sensitivity assets. Outcome: Option 3 marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies on design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address in the Core Strategy and other plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Any new development is going to create waste. The option is proposed to develop in areas of high landscape sensitivity. The option involves growth which will increase energy usage, traffic generation, development that contributes to climate change and is likely to increase surface water runoff. The HEDIDS report identifies the option is likely to adversely impact upon the historic environment assets.	
Neutral			Although Bromyard has an area of employment land at Linton it is not considered to be a feasible site and furthermore is not a very accessible site. Therefore, the Employment Land Study (ELS) recommended identifying an alternative area, however there is limited employment land in the town. Thus, live work units are highlighted for Bromyard. There is a replacement strategic (5ha or over site) for employment sites proposed for Bromyard although this is still as Linton. Other plans are likely to allocate smaller employment sites to cater for the employment requirements highlighted in the ELS. New housing will support existing and encourage new business growth in the locality. The option may allow greater access out of county for employment offer, for example to Worcester, but also to Hereford and Leominster to the loss of Bromyard's centre. In terms of reducing the need to travel the option is closer to the town centre and to schools and therefore easier access to the centre for retail offer to aid vitality.	

Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	The option could provide formal open space on site but will have to make contributions to open space generally. The option does provide for housing, however does not say anything about the percentage of affordable units. The option is in an area of high landscape sensitivity and so development locations should have regard to orientation and design to avoid the most harmful of impacts to the landscape. Increasing access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not all.		
More information needed	There is not enough information to assess whether Bromyard has sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth.		
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	<p>The plans needs to be considered as a whole and policy wording needs to ensure that flexible employment land is brought forward in accessible areas. Improvements to the centre of Bromyard will be vital to retain business interest and custom. Permeability is key whether that be to the secondary school or to the town centre. Improvements to sustainable transport links will also be important. Broadband provision will be an essential element in order to access services and facilities easily. Access to sustainable modes of travel to facilities will also need to be improved. The percentage of affordable housing needs to be identified including its need and demand. Also the need to detail in planning briefs and master plans good quality design, type, tenure and size of dwellings and deal with aspirations for living in wealthy areas. Good links to assist businesses will also be important. Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support policies which should aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover energy from waste and then dispose. Similarly to housing policies, planning briefs and master plans need</p> <p>design, layout, landscaping and landshaping and historic heritage quality which are important to address, including the need to achieve higher levels of the code for sustainable homes. Increasing the use of surface water management plans, managing drainage issues, increasing renewable sources of energy, whilst acknowledging cost will assist in the climate change agenda too. However, the location of renewable energy facilities will need to be carefully considered. Finally, promoting carbon neutrality.</p>		
<b>Conclusions</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Option 3 - Overall this option is moving away from sustainability</td> <td>Following mitigation this option is likely to become neutral.</td> </tr> </table>	Option 3 - Overall this option is moving away from sustainability	Following mitigation this option is likely to become neutral.
Option 3 - Overall this option is moving away from sustainability	Following mitigation this option is likely to become neutral.		
SA Outcome	Option 1 from the original assessment and this Option 3 are considered to be the most preferred SA options for Bromyard.		
<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>The River Frome is in poor ecological status upstream of Bromyard, largely due to low summer flow levels. Development in Bromyard will not impact on the upstream status of the River Frome. It is, however, important that the existing improvement in river quality downstream of Bromyard is not compromised by development in the town itself because the River Frome flows ultimately into the River Lugg and the River Wye SAC. The key HRA issue for any development in Bromyard is thus to ensure through Surface Water Management Plans and adequate capacity (including improvements if necessary) in the sewage treatment infrastructure that water quality in the River Frome is not reduced to an extent which would impact on the River Lugg or River Wye downstream. The most critical European site relevant to Bromyard is the River Wye. Other European sites in the initial assessment included the Severn Estuary, however this is not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Bromyard option and will not be subject to direct impacts on its integrity as a result of development in Bromyard.</p>		

**Ledbury Place Shaping Option**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Both options for Ledbury include an employment site which will replace a site which has been unable to come forward under the UDP due to its inaccessibility for larger vehicles. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Linkages across the bypass to other areas including other existing employment sites, particularly to UBL (Bulmers). Outcome following mitigation for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Both options provide appropriate business and employment land opportunities. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Other policies and plans should aim to attract more people into a niche retail market. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	300 of the proposed houses will be on the opposite side of the bypass than the majority of existing development creating access issues. Whilst the majority of the proposed housing, 600 in number, is proposed to be within the form of the existing developed area allowing easier access. Ledbury is a well located sustainable place due to its railway station, however some out commuting is likely due to links with the motorway network at the M50. Outcome for both options: Neutral.	Locating development on the opposite side of the bypass will require improving links across it in order to create permeability and connectivity between new areas and existing development. Maintaining the role of the town centre and the attraction of the town will also be vital. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Congestion in the centre could potentially increase with new development. However the proposed housing sites are located away from the town centre where people are more likely to use the railway station or access the M50 to get to jobs and other facilities and services. Outcome for both options: Neutral.	Improvements to existing links will be important whilst more people need to be encouraged to access the rail facilities. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral..
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	There is not enough information to assess whether Ledbury has sufficient healthcare provisions with the proposed growth. Outcome for both options: Unknown.	More information is needed from the Primary Care Trust and depending on any identified need developer contributions could be obtained for health care provision. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral to moving towards sustainability, depending on results of PCT findings.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	There is currently a lack of facilities in Ledbury which benefits from a leisure pool, a small recreational area and small pockets of open space. The cricket ground, which is not open to public use is proposed to be moved out of town near to the existing rugby ground to allow the space to create a new housing development which in itself is proposed to have open space incorporated within it. A new formal park is proposed within the existing limits. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Improvements to the existing links, including along the old railway line and along the canal. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Both options will be providing more housing, however aspirations and location may not necessarily meet everyone's needs. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plans and policy wording will need to consider design, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully. Identification of the percentage of affordable housing is required based on need. The constraints affecting Ledbury will need to be considered and mitigated against when addressing housing demand and supply. Particularly linkages between new areas and existing development which will safeguard the existing good employment/business areas. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the waste study and lower tier plans will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Biodiversity impacts with option 2 are likely to be greater than they are with option 1. However both options are within medium to high areas of landscape sensitivity. Outcome for both options outcome: Significantly moving away from sustainability.	Masterplanning of new development areas should strive to improve biodiversity and landscape and identify buffer areas for wildlife. Outcome: Option 1 outcome: Neutral; Option 2: marginally moving away from sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Both options are likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the likely use of impermeable surfaces as well as the use of natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Option 2 is at a higher risk of flooding than option 1. Outcome: Option 1 - Marginally moving away from sustainability; Option 2 Significantly moving away from sustainability.	Policies will aim to cover the design, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes, recycling, requiring surface water management plans, dealing with drainage issues, incorporating renewable sources of energy, getting developers to engage in these more sustainable methods of construction and finding the most appropriate locations, including carbon neutrality where possible. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1 - Neutral; Option 2 - Marginally moving away from sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The existing railway viaduct in Ledbury is a listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument with visual and archaeological importance to the towns heritage. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Policies will address design, layout, setting of important buildings. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Biodiversity impacts with option 2 are likely to be greater than they are with option 1. However landscape quality sensitivity is medium to high for both options. The bypass is a physical barrier to new development being well integrated with the existing development creating access issues. Whilst the majority of the proposed housing is proposed to be within the form of the existing developed area allowing easier access. All development will increase waste production. The options are likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Option 2 is at higher risk of flooding than option 1. The existing railway viaduct in Ledbury is a listed building and Sheduled Ancient Monument with visual and archaeological importance to the towns heritage.	

Neutral	300 of the proposed houses will be on the opposite side of the bypass than the majority of existing development creating access issues. Whilst the majority of the proposed housing - 600 in number, is proposed to be within the form of the existing developed area allowing easier access. Congestion in the centre could potentially increase with new development. However, the proposed housing sites are located away from the town centre where people are more likely to use the railway station or access the M50 to get to jobs and other facilities and services.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	There is currently a lack of facilities in Ledbury which benefits from a leisure pool, a small recreational area and small pockets of open space. The cricket ground, which is not open to public use is proposed to be moved out of town near to the existing rugby ground to allow the space to create a new housing development which in itself is proposed to have open space incorporated within it. Both options for Ledbury include an employment site which will replace a site which has been unable to come forward under the UDP due to its inaccessibility for larger vehicles. Both options provide appropriate business and employment land opportunities. Although the options provide housing they do not specify details on percentage of affordable units, tenure, size or type. Development should occur on land with the least constraints, then on need and demand. An increase in access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not necessarily all.	
Further information required	There is not enough information to assess whether Ledbury has enough health care provision with the proposed growth.	
<b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b>	<p>Excellent permeability and connectivity across the existing bypass is needed to connect new and existing places including employment sites, which will be important to reduce congestion and encourage walking and cycling around the town, the old railway line and canal hold potential for such links. Whilst more people need to be encouraged to access the rail facilities. Appropriate policy wording and emphasis will be needed. Maintaining the role of the town centre and the attraction of the town will also be vital for improved vibrancy and economic growth. More information is needed from the Primary Care Trust and depending on any identified need developer contributions should be obtained for any proven health care needs. Policies and masterplanning will need to consider design, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully for housing provision. Identification of the percentage of affordable housing is also required based on need. Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the waste study and other plans will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Policies and masterplanning</p> <p>of new development areas should strive to improve biodiversity and landscape quality, identifying buffer areas for wildlife; design, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes; recycling; the requirement of surface water management plans; deal with drainage issues; incorporating renewable sources of energy; engaging with developers to gain more sustainable methods of construction; finding the most appropriate locations for development; and the consideration of including carbon neutrality where possible in developments.</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Both options are likely to be neutral prior to mitigation and enhancement.	Following mitigation and enhancement the option is likely to remain as neutral.
<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	There are no critical European sites affected by the Ledbury option. The River Leadon drains, via the River Severn, into the Severn Estuary but this is so distant and the scale of development and so small (compared to the Severn Catchment as a whole) that it is not likely to be affected to any measurable degree and will therefore not be subject to direct impacts on its integrity as a result of development at Ledbury. However, there may be possible impacts on the River Wye regarding water supply.	

## Ledbury Place Shaping Sub Option to Options 1 and 2

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	Both sub options for Ledbury include an employment site which will replace a site which has been unable to come forward under the UDP due to its inaccessibility for larger vehicles. Outcome for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Linkages across the bypass to other areas including other existing employment sites, particularly to UBL (Bulmers). Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Both sub options provide appropriate business and employment opportunities. Outcome for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Other policies and plans should aim to attract more people into a niche retail market. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	400 of the proposed houses will be on the opposite side of the bypass than the majority of the existing development creating access issues. Whilst the majority of the proposed housing - 500 in number are proposed to be within the form of the existing developed area allowing easier access. Outcome for both sub options: Neutral.	Locating development on the opposite side of the bypass will require improving links across it in order to create permeability and connectivity between new areas and existing development. Maintaining the role of the town centre and the attraction of the town will also be vital. Outcome following mitigation: Both sub options Neutral.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Congestion in the centre could potentially increase with new development. However, the proposed housing sites are located away from the town centre where people are more likely to use the railway station or access the M50 to get to jobs and other facilities and services. Outcome for both sub options: Neutral.	Improvements to existing links will be important whilst more people need to be encouraged to access the rail facilities. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Neutral.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	There is not enough information to assess whether Ledbury has enough healthcare provisions with the proposed growth. Outcome: Unknown.	More information is needed from the Primary Care Trust and depending on any identified need developer contributions could be obtained for health care provision. Outcome following mitigation: Both options neutral to moving towards sustainability, depending on results of PCT findings.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	Both sub options will retain the cricket ground, however, it is not used for public access and therefore apart from dog walking it is unlikely to meet the local need for equitable access to quality facilities. Outcome: Both sub options are moving towards sustainability.	Plans and policy wording need to address improvements in linkages between existing development and new which could include incorporating a route along the canal. Outcome: Both sub options marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Both sub options will be providing more housing, however aspirations and location may not necessarily meet everyone's needs. Outcome for both sub options: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plans and policy wording will need to consider design, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully. Identification of the percentage of affordable housing is required based on need. The constraints affecting Ledbury will need to be considered and mitigated against when addressing housing demand and supply. Particularly linkages between new areas and existing development which will safeguard the existing good employment/business areas. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome for both sub options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the waste study and other plans will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Biodiversity impacts with development to the west is likely to be greater than development to the south. However both sub options are within medium to high areas of landscape sensitivity. Outcome for both sub options: Significantly moving away from sustainability.	Masterplanning of new development areas should strive to improve biodiversity and landscape and identify buffer areas for wildlife. Outcome: Option for development to the south Neutral; Option for development to the west marginally moving away from sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Both sub options are likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the likely use of impermeable surfaces as well as the use of natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. The option for development to the west is at a higher risk of flooding than the option for development to the south. Outcome: Option 1 - Marginally moving away from sustainability; Option 2 - Significantly moving away from sustainability.	Policies will aim to cover the design, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes, recycling, requiring surface water management plans, dealing with drainage issues, incorporating renewable sources of energy, getting developers to engage in these more sustainable methods of construction and finding the most appropriate locations, including carbon neutrality where possible. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The existing railway viaduct in Ledbury is a listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument with visual and archaeological importance to the towns heritage. Outcome for both sub options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Policies will address design, layout, setting of important buildings. Outcome following mitigation for both sub options: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			The bypass is a physical barrier to new development being well integrated with the existing development creating access issues. All development will increase waste production. Biodiversity is likely to be most adversely affected by development to the west than to the south although both sub options are likely to be adversely affected in terms of landscape quality. The sub options are likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. The existing railway viaduct in Ledbury is a listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument with visual and archaeological importance to the towns heritage.	

Neutral	Congestion in the centre could potentially increase with new development. However the proposed housing sites are located away from the town centre where people are more likely to use the railway station or access the M50 to get to jobs and other facilities and services. Both sub options will retain the cricket ground, however, it is not open for public access and therefore apart from dog walking it is unlikely that local need for equitable access to quality facilities will be met. The new development areas are likely to incorporate open space and other facilities however this will not address the existing need for equitable access to quality facilities.		
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	Both sub options for Ledbury include an employment site which will replace a site which has been unable to come forward under the UDP due to its inaccessibility for larger vehicles. Both sub options provide appropriate business opportunity. Although the sub options provide housing they do not specify details on percentage of affordable units, tenure, size or type. Development should occur on land with the least constraints, then on need and demand. An increase in access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not necessarily all.		
More information needed	There is not enough information to assess whether Ledbury has enough health care provision with the proposed growth.		
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	<p>Appropriate policies and emphasis in plans should maintain the role and attraction of the town which is vital in order to attract and retain interest in the niche market. Improvements to linkages across the bypass should also create permeability and connectivity between new areas and existing development, including the incorporation of a route along the canal. More people need to be encouraged to access the rail facilities. More information is needed from the Primary Care Trust on health care needs and depending on the findings developer contributions could be obtained. Policies and masterplanning will need to consider design, percentage of affordable units, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully. The constraints affecting Ledbury will need to be considered and mitigated against when addressing housing demand and supply. Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the waste study and policies will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Design and layout of development will be important in lessening the impacts upon landscape quality. Biodiversity could be improved by using native species in the creation of new habitats and creating wildlife corridors with existing areas. The design, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes, recycling, requiring surface water management plans, dealing with drainage issues, incorporating renewable sources of energy, getting developers to engage in these more sustainable methods of construction and finding the most appropriate locations, including carbon neutrality where possible will contribute positively to the climate change agenda. Policies will need to address design, layout and setting of important buildings.</p>		
<b>Conclusions</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1128 927 1615 976">Both the sub options for development to the south and west are likely to be neutral.</td> <td data-bbox="1615 927 2024 976">Following mitigation and enhancement both sub options are likely to remain as neutral.</td> </tr> </table>	Both the sub options for development to the south and west are likely to be neutral.	Following mitigation and enhancement both sub options are likely to remain as neutral.
Both the sub options for development to the south and west are likely to be neutral.	Following mitigation and enhancement both sub options are likely to remain as neutral.		

**Leominster Place Shaping Option**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option.....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The place shaping option for Leominster includes an urban extension, a proposed new southern link road linking to existing good bus routes and a railway station and existing employment land. The option also includes improved walking and cycling routes to the town centre, schools. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability	The option already includes provision of walking and cycling links to town centre and school, this should be extended to include existing employment areas. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Between 2004 and 2006, AMR reporting periods, there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Leominster has existing business opportunity available and the option will help bring forward any vacant land. The neighbourhood shops proposed in the new urban extension will need to be an appropriate scale so not to lose business to the town centre whilst also supporting the town for other shopping needs. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies will need to ensure that natural resources are used efficiently, design requirements should be set out for the employment sector and housing developers, including ensuring easy access to the town centre. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The Local Transport Plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 - 3947, 07/08 - 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 2010/2011. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 - 100, 07/08 - 134 which is exceeding target, target 2010/2011 - 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 - 100, 07/08 - 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 2010/2011 - 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Leominster already offers employment land and therefore existing residents do not necessarily need to travel elsewhere for employment opportunities. The option will increase some employment and retail opportunities and also provide new homes as part of the new urban extension near to existing employment areas. However, congestion may increase in the town centre from these developments. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	It is unknown what type of business will be attracted to Leominster and it is impossible to guarantee that people will live and work locally. The new southern link road should reduce congestion around the Bargates area and help towards removing the AQMA designation. Improvements to the public transport network, walking and cycling routes will also be required from the new urban extension to existing employment areas and the town centre. Reference to this should be included in the final option. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. A desired direction of change would be to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Leominster already offers employment land and therefore existing residents do not necessarily need to travel elsewhere for employment opportunities. The option will provide some employment and retail opportunities and provide new homes close to existing employment areas with southern link road shorter journey's from Barons Cross to industrial estates and employment areas. It is unknown what type of business will be attracted to Leominster and it is impossible to guarantee that people will live and work locally. The new southern link road should reduce congestion around the Bargates area and help towards removing the AQMA designation. However, congestion may increase in the town centre from these developments. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The final option should include improvements to the public transport network, walking and cycling routes will also be required. Linking urban extensions to existing employment areas, the town centre and local schools too. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	The proposed new urban extension is likely to need a improved provision at existing doctors surgeries and should be provided through developer contributions. However, further information is needed from the Primary Care Trust on local need. Outcome: Neutral.	Although further information on need is required so long as developer contributions are obtained the outcome following mitigation is likely to be: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	Leominster currently benefits from 2 leisure centres. The option proposes to protect the Cockcroft Hill area which provides good open space in the countryside and provide future public recreation space. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Opening up the permeability of the space by walking and cycling will make it more accessible. Access to Cockcroft Hill should also be improved. Development briefs should ensure the aspirations of local people are met and enabled through section 106 agreements. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The option provides for houses, it does not at this stage specify details on percentage of affordable units, tenure, size or type. In terms of aspirations the demand may occur elsewhere. Development should occur on land with least constraints, then on need and demand. Increase access to good quality housing may meet some people's needs but not necessarily all. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The Market Towns and Rural Areas DPD and development briefs will need to consider tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully. Identification of the percentage of affordable housing is required based on need and will be included in the final Core Strategy policy. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Waste policy wording should seek to reduce and recycle waste and will need to be developed in connection with the waste study. Policies will also need to include the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	The option proposes to protect the Cockcroft Hill area which is locally valued landscape feature and asset. However, development growth will have some impact upon this environmental asset. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design, infrastructure, land shaping where appropriate, soft landscaping, integration of open space and the shape and form of the urban extension will be important considerations in policy and future development briefs. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 State of Herefordshire Report states that in an experimental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The option is likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. However, it does highlight the need for a surface water management plan in light of this. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Core Strategy policies on waste, renewable energy and design should ensure climate change is accounted for. Development briefs should encourage good design, including a good to excellent levels for the code for sustainable homes. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, of which 14 are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	There are no conservation areas near to the urban extension, although there is potential for archaeology. More information is needed on listed buildings and archaeology. Outcome: Neutral.	Ensure that policies enable archaeology to be correctly recorded. Buffers need to be identified around listed buildings. Design will be important if there are listed buildings in the area to protect their settings. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Only 3 of the SA objectives were considered to be moving away from sustainability for the option of development in Leominster. Development is likely to increase waste production, place pressure on the landscape around Cockcroft Hill and contribute to the effects of climate change.	
Neutral			There are a couple of neutral outcomes the first in relation to health provisions which are likely to be needed with the level of growth proposed for Leominster. In addition although conservation areas do not pose as a constraint to development in Leominster, impacts on any listed buildings or areas of archaeology interest could result.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			5 of the SA objectives were considered to be moving towards sustainable for the Leominster option. It was considered that existing employment land and good bus links and railway station, and proposed new southern link road will allow access to employment areas. The need to travel is reduced by siting new homes near to existing employment opportunities linked by walking and cycling routes. Although Leominster has enough formal leisure activities available it does lack access to informal open space and the option will seek to improve this.	
Further information required			Engagement with the Primary Care Trust is needed to ensure that any healthcare requirements in the Leominster area are acknowledged.	
<b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b>			Policies in the Core Strategy for waste; design; open space; movement; local distinctiveness; renewable energy; energy efficiency will ensure many of the issues raised above are addressed. The development brief should include additional details of the recording of archaeological finds; designating buffers around listed buildings; and carbon neutrality where possible. The outcome following mitigation was considered to remain moving the county towards sustainability.	

<p><b>Conclusions</b></p>	<p>Overall the option for Leominster is considered to be marginally moving towards sustainability</p>	<p>Following mitigation this option is likely to remain sustainable.</p>
<p><b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Growth in Leominster has the potential to adversely impact upon water levels and flow of the River Lugg, which although not a SAC, at this point is an SSSI and becomes an SAC further downstream. Adverse impacts on the River Lugg at Leominster can therefore be assumed to lead to adverse impacts on the SAC section downstream. The northern area of Leominster suffers from flooding is therefore, inappropriate for strategic housing sites. The proposed housing to the south is in the direct catchment of the River Arrow which flows into the River Lugg. There is a potential issue of surface water run-off from any housing development into the River Arrow. Potential impacts of concern include water quality, sedimentation, erosion and eutrophication in addition to species maintenance. The proposed growth of Leominster will result in stress on the existing sewage treatment capacity. Consequently, without any mitigation measures there are likely to be adverse impacts on the Rivers Arrow and Lugg (SSSI section) leading to adverse impacts of the River Lugg (SAC section) downstream. Mitigation is therefore critical and needs to take the form of Surface Water Management Plans for any new strategic housing development and confirmation of adequate sewerage infrastructure. Sustainable drainage systems and water saving techniques will be important to implement in new developments to assist in managing water quality. Direct disturbance issues on the SAC section of the River Lugg would not arise from new housing in Leominster due to the distance between them. Other SAC sites in the initial HRA screening assessment were Drostre Bank, Llangorse Lake, Rhos Goch and Severn Estuary, however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Leominster option and will not be subject to direct impacts on the integrity.</p>	

## Ross-on-Wye Place Shaping Option

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The majority of the existing employment land is in the south east of Ross-on-Wye. Option 1 would locate the houses away from the employment land, however the option does provide good access to the M50 and commuters to other areas out of county. Option 2 covers both areas, splitting houses between two sites. They serve both the existing proposed Model Farm site on Gloucester Road offering live work units and access to the M50. Option 1 outcome: Neutral. Option 2 outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Both Options 1 and 2 need to provide better sustainable transport links to and from Model Farm and the proposed development sites. Including walking and cycling routes which could utilise the old railway track. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1: Marginally moving towards sustainability; option 2: significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The Model Farm development for live work units will be safeguarded although it is noted that the site is on greenfield land. There are a lot of charity shops and vacant shops in the core of the town. New houses will help the retail offer and improve the local economy. There is also competition from retail and employment offer in other area such as Monmouth and Cheltenham. Outcome for both options: Neutral.	Encourage sustainable travel links in to the town centre. In the long term the strengthening of compasion offer for retail shops may be necessary. Outcome following mitigation: Both options marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Although close to built up part of town, both of the options will place development on the other side of the A40 road and create access issues. Outcomes for both options: Neutral.	Improving links across the A40 ring road/by-pass will help maintain the role of the town centre and the attraction of the town. Outcome following mitigation: Both options - Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	There are no congestion issues at these proposed sites currently, however there is in the town centre. Option 1, could result in capacity issues at the A40 roundabout and accessibility that requires travel management. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Sustainable modes of travel and improved links access the A40 will be necessary to maintain the attractiveness of the centre and reduce congestion. Outcome following mitigation: Both options are likely to become neutral. However option 2 provides the greatest opportunity for improvement.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	There is current lack of information to assess whether Ross-on-Wye has sufficient health care provisions with the proposed growth. Outcome for both options: Unknown.	More information is needed from the Primary Care Trust and depending on any identified need developer contributions could be obtained for health care provision. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral to moving towards sustainability, depending on results of PCT information.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	There is a lack of existing open space in both options however informal play areas are closer to option 2. There is open space near Tanyard Lane which is subject to flooding. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability. Option 2 is considered to be marginally better since it has greater access to sustainable links to open space etc.	There is a need for recreational and open space in Ross-on-Wye to provide for the towns own population. The east side of the town would require the recreational site. Outcome following mitigation for both options: Neutral.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Although the option provides for houses it does not specify details on percentage of affordable units, tenure, size or type. Demand for housing in Ross-on-Wye has the potential to be higher than the options are proposing to provide. The rate of development may not be what would be anticipated. Increase access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not necessarily all. Outcome: Both options marginally moving towards sustainability.	Core Strategy and other plan policies will need to consider design, tenure, size, type and aspirations more fully. Identification of the percentage of affordable housing is required based on need. The constraints affecting Ross-on-Wye will need to be considered and mitigated against when addressing housing demand and supply. Outcome following mitigation: Both options marginally moving towards sustainability.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome: Both options marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies are being developed in connection with the waste study and other plans will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Both options - Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and specie loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	The proposed housing development in Ross-on-Wye is proposed in an area of greenfield land of medium to high agricultural quality. Option 2 is worse for biodiversity because of its potential impact on bat sites but is not of such a high quality landscape area. Outcome for both options: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design and layout of development will be important in lessening the impacts upon landscape quality. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1: Marginally moving away from sustainability, Option 2: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The option is likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Outcome: Both options marginally moving away from sustainability.	The design policies, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes, recycling, requiring surface water management plans, dealing with drainage issues, incorporating renewable sources of energy, getting developers to engage in these more sustainable methods of construction and finding the most appropriate locations, including carbon neutrality where possible. Outcome following mitigation: Both options neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Although the evidence base is not available currently, from local expert knowledge it is anticipated that Option 2 could have issues with buildings of local interest. Outcome: Option 1: Neutral, Option 2: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Ensure that policies enable archaeology is be correctly recorded. Buffers need to be identified around listed buildings. Design will be important if there are listed buildings in the area to protect their settings. Outcome following mitigation: Both options: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			There are no significant congestion issues at the proposed sites, however congestion is an issue for the town centre. Option 1, could result in capacity issues and accessibility that requires traffic management. There is a lack of existing open space in both options however informal play areas are closer to Option 2. There is open space near Tanyard Lane which is however subject to flooding. All development will increase waste production. The proposed housing development is proposed in an area of good quality greenfield land and of medium to high agricultural land quality. Option 2 is worse for biodiversity. Both options are likely to increase the amount of surface water from new development through the use of impermeable surfaces as well as use natural resources for energy consumption, transport etc. Although the evidence base is limited for listed buildings, from local expert knowledge it is anticipated that Option 2 could have the potential to adversely affect buildings of local interest.	

Neutral	The majority of the existing employment land is to the south east of Ross-on-Wye. Option 1 would locate the houses away from the employment land, however the option does provide good access to the M50 and commuters to other areas out of county. Option 2 covers both areas, splitting 200 houses between two sites. They serve both the existing proposed Model Farm site on Gloucester Road offering live work units and access to the M50. This development site should be safeguarded although it is noted that the site is on greenfield land. There are a lot of low quality charity shop and vacant shops in the core of the town. New houses will help the retail offer and local economy however there are access issues. There is also competition from retail and employment offer out of county such as in Monmouth and Cheltenham. Both of the options will place development on the other side of the ring road/bypass at the A 40 and create access issues.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	The majority of the existing employment land is in the south east of Ross-on-Wye. Option 2 is considered to be marginally better than option 1 because it has greater access to sustainable links, such as to open space. Option 1 would locate the houses away from the employment land, however the option does provide good access to the M50 creating easier access for commuters to other areas out of county. Option 2 covers both areas, splitting 200 houses between two sites. They serve both the existing proposed Model Farm site on Gloucester Road offering live work units and access to the M50. In terms of transport, better cycle, walk and bus links to Model Farm are needed and the old rail line would be a good new route as it connects various places. Although the option provides for houses it does not specify details on tenure, size or type. In terms of aspirations the demand may occur elsewhere in the county. Development should occur on land with least constraints, then on need and demand. However, demand for housing in Ross-on-Wye has the potential to be higher than the options are proposing to provide. The rate of development may not be what would be anticipated. Increase access to good quality housing may meet some peoples needs but not necessarily all.	
Further information required	There is not enough information on the needs of health care provision in Ross-on-Wye, engagement from the primary care trust is needed on this issue.	
<b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b>	Both Options 1 and 2 - need to provide better sustainable transport links to and from Model Farm and the proposed development sites and encourage sustainable travel links in to the town centre. Sustainable transport links include better cycle, walk and bus links and the old rail line would be a good new route as it connects various places. Strengthen the comparison offer for retail shops. Improving links across the A40 ring road/by-pass will help maintain the role of the town centre and maintain the attractiveness of the centre and reduce congestion. Option 2 provides the greatest opportunity for improvement. There is a need for recreation and open space in Ross-on-Wye to provide for the towns own population and the east side of the town would be ideal. Other plans will need to consider design, percentage of affordable housing, tenure, size, type and aspirations of housing more fully. However, the constraints affecting Ross-on-Wye will need to be considered and mitigated against when addressing housing demand and supply. Waste policies will need to be developed in connection with the waste study and plans and policies will need to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Design and layout of development will be important in lessening the impacts upon landscape quality. The design, including setting a good to excellent level for the code for sustainable homes, recycling, requirement of surface water management plans, dealing with drainage issues, incorporating renewable sources of energy, getting developers to engage in more sustainable methods of construction and finding the most appropriate locations, including carbon neutrality where possible. Ensure that policies enable archaeology to be correctly recorded. Buffers need to be identified around listed buildings. Design will be important if there are listed buildings in the area to protect their settings.	
<b>Conclusion</b>	Overall both options are considered to be moving away from sustainability.	Following mitigation and enhancement both options are likely to be neutral.
<b>SA Outcome</b>	Overall in respect of the SA Option 2 is considered to be marginally better than Option 1.	

<b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b>	<p>Significant growth may lead to water supply issues. Any new development should aim for water neutrality to assist in reducing future water demand. (In common with the rest of the county a large proportion of the water usage is actually from the agricultural sector rather than domestic usage). Sewage treatment is available for the Unitary Development Plan allocations but, as a significant quantity of those have yet to be constructed, there is the potential to extend the capacity of the current treatment works by ensuring effective separation of surface water drainage from foul water drainage. Surface Water Management Plans may therefore be required. A phased approach to development will be required to ensure that capacity is available throughout the development process. Ross is within 10 kilometres of the Wye Valley Woodlands and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites and therefore appropriate assessment of any significant development sites will be required to establish any impact of development on bat foraging</p> <p>areas and roosts and any necessary mitigation. The potential housing sites to the south and west of Ross are the ones most likely to impact on these interests. Other European sites in the initial assessment were the Severn Estuary and Usk Bat Sites, however these are not likely to be affected to any measurable degree by the Ross-on-Wye option and will not be subject to direct impacts on their integrity.</p>
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## Rural Areas Place Shaping Option - New Jobs and Shops

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The rural areas option to promote new development opportunities in or around the Rural Service Centres (RSCs), in accordance with the settlement hierarchy. Other rural development will occur away from the RSCs but this is likely to be small scale and unlikely to generate significant levels of traffic. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Relate the policy to the settlement hierarchy needs study. The safeguarding of employment land will be important to address through policy to ensure a sufficient supply of flexible land in rural areas, this is supported by the Employment Land Study evidence base. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The development could provide for a mixed use scheme. A dispersed strategy could result in more people travelling further for job opportunities. The option does not stipulate brownfield land prior to greenfield. Outcome: Neutral.	The employment policy direction has addressed employment land need for rural areas. The safeguarding of employment land will be important to address through policy to ensure a sufficient supply of flexible land in rural areas, this is supported by the Employment Land Study evidence base. In addition, brownfield land use should be integrated into policy. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVP1102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Promoting jobs and shops in rural areas will help reduce the need to travel. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Promote sustainable means of travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Extra bus links are possible with new development. However, overall it is unlikely that sustainable transport patterns will be significantly affected by development in rural areas. Outcome: Neutral.	Greater emphasis could be given to the promoting of integrated and sustainable transport provision in the place shaping option by referencing improvements to walking and cycling networks. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	Option is not specifically related - No effect.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	New shops and tourism facilities in rural areas will improve accessibility. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. Policy wording will need to ensure that accessibility to facilities is achieved. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The proposed option will have no effect on this objective.	N/A
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any new development is likely to create more waste. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support policies in other plans which should aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose. Following mitigation outcome: Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Unknown at this stage because we are unsure where the new development is likely to be located and in addition the evidence base for the landscape and HEDIDS studies are incomplete for these areas. Outcome: Unknown.	Policies and future plans need to consider the outcomes of the green infrastructure strategy, landscape and archaeological studies in considering the most appropriate locations for development. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown. Dependant on outcomes of evidence base and locations proposed.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Promotion of employment uses could have a variety of emissions and new development could result in greater surface water management issues. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Policy wording should encourage and where possible require developments to be carbon neutral. Criteria based policies should ensure development avoids high flood risk areas. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	There is insufficient information to assess the impacts of the option on the historic environment. Outcome: Unknown.	N/A
<b>Recommendations</b>				

<b>Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability</b>	Any development is likely to increase waste. Promotion of employment uses could have a variety of emissions and new development could result in greater surface water management issues.	
<b>Neutral</b>	The development could provide for a mixed use scheme. A dispersed strategy could result in more people travelling further for job opportunities. The option does not stipulate brownfield land prior to greenfield. Extra bus links are possible with new development. However, overall it is unlikely that sustainable transport patterns will be significantly affected by development in rural areas.	
<b>Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability</b>	Promoting jobs and shops in rural areas will help reduce the need to travel. New shops and tourism facilities in rural areas will improve accessibility.	
<b>More information needed</b>	Unknown at this stage because we are unsure where the new development is likely to be located and in addition the evidence base for the landscape and HEDIDS studies are incomplete for these areas. There is insufficient information to assess the impacts of the option on the historic environment.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	The assessment of the impacts of the strategy have highlighted areas of mitigation and enhancement which could be used to improve the impact or enhance features for beneficial gain. Most of the issues raised should be addressed through the appropriate wording of policies in the Core Strategy and other plans such as the Hereford Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Development Plan Documents (DPDs). However, some changes to the strategy and through lower level detail in master plans and planning briefs could also be beneficial. Such issues to be addressed include: safeguard employment land; ensure flexible land in rural areas; integrate brownfield land use into policy; promote sustainable means of travel; improve walking and cycling networks; ensure accessibility to facilities; reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from waste and then dispose; consider outcomes of the green infrastructure strategy; landscape and archaeological study in considering the location of development; and encourage carbon neutrality where possible.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the rural areas place shaping option, prior to mitigation and enhancement, is neutral.	Following mitigation and enhancement the potential is that the option could move towards sustainability.

**Option 1 (1200) Additional Housing to the Rural Areas Place Shaping Option**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - Option is specifically regarding additional housing and therefore is not related to the provision of employment land.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - Option is specifically regarding additional housing and therefore is not related to the provision of business opportunity.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Additional housing could assist in helping rural service centres to remain vibrant reducing the need for people to travel to the main urban areas, however people are still likely to want and need to access certain services in Hereford and the market towns. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as the movement policy addresses sustainable transport measures. The policy wording should ensure that public transport access is focussed on rural service centres. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Sustainable patterns of transport are not directly being promoted in this additional housing option. Dispersed development will generally tend to result in more journeys to larger centres. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as the movement policy will promote sustainable transport measures. The policy wording also needs to improve rural public transport. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving away from sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	Additional housing could either place additional pressure on existing services or help to maintain access to health services in the rural areas. No specific needs have been identified by the Primary Care Trust. Outcome: Neutral.	Policy wording will need to ensure that rural services are protected. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	Additional housing could support the quality of facilities in areas of need. The open space study identifies deficiencies in 9 sub-areas which include the rural areas. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plan and policy wording will need to address these deficiencies. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Additional housing is proposed in order to address the rural housing need in relation to the SA objective question. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording will need to ensure that appropriate level of housing is provided and that good design, affordability etc is incorporated. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	All development will increase waste production. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policy wording will need to be developed in connection with the waste study to address waste issues including the development of waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Unknown at this stage because we are unsure where the houses and employment are likely to be located and in addition the evidence base for the landscape and HEDIDS studies are incomplete for these areas. Outcome: Unknown.	N/A
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experiental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Dispersed development is likely to increase travel and air pollution. It is unknown where housing sites are going to be located and therefore it is unknown whether these sites will be within flood risk areas. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability and further evidence is needed for housing in flood risk areas in rural areas.	The plan needs to be considered as a whole as policies on design, flooding and climate change will aim to protect flood areas and promote carbon neutrality. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Depending on settlement location outcomes will vary depending on the outcomes of the feasibility study of land available being carried out for SHLAA for all options. The final chosen option for the settlement hierarchy will aim to protect and develop appropriately the areas being considered for growth dependant on the evidence base. Outcome: Unknown as awaiting more evidence from SHLAA.	Policy wording needs to reflect the need for good design, layout, landscaping and landshaping. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Additional housing could assist in helping service centres to remain vibrant reducing the need for people to travel to the main urban areas, however dispersed development will generally tend to result in more journeys to Hereford and the market towns, increasing air pollution. Sustainable patterns of transport are not directly being promoted in this additional housing option. All development will increase waste production.	
Neutral			Additional housing could either place additional pressure on existing services or help to maintain access to health services in the rural areas, although no specific needs have been identified by the Primary Care Trust.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			Additional housing could support the quality of facilities in areas of need. The open space study identifies deficiencies in 9 sub-areas which include the rural areas. Additional housing could assist in addressing the rural housing requirement.	
Further information required			More information is needed on how development is likely to impact on landscape and historic heritage quality of the rural areas with additional housing through the evidence base for landscape and HEDIDS studies when complete. The final chosen option for the settlement hierarchy will aim to protect and develop appropriately the areas being considered for growth dependant on the evidence base, however the outcome of the settlement hierarchy are currently unknown.	

<p><b>Mitigation and Enhancement</b></p>	<p>The plan needs to be considered as a whole and policies need to ensure that transport access is focussed on the rural service centres to improve rural public transport. Identification of the type of community facilities needed and allocate an appropriate portion of housing to support the need. An appropriate level of housing policies are needed to ensure good design, affordability etc to improve housing quality. Waste policy wording will need to be developed in connection with the waste study to address waste issues and should include the requirement of waste management plans. Policies should encourage and where possible require developments to be carbon neutral. Criteria based policies should ensure development avoids high flood risk areas. Design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address in policies and masterplanning.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions</b></p>	<p>Overall the option is marginally moving away from sustainability. Following mitigation and enhancement this option likely to move towards neutrality.</p>

## Settlement Hierarchy Place Shaping Option

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	All options focus development in the Rural Service Centres (RSCs) which all have employment sites and are accessible by public transport. Outcome: All options are marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies within the Core Strategy, for areas outside the RSCs, are needed. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The more dispersed the option the greater the potential for better use of brownfield land, however mitigation will be necessary for climate change contributions. Outcome: Option 1 - Neutral, Option 2 - Neutral, Option 3 - Marginally moving towards sustainability, Option 4 - marginally moving towards sustainability.	Criteria based policy to include the use of brownfield land prior to good quality greenfield land, the requirements for good design. Outcome following mitigation: All options marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Option 1 would be the best at reducing the need to travel as new development will be located close to services. Option 2 has a concentration of development with services. Options 3 and 4 are more dispersed and are expected to require more travel to reach services. Outcome: Option 1 - is considered the best option and is marginally moving towards sustainability, Option 2 marginally moving towards sustainability, Option 3 - Neutral, Option 4 - Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Improve sustainable transport links, and walk and cycle links and improve the facilities and services offer in all places. Outcome following mitigation: All options significantly moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	RSCs should promote sustainable modes of travel however, smaller settlement options will differ. Option 1 will locate development close to the services, option 2 will develop within 5km of the RSC or Market Towns thus promoting walking and cycling, whilst option 3 will disperse development which is dependant on public transport and option 4 more dispersed regardless of public transport however they have more key services in these locations. Outcome: Options 1, 2 and 3 moving significantly towards sustainability and option 4 - marginally moving towards sustainability.	Improve sustainable transport links, and walk and cycle links and improve the facilities and services offer in all places. Outcome following mitigation: All options significantly move towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	More information is required from the Primary Care Trust to establish the need for health care services in rural areas. Outcome: Unknown.	Outcome following mitigation: Unknown, more information is needed.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The settlement hierarchy study identified a wide range of services and facilities and ranked the rural areas depending on the outcome of existing service provision. The needs identified in Appendix 10 of the Draft Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper, June 2009. This highlights what is required through the planning process such as footpaths, affordable housing, play areas, open space, etc. Therefore, all the options are covering the needs of the rural areas. Options 2 and 3 are meeting the sustainable transport element better than option 4. Outcome: Option 1 - significantly moving towards sustainability, options 2, 3 and 4 marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies will be important to deliver affordable housing and other rural services as highlighted in the settlement hierarchy paper and ensuring developer contributions aid improvements to services. Improve sustainable transport links, and walk and cycle links and improve the facilities and services offer in all places. Outcome following mitigation: All options would significantly move towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	All options will help towards increasing good quality housing. However, the more the dispersed the option the more likely it will meet peoples aspirations etc. Outcome: Option 1 and 2 - marginally moving towards sustainability, options 3 and 4 significantly moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that policy allows the housing where it is in most need and ensure that the layout, design, type and size and materials are of good quality and locally distinctive. Outcome following mitigation: Option 1 and 2 - marginally moving towards sustainability, options 3 and 4 significantly moving towards sustainability.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any new development is going to create waste. Outcome for all options: marginally moving away from sustainability.	Waste policies in the Core Strategy need to be guided by the waste study which can support plans and policies which should aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose. Outcome following mitigation: All options neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	It is unknown where development is going to be located and as such likely adverse impacts on the natural environment assets are unknown. Outcome: All options: Unknown.	Further information on the location of development is needed before mitigation and enhancement of these places can be considered. However in general, design, layout, brownfield prior to good quality greenfield land, avoid high quality landscape areas where possible should be considered in the Core Strategy, and other plans and policies. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	All the options will involve growth which will potentially increase flood risk, energy usage, traffic generation, business uses which will affect climate change, however the less dispersed the settlements the potential still exists for fewer car journeys reducing air pollution which contributes to climate change. Option 3 utilises public transport whilst option 2 are located within 5km and therefore encourage greater use of sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling. Outcome: All options marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design and layout of development should reduce its carbon footprint, the requirement of surface water management plans, improve sustainable transport links to RSC and market towns and create pleasant green infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Depending on settlement location outcomes will vary depending on the outcomes of the feasibility study of land available being carried out for SHLAA for all options. The final chosen option for the settlement hierarchy will aim to protect and develop appropriately the areas being considered for growth dependant on the evidence base. Outcome: Unknown.	Important to address in Core Strategy policies and other plans. Outcome following mitigation: Unknown.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			In order for development to be sustainable it needs to be located close to facilities and services to reduce the need to travel. Option 4 is the most dispersed option and therefore does not provide the level of access to services and facilities that would make it a sustainable location that reduces travel need. New development regardless of its location is going to create waste. However, different concentrations of development in rural areas will have varying impacts. Options 2, 3 and 4 are the most dispersed options and are therefore more likely to have the most adverse significant impact. Regardless of development location growth will potentially increase flood risk, energy usage, traffic generation, contributing to climate change, however the less dispersed the settlements the potential will be for fewer car journeys reducing air pollution, whilst the more dispersed options 2 and 3 utilise public transport to encourage greater use of sustainable modes of travel including walking and cycling.	

Neutral	<p>The use of brownfield land prior to greenfield will be important in utilising existing space for new development whilst conserving and using natural resources efficiently. The more dispersed options have the greatest potential for using brownfield land, however mitigation will be necessary for climate change contributions. Options 1 and 2 are fairly neutral in this regard. The need to travel is increased with a more dispersed option since the requirement will be to travel further to reach essential services and facilities, Option 3 offers good public transport to key services and therefore is neutral.</p>	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	<p>The Rural Service Centres are likely to have employment sites and are accessible by public transport. Options 3 and 4 are more dispersed and therefore have the greatest potential for the better use of brownfield land, however mitigation will be necessary for climate change contributions. Options 1 and 2 are best at concentrating development where the services are located and therefore are likely to result in reducing the need to travel, option 1 being the best. In relation to this the RSCs are proposing to promote sustainable modes of travel. Therefore options 1, 2 and 3 fair the best due to proximity to services and access to public transport, walking and cycling. Whilst option 4 proposes growth in smaller settlements which have at least 5 key services, regardless of whether public transport is available. The settlement hierarchy study identified a wide range of services and facilities and ranked the rural areas depending on the outcome of the existing services provision. The needs identified in Appendix 10 of the Draft Rural Settlement Hierarchy Background Paper, June 2009. This then highlights what is required through the</p> <p>planning process such as footpaths, affordable housing, play areas, open space, etc. Therefore, all the options are covering the needs of the rural areas. In terms of public transport need option 1 doesn't require the need due to proximity to services whilst options 2 and 3 would be having this need meet better than option 4. However, option 4 has 5 key services located near by. All the options are helping towards increasing good quality housing. However, options 3 and 4 are more dispersed and therefore more likely it meet peoples aspirations etc.</p>	
More information needed	<p>More information is required from the Primary Care Trust to establish the need for health care services in rural Herefordshire. Depending on settlement location outcomes for the historic heritage of the county will vary depending on the outcomes of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) for all options. The final chosen option for the settlement hierarchy will aim to protect and develop areas appropriately according to the evidence base.</p>	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	<p>The Core Strategy and other plans require policies to control development outside the proposed Rural Service Centres (RSCs). Criteria based policy should ensure that brownfield land is considered prior to good quality greenfield land. Improvement to sustainable transport links and walking and cycling links are important to improve access to facilities and services on offer. Policies will be important to deliver affordable housing and other rural services as highlighted in the settlement hierarchy paper and ensuring developer contributions aid improvements to services. Policies should ensure that housing is development where it is in most need and ensure that the design, layout, type, size and materials are of good quality and locally distinctive. Waste policies need to be guided by the waste study and aim to reduce waste, reuse materials, recycle, recover and produce energy from and then dispose of waste. Landscape quality can be safeguarded by appropriate design, layout, brownfield use prior to good quality greenfield sites and avoiding high quality landscape areas where possible. Design and layout of development should reduce its carbon</p> <p>footprint, surface water management plans should be required, improvements to sustainable transport links to RSCs and market towns and create pleasant green infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling. The design, layout, landscaping and landshaping will be important to address in Core Strategy policies for the historic heritage of Herefordshire and should be reflected into lower tier plans to ensure local distinctiveness.</p>	
<b>Conclusions</b>	<p>Option 1 - RSC development only, Option 2 - Develop villages within 5km of RSC or market town, Option 3 - Develop smaller settlements with good public transport and Option 4 - Develop smaller settlements with at least 5 key services regardless of public transport are all considered to be moving towards sustainability.</p>	<p>Following mitigation all the options are likely to remain moving towards sustainability.</p>

<p><b>Habitat Regulation Assessment Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Downton Gorge is a SAC with a particular sensitivity to air pollution due to the flora present in the Gorge. Development which could impact on the air quality approaching the Gorge would therefore be of concern. None of the strategic housing options in the county are close to Downton Gorge or would affect it. However, Leintwardine is approximately 3 kilometres away and is the nearest main village. It is likely to continue to be identified in the "top tier" of rural settlements and it is therefore possible that this status could allow for further growth. This will not have any direct impact on air quality in the Gorge due to the distance between Leintwardine and the Gorge and the absence of any direct road through the Gorge. There is a theoretical possibility that a marginal increase in traffic on the A4110 to the west could change air quality upwind of the Gorge but the effect would be so small as to be unmeasurable. Elsewhere in the county the Rural Settlement Hierarchy may allow for very limited amounts of development in villages in the south of the county including within the 10 kilometres radius of the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Bat Sites SACs.</p> <p>However, no strategic housing sites are proposed in this locality and therefore any development is likely to be small scale and of no significance for strategic HRA purposes.</p>
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**Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Policy Direction**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependent on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no connection between renewable energy and the provision of flexible employment land.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Renewable energy policy direction creates the opportunity for new business types in the county especially those involved in renewable/alternative energy production. The policy also seeks new development to use natural resources efficiently. The direction highlights the need for more information regarding the technologies that could be utilised in the county. Outcome: More information is needed.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	X - There is no connection between renewable energy and the reduction in travel.	N/A

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	X - There is no connection between renewable energy and the promotion of sustainable transport patterns.	N/A
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - There is no connection between healthcare provision and renewable energy.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	X - There is no connection between quality of facilities and renewable sources.	N/A
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The policy direction seeks to include the reduction of energy use via design and targets for use of renewables in new developments. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Targets should be indicated within the final policy. Any potential design code SPD should stipulate developer requirements. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Policy direction seeks to include targets for renewable energy and technologies to be investigated. These could include energy from waste. However, at this stage technologies to be utilised in the county are currently unknown. Outcome: Unknown.	N/A

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Renewable energy generation could have a negative impact upon landscape, for example wind farms, biocrops. However, the policy direction seeks to include areas where technologies could be possible. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Renewable energy and local distinctiveness policies include criteria to safeguard landscape quality. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Information on types of renewables appropriate for the county is unknown at this stage. However, renewables sources of energy are likely to be beneficial to the climate change agenda. Outcome: Potentially moving marginally towards sustainability.	A complete evidence base on renewable energy possibilities for the county would be ideal. Set targets, highlight locations and technologies proven to be appropriate, within policy. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, of which 14 are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Renewable technologies could impact negatively upon the historic character of a place. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Renewable energy and local distinctiveness policies include criteria to safeguard historical environment. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Renewable technologies could impact negatively upon landscape quality and the historic character of a place, for example, wind farms.	
Neutral			None.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			Targets for renewable energy sources and design criteria for new developments could also contribute positively to the climate change agenda.	
More information needed			A lack of information is available on the types of renewables appropriate for the county.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			The final policy should set targets for and design energy saving technologies into new developments. In addition, any potential design code SPD should highlight requirements which will be important for climate change and energy security. Consideration needs to be given to potential trade offs between allowing renewable energy schemes which may not satisfy other sustainability objectives. A complete evidence base on renewable energy feasibility in the county would be ideal to support any argument. This information could then be used to guide appropriate targets, locations and technologies proven to be appropriate in the county.	
<b>Conclusions</b>			Overall the renewable energy policy direction, without mitigation and enhancement is neutral.	Following mitigation the policy direction is likely to move marginally towards sustainability.

**Water Resources Policy Direction**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The policy is aiming to obtain new infrastructure prior to development commencing assisting in the provision of flexible employment land. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The policy wording needs to be strengthened to "require" rather than "encourage" new infrastructure to be put in place prior to commencement of development. This will ensure that sites are deliverable and serviceable. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The policy seeks to encourage new development to include water saving measures, infrastructure planning, and retro fitting. The local distinctiveness/design policy also reiterates the need to incorporate water saving measures within the design of new developments. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The policy wording needs to be strengthened to "require" rather than "encourage" new infrastructure to be put in place prior to commencement of development. This will ensure that sites are deliverable and serviceable. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43% to 35%. BVP102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	X - There is no connection between the reduction in the need to travel and water resources.	N/A

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	X - Congestion and promotion of sustainable transport is not related to water resources.	N/A
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - Healthcare provision is not connected with water resources.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	There is a loose link between the quality of facilities and water resources since the policy is aiming to incorporate water saving and efficiency measures into the design of developments which could positively contribute to the built environment. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The final policy needs to be reworded so that the policy will "require" water saving and efficiency measures and new infrastructure provision prior to the commencement of development rather than "encourage". Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Good quality houses through the code for sustainability should incorporate water saving measures. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Strengthen policy wording to "require" developers to incorporate the highest standards for water savings measures. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	The processes involved in the recycling of material could involve a large volume use of water. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design in processes to reduce water consumption from businesses of moderate to high water users. Greywater technology. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and specie loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	The policy aims are likely to reduce water usage. Flow and levels as well as quality of the water environment are important to support the natural environment, particularly that of rivers, therefore the policy direction is likely to have a positive effect. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Strengthen policy wording to "require" developers to incorporate high standards for water saving measures rather than "encourage". Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	X - Water resource is not directly connected with contributions to climate change. The policy is a response to climate change rather than reducing its impacts.	N/A
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The water resource policy has a minor link with the historic environment. If investigations prove that retro-fitting of water resource technology is feasible to achieve reductions these have the slight potential within historic places, such as conservation areas or on listed buildings, to adversely impact upon the quality of the environment. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	This policy direction needs to be linked to design and local distinctiveness policies to ensure that any "required" water saving and efficiency measures incorporated into developments that may adversely affect the historic environment are considered and where necessary not implemented in order to protect the heritage of the place. Outcome following mitigaion: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			The processes involved in recycling materials could involve large uses of water. Retro-fitting of water resource technology have the slight potential to adversely impact upon historic places such as conservation areas and listed buildings.	
Neutral			None.	

Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	New infrastructure commenced prior to development will assist in providing flexible employment land. Water saving measures, infrastructure planning, and retro fitting incorporated into existing development is likely to be beneficial. The quality of facilities and housing through the code for sustainable homes, could positively contribute to the built environment by incorporating water saving and efficiency measures into the design of developments. The policy aims are likely to reduce water usage and since flow and levels as well as quality of the water environment are important to support the natural environment, particularly that of rivers, the policy direction is likely to have a positive effect.	
More information needed	None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	The policy wording needs to be strengthened to "require" rather than "encourage" new infrastructure to be put in place prior to commencement of development. This will ensure that sites are deliverable and serviceable. Architects and designers need to be encouraged and where practical required to design in low use water processes and appliances to assist in reducing water consumption from businesses and homes.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the water resources policy direction, without mitigation and enhancement incorporated, is moving towards sustainability.	Following mitigation the policy direction is likely to remain moving towards sustainability.

## Local Distinctiveness Policy Direction

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The policy aims to improve the local distinctiveness of the county and create a sense of place in new developments. This will lead to attractive environments and pleasant places to work. However, the policy may at times prevent or restrict development which is allocated or proposed for employment land. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design criteria policies in the Core Strategy and other plans should ensure that new developments are designed to a high standard, have consideration to scale, massing and orientation of development to reduce the impact that they may cause to local distinctiveness. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	The policy aims to improve the local distinctiveness of the county and create a sense of place in new developments. This will lead to attractive environments and pleasant places to work. However, the policy may at times prevent or restrict development which is allocated or proposed for employment land. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Design criteria policies in the Core Strategy and other plans should ensure that business locations consider design, scale, massing and orientation of development to reduce the impact that they may cause to local distinctiveness. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
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	4.1 ....reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	X - There is no connection between the need to travel and local distinctiveness.	N/A

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	X - There is no connection between the promotion of sustainable modes of travel and local distinctiveness.	N/A
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - There is no connection between healthcare provision and local distinctiveness.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The local distinctiveness policy is aiming to improve the quality of place and depending on the location may assist in maintaining and increasing quality facilities. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policies need to ensure that developers will consider local distinctiveness when designing new facilities. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Housing developments have the potential to be developed in such a way that local distinctiveness is not harmed but utilised and reflected in new developments. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plan policies and any future design code SPD need to ensure that housing developments consider design and integrate well with the local distinctiveness of the place where the development is taking effect. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Local distinctiveness policies will aim to ensure that any waste facilities or other proposals do not adversely impact the character of the area in which the proposal is to be located. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	New waste facilities will need to consider within the design and access aspects of the development the impacts of the development on local distinctiveness. The outcome will be dependant on the implementation of the policies. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	The local distinctiveness policy is aiming to improve the quality of place and is therefore likely to ensure that landscapes are valued, enhanced and protected. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Plan policies need to ensure that developers will consider local distinctiveness when valuing, enhancing and or protecting landscape quality. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	There are aspects of the local distinctiveness policy which will be aiming to contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change. For example, the creation of walkways and cycle routes which will encourage more people out of their cars reducing air pollution, and the plantation of hedges and trees which will also assist in cleaning the atmosphere. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Plan policies need to ensure that developers will consider local distinctiveness when tackling climate change. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The local distinctiveness policy is aiming to improve the quality of place and is therefore likely to ensure that historic heritage and culture are preserved, valued, enhanced and protected. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Plan policies need to ensure that developers will consider local distinctiveness when valuing, enhancing and or protecting historic heritage. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			The local distinctiveness policy may prevent or restrict development which is allocated or proposed for employment land or increasing business opportunity.	
Neutral			None.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			The policy on local distinctiveness will guide other plans and policies which should ensure that new developments are designed to a high standard, that have consideration for scale, massing and orientation of development which will aim to reduce the impact development has on local distinctiveness.	
More information needed			None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			The plan needs to be considered as a whole and policies in the Core Strategy and other plans and possible design code SPD should ensure that new developments, whether for housing, business, waste facilities etc, are designed to a high standard, having consideration to scale, massing and orientation of development to reduce the impact that they may cause to local distinctiveness. Therefore, ensuring that developers value, enhance and or protect landscape and historic heritage quality and address climate change through the use of this policy, maximising the potential sustainability benefit.	
<b>Conclusions</b>			The local distinctiveness policy direction, prior to mitigation and enhancement, is moving towards sustainability.	
			It is possible to move marginally to significantly towards sustainability by 2026 with mitigation and enhancement measures in place.	

**Health Policy Direction**

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no connection between health requirements in infrastructure delivery and the provision of flexible employment land.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - There is no connection between health requirements in infrastructure delivery and the provision and availability of new business opportunity.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	X - There is no connection between reducing the need to travel and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	X - There is no connection between promoting sustainable transport patterns and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	The policy is aiming to provide developer contributions through the provision of Section 106 agreements and or utilise the community infrastructure levy which will assist in providing for healthcare provision. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that the delivery of healthcare is recognised as infrastructure requirements as well as water etc, to ensure that developments contribute appropriately. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The policy is aiming to provide developer contributions through the provision of Section 106 agreements and or utilise the community infrastructure levy which will assist in providing for open space which should assist in gaining a healthier population. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that the delivery of high quality open space is brought forward. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	X - There is no connection between good quality housing and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	X - There is no connection between waste and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	X - There is no connection between the natural environment and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The policy option is looking to deliver Section 106 agreements which have the potential to contribute positively to the climate change agenda which is likely to benefit health aspects of the population. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Section 106 agreements need to ensure that they are optimised to gain the maximum health benefit from development. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	X - There is no connection between historic heritiage and health requirements in infrastructure delivery.	N/A
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			None.	
Neutral			None.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			The policy is aiming to provide developer contributions through the provision of Section 106 agreements and utilise the community infrastructure levy which will assist in providing for healthcare provision, assist in providing for open space which should assist in gaining a healthier population, have the potential to contribute positively to the climate change agenda which is likely to benefit health aspects of the population.	
More information needed			None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			It will be important to ensure that the delivery of healthcare is recognised as infrastructure in the same way as other utilises are such as water, this will ensure that developments contribute appropriately to any healthcare requirements. The delivery of high quality open space will be important to bring forward to benefit the populations health and well being. And in relation to this the Section 106 agreements need to ensure that they are optimised to gain the maximum health benefit from development.	
<b>Conclusions</b>			The health policy direction, prior to mitigation and enhancement, is moving towards sustainability. Following mitigation and enhancement measures, the health policy is likely to significantly improve.	

**Movement in Herefordshire Policy Direction**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The movement policy is aiming to promote, protect and encourage walking and cycling routes as well as promote opportunities for freight and rail movements which is likely to assist in the delivery of employment land. However, in more rural locations the private car may still be relied upon to access employment. The policy also highlights the need for travel plans for the urban extensions. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes and connected to the existing network by creating new routes creating greater permeability, particularly to existing employment areas. Movement in rural locations should also be well connected with its nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Marginally linked to facilitating a site, in that the policy will assist in creating or maintaining access to business opportunities or allowing growth whilst the sustainable modes of movement will assist in reducing the consumption of natural resources. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that the policy wording for movement is linked with the employment policy to facilitate business opportunities on appropriate sites close to the movement network to reduce the use of natural resources. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The movement policy is aiming to reduce the need to travel by promoting walking, cycling and public transport opportunities. Although it is accepted that in rural locations reliance on the private car is still likely. The promotion of sustainable modes of travel should help to improve Air Quality Management Areas in the county and consequently improve health. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes and connection to the existing network and between new developments and existing places and spaces by creating new routes creating greater permeability. Movement in rural locations should also be well connected with its nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	The movement policy is aiming to reduce the need to travel by promoting walking, cycling and public transport opportunities. Although it is accepted that in rural locations reliance on the private car is still likely. The promotion of sustainable modes of travel should help to improve AQMAs in the county and consequently improve health. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes and connection to the existing network by creating new routes creating greater permeability. Movement in rural locations should also be well connected with its nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of Herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	The policy is aiming to provide sustainable modes of travel that will link with access to healthcare provisions depending on their locations. The policy seeks to increase the opportunities to be able to walk and cycle to facilities and services which will have a positive effect on peoples health. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes and urban extensions and larger sites should be well connected to local facilities and the existing network for greater permeability. Easy access for the emergency services to people and facilities is also needed within master plans and development briefs. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The policy is aiming to provide sustainable modes of travel that will link with access to quality community activity however is dependant on their locations. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes and urban extensions and larger sites should be well connected to existing services and local facilities, such as schools, for greater permeability. In addition, consider the location of community activities to ensure that these can be accessed easily by walking, cycling and from public transport. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The policy aim of promoting more sustainable modes of travel from all new developments to the existing built environment could allow people to relocate to new urban extensions without need for a car. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Strengthen policy to include reference to linkages to existing urban areas and facilities. In addition, consider the location of housing to ensure that these can be accessed easily by walking, cycling and from public transport. Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	X - There is no connection between reducing recycling etc, of waste and access to sustainable modes of travel.	N/A
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	There is a positive indirect link between the carbon reduction expected from increasing sustainable modes of travel and the protection of the natural environment. The policy seeks to encourage the addition of green infrastructure which could be used as walking and cycling routes. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that the policy on green infrastructure and movement are considered together. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The policy is aiming to provide sustainable modes of travel that will assist in reducing contributions to climate change, however is dependant on the location of development. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should be strengthened to "require" walking and cycling routes. Connections with other appropriate policies should be considered. Climate change criteria should be an integral part of all policies, where necessary. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The reduction of traffic will assist in protecting the built heritage of places in the county, including making conservation areas more pleasant and attractive to live and work in. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should "require" walking and cycling routes and connections to existing routes and built areas for greater permeability. Movement in rural locations should also be well connected with its nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.

<b>Recommendations</b>	
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability	None.
Neutral	None.
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	The plan needs to be considered as a whole. The movement policy will need to ensure that its aim to promote, protect and encourage walking and cycling routes and promotion of freight and rail movements is fulfilled through development proposals. This policy will ensure the delivery of employment land, assist in creating and maintaining access to business opportunities, ease congestion, provide sustainable modes of travel that link to healthcare provisions, quality community activities, including schools and good quality housing depending on their locations. In addition, the policy should strive to protect the natural environment through the reductions in air pollution expected from the use of sustainable modes of travel which is also beneficial in relation to carbon reductions that will contribute to climate change improvements. The reductions in traffic will also assist in protecting the ambience of historic places in the county, including conservation areas. The movement policy is aiming to reduce the need to travel although it is accepted that in rural locations reliance on the private car is still likely.
More information needed	None.
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	The policy has been assessed as moving towards sustainability, however, in order to gain the full positive effect of the policy its wording should be strengthened to "require" rather than "promote" walking and cycling routes, and also ensure that conditions of planning permissions "require" travel plans for urban extensions and larger sites which should be well connected to the existing network by creating new routes with greater permeability. Joint working with council and public transport providers will be essential to ensure the aim of the policy also allows rural areas to be well connected with their nearest service centre by sustainable modes of travel. The location of development will also be important to ensure that these can be accessed easily by the emergency services, which can be dealt with through master planning and development briefs.
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the movement in Herefordshire policy direction, without mitigation and enhancement is moving towards sustainability. Following mitigation and enhancement this policy direction is likely to remain a sustainable policy direction.

**Minerals Policy Direction**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependent on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no connection between the provision of flexible employment land and mineral requirements.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - There is connection between business opportunity and mineral requirements.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVP1102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	There is a limited connection between minerals and the need to travel. Depending on the location of mineral extractions there is the potential that new developments that require the minerals are located close to the natural source reducing the distance to which the materials need to travel. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability depending on location of development in relation to mineral sites.	More information is needed on the location of development in relation to available minerals. However, if local materials are used for development the distance to which these needs to travel is likely to be reduced. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	There is a limited connection between minerals and sustainable transport patterns. The delivery of minerals to suppliers could utilise the railway network more extensively than it currently does. Depending on the location of mineral extractions to the rail network. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	More information is needed from network rail on capacity and feasibility issues. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - There is no connection between healthcare provision and minerals.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	X - There is no connection between quality facility provision and minerals.	N/A
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	X - There is no connection between good quality housing and minerals.	N/A
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	The option is seeking to obtain secondary and recycled policies which could assist in obtaining facilities which reduce waste from minerals. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	No mitigation and enhancement is necessary since the Core Strategy policies already set out that the construction industry need to be encouraged or required to consider secondary and recycled aggregate prior to primary aggregate to ensure that waste is reduced and recycled wherever possible. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Mineral extraction may be located within areas of landscape quality and as such is adversely impact upon these assets. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	No mitigation and enhancement is necessary since the Core Strategy policies already set out that a proven need is required prior to extraction. Following which, a restoration package to return the site to ecological benefit and to a higher landscape quality than previous to extraction, would be desirable to enhance biodiversity. Although the loss of the geodiversity in part is acknowledged. Outcome: Moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experiental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The transport element of mineral extraction is likely to lead to increases in traffic movement and air pollution and therefore contribute to climate change. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The potential to move minerals by rail freight should be maximised wherever possible. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The potential is that in excavating materials archaeological remains may be found and likewise the settings of listed buildings and conservation areas may also be negatively impacted upon. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Core Strategy and other plan policies and site consideration should be read as a whole and thereby should reduce these impacts. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Mineral extraction is likely to be located within areas of landscape quality, transportation of material is likely to increase air pollution and traffic, archaeological remains may be found in excavation areas and the settings of listed buildings and conservation areas may also be negatively impacted upon.	
Neutral			None.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			Location of new development provides the opportunity for mineral extractions to be located close to the natural resource reducing the distance materials need to travel. Sustainable patterns of development could utilise the existing railway network to deliver materials to suppliers and development. The option is seeking to obtain secondary and recycled material policies which could assist in obtaining facilities which reduce waste from minerals.	
More information needed			More information is needed on the location of development in relation to available minerals. In relation to this, more information is needed from network rail on capacity and feasibility issues.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			The plan as a whole should be considered since the policies are likely to mitigate some the impacts highlighted. Their implementation will be important to achieve the outcomes following mitigation. Some of these areas include the use of secondary and recycled aggregate prior to primary aggregate and the restoration of mineral sites for ecological and landscape benefit. Where primary aggregate is required developments should utilise materials which are located close to the site wherever possible to reduce the distance materials need to travel, in addition, rail freight should be maximised. Policies and site considerations need to be given to archaeological remains, listed buildings settings and conservation areas to ensure that mineral extraction does not adversely affect these places.	

<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the policy direction on minerals is neutral.	The minerals policy is likely to become marginally moving towards sustainability by the end of the plan period.
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**Employment Land Provision Policy Direction**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Appraisal Questions</b> - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	<b>Key baseline info and target</b> (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	<b>Explanation of Assessment</b> (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	<b>Enhancement and mitigation</b> negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	The policy aims to provide flexible locations on the edge of Hereford and the Market Towns which is inherently close to the work force. Significantly moving towards sustainability	Ensure policy translates the aims and that the significance is monitored to ensure aims are being meet. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites (AMR 2007/2008). In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	Appropriate sites are identified to provide for new business opportunities. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The plan should be read as a whole and as such it is important to ensure links to policies on natural resources, such as water resouces and energy use are made. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The policy aims to locate development close to the workforce and to sustainable modes of travel, however, the plan can not control who works in individual businesses and peoples' behavioural change is unknown. Outcome: Neutral.	Site specific plans and proposals need to address travel to work plans for new businesses. Design of businesses, car parking standards and encourage more walking and cycling. Bus links and rail links should also be improved where possible. Links to the movement policy will ensure this occurs, the plan needs to be viewed as a whole. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	The policy allows for creating development in the main urban areas which although some places suffer from congestion the opportunity exists to promote more sustainable methods of transport. Outcome: Neutral.	The movement policy highlights that implementation is important to ensure that new business promotes reductions in travel to assist in reducing congestion and as such the plan does need to be considered as a whole. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - Healthcare provision is not connected with economic development.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	X - Quality of facilities is not connected with economic development.	N/A

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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	X - Housing provision is not connected to economic development	N/A
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Employment provision is likely to increase waste. However, business types are unknown and therefore the types of wastes to be dealt with from business are unknown. Also businesses could utilise recycled materials benefiting the waste hierarchy. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Plans and policies need to address waste issues through a separate waste policy. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and specie loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Hereford and Ledbury Place Shaping Options provide for strategic employment land and it is expected that the later Hereford and Market Towns and Rural Areas DPDs are likely to have smaller non strategic employment sites which could all adversely impact upon landscape quality, dependant on their location. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan does need to be read as a whole since the local distinctiveness policy will ensure that business locations are designed and incorporated appropriately into the landscape. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Employment provision is likely to increase commercial and industrial sectors that are likely to contribute to climate change. However, business types are unknown and therefore the types of emissions are unknown. Businesses could be green in their goods, however the production line is still likely to use energy and contribute to climate change. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan does need to be considered as a whole and design policies will be important to consider. Encouraging greener companies to the county could assist in reducing contributions to climate change. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The Place Shaping Options for Hereford and the market towns are providing for employment land in other plans, which could adversely impact upon the historic built environment quality. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	The plan does need to be considered as a whole and the policy needs to be linked with local distinctiveness policy to ensure that business locations are designed and incorporated appropriately into the historic environment. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				

Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability	Economic development is likely to create employment and business opportunities which increase waste, types of which may be unknown, but some of which are considered as a resource for creating new products from recycled material. Landscape and historic quality is also a concern with the strategic employment land sites and is likely to be a concern within detailed plan allocations too. In addition, climate change contributions from emissions and energy use from commercial and industrial sectors are also a concern.
Neutral	The success of the policy is dependant on not just the policy locating development and the workforce close to sustainable modes of travel but also peoples' behavioural change. Congestion may also be more easily addressed through locating development in urban areas which are likely to be close to services and facilities to maximise the uptake of the use of sustainable modes of travel.
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	Flexible locations and appropriate sites on the edge of Hereford and the market towns will enable a workforce to be close to new business opportunities.
More information needed	None.
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	Ensure that the policy direction aims are translated into the policy wording and monitor the aims to ensure they are being met. Ensure it is clear that all the relevant policy areas of the Core Strategy need to be considered together, these include waste, local distinctiveness (to include landscape and historic heritage) and natural resources, for example, water resources and energy use. Other plans have the opportunity to address new business travel to work plans which encourage walking and cycling and also consider the design of businesses and their car parking standards. Bus links and rail links should also be improved where possible, all of which will assist in reducing congestion and air pollution. The policy could also be utilised to control the type of business in the county, for example attracting greener companies.
<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the employment land provision policy direction, without mitigation and enhancement incorporated, is marginally moving away from sustainability. Following mitigation the policy direction is likely to result in a marginal move towards sustainability.

## Education and Skills Policy Direction

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no connection between providing flexible employment land and education.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - There is no connection between facilitating appropriate sites and properties for business and education.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Improved higher education offer in Hereford is likely to attract people from across the county and potentially elsewhere increasing travel however, other smaller facilities offered throughout the county may assist in reducing this impact. Outcome: Neutral.	Mitigation and enhancement are not necessary since the policy area on movement in Herefordshire will assist in creating better access. And therefore in combination the outcome following mitigation is likely to be: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	An increase in people attracted to Hereford for the proposed education facility may increase congestion. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Mitigation and enhancement are not necessary since the policy area on movement in Herefordshire will assist in creating better access and improved sustainable modes of travel. Therefore, in combination the outcome following mitigation is likely to be: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - The education policy has no connection with healthcare provision.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The policy on education and skills is aiming to improve access to quality facilities in Hereford and across the county. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Encourage the facilities to consider a set percentage of places on offer to be reserved for those people with a local connection. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	X - There is no connection between quality housing and education.	N/A
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	Any new development is likely to create waste. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Require new developments to have site waste management plans. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	X - There is no connection between facilitating education offer and the natural environment.	N/A
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	New development is likely to consume energy increasing contributions to climate change. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Encourage developments to move towards carbon neutrality. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The location of development could impact negatively on the historic environment however, for example, the existing Edgar Street Area would benefit from upgrading in built quality. Outcome: Neutral.	The design, layout and orientation of buildings will be important to ensure development fits in with the historic core of places. This is covered by other policies, such as the local distinctiveness policy and as such these should be linked to development to ensure mitigation and enhancement is achieved. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Congestion, waste and energy use is likely to increase with additional people attracted to the county for educational gain.	
Neutral			Although increases may result in more congestion the policy is also aiming to offer other smaller facilities throughout the county which may assist in reducing this impact. Depending on the location of development negative impacts on the historic environment may result, however, new development may improve areas currently in need of regeneration, for example, the Edgar Street Area.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			The quality of facilities is likely to be improved with this policy on education and skills.	
More information needed			None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			This policy area on education and skills should be considered in connection with the policy area on movement in Herefordshire as this will assist in creating better access to facilities and improve sustainable modes of travel. Required site waste management plans at all education facilities could assist in the recycling and reducing waste. Encouraging carbon neutral development would also help in moving towards sustainability. The design, layout and orientation of buildings will also be important to ensure development fits in with the historic core of places.	
<b>Conclusions</b>			Overall the education and skills policy direction, without mitigation and enhancement is likely to be neutral.	Following mitigation and enhancement this policy direction is likely to become sustainable.

**Density Policy Direction**

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - Provision of employment land is not connected with density.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - Provision of sites and properties for new business opportunity is not connected with density.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	Indirectly density could affect journey's taken. High density development in urban areas has the ability to be combined with public transport and walking and cycling routes, thereby reducing the need to travel. Outcome: Neutral.	Set density targets dependant on location in other plans and make it clear that reducing the need to travel from development will be made through policy wording with higher densities to reduce the need to travel and through design. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	Indirectly density could affect journey's taken. High density development in urban areas has the ability to be combined with public transport and walking and cycling routes, thereby reducing the need to travel. Outcome: Neutral.	Core Strategy and other plan policy wording needs to ensure that density targets are set dependant on location and reduce the need to travel from development, higher densities and design measures should also be included to reduce the need to travel in urban areas. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - There is no connection between density and the provision of health services.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities.	X - There is no connection between density and the quality of facilities.	N/A
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Incomplete evidence base, percentages are therefore unknown. PPS3 sets a minimum of 30 houses per hectare. The policy direction on density is to emphasize the efficient use of land. Density may assist in aspirations and affordability since higher densities may result in cheaper properties. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Further evidence base will assist in identifying local need in different locations. Outcome: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	X - Density of development is not connected with promoting the reduction, reuse, recycling of waste.	N/A

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Density could affect landscape character. The efficient use of land, in accordance with the locations character are written into the policy direction. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Policy wording should reflect efficient use of land. Complete the evidence base so that the characterisation studies can be taken into account in final Core Strategy document and other plans. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experiental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Indirectly density could affect journey's taken. The higher the density, dependant on location, may result in fewer journey's in urban areas or more journey's in more rural areas which could reduce congestion and air pollution or increase it respectively. Efficient use of land may reduce the need to build in flood plans. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Core Strategy and other plan policy wording should set density targets dependant on location, reducing the need to travel by ensuring that development is at higher density's and is of good design. Therefore other policy areas need to be considered in conjunction with this policy area to ensure that the plan is viewed as a whole. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	The density policy direction is aiming to be in accordance with the character of the area. Higher densities could either adversely impact the locality or improve it dependant on the place. Outcome: Unknown, with the potential to be neutral.	Ensure other plan policy wording reflects the amount and the need for appropriate densities to enhance the character of a particular place. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			None.	
Neutral			Indirectly density could affect journey's taken. High density development in urban areas has the ability to be combined with public transport and walking and cycling routes, thereby reducing the need to travel. These increases in the need to travel could increase congestion too.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			PPS3 sets a minimum of 30 houses per hectare. The policy direction on density is aiming to ensure the efficient use of land. Density may assist in aspirations and affordability since higher densities may result in cheaper properties. However, the Core Strategy and other plan policies need to be clear that efficient use of land does not necessarily mean a high density and acknowledgement that high affordability targets may result in developers requiring higher densities to achieve profit margins. Efficient use of land should be determined on a site by site basis since a number of factors need to be considered, such as the character of place, landscape quality, materials used which could impact upon flooding issues.	
More information needed			None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			The Core Strategy and other plan policies need to ensure that density targets are set dependant on location reducing the need to travel. Design policies need to be considered to ensure that higher densities in urban areas are well thought through. Further evidence base on affordable housing will assist in identifying local need in different locations which should be used to guide density requirements. Policy wording should concentrate on making clear what the efficient use of land means, it does not necessarily mean high density but a more balanced approach to housing need should consider social and environmental outcomes. Open space and recreation will be important too. A completed evidence base on the characterisation of each place should also be taken into account to ensure that impacts on landscape quality and historic heritage are avoided.	

<b>Conclusions</b>	Overall the density policy direction, without mitigation or enhancement, is moving towards sustainability.	Following mitigation and enhancement this policy is likely to remain sustainable.
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**Affordable Housing Policy Direction**

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - There is no connection between employment land provision and affordable housing	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X - There is no connection between facilitating appropriate sites and properties for new business and affordable housing.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	X - There is no connection between affordable housing and reducing the need to travel	N/A

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	X - There is no connection between sustainable patterns of movement including congestion and affordable housing.	N/A
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - There is no connection between healthcare provision and affordable housing	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	X - There is no connection between community facilities and affordable housing.	N/A
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	Percentage: Reducing the target may increase the willingness of developers to develop a housing site and provide affordable units. Maintaining the status quo will not improve the current situation, however, the current UDP policy is achieving its target. By increasing targets there is a higher probability that a greater number of affordable units will be provided. Percentage outcome: Option 1 25% - moving away from sustainability; Option 2 status quo 35% - neutral; Option 3 40% would be marginally moving towards sustainability. Thresholds: Option 1 - The urban area threshold of 15 dwellings maintain the current status quo without losing the opportunity to develop brownfield sites. Therefore, would be moving towards sustainability. Option 2 - Reducing the threshold from 6 dwellings currently in the UDP to 3 or Option 3 - to 0 dwellings would bring forward investment for affordable units in places of need either on site or off, contributing to the need in rural areas which is currently lost with a higher threshold. Threshold outcome: Option 1 - 15 dwellings - marginally moving towards sustainability,	Policies in other plans need to reflect the percentage and threshold of affordable housing in relation to each place to be locally distinctive providing need where it is demonstrated. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability for percentage and possibly moving significantly towards sustainability for thresholds.

			Option 2 - Reducing to 3 dwellings marginally moving towards sustainability, Option 3 - 0 threshold - significantly moving towards sustainability.	
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	X - There is no connection between waste and affordable housing.	N/A
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	X - There is no connection between the natural environment and affordable housing.	N/A
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimental study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commercial, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	Affordable housing built by Housing Associations are often at a high standard of energy efficiency (often higher than open market housing) therefore assist in reducing contributions to climate change. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Ensure that policies in the Core Strategy and other plans require affordable units to be built to the highest possible standards of the code for sustainable homes. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	X - There is no connection between the historic environment and affordable housing.	N/A
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Affordability and thresholds do pose issues for developers. Maintaining 35% will not improve the current lack of affordable units and 25% would move away from the sustainability objective to increase access to good quality housing, which includes affordability and tenure etc.	
Neutral			None.	

Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability	More information from the local housing market survey is necessary, however the target for affordable housing at 40% is considered to be the best at this stage. In urban areas the threshold of 15 dwellings will maintain the status quo without losing the opportunity to develop brownfield sites. A lower threshold is likely to bring forward investment for affordable units, particularly assisting in rural areas which currently lose affordable housing units due to a higher threshold. Again although more information is needed it is considered that the rural areas would be best having a threshold of 0 which would ensure affordable units were provided in rural areas.	
More information needed	None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>	Place specific affordable housing percentages and thresholds are likely to be the best way of dealing with the variety of need around the county, making this particular policy locally distinctive. This will also ensure that housing is providing where there is a demonstrated need. Ensure that policies in the Core Strategy and other plans require affordable units to be built to the highest possible standards of the code for sustainable homes which will assist in reducing the housing contribution to climate change.	
<b>Conclusions</b>	Percentage of affordable housing Option 1 - 25%	This option is unable to be mitigated since the recommendation would be to set the percentage higher, which is represented by another option. Therefore the option is likely to be moving away from sustainability.
	Percentage of affordable housing Option 2 - 35%	This option is unable to be mitigated since the recommendation would be to set the percentage higher, which is represented by another option. Therefore this status quo option is likely to be neutral.
	Percentage of affordable housing Option 3 - 40%	This option is likely to be the preferred percentage to optimise the affordability outcomes from new development and as such this policy direction option is marginally moving towards sustainability.
	Threshold for affordable housing in urban areas Option 1 - 15 dwellings	This option for the urban areas is likely to be the preferred threshold to optimise the affordability outcomes from new development and as such this policy direction option is marginally moving towards sustainability.
	Threshold for affordable housing in rural areas Option 2 - 3 dwellings	This option is unable to be mitigated since the recommendation would be to set the threshold lower, which is represented by another option. Therefore the option is likely to be neutral.
	Threshold for affordable housing in rural areas Option 3 - 0 dwellings	This option for the rural areas is likely to be the preferred threshold to optimise the affordability outcomes from new development and as such this policy direction option is likely to move towards sustainability.
<b>SA outcome</b>	The best option from the SA outcome is option 3 to target the percentage of affordable housing at 40% and option 1 and 3 on thresholds to set 15 dwellings in urban areas and 0 dwellings in rural areas respectively. 0 dwellings in rural areas would mean that every scheme would contribute to funding of affordable units which can be invested in the areas of most need.	
	Following mitigation and enhancement this policy direction is likely to be significantly moving towards sustainability.	

**Gypsy and Travellers Policy Direction**

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions - will the Strategic Option, Place Shaping Option or Policy Option....	Key baseline info and target (where applicable) Note the desired direction of change - consider whether the strategic option, place shaping or policy option achieve this?	Explanation of Assessment (including consideration to secondary, cumulative, synergistic and direct effects, dependant on implementation - what is needed to ensure the desired effect?)	Enhancement and mitigation negative effects - can these be mitigated; positive/neutral effects - can these be enhanced; unclear effects - what further information is needed to clarify the effect; (If mitigation is not possible consider deletion or modifying the plan; if mitigation is possible, document any change, for example in wording; addition of new options including those based on combinations of the best aspects of existing options and identify issues to be considered in EIA of specific developments. If it can be enhanced - mitigate the plan option accordingly and document the change, if not, then record a no change in effect.
1. To support, maintain or enhance the provision of high quality, local or easily accessible employment opportunities	1.2 ...provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport?	Not currently monitored. A desired direction would be for increasing employment development within main centres or within easy reach of public transport routes.	X - Employment land is not connected to provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites.	N/A
3. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment	3.2 ...provide or facilitate availability of appropriate sites and properties for new business opportunities or growth whilst using natural resources efficiently?	Employment land developed by type - only currently monitored in terms of on previously developed land. Here between 2004 and 2006 AMR reporting periods there was a significant fall from 55% to 16.5%, probably as a result of new greenfield employment land completed at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. It would be reasonable to consider a desired direction of change towards more employment land being developed on brownfield sites and also within sustainable transport routes. In addition the availability of land for employment use stands at 170.8ha over 113 sites. In terms of targets there is a requirement to supply 100ha over the plan period between 1996-2011, as at 2008, 90ha has been supplied. The desired direction is to continue this supply trend.	X -Appropriate sites and properties for business opportunity are not connected to provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites.	N/A
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	4.1 ...reduce the need to travel?	The local transport plan 2 aims to reduce car use from 43 to 35%. BVPI102 public transport patronage (annual bus passenger journey's) baseline 03/04 3947, 07/08 3355 which is not on track. The target is for 4052 passengers by 10/11. HLI2 rail patronage (average daily passenger journeys) baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 134 which is exceeding target, target 10/11 115. HLI3 number of walking trips, baseline 03/04 100, 07/08 122.4 which is exceeding the target, target 10/11 110. The desired direction of change would be to maintain the rail and walking achievements whilst increasing volumes travelled by bus.	The policy wording is seeking flexible locations for Gypsies and Travellers, however they are often self-employed and prefer and require site locations closer to their work and families. (Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment evidence base). Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The policy wording should consider the allocation of sites and this will need to transpire into the Core Strategy and other plan policies, which are well located to facilities and services. Outcome following mitigation: The policy is likely to remain sustainable.

	4.2 ...promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas suffering from congestion?	The council's corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to restrict annual growth to 1% and reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations to below 21ppb. The index of annual average daily traffic volumes in Hereford and on the principal road network for nitrogen dioxide concentrations are as follows. The baseline was established in 2001-2002 and is set at 100. A 1% increase on this would result in an index of 101. In 2004-2005 Hereford radial route was 102.1 an increase has been reported year on year whilst principal rural road network was 99.8 in 2004-2005 this has seen a decline since a peak in 2003-2004 of 102.6. A desired direction of change would be for the Hereford radial route to show a decline in concentrations and a continuation of the decline seen on the rural network.	The policy direction is seeking to associate Gypsy and Traveller sites close to sustainable transport routes. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The policy wording should consider the allocation of sites in other plans which are well located to sustainable modes of travel to access facilities and services. Outcome following mitigation: The policy is likely to remain sustainable.
5. Improve the health of the people of herefordshire, reduce disparities in health geographically and encourage healthy living for all	5.1 ...help to ensure there is adequate provision of healthcare services appropriate to local needs, which are accessible by sustainable modes of transport?	The percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services in 2005 as a baseline is as follows: doctors 79%, local hospital 57%, library 70%, sports/leisure centre 69%, cultural/recreational facility 55%. There is no specific target although the council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is seeking to increase the percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services. The desired direction of change would be the same as the LAA aim, to increase percentage of residents finding it easy to access key services.	X - healthcare provision is not connected with Gypsy and Traveller sites.	N/A
6. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all	6.1 ...maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities (including open space) in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport?	Percentage of population within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 sports facility types of which one has achieved a specified quality assured standard. There is no trend data however the baseline as at 2006 is 69% and the desired direction of change for the future would be for a greater number of the population being within 20 minutes of facilities	The policy direction criteria includes the required sites to have access to facilities and landscape amongst others. Outcome: Neutral.	The criteria based policy wording should ensure that play areas are included in access to facilities and landscaping on site areas. Outcome following mitigation: Marginally moving towards sustainability.
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	11.1 ...increase access to good quality housing meeting people's needs? E.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type?	Average property price against median weekly earnings. This needs to be established by using the indicators average house price and median weekly earnings. There is a key issue of affordability as weekly earnings in Herefordshire are much lower than in the region. The average house price in Oct-Dec 2005 was 185,489 whilst weekly earnings in 2005 were £351.20. The desired direction of change is to reduce these disparities.	The policy is aiming to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers and includes reference to emerging high standards of design etc. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Work with Gypsy and Travellers in design, site allocation areas in other plans. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
12. Reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal and minimise the use of non-reusable materials and encourage recycling	12.3 ...promote reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery from waste?	National targets are to boost recycling rates to at least 45% by 2015, recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010 (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets this target at 25%) and 33% by 2013 and restrict the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (local corporate plan 2006-2009 sets the reduction from 78% to 71%). The desired direction of change is to continue the trends seen over recent years, continue to increase recycling and composting and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	The policy direction is aiming to allocate sites through policy which will assist in managing and reducing waste. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	Ensure site allocations and design are incorporated into the waste and recycling facilities are available. Outcome following mitigation: The policy is likely to remain moving towards sustainability.

15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces	15.1 ...value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONBs, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?	Number of international, national and local designated sites in Herefordshire has remained steady. This does not however give details of their quality or habitat and species loss or gains in area and number due to development. A desired direction of change would be to monitor sites for their favourable condition and to improve these where ever possible and hence protecting sites from inappropriate development and valuing and enhancing them in doing so.	Sporadic development will impact adversely on the landscape quality. The policy direction includes reference to well designed developments, but there may still be instances where some landscape impacts may result. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Ensure that the Core Strategy policy wording includes design aspects which will assist in ensuring that sites are sensitively incorporated into the landscape. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	16.1 ...reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	The corporate plan 2006-2009 aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per head from baseline of 14.5 tonnes to 11.25 tonnes per year. The 2006 state of Herefordshire report states that in an experimntal study 9.5 tonnes per head was produced in the county and that sources are 28% industry and commerical, 30% domestic, 33% road transport and 9% land use change. The desired direction of change is to move towards improving the measurements of carbon dioxide to get a more accurate picture and to continue to reduce carbon emissions. Government targets have recently got tougher aiming for a 80% reduction by 2050.	The policy direction suggests that sites are unlikely to be located on flood risk areas, encourages the use of rain water harvesting techniques and energy saving technologies. Since they tend to live close to where they work travelling need is reduced. Outcome: Marginally moving towards sustainability.	The policy wording should ensure that appropriate sites are allocated closer to services and facilities which could assist in reducing the need to travel. Outcome following mitigation: Significantly moving towards sustainability.
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's historic environment and cultural heritage	20.1 ...preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings?	No specific targets. The desired direction of change is not to loss assets and where possible improve and enhance them. Thus the number of buildings on the at risk register identifies a total of 31, 14 of which are in a very bad condition, whilst there are 24 scheduled ancient monuments also at risk. The desired direction of change is for these figures to be reduced to safeguard heritage.	Type and location of development may adversely impact upon the historic character of a place. Outcome: Marginally moving away from sustainability.	Policy wording in the Core Strategy and other plans should consider the location of sites and design aspects. Outcome following mitigation: Neutral.
<b>Recommendations</b>				
Marginally to significantly moving away from sustainability			Due to the nature of the flexibility required for Gypsy and Traveller sites, any potential sporadic development may adversely impact on landscape quality and depending on design type and location of development the historic character of a place may also be negatively affected.	
Neutral			The policy direction criteria is seeking sites to have access to service provisions.	
Marginally to significantly moving towards sustainability			Gypsies and Travellers are often self-employed living close to where they work and the policy direction is seeking to locate sites close to sustainable routes and Rural Service Centres with facilities and services which will reduce their need to travel. Their housing need is being met through emerging evidence and policy also addresses high design standards of development sites. It also covers issues on managing waste production; siting away from flood prone areas and encourages sustainable technologies such as rainwater collection.	
More information needed			None.	
<b>Mitigation and enhancement</b>			Allocation of sites should be well located to facilities and services to reduce the need to travel. Sites to be located close to sustainable modes of travel. Ensure play areas are included in access to facilities and landscaping on site areas. Collaborative working with Gypsy and Travellers on site location and design aspects. Ensure waste issues are addressed and made available in the design of sites. Utilise sensitive design to lessen impacts on quality landscape and historic environments.	
<b>Conclusions</b>			Overall the Gypsy and Traveller policy direction, prior to mitigation and enhancement, is considered to move towards sustainability.	Following mitigation and enhancement measures the policy is likely to remain moving towards sustainability.



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