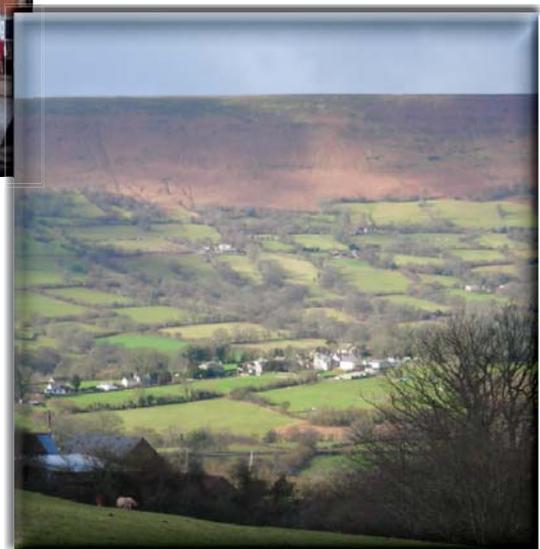


Shaping our Place 2026
Local Development Framework

Preferred Options: General Policies

August 2010



Contents

Section One – Introduction	1
Section Two - Policy Areas:	
2.0 Natural and Built Heritage Assets	4
3.0 Green Infrastructure	12
4.0 Movement	17
5.0 Waste	22
6.0 Minerals	31
7.0 Employment	38
8.0 Affordable Housing	44
9.0 Gypsy and Traveller Sites	48
10.0 Open Space, Sport and Recreation	52
11.0 Social and Community Infrastructure	57
Appendix 1 Map & table showing market value areas in Herefordshire	61
Section Three – Consultation Questions and Response Form	

SECTION ONE - INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has now analysed the results of the 'Place Shaping' consultation which took place in early 2010. In addition, emerging evidence based studies and reports have been taken into account to help develop the policy to this stage. This '**Draft General Core Strategy Policies Paper**' is a follow-on consultation from the 'Place Shaping Paper'. It is one of three papers that will be out for consultation at the same time during July and August 2010. The other two papers also out for consultation are the Preferred Options for the Market Towns Paper and the Rural Areas Policy Consultation Paper. The policies in all three papers will ultimately form part of the **Core Strategy**.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy is a long term strategic planning document, which sets out the vision and objectives for the county and establishes the policy framework and the broad locations for development necessary to deliver them. Once adopted in 2011, the Core Strategy will set the guidelines for development of new homes, businesses, open space and other facilities across the county to 2026. Following on from this there will be the drafting of the Hereford Area Plan, and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan which will provide more detailed planning policy and allocations for Hereford, the market towns and the wider rural area.
- 1.3 This Paper addresses the preferred policy wording to guide development in the county up to 2026, and is divided into sections, each covering specific policy areas as follows:
- 2.0 Natural and Built Heritage Assets:**
 - NH.1 - Landscape**
 - NH.2 - Biodiversity**
 - NH.3 - Built Environment and Streetscape**
 - NH.4 - Archaeology**
 - 3.0 GI.1 - Green Infrastructure**
 - 4.0 M.1 - Movement**
 - 5.0 Waste:**
 - W.1 - Waste Streams and Targets**
 - W.2 - Location of New Waste Facilities**
 - W.3 - Existing and Permitted Waste Treatment Sites**
 - W.4 - Anaerobic Digesters**
 - W.5 - Waste Minimisation and Management in New Developments**
 - 6.0 Minerals:**
 - MN.1 - Minerals Safeguarding Areas**
 - MN.2 - Criteria for the Assessment of Minerals Related Development**
 - MN.3 - Small Scale non-Aggregate Building Stone and Clay Production**
 - MN.4 - Secondary (Reused and Recycled Aggregates)**
 - MN.5 - Moreton-on-Lugg Railhead**
 - MN.6 - Apportionments**

- 7.0 Employment:**
 - E.1 - Maintaining Supply of Employment Land**
 - E.2 - Employment Land Provision**
- 8.0 AH.1 - Affordable Housing**
- 9.0 GT.1 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites**
- 10.0 Open Space, Sport and Recreation:**
 - OS.1 - Open Space**
 - OS.2 - Sport and Recreation Facilities**
 - OS.3 - Protection of existing sports and recreation facilities**
- 11.0 SC.1 - Social and Community Infrastructure**

1.4 Additional policies will be included at a later stage, as soon as the supporting evidence becomes available. These will include:

- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**
- **Management of Flood Risk**
- **Water Resources**
- **Sustainable Design**
- **Infrastructure Delivery**
- **Retail; and**
- **Economy**

1.5 In May 2010, Herefordshire Council appointed a specialist environmental consultancy to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the preferred options for its policies. This involved assessing the policy option against a range of sustainability objectives relating to the following topics:

1. Education and Employment;
2. Healthy and Prosperous Communities;
3. Transport and Access;
4. Built Environment;
5. Resource Consumption and Climate Change;
6. Natural Environment.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also undertaken for each of the preferred policies. A summary of the SA and HRA results for these can be found at the end of each section.

How to comment:

1.6 Your views are important to us to help further develop sound and robust planning policy for the county. Please complete the questions which are set out at the end of each policy section, for those areas for which you have a particular interest. The response form can be found in Section Three, at the end of this document.

Please complete and return your answers by **29th August 2010**

If you require more information, please contact us:

By email: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk

By phone: 01432 260386

By fax: 01432 383031

In writing:

Local Development Framework
Licence No. – RRJX-TLSH-SCYH
Freepost, Forward Planning
Herefordshire Council
PO Box 4
Plough Lane
Hereford HR4 0XH

Alternatively, information can be found online:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/corestrategy

SECTION TWO - POLICY AREAS

NATURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE ASSETS

Introduction

- 2.1 Herefordshire is distinctive in its range of environmental, social and economic features, and the interaction of people with those features takes many forms which influence the economic and social wellbeing of the County. One element of the Core Strategy Vision is that *“the area’s historic and environmental resource, including its natural beauty and quality of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, built environment and cultural heritage, will be protected and enhanced.”* Core Strategy policies are needed to realise that vision.
- 2.2 Herefordshire contains a wide variety of built and natural assets that contribute to the character of the County. These assets are not replaceable and any detrimental impact upon them can have significant cultural, environmental, economic and social costs. The following designated assets are present within Herefordshire.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Wye Valley and Malvern Hills.
 - 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Downton Gorge, River Clun, River Wye and Wye Valley Woodlands.
 - 64 Conservation Areas
 - 73 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
 - 5,918 Statutory Listed Buildings
 - Hereford Area of Archaeological Interest
 - 262 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)
 - Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- 2.3 These assets benefit from international or national designations which are protected through national planning policies and in some cases other legislation. This policy does not repeat these policies and developers will need to be aware that such policies will be considered as material planning considerations through the planning process.
- 2.4 The Habitats Directive¹ requires that development proposals likely to impact upon designated habitat sites are subject to an Appropriate Assessment. National guidance and legislation is provided on this matter. Where development will impact upon the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the relevant AONB Management Plan will also be relevant.
- 2.5 Alongside the above designations Herefordshire contains a number of non-statutory designated sites of importance to the distinctiveness of both their locality and the County as a whole.
- Local Wildlife Sites
 - Local Geological Sites

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

- Local Nature Reserves
- Regionally Important Geological Sites
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Special Wildlife Sites

2.6 As with international and national designations, locally important sites provide significant social, economic and environmental benefits. It is expected that planning applications, for both strategic and small-scale development, should demonstrate how specific local heritage and natural assets have informed and shaped the overall proposal.

Strategy for Preserving and Enhancing Natural and Heritage Assets

Policy NH.1 - Landscape
<p>The preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of valued landscapes will be ensured by requiring that development proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are directed to areas of lesser landscape sensitivity where practicable. All proposed development should incorporate mitigation and where possible, enhancement to ensure that any landscape impact is minimised especially within the Malvern Hills AONB and Wye Valley AONB; 2. in areas of identified need of restoration and enhancement, demonstrate a positive contribution to the immediate and wider landscape; 3. within or adjacent to settlements respect existing and historic settlement and environmental patterns; 4. protect features that positively contribute to the character and quality of the landscape are protected.

Policy NH.2 Biodiversity
<p>Where appropriate development proposals should preserve and improve sites of biological and geological interest. Development proposals that provide a positive contribution to Herefordshire's biodiversity and geodiversity will be encouraged. This will be achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protecting sites and habitats of international, national and local importance, such as those defined within the UK and Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plans; 2. development within identified buffer zones around Hereford and the Market Towns will only be granted planning permission where it can be clearly demonstrated that any adverse impact upon the designation can be mitigated;

Policy NH.3 Built Environment and Streetscape

The conservation of the built environment will be safeguarded through ensuring that development proposals:

1. preserve, and where practicable enhance the character and appearance of Conservations Areas, statutory Listed Buildings and their setting;
2. safeguard architectural or historical features such as historic shopfronts that positively contribute to the character of a property or wider streetscape;
3. retain and respect other buildings and their settings, vistas, civic and green spaces of local interest.

Policy NH.4 Archaeology

Where development is likely to impact on archaeological interests they will be protected by:

1. ensuring that development proposals preserve and where possible enhance sites of archaeological interest, noting especially the guidance in the Herefordshire Council's Archaeology Supplementary Planning Document and the potential impact of the foundations of proposed developments;
2. requiring that, in areas of archaeological importance such as Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance, and in other locations where there is a reasonable prospect of archaeological interest, development proposals are accompanied with appropriate desk based assessments and include, where, necessary field evaluation work and/or submission of management strategies

2.7 Herefordshire benefits from a diverse and unique landscape which incorporates a wide array of statutory and non-statutory designations that have contributed to the shape the County. The policy above provides a strategic approach to ensuring future proposals proactively incorporate locally significant natural and built assets into the design process. Due to the scale and distribution of these valued natural and heritage assets the subsequent Hereford Area Plan and Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan will provide the site specific details regarding areas sensitive to development. Identification of locally distinct features will be informed through ongoing consultation with the wider community as well as parish and town councils' village design statements and community led plans.

2.8 The scale of development required by the Core Strategy cannot be met solely through re-using previously developed land within the main settlements of Herefordshire. As such greenfield sites will need to be developed during the plan period. This policy seeks to ensure that areas of lower sensitivity are developed in preference to more sensitive landscapes. Where it is necessary to develop in higher sensitivity areas mitigation and enhancement will be required. These distinctive landscapes, which help to provide communities with a sense of place and have an intrinsic social value, are outlined within the Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (2004, updated 2009) and the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (January 2010).

- 2.9 The report “Building Biodiversity into Herefordshire Council’s Local Development Framework (December 2009)” identifies sites in and adjacent to Hereford and the Market Towns which contribute to the distinctiveness of localities and help create a sense of place. These designations provide important habitats for an array of wildlife, Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species² while offering a range of ecosystem services. The policy seeks to ensure that development does not cause unnecessary detriment to known biodiversity interests.
- 2.10 As part of the LDF evidence base, Rapid Townscape Assessments have been undertaken for Hereford and the Market Towns which identify both statutory and non-statutory designated areas of importance. New development within these settlements should acknowledge and not cause detriment to local landmarks as they help create a sense of place and can be focal points for the local community. Local landmarks may include distinct buildings, open-spaces or historic areas as documented in Conservation Area Appraisals, Rapid Townscape Assessments, and Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analyses.
- 2.11 The built heritage assets within Herefordshire are occupied by a variety of uses. Development proposals for alternative uses that are sympathetically designed and are in accordance with the design principles of the core strategy and the subsequent design code, will be supported. The re-utilisation of existing locally important buildings will reduce development pressures on greenfield sites while minimising construction waste.
- 2.12 While national planning guidance protects designated schedule ancient monuments, not all sites of archaeological importance within Herefordshire benefit from such designations. Non-designated archaeological sites have shaped Herefordshire and are significant to the County’s distinctiveness. Development proposals should be informed by archaeological records and, where appropriate, provide evidence of where detrimental impacts will be mitigated. Development proposals should be undertaken in accordance with the principles and objectives of Herefordshire Council’s Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Document (January 2010).
- 2.13 With regard to landscape and biodiversity issues, development contrary to the policy will be allowed where all of the following criteria are satisfied.
- The need for the development is of greater significance and public interest than the natural or heritage asset.
 - It is demonstrated that there are no alternative sites available.
 - The development proposal can demonstrate that the detrimental impact upon the asset is minimised through on site mitigation and where appropriate, compensatory measures are provided.
- 2.14 The proposals map outlines internationally and nationally protected sites. Heritage and natural assets of local significance will be identified in detail in the subsequent Hereford Area Plan DPD and Market Towns and Rural Areas DPD.

² Herefordshire Local BAP <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herefordbap/14.aspx>

Monitoring

2.15 Annual monitoring of numbers and spatial distribution of new development will be required to ensure that development is being delivered in areas of lesser natural and heritage importance. This will be achieved through the following measures;

- Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.
- Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monument Register to ensure valuable archaeological remains are recorded.
- Monitoring tree planting schemes, felling of protected trees and woodland management schemes.
- Monitoring changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Place Shaping Paper

2.16 The majority of respondents to the Place Shaping Paper consultation supported the approach of the Local Distinctiveness policy. Within the free write text a number of issues were raised;

- The ability to maintain locally distinctive features while achieving the proposed level of development.
- The policy to be sufficiently flexible to allow for modern development techniques.
- The role of settlement patterns in helping to define local distinctiveness.
- The policy could be too diverse that insufficient protection is provided to maintain local distinctiveness.

2.17 Summaries of key stakeholder responses are set out below;

English Heritage: Supports the direction of the policy subject to minor changes. English Heritage acknowledge the broad nature of the policy to reflect the interrelated issues but wish to see greater prominence given to the historic environment based on a range of regional and local studies undertaken.

Environment Agency: Provides no definitive answer on the direction of the policy but wishes to see greater awareness of impact of development on water resources as a number of water sources in Herefordshire have special designations.

Parish and Town Councils: Of the comments received from Parish and Town Councils, only two negative responses were received which focused around local distinctiveness not being compatible with the scale of development being proposed within the Place Shaping Paper

Malvern Hills AONB Partnership: Provides no definitive answer on the direction of the policy but wishes to see greater awareness of the implications on AONB. It is preferred that a specific policy is introduced regarding protecting AONB against development within the Core Strategy.

CPRE: Does not support the direction of the policy within the Place Shaping Paper as they do not agree with integrating all natural and built environments into one overarching policy. Each element should have a distinct separate policy.

Natural England: Supports the policy direction.

National Trust: Supports the policy direction.

Sport England: Supports the policy direction.

2.18

Evidence Base and National Guidance

- Archaeology and Development SPD, January 2010
- Building Biodiversity into the LDF, December 2009
- Biodiversity SPG, 2004, updated 2009
- Conservation area appraisals, currently being compiled by Herefordshire Council's Conservation team.
- Green Infrastructure Study, April 2008
- Green Infrastructure Strategy, February 2010
- Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005 (revised 2006/2007)
- Hereford Town Centre Streetscape Design Strategy, April 2009
- Historic Environment Development Impact and Design Studies (ongoing)
- Historic Townscape of Central Herefordshire, March 2010
- Landscape Character Assessment SPG, 2004, updated 2009
- Open Space Study, November 2006
- Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis: Hereford and the Market Towns, January 2010
- Rapid Townscape Assessments
 1. Hereford, March 2010
 2. Ledbury, April 2010
 3. Ross-on-Wye, April 2010
 4. Bromyard, work being undertaken September 2010
 5. Kington, due summer 2010
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, January 2005
- Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change, Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1, December 2007
- Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, November 2006
- Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise, October 1994
- Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, March 2010
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, August 2004
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, August 2005
- Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development, December 2009

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

- 2.19 The role of the core strategy is to provide an overarching set of principles to shape future development proposals. Not all UDP policies within Chapter 9 – natural and historic heritage policies are to be replaced by the Core Strategy policy on Preserving and Enhancing Natural and Heritage Assets. Accordingly further policies will be contained within subsequent Local Development Documents.
- 2.20 The table below outlines in which documents saved UDP policies will be superseded or where further details will be provided.
- 2.21 The following saved policies of the UDP will be superseded by the Core Strategy;
- S1 – Sustainable development
 - S7 – Natural and historic heritage
 - LA2 – Landscape character and areas least resilient to change
 - LA3 – Setting of settlements
 - NC1 – Biodiversity and development
 - NC6 – Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species
 - NC8 – Habitat creation, restoration and enhancement
 - NC9 – Management of features of the landscape important for fauna and flora
 - HBA1 – Alterations and extensions to listed buildings
 - HBA2 – Demolition of listed buildings
 - HBA3 – Change of use of listed buildings
 - HBA4 – Setting of listed buildings
 - HBA6 – New development within conservation areas
 - HBA9 – Protection of open areas and green spaces
 - ARCH1 – Archaeological assessments and field evaluations
 - ARCH2 – Foundation design and mitigation for urban sites
 - ARCH3 – Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - ARCH4 – Other sites of national or regional importance
 - ARCH5 – Sites of lesser regional or local importance
 - ARCH6 – Recording of archaeological remains
 - ARCH8 – Enhancement and improved access to archaeological sites
- 2.22 The following saved policies of the UDP will be superseded in due course by new policies in the subsequent Hereford Area Plan, Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan and Design Code.
- LA1 – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - LA4 – Protection of historic parks and gardens
 - LA5 – Protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows
 - LA6 – Landscaping schemes
 - NC3 – Sites of national importance
 - NC4 – Sites of local importance
 - NC7 – Compensation for the loss of biodiversity
 - HBA5 – Designation of conservation areas
 - HBA7 – Demolition of unlisted buildings within conservation areas
 - HBA8 – Locally important buildings
 - HBA10 – Shopfronts

- HBA12 – Re-use of rural buildings
- HBA13 – Re-use of rural buildings for residential purposes
- ARCH7 – Hereford AAI

Links to Core Strategy objectives

- 2.23 This policy for local distinctiveness would help to achieve a number of the social, economic and environmental objectives including objectives 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as detailed in the Place Shaping Paper.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.24 The Sustainability Appraisal has identified that the proposed policy would have significant positive impacts upon protecting features of biodiversity, cultural and heritage value.
- 2.25 The Habitats Regulations Assessment identified that policy as having no detrimental impact upon European designations and would be able to mitigate future impacts of development.

Your Views:

Do you agree with the preferred policies for Natural and Built Heritage Assets?

Yes/No

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduction

- 3.1 The environmental quality objective of the Core Strategy seeks to develop “*Networks of connected, well-managed and accessible natural green spaces [that] will provide a range of enhanced leisure and health benefits within and between towns, villages and the countryside.*” This will be achieved through policies for “Green Infrastructure”.
- 3.2 Green infrastructure combines both designated recreation areas alongside areas of importance for biodiversity. Green infrastructure ranges in its roles from areas that meet the recreational needs of communities to providing habitats for a wide variety of wildlife and sustainable transport links. The scale and location of green infrastructure varies throughout Herefordshire as outlined in Table 1. Such spaces can contribute positively to public health and mental well being while providing educational opportunities to learn about the natural environment.

Table 1.³

Geographic Tier	Example of Green Infrastructure Asset
County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park • Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Main rivers and their floodplains • Sites of national and international nature conservation importance (e.g. SAC, SSSI) • Forest and large wooded areas • National Nature Reserve • Trunk roads, motorways and railways • National heritage assets • Long-distance footpaths and national cycleways
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country park • Rivers and large streams and their floodplains • Large open water bodies • Local Nature Reserves • Special Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation • Large Woods • Local roads, canals and disused railway lines • Promoted local walks • Historic parks and gardens • Scheduled ancient monuments • Aggregated habitats e.g. orchards, grasslands, etc
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational grounds, playing fields and public green spaces • Public parks and gardens • Commons • Small water bodies, ditches, streams and brooks • Allotments, churchyards and cemeteries

³ Herefordshire Council, February 2010, Green Infrastructure Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School playing fields and grounds • Public Rights of Way and roadside verges • Cyclepaths • Conservation Areas • 'Street scene' e.g. urban trees, roundabouts and verges, planting beds etc • Ancient and veteran trees
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3.3 The five objectives for improving and delivering new green infrastructure are:

1. **Public accessibility:** a well developed green infrastructure network can provide members of the community with easy access to the rural environment, such as through Public Rights of Way, and sustainable commuting routes for cyclists and pedestrians. The green infrastructure network provides more sustainable options to accessing parts of Herefordshire's countryside.
2. **Sustainable resource managements:** The protection of green infrastructure can preserve important local characteristics and prevent detrimental impacts from future development. For example retaining open spaces and woodlands can attenuate surface water run off and reduce the potential impact of flooding.
3. **Biodiversity and connectivity:** preserving and delivering new green infrastructure not only provides increased wildlife habitats but can also link wider parts of Herefordshire, allowing easier movement and reducing isolation of habitats.
4. **Recreation:** green infrastructure can provide a variety of formal and informal recreational opportunities.
5. **Cross-border development and promotion:** successfully achieving the above objectives can positively enhance biodiversity networks which cross administrative boundaries, providing a variety of benefits including tourism development and related employment opportunities.

Strategy for Green Infrastructure

Policy GI.1 - Green Infrastructure
<p>The provision of new Green Infrastructure and the development, management and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure will be achieved by requiring that development proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. contribute to District and/or Local Strategic Corridors; 2. demonstrate how any adverse impacts upon important local characteristics will be mitigated, particularly in sensitive areas such as "Fringe Zones" and the historic environment; 3. provide, where appropriate, on-site improvements to existing green infrastructure and if necessary new on-site facilities; 4. include appropriate soft landscaping features that contribute to green infrastructure and link the proposal to the wider green infrastructure network; 5. protect designated trees and woodlands; and 6. do not have a detrimental impact upon water courses and adjoining land.

- 3.4 Herefordshire Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy (February 2010) identifies both District and Local Strategic Corridors. The role of the corridors is to provide easy access for both communities and wildlife between and through settlements. The Fringe Zones are varying types of landscape that provide clear delineation between the settlement and open countryside. While it will be necessary to develop within these fringes during the plan period, over-intensification of development within Fringe Zones will lead to a continual sprawl of urban development into the Countryside, contrary to the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.5 Development proposals will be expected to contribute to the green infrastructure network. New schemes should, where possible, link into and help enhance existing District and Local Strategic Corridors thus maintaining important wildlife and physical access routes from the urban conurbations to the rural hinterlands. Developments must be undertaken in accordance with the design principles of the core strategy and subsequent design code while positively enhancing natural and heritage assets.
- 3.6 There are a number of advantages of including soft landscaping within development proposals, including both aesthetic and health benefits. The use of soft landscaping increases wildlife habitats and linkages with the existing green infrastructure while the use of local native species can aid local distinctiveness. Landscaping of development sites should feature appropriate native species wherever possible, and allow sufficient space for new trees to grow to maturity. Development proposals will not be supported where there would be a detrimental impact upon locally designated trees. Existing trees and vegetation of local significance are protected within Herefordshire as they provide important habitat and wildlife features while also being locally distinct landmarks.
- 3.7 Herefordshire's water courses and their adjoining land, especially areas around the Rivers Lugg and Wye, are of significant value. It provides local communities and visitors with recreational and tourist spaces as well as access routes around the County. Furthermore, the land provides considerable habitat and wildlife benefits in wet grasslands and woodlands.

Monitoring

- 3.8 The monitoring of the Green Infrastructure Core Strategy policy will be carried out in parallel with the monitoring of the Preserving and Enhancing the Natural and Heritage Assets policy.

Place Shaping Paper

- 3.9 The majority of respondents to the Place Shaping Paper consultation supported the approach of the Local Distinctiveness policy. Within the free write text a number of issues were raised;
- The proposed level of development is too great for the green infrastructure policy to have a positive impact.
 - Greater reference to Public Rights of Way and their protection.
 - Increase priority and importance accorded to green infrastructure.

3.10 Summaries of key stakeholder responses are set out below;

English Heritage: Supports the policy direction subject to minor alterations. English Heritage wish the policy to make greater links with the historic environment.

Natural England: Supports the policy direction.

Woodland Trust: Does not support the policy direction. Wishes to see specific reference to biodiversity and woodland protection as not all habitats are covered by statutory designations.

WMRA: No definitive answer provided however they acknowledge that the policy is in accordance with RSS green infrastructure principles.

CLA: No definitive answer provided however, they seek the retention and development of sports pitches and green facilities.

Malvern Hills AONB: No definitive answer provided however they support the general approach and the positive impact to reduce reliance on private motorised transport.

CPRE: Supports the policy subject to minor changes. They support the positive impact the policy can deliver in urban / suburban areas. However, CPRE do not agree with the need of strategic corridors in rural areas as it is unnecessary.

Herefordshire Environment Partnership and Herefordshire Nature Trust: Both support the policy direction subject to minor alterations. They wish to see greater detail within the core strategy in order that the required green infrastructure can be delivered in line with the proposed development locations and phases.

National Trust: Supports the policy direction

Sport England: Supports the policy direction

Evidence

3.11 The evidence base of the Green Infrastructure Core Strategy policy is shared in common with the evidence base of the Preserving and Enhancing the Natural and Heritage Assets policy.

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

3.12 The implications of the Green Infrastructure Core Strategy policy is covered in the Unitary Development Plan policies of the Preserving and Enhancing the Natural and Heritage Assets policy.

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

- 3.13 This policy for green infrastructure would help to achieve a number of the social, economic and environmental objectives including objectives 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as detailed in the Place Shaping Paper.

Sustainability Assessment and Regulations Appraisal

- 3.14 The Sustainability Appraisal has identified that the proposed policy would have significant positive impacts upon community space, leisure and recreational activities while providing increases in sustainable transport options.
- 3.15 The Habitats Regulations Assessment identified that policy as having no detrimental impact upon European designations and would be able to mitigate future impacts of development.

Your Views:

**Do you agree with the preferred policies for Green Infrastructure?
Yes/No**

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

MOVEMENT

Introduction

- 4.1 Movement is a key issue for Herefordshire as it impacts on employment, health, access to services, quality of life and economic prosperity of the county.
- 4.2 Survey information tells us that Herefordshire has a generally high car ownership and low levels of journeys made by public transport. This can be largely attributed to the rural nature of the county.
- 4.3 Reducing the need to travel by private car in urban environments would help to alleviate many of the problems associated with congestion, health, well-being and air quality, whilst making a contribution to the environment.

Strategy for movement in Herefordshire

Policy M.1 Movement
<p>Movement within Herefordshire will be enhanced to contribute to the County's economic regeneration and development, support both new and existing businesses, improve safety and environmental quality, reduce congestion, and provide additional capacity where needed. In doing so, particular emphasis will be placed on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. promoting greater awareness of travel behaviour to encourage more informed choices about movement, the need to travel and alternative travel options;2. promoting and enabling improvements to the strategic and local highway networks, including provision of a Hereford Relief Road and a Leominster Southern Relief Road.
<p><u>Pedestrians and cyclists</u></p> <p>The Council, working with its partners, will protect and enhance strategic and local cycling and commuter cycle routes linked with new housing and employment development, footpath (including public rights of way), bridleway and canal networks as local transport routes and for recreation and leisure use. Enhancements in the quality of the wider public realm will be promoted to encourage walking and cycling as the primary means of travel.</p>
<p><u>Public transport</u></p> <p>A comprehensive, accessible, safe and efficient public transport network, capable of supporting development proposals for Herefordshire, including sustainable urban extensions, and providing realistic alternative travel options will be achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. supporting proposals to twin-track the railway line between Hereford and Ledbury to enable more trains to run between these destinations each hour;

2. **working with Network Rail and rail service providers to determine whether there is any scope to re-open old stations;**
3. **improving public transport interchanges to facilitate better integration between modes, including provision of taxis, and cycle parking and storage, particularly at railway and bus stations;**
4. **exploring whether there is any scope for the Hereford Park and Ride scheme to operate throughout the year;**
5. **working with transport companies to improve bus provision so that it may offer a realistic alternative to the private car, focussing on areas with poor public transport accessibility;**
6. **ensuring new developments demonstrate that existing or proposed public transport levels can accommodate development proposals, and identify opportunities for public transport improvements.**

Freight

Greater freight movements by rail will be encouraged whilst ways of improving freight movements between Hereford and the strategic highway network will be considered through close working between the Council and its partners. The freight railhead facility at Moreton-on-Lugg will be protected in accordance with policies relating to minerals development.

- 4.4 Over the plan period car use is forecast to increase, and how this demand is managed will be crucial in addressing the likely growth in congestion, the economic viability and desirability of Herefordshire and the impacts upon air quality.
- 4.5 Although Herefordshire is a rural county, it does experience traffic congestion and delays in and around the central area of Hereford, resulting from extra pressure on the city's roads network during peak times. The A49 trunk road passes through the centre of Hereford and congestion problems on this route have resulted in a long section being designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Similar air quality issues exist in Leominster where part of the A44 through the town is in an AQMA and a speed limit has been imposed on the A40 trunk road at Pencoyd in response to air quality issues.
- 4.6 The Hereford Multi-Modal Model Forecasting Report (2009) examines the implications of potential housing development up to 2026 and its impact on the road network within Hereford and its surrounding area. The study reveals that the increase in travel demand is likely to have a significant detrimental effect on the operation of the Hereford highway network and that additional trips associated with the planned housing allocations would exacerbate existing congestion problems, leading to longer journey times and extensive queuing. Adding a relief road either to the east or to the west of the City is likely to provide some relief from the adverse effects, but would need to be supported by sustainable transport measures to manage traffic demand through the City.

Pedestrians and cyclists

- 4.7 National guidance places much emphasis on walking and cycling, because they are environmentally friendly modes of travel and have health benefits; increasing the amount of cycling trips alone would reduce levels of congestion. Improving conditions for walking and cycling should encourage greater uptake of these modes.

Public transport

- 4.8 As a rural county, it is acknowledged that many people in Herefordshire will continue to rely on the use of the private car for travel. However, according to the 2009 State of Herefordshire Report, approximately two thirds of the County falls within the 25% most deprived areas in England in terms of geographical access to services. Accessibility to public transport has been highlighted as an issue and the provision of better public transport is therefore essential.

Freight

- 4.9 Road freight will continue to be the dominant mode in Herefordshire due to its flexibility and the lack of navigable waterways. In addition, the railway network is limited and few of the county's key industrial networks are adjacent or in close proximity to the four passenger railway stations. The existing railhead for minerals transport at Moreton-on-Lugg will be protected through a specific policy in the Minerals section of the Core Strategy. It is necessary, however, to encourage greater movements by rail to alleviate the additional pressure that growth will place on the county's roads, and to minimise any increase in carbon emissions associated with transport.

Monitoring

- 4.10 This policy will be delivered by:
- Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026;
 - Preparation and implementation of the Hereford Area Plan DPD;
 - Preparation and implementation of the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan
 - The development management process;
 - LDF Implementation Plan
- 4.11 The following indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of this policy:
- LTP3 performance indicators;
 - Progress against targets listed in the LDF Implementation Plan

Place Shaping Paper

- 4.12 The results of the Place Shaping Paper Consultation revealed that there was a strong support for this policy direction (66%). Only 9% of respondents claimed to disagree with it and 69 consultees (22% of respondents) suggested alterations.

4.13 **Evidence**

- Local Transport Plan for Herefordshire 2006-2011 (Herefordshire Council, 2006);
- Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) Study (DfT, 2010)
- Hereford Multi-Modal Model Forecasting Report (JMP, 2009);
- State of Herefordshire Report (Herefordshire Partnership, 2009)

4.14 **Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced**

Policy S6: Transport

Policy T1: Public transport facilities

Policy T2: Park and ride

Policy T3: Protection and development of the rail network

Policy T4: Rail freight

Policy T5: Safeguarding former railway land

Policy T6: Walking

Policy T7: Cycling

Policy T8: Road hierarchy

Policy T9: Road freight

Policy T10: Safeguarding road schemes

Policy T11: Parking provision

Policy T12: Existing parking areas

Policy T13: Traffic management schemes

Policy T16: School travel

Policy T15: Air transport facilities

Policy T16: Access for all

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

4.15 The policy will help deliver the following strategic objectives:

- *Objective 2* – Improving health, well being and quality of life;
- *Objective 4* – To reduce the need for travel and lessen harmful impacts of traffic growth, promote active travel and improve quality of life;
- *Objective 5* – To improve access to services in rural areas and movement and air quality within urban areas;
- *Objective 7* – To strengthen Hereford’s role as a sub-regional focus for the County;
- *Objective 8* – To improve the economic viability of the market towns, villages and their rural hinterlands;
- *Objective 9* – To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism
- *Objective 10* – To develop sustainable communities and protect the environment;
- *Objective 11* – To address the causes and impacts of climate change.

Results of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 4.16 The results of the SA revealed that the policy is likely to have a positive impact on SA Objective Topics 1 and 6, a negligible impact on SA Objective Topic 2, a mixture of positive and negative impacts on SA Objective Topic 3, a significant negative impact on SA Objective Topic 5 and a negative impact on SA Objective Topic 4. Topics as listed on page 2 of this document.
- 4.17 With respect to the HRA, it was concluded that the effect of the policy preferred option on European sites is uncertain. This can be mainly attributed to the fact that the proposal may result in infrastructure development, which may have an adverse effect if it were to be located in close proximity to sensitive European sites.
- 4.18 Infrastructure development is likely to cause physical damage/disturbance, and although any sites within the county may be affected; the River Wye SAC may be most likely to be affected by changes to the railway line between Hereford and Ledbury due to its proximity to the line. However, good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures would be successful at mitigating the likely effects of the policy.

Your Views:

**Do you agree with the preferred policies for Movement?
Yes/No**

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

WASTE

Introduction

- 5.1 Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste, sets out the government's planning policies for waste management. It recognises that the planning system is pivotal to the adequate and timely provision of new waste management facilities. The national Waste Strategy (currently the 2007 update) sets out government policy in accordance with EU legislation and requirements. Some waste policies in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) referred to the principle of Best Practicable Environmental Option but this is no longer part of recommended national planning guidance, having been superseded by other environmental assessment techniques. Those UDP policies therefore need to be replaced.
- 5.2 The Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Planning Assessment (May 2009) signposted key areas for development of waste policies. The policy background has changed since then with the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy in July 2010. The proposed revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy were the subject of an Examination in Public and an Inspectors' Panel Report in September 2009. This confirmed the robust nature of the supporting evidence base and recommended a set of policies some aspects of which related directly to Herefordshire. These now need to be carried forward at Core Strategy level; notably the targets for diversion from landfill and the concept of balancing waste flows where possible. In the absence of regional policy there is a need for a set of high level policies to establish the overall context.
- 5.3 A further matter of significance is the renewal of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (with Worcestershire County Council) in 2009. This has consequences for Municipal Solid Waste in particular because for this waste stream Herefordshire is conjoined with Worcestershire. Any policy which seeks self sufficiency, or a balance of "waste in" and "waste out" for Waste Planning Authorities (one of the key principles of the former regional policy), needs to consider Herefordshire and Worcestershire as one unit for this waste stream. A degree of flexibility is also desirable in order to accommodate any future changes to the means of categorising waste.
- 5.4 Herefordshire is a predominantly rural county which is particularly well suited to emerging techniques for waste treatment, such as anaerobic digestion. This is a type of treatment that can be successful at a variety of scales, and the Core Strategy needs to allow for small and large scale proposals entailing a variety of technologies and waste types. Some of the detail of future waste installations, including site specific allocations, and the on-going review of targets, will need to be dealt with in a subsequent Development Plan Document for Minerals and Waste, and thus the Core Strategy policies need to distinguish between those policies appropriate at this strategic level and the detailed ones which will follow.

Strategy for the Management of Waste and Waste Related Development

- 5.5 The sustainable and efficient management of waste will be secured through:
- dealing with waste in accordance with national policy and the waste hierarchy
 - regarding waste as a resource, to be managed in a manner which minimises the need for disposal to landfill
 - making provision for specific waste streams in accordance with policy W.1
 - assessing proposals for new and expansion of existing waste development in accordance with policy W.2
 - protection of existing waste sites and currently permitted waste treatment facilities in accordance with policy W.3
 - encouragement of energy-from-waste facilities, with particular regard to anaerobic digestion (and other emerging technology where appropriate) in accordance with policy W.4
 - Requiring all new development to make appropriate provision for waste minimisation, management and treatment in accordance with policy W.5
- 5.6 More detailed aspects of these policies will be taken forward in a Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and subsequent Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 5.7 The Regional Spatial Strategy included specific targets for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and for Commercial and Industrial Waste (C & I). There are three other waste streams recognised by DEFRA classification which have the potential to be dealt with separately: Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste, Hazardous Waste and Agricultural Waste. Policies therefore need to set out some guiding principles and appropriate targets for each.
- 5.8 With regard to MSW, Policy W.1 below recognises the evidence set out in the Minerals and Waste Assessment 2009. It also acknowledges the planning application lodged in March 2010 for a combined heat and power (CHP) plant to take up to 250,000 tonnes of MSW per annum on a site in Worcestershire. This proposal aims to divert the vast majority of MSW from landfill into energy creation on an industrial site with suitable users at hand to use the electricity and heat generated. Herefordshire Council policies cannot dictate the policy for sites in Worcestershire but, if that scheme does not go ahead, then energy from waste remains the most likely treatment for MSW in the foreseeable future. If the planning application lodged in March 2010 does not succeed then a further proposal is likely, within the terms of the waste contract. The volume of MSW collected in Herefordshire has reduced since the introduction of “wheelie bins” for recyclables in 2009. This will need to be reflected in the relevant targets in due course. Even taking account of volume reductions and the CHP proposal in Worcestershire there will still be a need for around two hectares of land for collection, treatment and transfer of MSW. This allocation will be provided on land suitable for employment uses and be in addition to the needs of employment land for economic development purposes. As a broad guide to location such sites should be in or near Hereford and the Market Towns as the most suitable locations for that type of use; this principle also has regard to the “Proximity” principle so that treatment sites can be located close to the origins of waste arisings. There will however, be cases where rural sites will need to be considered where particular justification can be provided.

- 5.9 The collection, treatment and disposal of Commercial and Industrial waste (C and I) is largely outside the control of Herefordshire Council's own waste management service provision. Provision must be made for suitable land for the transfer, treatment, recycling and recovery of waste arisings in the commercial sector. The Assessment identifies a need for up to ten hectares of land, which the Core Strategy will allow for as part of employment land provision. This, in common with MSW requirements, will be in addition to other employment land allocations and be located in accordance with similar criteria. Targets and specific allocations will be identified in the subsequent Minerals and Waste DPD.
- 5.10 The way in which waste is categorised may in the future, regard C & I waste and MSW together, in terms of waste types rather than waste sources. Consultation on this is taking place in 2010 at national level and any changes will also need to be addressed in the subsequent Minerals and Waste DPD.
- 5.11 The principle for Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste is for sites to prioritise site self-sufficiency. This waste stream has a particularly high potential for "waste" to be regarded as a resource for the production of secondary aggregates and for landscaping requirements, sometimes associated with other development. Herefordshire's absence of suitable landfill sites makes this principle a virtue-out-of-necessity for the County. However, policies need to take account of the problems associated with unauthorised deposits of such material, to ensure that only appropriate sites are used and only suitable materials are disposed of in this way.
- 5.12 Hazardous waste volumes are very low for the County and therefore there is no need for any strategic allocations. Any individual applications for sites to treat hazardous waste can be assessed by reference to the Development Management policies in PPS10.
- 5.13 Agricultural waste is largely dealt with on-farm but where non-biodegradable waste needs to be moved off-farm then it effectively becomes part of the C & I waste stream and will be dealt with accordingly.

Policy W.1 - Waste Streams and Targets

The principal waste streams shall be dealt with in accordance with the following principles:

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) This shall continue to be dealt with through the Joint Municipal Waste Contract with Worcestershire County Council, with treatment (from 2014) focussed on a single energy-from-waste installation to serve the two Counties. The specific targets for diversion from landfill are set out in Table W1 below (subject to further review in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document).**

In addition up to two hectares of land may be required for new facilities for waste transfer, treatment, recycling and recovery. The priority for locating such sites will be based in principle on proximity to the origin of the bulk of such waste. Such site(s) will generally be in or close to Hereford and/or the Market Towns,

although it is recognised that rural sites may be appropriate in some cases. Significant individual site(s) will be identified in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document.

2. **Commercial and Industrial Waste (C and I)** This shall be dealt with as far as practicable within the County on sites suitable for industrial use. The specific targets for diversion from landfill are set out in Table W2 below (subject to further review in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document). In addition up to ten hectares of land may be required for new facilities for waste transfer, treatment, recycling and recovery; the location of such sites will follow the same principles as for MSW (above). Any individual site(s) will be identified in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document.
3. **Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste** The quantity of such waste will be minimised through the use of Site Waste Management Plans and, in particular, the encouragement of on-site recovery and re-use as part of development projects. Wherever possible demolition wastes will be regarded as a source of secondary aggregates (both re-used and reclaimed). The strategic housing sites identified elsewhere in the Core Strategy will be expected to be as self contained as possible, re-using excavation materials for landscaping and creation of landscapes within and adjacent to the development sites. However it is recognised that there will still be a significant requirement for the appropriate relocation of some inert waste. Only those proposals for such inert waste deposit or landraising which can demonstrate clear benefits and improvements to landscapes, agriculture and/or wildlife habitats will be facilitated
4. **Hazardous Waste** Sites for the transfer and treatment of hazardous wastes will be dealt with in accordance with national planning policy principles.
5. **Agricultural Waste** Non-biodegradable agricultural waste will be dealt with as part of the Commercial and Industrial waste stream. The sustainable treatment of biodegradable agricultural wastes, including for energy generation, will be encouraged in accordance with policy W.4.

Table W1 Targets for Municipal Waste (tonnes)					
Period	2005/6	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21	2025/26
Minimum diversion from landfill	24,000	43,000	60,000	69,000	74,000
Maximum landfill	68,000	59,000	48,000	45,000	46,000
Total	92,000	92,000	108,000	114,000	112,000

Table W2 Targets for Commercial and Industrial Waste (tonnes)					
Period	2005/6	2010/11	2015/16	2020/21	2025/26
Minimum diversion from landfill	97,000	110,000	137,000	188,000	188,000
Maximum landfill	71,000	59,000	59,000	62,000	62,000
Total	168,000	169,000	198,000	250,000	250,000

5.14

When planning applications for waste installations are received they need to be assessed in a consistent manner and the policy below combines elements of the regional planning policies (as recommended by the Inspectors' Panel Report into the RSS in 2009) with the extant UDP policies to create a composite new policy.

Policy W.2 - Location of New Waste Treatment Facilities
<p>Significant new waste treatment facilities (i.e. those which require sites of 0.5 hectares or more) shall be located in accordance with the following general principles. Such sites should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sites with current use rights for waste management purposes; or 2. active mineral working sites or landfills where the proposal is both operationally related to the permitted use and for a temporary period commensurate with the permitted use of the site; or 3. existing or allocated industrial land; or 4. land within or adjacent to sewage treatment works; or 5. redundant agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilage. <p>In all cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the impact of the proposals for the collection, storage, handling, treatment, disposal and transport of waste shall be mitigated, with particular attention paid to the impact on human health and the natural, cultural and historic environment; b) where appropriate, sites shall be reclaimed to an acceptable after-use and condition; c) sustainable technologies shall be used wherever possible; d) where reasonable doubt exists about the local environmental impact of waste development then a trial period of permission may be considered to assess those impacts but any such permission must include provision for monitoring adverse effects and a strategy for mitigating them.

- 5.15 In order to maintain existing capacity to deal with waste it is important that established and permitted waste sites should be able to continue in operation unless suitable alternatives can be secured, or are demonstrably no longer needed. This means not only protecting existing sites themselves from development which would conflict with or displace waste uses, but also requires consideration of adjoining land and sites where there is a risk that new uses may prejudice the continued operation of the waste-related use.

Policy W.3 - Existing and Permitted Waste Treatment Sites

Existing and permitted waste treatment sites and facilities will be protected from development which would compromise their future operation unless satisfactory alternative provision can be secured on equivalent or better sites, or it can be demonstrated that alternative facilities are no longer required because the relevant waste stream has been minimised and/or dealt with in a more sustainable manner elsewhere.

- 5.16 Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and related technologies are becoming more commonplace as a means of treating biodegradable waste, “harvesting” energy and reducing harmful greenhouse gases. AD and similar technology is not dependent upon the large-scale installations that many other waste technologies use – AD schemes can succeed at a variety of scales and in both rural and urban locations. It must be recognised however that they typically require the import of feedstock to the site (one agricultural enterprise may not be able to provide an adequate volume and range of feedstock needed) and there needs to be a viable use for the end products in terms of energy (typically biogas, electricity and heat), and digestate. However, in a rural county like Herefordshire, and with the benefit of improving technology, there is potential for AD installations to become a significant means of treating a variety of wastes in a sustainable manner, including as farming co-operatives and/or hubs for district heating schemes. In addition, both solid and liquid digestate may be used as organic fertiliser with resulting benefits to biodiversity and surface water quality, and sustainable reductions in the use of manufactured fertiliser products.

Policy W.4 - Anaerobic Digesters

As a means of generating renewable energy and fertiliser, and reducing carbon emissions, the use of biological treatment such as anaerobic digesters (AD) and other emerging technologies will be encouraged for both large and small scale biodegradable waste management developments, provided that potentially adverse local environmental effects can be adequately identified, managed and mitigated. Potential environmental and economic benefits in terms of waste reduction and output use opportunities shall likewise be identified and maximised. AD installations are not restricted to the broad locations for waste facilities specified in policy W.2 above.

5.17

All developments should include consideration of their likely waste arisings both during construction and afterwards once the development is brought into use. In the case of some development types it is also necessary to have regard to the after-use of the site. This policy includes minimum development sizes for the application of policy at the strategic level. Smaller sites will be guided with more detailed policies in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and such Supplementary Planning Documents and the Design Code SPD and Masterplans for specific sites/localities.

Policy W.5 - Waste Minimisation and Management in New Developments

Proposals which could generate significant volumes of waste will be required to submit a waste audit before development begins, detailing:

- **the types and volumes of waste which the development will generate during the course of construction, occupation, use, decommissioning and for the after-use of the site;**
- **the steps to be taken to ensure that the maximum amount of waste arising is incorporated within the development or through its use;**
- **the steps to be taken to manage, recycle or treat waste that cannot be so incorporated; and**
- **if disposed of elsewhere the means of transport and distance to be travelled.**

The policy will apply to:

- a) **developments of more than 50 dwellings, including parts or phases of such developments**
- b) **the development, redevelopment or refurbishment of sites where the floor space of the existing or proposed development amounts to 500 square metres or more**
- c) **major transport, leisure, recreation, tourist or community facilities**
- d) **developments which would attract a significant increase in the number of people visiting the site.**

Policies for smaller scale developments will be brought forward in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and in Supplementary Planning Documents appropriate to specific sites or developments.

Monitoring

5.18 The effectiveness of waste policies will be monitored through annual reporting (in the AMR) of the matters listed below where data is available in the public domain:

1. published throughputs of the main waste streams;
2. trends in the capacities of waste sites and developments;
3. successful implementation of permissions for waste-related developments;
4. after-use of sites;
5. the production of secondary aggregates;
6. the need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations concerning waste planning matters.

5.19 The list above will be further refined through the Minerals and Waste DPD which is to be prepared.

Place Shaping Paper

5.20 The Place Shaping Paper was published for consultation in January 2010 and set out the preferred policy direction for Waste. Views and comments were invited in order to help develop a planning strategy for the County up to 2026. Key issues raised though the consultation were:

- broad support for more recycling
- broad support for energy from waste schemes, especially anaerobic digesters;
- concern about adequacy of levels of commercial recycling
- support (and opposition) to schemes involving incineration
- stronger application of the “Proximity” principle to reduce the need to transport waste;
- support for community based schemes;
- need for more explicit regard for climate change issues and for targets and monitoring.

Evidence

5.21 The following documentation has been compiled as part of the evidence base and utilised in the formation of these policies. The evidence base will, where appropriate, be updated and used in bringing forward the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document in due course.

- Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Planning Assessment (2009)
- Technical Papers to support the Examination in Public into the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in 2009, and Inspectors’ Panel Report (September 2009).
- Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire (Review 2009).
- National Waste Strategy for England (2007).

National Policy Framework

- PPS1 - Delivering Sustainable Development
- PPS10 - Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- PPS12 - Local Spatial Planning
- PPS22 - Renewable Energy
- PPS23 - Planning and pollution control

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

5.22 The following UDP policies will be replaced:

- Policy S10 Waste
- Policy W1 New waste management facilities
- Policy W2 Landfill or landraising
- Policy W3 Waste transportation and handling
- Policy W4 Temporary permissions
- Policy W5 Waste management licensing
- Policy W6 Development in the vicinity of waste management facilities.
- Policy W7 Landfill gas utilisation
- Policy W8 Waste disposal for landfilling
- Policy W9 Reclamation, aftercare and afteruse
- Policy W10 Time limits for secondary activities
- Policy W11 Development – waste implications

Links to Core Strategy objectives

5.23 These policies will contribute to the achievement of the following social, economic and environmental objectives identifies in the Place Shaping Paper: Objectives 4, 10, 11 and 12

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

5.24 Both assessments have resulted in adjustments to the policies to strengthen controls over adverse impacts, but the main principles have not required significant changes.

Your Views:

**Do you agree with the preferred policies for Waste Developments?
Yes/No**

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

MINERALS

Introduction

- 6.1 National planning policy guidance for minerals is set out in a series of specific guidance and policy statements, the MPGs and MPSs. The adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands (2008) also contained a set of policies with the aim of encouraging the prudent use of minerals resources whilst maintaining an appropriate land bank of permissions and sites. New national apportionments for primary aggregates were published in 2009 but the process of allocating them across the West Midlands Region was not completed on a statutory basis and the RSSs have since been revoked by government. This remains an issue to be addressed in Herefordshire's own minerals policies, in the absence of a sub-national policy base.
- 6.2 The requirement to ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet the needs of society and the economy needs to be tempered with the significant landscape and other impacts associated with large scale mineral workings. Consequently the policies need to allow for safeguarding resources and sites, whilst seeking to mitigate any adverse effects of minerals working. This includes consideration of the reclamation and after-use of sites. Policy also needs to encourage the re-use and recycling of aggregates to reduce the demand for primary aggregate extractions where feasible.
- 6.3 A particular feature of Herefordshire is the existence of small scale workings for building stone, defined as locally sourced and having an important role in locally distinctive building styles. Policies need to make specific allowance for this local, and important, traditional rural industry.
- 6.4 It is recognised that quarries of all types including gravel pits have a potential to further knowledge in terms of geology, palaeontology and archaeology. Herefordshire's mineral extraction sites have made significant contributions to the county's archaeological and fossil records. Opportunities to provide new geological exposures and improved wildlife habitats are also acknowledged. Policies need to ensure that potential long term benefits are maximised.

Strategy for Sustainable Minerals Development

- 6.5 The strategy for minerals development as set out in the following policies ensures that the sustainable and efficient use and management of Herefordshire's mineral resources will be promoted by:
- defining Minerals Safeguarding Areas, and controlling development which would adversely affect them (policy M1);
 - ensuring that any development for the winning, working, storage and transport of minerals takes place in accordance with appropriate criteria (policy M2);
 - enabling small scale production of building stone and clay production (M3);
 - encouraging the use of secondary aggregates and the re-use and recycling of aggregates and other minerals (policy M4);

- protecting the continued availability of the railhead at Moreton-on-Lugg for minerals transportation purposes (policy M5); and
- maintaining appropriate landbanks of permitted reserves for primary aggregates consistent with national and sub-national guidance (policy M6)

6.6 More detailed aspects of these policies will be taken forward in a Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and subsequent Supplementary Planning Guidance.

6.7 National Planning Policy requires Minerals Planning Authorities to define Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in their development plan documents. In Herefordshire known minerals resources and permitted reserves are already offered some protection from development which would sterilise those resources through a policy in the Unitary Development Plan. A replacement policy is therefore required both to maintain that protection and bring the form of it up to date with the advice in MPS1. This will also enable a review of boundaries of safeguarded areas. In accordance with the advice in MPS1 it is important to appreciate that the definition of an MSA does not automatically mean that minerals will be extracted during the plan period; instead the policy is used simply to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of known minerals resources. The detailed review of boundaries, including setting out an appropriate methodology to identify them, will take place as part of the Minerals and Waste DPD (which will be prepared after the Core Strategy is adopted). In the meantime the areas currently shown on the proposals map will be regarded as interim MSAs.

Policy MN.1 – Minerals Safeguarding Areas
<p>The areas of known minerals resources shown on the Proposals Map will be regarded as Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) to which the policy considerations below apply. Detailed boundaries will be reviewed in the preparation of a Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document which once adopted, will then define the boundaries of MSAs in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The definition of MSAs does not imply that minerals extraction will take place during the plan period.</p> <p>Within and adjacent to the MSAs, development which would sterilise any known minerals resource will not be permitted. Where non-minerals related development is proposed in MSAs the applicant may be required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to undertake a geological assessment of the site, and/or • to protect the minerals in question and/or • make provision for the extraction of all or part of the mineral reserves as part of or before the non-minerals related development takes place, unless it can be demonstrated that the non-minerals related development is of sufficient weight and overall benefit to planning interests to outweigh the need to protect the minerals resources.

6.8 It is not expected that there will be a need for completely new large scale extraction sites to be developed in Herefordshire in the plan period. However,

currently dormant sites may need to be re-opened, subject to demand and national policy. There is nonetheless the possibility that, towards the end of the plan period, serious consideration has to be given to new sites for extraction of primary aggregates. Herefordshire's relative remoteness from the main growth areas of the region means that new large scale extraction remains unlikely (because of the expense of transporting aggregates over long distances) but this will need to be kept under review. That review will take place as part of the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document. Part of the policy below also differentiates between large scale aggregate extraction and local, small scale extraction for dimension and other building stone. A nominal limit of 1 hectare of site area is used for this purpose. The policy then sets out the general criteria which will apply to planning applications for new minerals working, winning, storage and transport. Note that no further extraction of granite will be permitted from the Malvern Hills AONB area due to its landscape importance, and legislative constraints.

Policy MN.2 – Criteria for the Assessment of Minerals Related Development
<p>Proposals for the winning and working, storage and transport of minerals will be assessed against the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. no further permissions will be granted for the extraction of granite from the Malvern Hills; 2. New large scale minerals extraction outside MSAs or existing and historic large scale minerals extraction sites will not be permitted (by “Large scale” is meant workings in excess of 1 hectare); 3. Where minerals extraction is permitted it shall be on the basis that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the minerals resource is reasonably required to meet identified and adopted targets, or complies with policy MN.3 in respect of small scale workings b. the environmental impact of the development can be mitigated and potential benefits maximised especially with regard to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the impact on biodiversity interests (especially the River Wye SAC which includes the lower River Lugg) ii. the impact of the development on floodplain management (which may be positive) iii. the impact on geological, archaeological and other heritage interests (which may also be positive) and the potential for furthering scientific knowledge iv. the impact on landscapes especially in the AONBs v. the potential of the development to maximise the use of sustainable transport measures vi. amenity impacts on nearby residential properties vii. the inclusion of positive proposals for after-use and after-care of the site, with priority being given to habitat creation, heritage and community/leisure uses (in that order of preference). viii. the potential of the site to provide demonstrable benefits to biodiversity and wildlife habitats, both during and following minerals extraction

6.9

A particular feature of Herefordshire, especially in the west of the county, is the existence of small scale building stone quarries. It is important for heritage and local economic purposes that this local craft can continue. The nature of the

workings is such that on occasions, very specific strata need to be worked on for a particular project; hence the policy needs to allow for flexibility in exactly where workings are located and the timescales for minerals extraction, including intermittent working. However the policy also needs to take account of the potential for small quarries to harm amenity, particularly where workings remain open over long periods.

Policy MN.3 – Small Scale non-Aggregate Building Stone and Clay Production.
<p>Proposals for the small scale extraction of building stone and clay will be permitted where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. there is a demonstrated need for the material for the preservation of local distinctiveness; in particular features and/or building techniques of local historic or architectural interest, repair of listed and vernacular buildings, other structures or archaeological sites; or 2. suitable stone of a particular type necessary for a specific project has been identified as likely to exist in appropriate quantity; and 3. the anticipated timescales for quarry operations, including any requirements for intermittent working, have been assessed and can be justified; and 4. the majority (i.e. more than 50%) of the site’s output would be for non-aggregate use; and 5. any significant adverse impacts from the minerals extraction can be identified and mitigated; and 6. the site is capable of reclamation to a beneficial use, including geological and/or scientific research, positive benefits to biodiversity, wildlife habitats and/or agriculture <p>The term “Small scale” means workings generally of less than 1 hectare in extent.</p>

6.10 In order to reduce dependency on primary aggregates, and to encourage the use of waste materials as a resource, the re-use and re-cycling of demolition and other wastes from development sites will be encouraged.

Policy MN.4 – Secondary (Reused and Recycled) Aggregates.
<p>The use of alternatives to naturally occurring aggregates or other minerals, especially construction, demolition and excavation wastes, will be positively encouraged. Proposals for the production, import, processing, treatment and storage of such alternatives will be permitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. for temporary periods where development is ancillary to principal activities at a site, including use of demolition and excavation waste arising from development, or longer periods when the development will be limited to the life of a mineral working; or 2. permanently at permitted waste transfer stations. <p>In all cases the proposals should provide adequate means of mitigating visual impact, preventing pollution and controlling traffic, noise, vibration, dust etc. as part of the development. This shall</p>

include detailed assessments and proposals to avoid adverse effects on the amenity of the immediate or surrounding environment (including landscape and townscape) and human health.

6.12 Aggregates, once won from the ground, are bulky and heavy materials to transport and it makes sense for sustainability and climate change reasons to encourage alternatives to road transport wherever possible. In Herefordshire's case, in the absence of any canals, the only alternative to road transport is via rail. There is one railhead in the County dedicated to minerals loading and wharfage at Moreton-on-Lugg. Road access is available from the A49 trunk road and it is reasonably centrally located in the County. It is therefore appropriate to make specific provision to protect the railhead from alternative developments which would prejudice its continuing use for minerals transportation. There may also be future opportunities for other commodities to use the railhead.

Policy MN.5 – Moreton on Lugg Railhead.

The continued use of the railhead at Moreton-on-Lugg for the storage, loading and transport of minerals by rail will be encouraged. There will be a presumption against development which would prejudice its continued use unless it can be shown that reasonable alternative provisions have been made for the transport of minerals by rail.

6.13 Targets for the supply of minerals are known as "Apportionments". Statutory regional apportionments were established in 2008 in the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) but these have been superseded by a new national apportionment in 2009, and the assumed approach to the sub-regional apportionment has been interrupted by changes in the status of regional planning in 2010. It is acknowledged that there is a need for a stated apportionment for the County to contribute to UK sand and gravel and crushed rock requirements. The policy below continues with the most recent adopted volumes for the time being, but acknowledges that this is likely to change and amended figures will be required during the plan period, i.e. for the period beyond 2016 and up to at least 2026. Revised figures will therefore be brought forward in the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document in due course, along with the basis for the new figures.

Policy MN.6 – Apportionments

The annual apportionment for the production of primary land-won aggregates shall be as set out below for the period to 2016. Revised apportionments for the period beyond 2016 will be established through the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document.

- **Sand and Gravel: 283,000 tonnes per annum**
- **Crushed Rock: 424,000 tonnes per annum**

Monitoring

6.14 The effectiveness of the minerals policies will be monitored through annual reporting (in the AMR) of the matters listed below where data is available in the public domain:

1. comparison of production figures with national and sub-national apportionments
2. estimates of permitted and useable land banks for aggregates (sand, gravel and crushed rock)
3. after use of sites especially wildlife habitat creation
4. the production of secondary (reused and recycled) aggregates
5. data on the use of the railhead at Moreton-on-Lugg

6.15 The list above will be further refined through the Minerals and Waste DPD which is to be prepared.

Place Shaping Paper

6.16 The Place Shaping Paper was published for consultation in January 2010 and set out the preferred policy direction for Minerals. Views and comments were invited in order to help develop a planning strategy for the County up to 2026. Key issues raised through the consultation were:

- support for more recycling of the types of waste suitable for use as “Secondary aggregates”;
- concern at the environmental effects of road transport of minerals;
- concern about after-use of minerals sites, including competing suggestions for habitat creation versus community or sports use;
- opposition to the re-opening of currently dormant sites, especially at Upper Lyde;
- concerns that adequate landbanks have been identified;
- concern at the impact of extraction on the county’s heritage resources, especially archaeology;
- Concern at the landscape impacts of extraction sites.

Evidence

6.17 The following documentation has been compiled as part of the evidence base and utilised in the formation of this policy. The evidence base will, where appropriate, be updated and used in bringing forward the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document in due course.

- Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Planning Assessment (2009)
- West Midland Regional Aggregates Working Party Reports
- Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (2007) and related documents

National Policy Framework

- MPS1: “Minerals and Planning” and related practice guidance.
- MPS2: “Controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of minerals extraction in England”
- National and sub-national Guidelines for Aggregates Provision
- Guide to Mineral Safeguarding in England (October 2007), BGS.
- PPS12: Local Spatial Planning

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

6.18 The following UDP policies will be replaced:

- Policy S9 Minerals
- Policy M2 Borrow Pits
- Policy M3 Criteria for new aggregate mineral workings
- Policy M4 Non-aggregate building stone and small scale clay production
- Policy M5 Safeguarding mineral reserves
- Policy M6 Secondary aggregates and recycling
- Policy M7 Reclamation of mineral workings
- Policy M8 Malvern Hills
- Policy M9 Minerals exploration
- Policy M10 Oil and gas exploration and development

Links to Core Strategy objectives

6.19 These policies will contribute to the achievement of the following social, economic and environmental objectives identifies in the Place Shaping Paper: Objectives 4, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

6.20 Both appraisals have resulted in adjustments to the policies to strengthen controls over adverse impacts, but the main principles have not required significant changes.

Your Views:

**Do you agree with the preferred policies for Minerals Developments?
Yes/No**

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

EMPLOYMENT

Introduction

7.1 This section sets out the policies designed to assist in economic growth and the creation of employment opportunities. A major element of the strategy for generating new and better jobs will be the provision of a deliverable range of land supply, in appropriate locations, and in the right amounts. 'Employment land' in this instance refers to those uses falling within the planning B use classes, that is offices (B1), manufacturing (B2) and warehousing and distribution (B8).

The Council aims to support a buoyant and diverse local economy. Whilst unemployment is relatively low, it is important to make sure that adequate opportunities exist to improve the quality and range of employment available. There is also a need to support the diversification of the local economy. Sustainable tourism based on the high quality environment, historic features and cultural heritage of the area is particularly important.

Strategy for Employment in Herefordshire

7.2 This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies of the Core Strategy, Herefordshire Council's evidence base, national guidance and any subsequent Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). Site specific details will be contained within the Herefordshire Area Plan and Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

Policy E.1 - Maintaining supply of employment land

Existing and proposed employment land allocations and commitments will continue to be safeguarded for business and general industry, where they are considered to be of 'Best' and 'Good' quality. The release of employment land classified as 'Moderate' or 'Poor' quality will be permitted only where the following criteria are met:

- 1. the proposal would result in a net improvement in amenity;**
- 2. the proposal would not result in a piecemeal loss of employment land where there is potential for a more comprehensive scheme;**
- 3. the loss would not impact on the range of supply in a specific geographical area;**
- 4. an assessment has been carried out to confirm the viability of the development proposal;**
- 5. the need for alternative uses is greater than the need for the retention of employment land;**
- 6. proof of active marketing are provided to allow the full consideration of any specific demand.**

An indicative rolling 5-year reservoir of 37ha of available employment land will be maintained. Detailed sites will be identified in the Hereford Area Plan and Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

Policy E.2 - Employment land provision

The focus for most new employment land provision in Herefordshire will be at Hereford and the Market Towns. Proposals for strategic releases of employment land are included within the specific proposals for places. In addition and in order to ensure that a range of locations, types and sizes of employment land and offices are provided to meet the needs of the local economy:

- 1. more efficient use will be made of existing sites and premises to accommodate new employment growth;**
- 2. high priority will be given to the reuse of suitable brownfield sites within the urban areas;**
- 3. the integration of new employment opportunities will be encouraged in mixed-use developments;**
- 4. smaller employment sites will be permitted to meet local needs and encourage new business development. This should include the provision of smaller sites within the smaller rural settlements, in addition to Hereford and the Market Towns; with some flexibility for employment generating non-B use classes and community facilities where operational compatibility of uses can be achieved;**
- 5. new employment growth will be located in areas where it is well supported by existing infrastructure.**

- 7.3 Sustainable communities need economic growth to ensure they are active and thriving. Wealth underpins social and cultural activities and the conservation of our environment. Ensuring a strong and diverse economy will help give people in Herefordshire more opportunities for work within the county, which could reduce the number of people needing to travel outside the county, thus helping to reduce carbon emissions and increasing the prosperity of Herefordshire residents.
- 7.4 The planning system plays a key role in contributing towards improving economic performance, and sustainable economic growth through flexible and pro-active policies aimed at supporting the start up and growth of businesses, attracting inward investment and increasing employment, particularly in deprived areas.
- 7.5 National planning policy states that local planning authorities should seek to make the most efficient and effective use of land, prioritising previously developed land which is suitable for re-use; and should plan for the delivery of sustainable transport and other infrastructure needed to support their planned economic development. It is therefore important that a range of employment land continues to be available within Herefordshire either by safeguarding existing supply or enabling additional employment land where appropriate.
- 7.6 These policies therefore seek to protect the best quality employment land in Herefordshire from being lost to other uses and also enable new, sustainable provision of employment land in locations and of a scale that is appropriate. Other place specific proposals for employment land provision, including proposals for the rural economy should also be referred to.

- 7.7 The Employment Land Review undertaken as part of the evidence base classifies employment land across Herefordshire in respect of its quality. It recommended that the land determined to fall within the “Best” and “Good” quality should be safeguarded from proposals for alternative uses. The recommendations from this study provide the basis for the development of the safeguarding policy above. Where proposals are advanced to change the use of land not specifically examined by the employment land review the methodology used in the study will be used to determine the quality of the site.

Place Shaping Paper

- 7.8 The Herefordshire Core Strategy Place Shaping Paper was published for consultation in January 2010, and considered a preferred strategy and further options for the emerging Core Strategy. Views and comments were invited in order to help develop a planning strategy for the county up to 2026.

Key issues raised through the consultation include:

- The need to focus on agriculture;
- The need for flexibility when designating sites for employment use;
- The need to relate any new employment development to existing infrastructure;
- The need to maintain a good range of employment land supply;
- The need to prioritise the use of brownfield land for new development;
- The need to prioritise the use of large purpose built employment sites; and
- The need to reuse vacant employment sites, or reallocate those classified as poor quality.

Evidence

- 7.9 The following documentation has been compiled as part of the evidence base and utilised in the formation of this policy. The evidence base will, where appropriate, be updated and utilised within the subsequent Hereford Area Plan and Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

National Policy Framework

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
- PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009)
- The Taylor Review (2008)
- PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005)
- PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)
- PPG13: Transport (2001)
- The Barker Review (2006)
- Planning White Paper (2007)
- Regional Spatial Strategy 11 (formerly RPG 11) for the West Midlands (2004)
- Draft RSS Phase 2 - Preferred Option

- Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan (2004 – 2010)
- Connecting to Success: Consultation Draft. West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy (2007)
- Rural Renaissance: AWM's Rural Framework (2005)
- Rural Regeneration Zone Implementation Plan (2007-2010)
- Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan (2007)
- Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2005-2025
- Herefordshire Community Strategy (2006)
- The State of Herefordshire Report (2007)

Evidence base studies

- Employment Land Review (2009)
- Retail Study (2009)
- Waste and Minerals Study (2009)
- Transport Study – Hereford Multi-Modal Model Report (2009)

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

- 7.10 The policy will help deliver the following strategic objectives 6, 7 and 8, as detailed in the Place Shaping Paper.

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

- 7.11 The following UDP policies will be replaced:
- S4 – Employment

Delivery and Monitoring

- 7.12 This policy will be delivered by:
- LDF Implementation Plan;
 - Preparation and implementation of the Hereford Area Plan DPD;
 - Preparation and implementation of the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan;
 - Preparation and implementation of a Design Code Supplementary Planning Document; and
 - The development management process.
- 7.13 The following indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the policy:
- The amount of employment land commitments, completions and reallocations, as monitored through the council's annual Employment Land Survey;
 - The amount of new development occurring on brownfield land;
 - The amount of new employment development occurring in rural areas; and
 - New business registration rates.

Results of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

Maintaining supply of employment land

- 7.14 The SA found that this policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on employment and economic objectives – in particular on the provision of employment land and increasing the diversity of job opportunities, by ensuring an adequate supply of a range of employment land. The policy will also have a significant positive impact on the provision of appropriate facilities for new businesses and may also have a minor positive impact on improving the diversity of the economy and supporting the development of new technologies by providing adequate and appropriate employment land. The SA found therefore, that no changes to the preferred policy direction were necessary.
- 7.15 The HRA has found that it would be unlikely that the policy would have any significant effects on European site(s). No measures for mitigation were therefore deemed necessary.

Employment land provision

- 7.16 The SA has found that the policy is likely to have a positive impact on: providing flexible employment land and appropriate sites for new business growth; increasing the diversity of job opportunities and businesses by allowing flexibility for non-B class employment-generating uses; reducing the need to travel for residents within urban areas, and increasing the use of public transport, and thus a positive impact on transport emissions; and on landscape and biodiversity through the reuse of existing buildings and land.
- 7.17 The SA also found that the policy's promotion of new business development is likely to have a negative impact on minimising the need for new build; and that support for new business development could have a negative impact on commercial and industrial emissions and the consumption of raw materials from construction.
- 7.18 The SA has recommended that the criterion permitting smaller employment sites include more explicit reference to these being allowed in smaller rural settlements, not just in Hereford and the market towns (which is the main focus of the policy). The wording in the policy has been amended accordingly.
- 7.19 The HRA has found that it is unclear as to whether the policy will have significant effects on European site(s), due to a lack of information about the precise location and scale of employment land provision at present. The HRA also states that an increase in employment land provision may lead to an increase in vehicle traffic as well as an increased population, which may place additional pressure on sensitive European sites for recreation and amenity uses.
- 7.20 Given these varied impacts, the policy has been assessed as having both positive and negative impacts on objectives for resource consumption and climate change. However, other policies in the Core Strategy require the use of sustainable design and construction techniques, which should help to minimise any potential negative effect on these SA objectives.

Your Views:

Do you agree with the preferred policies for Employment?

Yes/No

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Introduction

- 8.1 The term 'Affordable Housing' applies to a variety of forms of low cost housing for sale or to rent as currently defined in national policy Planning Policy Statement 3 – Housing. This form of housing is required to meet the needs of local people who cannot afford housing through the open market. Following the revocation of Regional Planning Policy, affordable housing targets now need to be included in the Core Strategy.
- 8.2 The latest edition of the State of Herefordshire Report (March 2009) found that in the 2nd quarter of 2008 the average price of property in Herefordshire was £194,000. In comparison, the average price property prices for England and Wales and the West Midlands were £175,000 and £144,000 respectively.
- 8.3 The preferred measure for house price affordability is the ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings; figures for these ratios are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. In 2008, the ratio for Herefordshire was 9.2, that is, for those on lower quartile earnings, a house at the bottom end of the market would cost them 9.2 times their annual earnings. As a consequence, Herefordshire Council is facing an increasing urgency to tackle affordability issues.

Strategy for Affordable Housing

Policy AH.1- Affordable Housing
<p>Planning proposals for the provision of new dwellings or conversion of existing buildings to dwellings will be required to provide an element of affordable housing in accordance with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On all housing proposals of 15 or more dwellings in Hereford and its rural hinterland, Kington and the west of the county, a target of 35% of the total number of dwellings proposed shall be affordable;2. On all housing proposals of 15 or more dwellings in Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye and their rural hinterlands and in North Herefordshire (including Bromyard), a target of 40% of the total number of dwellings proposed shall be affordable;3. On all housing proposals of 15 or more dwellings in Leominster, a target of 25% of the total number of dwellings proposed shall be affordable;4. On all market housing proposals of 3 or more dwellings in rural areas a target of 35% of the total number of dwellings proposed shall be affordable. <p>On all sites of 3 or more dwellings it will be expected that the affordable housing will be provided on-site unless sound and convincing reasons are provided to explain why a financial contribution is more appropriate.</p>

Developments of 1 or 2 dwellings in rural areas, whether new build or conversion, will be required to provide a financial contribution to the provision of affordable housing off-site.

In order to qualify as “Affordable Housing” new dwellings must be made available at a price and/or rent which meets the affordability criteria set by the local authority and such new dwellings will be made subject to planning conditions and/or obligations to prevent future disposal in a manner which does not continue to meet those criteria.

Exceptionally, proposals for affordable housing development on land which would not normally be released for housing, within or close to an established rural settlement will be permitted where:

- a) The proposal could assist in meeting a proven need for affordable housing;**
- b) The affordable housing provided is made available to, and retained in perpetuity for, local people in housing need who would otherwise not be able to access the contemporary housing market.**

- 8.4 The areas referred to in the policy will be defined on the Proposals Map, and are indicated on attached plan at Appendix 1.
- 8.5 The need for higher levels of affordable housing in Herefordshire is demonstrated by the evidence based studies which underpin the Local Development Framework and is a key theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Core Strategy running through their vision and objectives.
- 8.6 The affordable housing targets are based on the recommendations of Herefordshire’s Affordable Housing Viability Study (2010), which provides an assessment of the effect of changes to affordable housing policy on residential development viability. This is to ensure that the council's policies are locally relevant and viable and do not deter development through reducing the supply of land brought forward for residential development in general.
- 8.7 It is recognised, however, that these are targets and that there may be specific site conditions that may require negotiation of alternative provisions. It is also expected that on sites of 3 or more dwellings the affordable housing should be provided on-site unless a sound and convincing case is made by the developer that the requirement for affordable housing can be better met through contributions to off-site provision, where there is a realistic prospect of that off-site provision meeting the identified local need and coming forward in a reasonable timescale.
- 8.8 The policy is designed to increase the delivery of affordable housing, whilst supporting wider planning objectives and maintaining sufficient incentive for landowners to release land for development.
- 8.9 The requirement for developments of one or two dwellings to contribute to the delivery of affordable housing in rural parts of the county is designed to minimise the incentive for developers to bring forward schemes below the threshold.

8.10 The provision of affordable housing on exception sites, in areas where there is generally a restraint on open market housing can also help meet affordable housing needs in rural areas. The success of this element of the policy will be monitored to help determine whether there is a case for making specific affordable housing allocations in the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

8.11 For the purposes of this policy 'local housing need' means the need of residents within a defined area e.g. a group of parishes, local housing market area or locality, as evidenced by the local authority through local housing needs surveys.

Monitoring

8.12 The following indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of this policy:

- Affordable housing completions (social and intermediate)
- National Indicator 155 (NI155) affordable housing built or acquired

Place Shaping Paper

8.13 The results of the Place Shaping Paper Consultation (2010) reveal that there was strong support amongst respondents for Option 1 (61%), which would require 35% of all housing on schemes of 15 or more dwellings to be affordable. Conversely there was minimal support for Options 2 and 3. On the one hand Option 2 would require 35% of all housing to be affordable, except for Leominster where a target of 25% would be set, whereas Option 3 would set split targets.

8.14 It is clear that the policies on affordable housing as currently proposed would result in split targets for the county. However, although these were not the most popular options with the majority of respondents to the Place Shaping Paper Consultation, the 2010 viability study suggests that countywide targets do not maximise opportunities to deliver affordable housing within rural parts of the county. As the provision of affordable housing is a key priority the policy suggests lowering thresholds and providing a range of targets in accordance with the evidence.

8.15 **Evidence**

- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 (Shropshire and Herefordshire Councils, 2008)
- Affordable Housing Viability Study (Three Dragons Consultancy, 2010)

8.16 **Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced**

- Policy H9: Affordable housing
- Policy H10: Rural exception housing

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

- 8.17 The policy will help deliver strategic objective 1 – To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community.

Results of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 8.18 The results of the appraisal revealed that the policy is likely to have a *significant positive* impact on SA Objective Topics 2 and 4, and a *negligible* impact on SA Objective Topics 1, 3, 5 and 6. Therefore no amendments to the policy would be necessary.
- 8.19 The HRA concluded that the preferred policy option would not adversely affect any European Sites within the county, because it will not directly result in development; the policy merely relates to criteria for development i.e. the proportion of affordable homes to be provided within overall housing development, the effects of which are assessed under other policies.

Your Views:

**Do you agree with the preferred policies for Affordable Housing?
Yes/No**

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

Introduction

- 9.1 Herefordshire Council is seeking to ensure a more socially inclusive society and a key aspect of this includes developing a suitable mix of housing and accommodation. The Housing Act 2004 makes it a requirement for Local Authorities to identify suitable land for Gypsy and Traveller communities. Specific sites will be outlined within the subsequent Herefordshire Area Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

Strategy for Gypsies and Traveller Sites

Policy GT.1 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites
<p>Herefordshire Council will make provision for up to 76 new pitches for Gypsies and Travellers for the period to 2017. These pitches will be provided through a combination of local authority provision and private provision. Site specific allocations and updated targets (for the period to 2026) will be set out in the Hereford Area Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.</p> <p>Once the target provision has been met, sites for new Gypsy and Traveller sites will be considered against normal policies for residential development. In the meantime as a guide to the location of allocated sites and other proposed new sites, the following principles will be applied.</p> <p>Proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites should accord with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The proposal should be supported by evidence to demonstrate that it is addressed to an identified need and that no suitable alternative pitches which would meet that need are available;2. The site must be within 5km of Hereford City, the Market Towns, Rural Service Centres(RSCs), Hubs or a settlement meeting the local centre criteria;3. The proposal should be designed to a high standard and, where appropriate, include landscaping to mitigate the visual impact. Furthermore all sites will be designed to give appropriate screening against neighbouring uses and between pitches;4. The proposal should include sufficient on-site residential amenity including safe play areas, adequate storage and, where appropriate, work areas; and5. The proposal should include recycling and waste management facilities appropriate to the scale and character of the development. <p>Alongside the provision of new sites, Herefordshire Council will support the improvement of existing sites and the authorisation of unofficial yet tolerated sites based on the above criteria.</p>

- 9.2 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (2008) identified a need for additional permanent pitches to be identified Herefordshire. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment only measures specific requirement of pitches up to 2017. At this stage further needs assessments will be undertaken. The delivery of Gypsy and Traveller sites will be monitored within Herefordshire Council's Annual Monitoring Report. As part of meeting needs consideration will also be given to the authorisation of long standing tolerated sites in Herefordshire.
- 9.3 The GTAA (2008) stated a need for a 109 sites to be provided by 2017. Since the publication of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2008) 33 sites have been delivered through authorisation of long term tolerated sites and through the granting of planning permission for private sites.
- 9.4 The remaining pitches will be provided through a combination of local authority and private developer provision, which will include suitable sites being identified following a "Call for Sites".
- 9.5 Once the defined need has been met in accordance with national guidance⁴ planning applications for sites for Gypsies and Travellers will be subject to normal policies on new residential development. The suggested 'distance threshold' is a pragmatic approach as it acknowledges that private motorised transport is the most common method of travel for accessing services that are outside the immediate locality of a development.
- 9.6 The 5km threshold is based on a 5-minute drive at 40mph, deemed a safe speed for most rural roads. National guidance also states that 5km is the maximum distance where cycling could be an alternative method to accessing services rather than private motorised transport⁵. Outside this threshold, community members would become more reliant on unsustainable transport methods to access existing services.
- 9.7 The threshold is intended to be a broad and flexible guide to the distance which people *in general* will be willing to travel by private car to access more locally available services, if they represent a preferable alternative to travelling further afield.
- 9.8 The need for sites to be within 5km of Hereford City, the Market Towns, RSCs, Hubs or local centres is based on access to existing service provision. Allowing development outside this threshold would lead to overdependence on private motorised transport to access day-to-day services and thus creating unsustainable transport patterns.
- 9.9 Within the GTAA (2008), design was identified as a reason as to why a number of sites were not fully occupied. As a result the design of the site is fundamental to its occupancy and therefore must accord with relevant Government design guidance (DCLG, *Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide*, May 2008). Furthermore Herefordshire Council will support improvements to existing sites to ensure they meet the requirements of the above policy.

⁴ Government Circular 01/06 (ODPM); Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan sites, February 2006

⁵ Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport, March 2001

- 9.10 Government guidance outlines that residents of Gypsy and Traveller sites should receive the same waste and recycling provision as all members of the community. As such waste storage arrangements must be made for each pitch and that there is sufficient access for refuse collection vehicles. Where other uses are combined with residential sites (perhaps in connection with a business use) it is important that appropriate waste storage facilities are provided in a manner which does not detract from the overall amenities of the site and any neighbouring uses.
- 9.11 There is potential for Gypsy and Traveller sites to be included within larger urban extensions as these are sustainable locations for all forms of residential development.

Monitoring

- 9.12 Annual monitoring of numbers and spatial distribution of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches will be required to ensure that development is being delivered to meet the identified need in the most appropriate locations.

Place Shaping Paper

- 9.13 The majority of written correspondents (79%) supported the policy direction either in its entirety or subject to minor amendments. The following issues were raised:
- The need for increased numbers of pitches was queried due to the level of vacant pitches on existing Council owned sites;
 - The development of Gypsy and Traveller sites would have a detrimental impact upon the rural landscape of Herefordshire;
 - New pitches must be within easy access to existing services;
 - A number of respondents wished sites to be identified within the Core Strategy;
 - Locations of new pitches should be away from the built settlements.
- 9.14 Summaries below are provided from the responses received from key stakeholders.

Hereford Travellers Support: Does not support the preferred options as it fails to meet the existing under-provision. Furthermore the policy needs to be simplified to ensure it fully aids members of this community.

Parish / Town Councils: Of the responses received approximately 66% were in support of the policy direction.

WMRA: A definitive answer is not provided but would wish to see sites identified in the core strategy as well as outlining the procedure post 2017.

Natural England: Supports the policy direction subject to the sites protecting areas of biodiversity.

Sport England: Supports the policy direction.

CPRE: Supports the policy direction.

9.15 **Evidence**

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Herefordshire (2008).
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Powys (July 2008)
Rural Settlement Hierarchy (2010)

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

9.16 The new Core Strategy policies detailed above will replace the following policies from the Unitary Development Plan:

- H12 Gypsies and other travellers

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

9.17 This policy for local distinctiveness would help to achieve a number of the social, economic and environmental objectives including objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 as detailed in the Place Shaping Paper.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

9.18 The Sustainability Appraisal has identified that the proposed policy would have significant positive impact on increasing access to good quality housing while also positively impacting on ensuring new developments are delivered in the most sustainable locations.

9.19 The policy was subject to an Appropriate Assessment within the Habitats Regulations Assessment. A number of issues were raised within the HRA. The location of new pitches could have detrimental impacts upon European designations while also increasing pressures on recreational space. However the HRA notes the requirement for on-site amenity spaces and that emerging policies of local distinctiveness may mitigate the potential impacts on European sites.

Your Views:

Do you agree with the preferred policies for Gypsy and Traveller Sites?

Yes/No

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Introduction

- 10.1 Open space for recreational purposes is taken to include those areas publically accessible and to include the following types:
- Amenity green space
 - Parks and gardens
 - Natural and semi-natural green space
 - Recreational public rights of way
- 10.2 Sport and recreation facilities are taken to include indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities, including those on school sites with no community use, and provision for young people and children including childrens play areas, kick about areas, teen shelters, skate parks and Multi Use Games Areas.
- 10.3 Open space, sport and recreation facilities can make a major contribution to ensuring that Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands are places in which people will choose to live, work and visit; they include important areas for conservation and biodiversity as well as having a significant positive impact on the health and well being of those who use them.
- 10.4 Whilst the key challenges facing Herefordshire include providing sufficient housing, reviving the city of Hereford, achieving economic growth and addressing transport issues; open space issues are of equal importance, because the provision of formal and informal recreation opportunities can contribute to a range of other council priorities including quality of life and protection of the environment.
- 10.5 The council will aim to improve the health and well being of local residents through the provision of good quality networks of sustainable and accessible open spaces and sport and recreation facilities. These will be promoted through a planned approach to provision and the development of new standards based on local assessments undertaken of existing provision and future needs.

Strategy for Open Space Sport and Recreation

Policy OS.1 – Open Space

Existing provision will be protected and enhanced through the identification and designation of open space sites both in the Hereford Area Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan. Support will also be given to:

1. Proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing open space and green spaces, lead to the provision of appropriate additional open and green spaces or improve access to existing areas, particularly by walking and cycling, including improvements to the recreational public rights of way;
2. Proposals which incorporate measures to encourage the long-term use of open and green spaces;
3. Development proposals which are required to help meet the increasing demand for open space, including via developer contributions;
4. Development proposals which help address deficiencies in provision, particularly in the main areas of population;
5. Development proposals which result in opportunities to improve sustainability, health and biodiversity, for example, the provision of 'Grow Your Own' facilities as a means to provide multiple health and sustainability benefits such as reduction in food miles, helping to address climate change and providing habitats for wildlife; and
6. Development proposals which include creative measures to incorporate open space, including the provision of wildlife and community gardens or less formal, natural play space.

There will be a presumption against any loss or change of use of open space unless it can be demonstrated that there is currently an excess in provision or deficiencies in another type of open space can be met by its loss. For example, the creation of more natural, semi-natural open space to improve biodiversity in an area from underused amenity green space.

Policy OS.2 – Sport and Recreation Facilities

Sport and recreation facilities will be enhanced by identifying locations for the delivery of major new facilities both in the Hereford Area Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan. Support will also be given to:

- 1. Proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing sports and recreation facilities, provide for appropriate additional facilities or improve access to existing facilities, particularly by walking and cycling;**
- 2. Development proposals which are required to include appropriate facilities for sport, recreation and children’s play to meet the needs of both the development and the wider community by providing either on-site facilities or contributions to improve the quality of existing facilities via developer contributions;**
- 3. Development proposals for new sport, recreation and children’s play facilities, or for the enhancement of existing facilities, provided that:**
 - a) There is no demonstrable harm from noise, lighting, transport or environmental impacts;**
 - b) The development contributes to meeting identified shortfalls and deficiencies in provision or enhances the quality of existing provision of sport and recreation facilities;**
 - c) The development is accessible by sustainable modes of transport, especially walking and cycling.**

Policy OS.3 – Protection of existing sports and recreation facilities

Any development proposal that involves the loss of a sport or recreation facility will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is currently an excess of provision, or where alternative facilities of equal or better quality are to be provided as part of the development.

10.6 Improving the quality and quantity of, and access to all types of open space and sport and recreation facilities is critical to promoting community cohesion, providing opportunities for leisure and play, improving the health and well being of the community, promoting sustainable development, enhancing the image and vitality of areas, and helping to ameliorate adverse environmental effects. Grow Your Own facilities as set out in the policy above would include allotments and community gardens.

10.7 Work is currently ongoing to produce a comprehensive Playing Pitch Strategy based on the existing PPG17 audit and assessment of open space, published in October 2006. Once this strategy has been published the council will be able to develop area specific standards and needs for the provision of open space and recreation facilities. This will be achieved through preparation of the Hereford Area Plan and the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan.

Monitoring

10.8 The following indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the policy:

- National Indicator 197 (NI197) proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented
- Amount of recreational/open space in new developments
- The quantity of open space by type will be monitored to achieve a target of no net loss of open space due to new development
- General satisfaction with open spaces, including parks and gardens will be monitored through user surveys.

Place Shaping Paper

10.9 The results of the Place Shaping Paper Consultation reveal that there was overwhelming support for this policy direction (81%). Only 5% of respondents disagreed with it and 41 people (15% of respondents) suggested alterations.

10.10 Evidence

- PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (Strategic Leisure Ltd, 2006)
- Sports Facilities Framework (Nortoft, 2010)
- Playing Pitch Strategy (Herefordshire Council, 2011)

10.11 Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

- Policy S8: Recreation, sport and tourism
- Policy RST3: Standards for outdoor playing and public open space
- Policy RST4: Safeguarding existing recreational open space
- Policy RST5: New open space in/adjacent to settlements

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

10.12 The policy will help deliver the following strategic objectives:

- *Objective 2* – Improving health, well being and quality of life;
- *Objective 9* – To develop Herefordshire as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism;
- *Objective 10* – To develop sustainable communities and protect the environment;
- *Objective 11* – To address the causes and impacts of climate change;
- *Objective 12* – To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 10.13 The results of the SA revealed that the policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on SA Objective Topics 2, 3, 4 and 6 and a negligible impact on SA Objective Topics 1 and 5.
- 10.14 With respect to the HRA, it was concluded that the effect of the policy preferred option on European sites is uncertain. This can be mainly attributed to the lack of information at this stage about the planned location, type and scale of any new facilities, something that would become clear at the planning application stage. In addition, it is possible that the development of new sport and recreation facilities may have adverse effects on any nearby European sites both during the construction phase and during operation.
- 10.15 The development of new sport and recreation facilities is likely to cause physical damage/disturbance and noise, light and, or air pollution. All sites within the county may be affected, but good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures would be successful at mitigating the likely effects of the policy.

Your Views:

Do you agree with the preferred policies for Open Space, Sport and Recreation?

Yes/No

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduction

- 11.1 Past public consultation has indicated that residents' concerns relating to additional housing across the county relates not only to the physical impact of new development on the local character and identity of the area, but also to the additional pressure that such development will bring on services and facilities that are already stretched in many areas.
- 11.2 The right level of infrastructure is essential in the development of sustainable communities and the level of social and community infrastructure needs to grow as the community grows. It is therefore essential that the council works in partnership with developers and service providers, to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is put in place where the population increases.

Strategy for Social and Community Infrastructure

Policy SC.1 – Social and Community Infrastructure
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Proposals that protect, retain or enhance existing social and community infrastructure and ensure that new facilities are available as locally as possible will be supported. Such proposals should include consideration of the potential for co-location of facilities, and where possible ensure they are accessible on foot, by cycle and public transport.2. Development proposals will not be permitted unless there is sufficient capacity in existing social and community infrastructure to meet the additional requirements arising from the scheme, or suitable arrangements are put in place for necessary improvements, including through developer contributions.3. Development proposals that would involve the loss of social and community infrastructure will not be permitted unless an alternative facility to meet the needs of the community affected is available or can be provided in as easily accessible a location or it can be shown that the facility is no longer required.4. A key priority of the Hereford Area Plan will be the promotion of the 'university gateway' role of Hereford. This will be done by facilitating the provision and development of a higher education facility and the continuing enhancement of existing tertiary education facilities.

- 11.3 Social and community infrastructure can include the following facilities:
- Affordable and key worker housing;
 - Health and social care facilities (including GP surgeries and NHS walk-in centres);
 - Open space and recreation (including leisure and sports facilities);

- Green infrastructure;
- Transport (including footpaths, bridleways, cycleways, highways, public transport and car parks);
- Community facilities (including meeting halls, youth activities, play facilities, library and information services, cultural facilities and places of worship);
- Education and community safety;
- Drainage/flood prevention and protection;
- Waste recycling facilities;
- Public art, heritage and archaeology; and
- Community safety such as Police, Fire and Rescue facilities.

11.4 Growth will generate a range of service needs throughout Herefordshire, particularly concentrated within the major growth locations. Enhancing quality of life for existing and new communities requires a range of agencies to work together and with developers. Forward planning and joint working should facilitate early provision of social and community infrastructure to support the needs of new and growing communities.

Social and community infrastructure can be defined as physical facilities for different individuals and communities, which are provided by a range of organisations (public, private and voluntary), and are generally organised by place or the age of a defining group such as children or people with disabilities.

11.5 Encouraging people to engage in sport and recreation through the provision of better facilities will also be an important part of positively promoting healthy and cohesive communities, because physical activity can help to prevent the underlying conditions that cause health problems. Healthier lifestyles will be promoted through maximising access by walking and cycling and providing opportunities for social interaction and greater access to green space and the countryside.

11.6 Improving educational attainment and creating a highly skilled workforce is a wider regeneration objective of various agencies and an important component of delivering the economic vision for Herefordshire, as set out in both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the vision of the Core Strategy.

11.7 The potential to establish a university gateway is being explored by the council on the premise that it would provide opportunities for local people to access jobs in growth sectors, including green technologies and for places like Hereford to be a magnet for businesses in knowledge intensive industries. This could help improve the skills of the current labour market, and provide the knowledge and research infrastructure aligned with particular growth sectors of the economy.

Monitoring

11.8 This policy will be delivered by:

- The development management process
- Preparation and implementation of the Hereford Area Plan DPD
- Preparation and implementation of the Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan
- Working with existing education partners, funding bodies and businesses
- Developer contributions

Place Shaping Paper

- 11.9 The results of the Place Shaping Paper Consultation revealed that there was strong support for the policy direction on education and skills, which proposed increased higher educational provision in Herefordshire and proposals for new and extended educational and skills training facilities (66%). Only 12% of respondents claimed to disagree with the education and skills policy direction and 58 consultees (21% of respondents) suggested alterations.
- 11.10 The results of the Place Shaping Paper Consultation revealed that there was strong support for the policy direction on Health (77%) Only 6% of respondents claimed to disagree with it and 45 consultees (17% of respondents) suggested alterations.
- 11.11 The emerging set of preferred directions for policies on education and skills and health have been amalgamated into a policy preferred option on social and community infrastructure. This can be entirely attributed to the fact that the two policy directions were broadly similar in their approach.

11.12 Evidence

- Good Practice Guidance Note 5: Delivering Healthy Communities (RTPI, 2009);
- The State of Herefordshire Report (Herefordshire Partnership, 2009);
- Healthy Herefordshire: Strategic Plan 2008-2013 (Herefordshire PCT, 2008);
- Herefordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Herefordshire PCT, 2008);
- Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (Herefordshire Council, 2010);
- PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (Strategic Leisure Ltd, 2006)
- Herefordshire Employment Land Review (Drivers Jonas, 2009)

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies to be replaced

- 11.13 This is a new policy; therefore it does not replace any UDP policies.

Links to Core Strategy Objectives

- 11.14 The policy will help deliver the following strategic objectives:
- *Objective 2* – Improving health, well being and quality of life;
 - *Objective 3* – To support existing education, life-long learning and retention of our young people;
 - *Objective 6* – To provide more local, better paid job opportunities to limit out-commuting and strengthen the economy;
 - *Objective 10* – To develop sustainable communities and protect the environment;

- *Objective 12* – To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 11.15 The results of the SA revealed that the policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on SA Objective Topics 1, 2 and 3, a positive impact on SA Objective Topics 4 and 6, and a negative impact on SA Objective Topic 5.
- 11.16 With respect to the HRA, it was concluded that the effect of the policy preferred option on European sites is uncertain. This can be mainly attributed to the fact that the precise type and location of any planned development of social and community infrastructure has yet to be determined.
- 11.17 The development of facilities and community infrastructure is likely to cause physical damage/disturbance and all sites within the county may be affected. However, good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures would be successful at mitigating the likely effects of the policy.

Your Views:

Do you agree with the preferred policies for Social and Community Infrastructure?

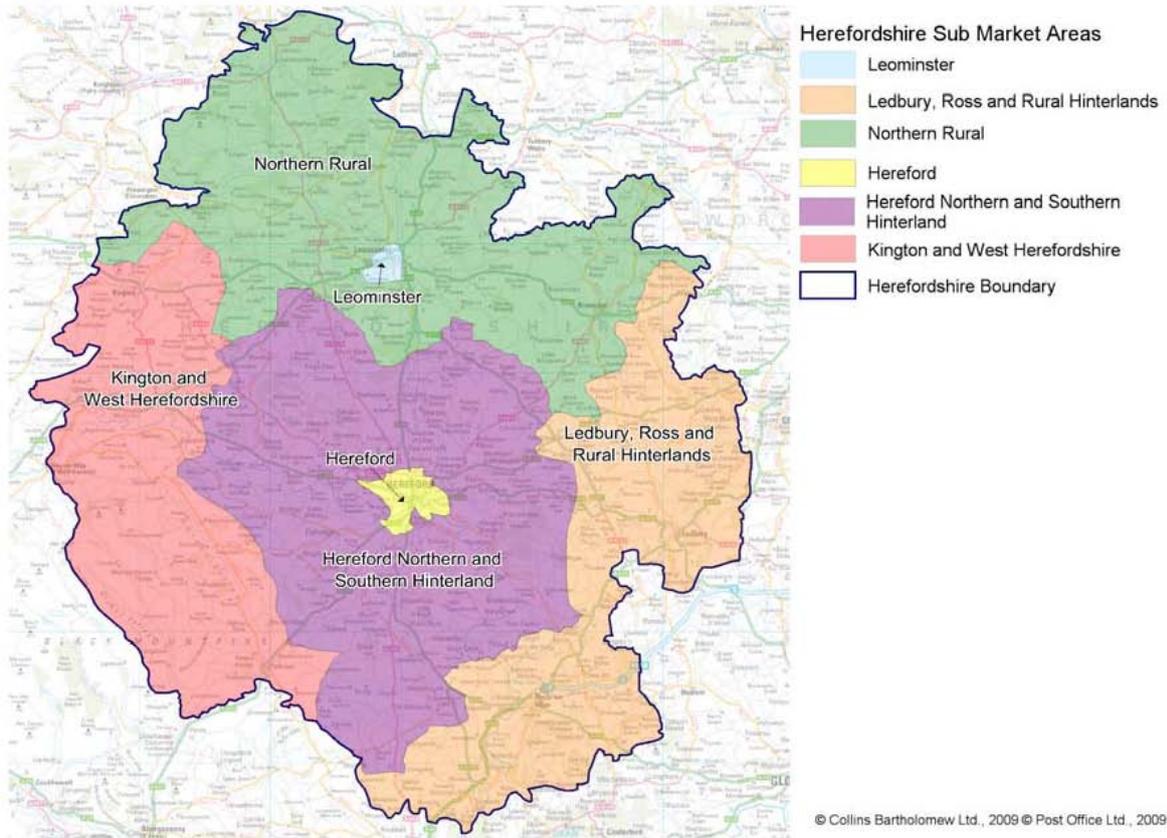
Yes/No

If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?

Please complete your answers at the back of this document

Appendix 1

Map showing market value areas – Herefordshire



Market value areas in Herefordshire

Ledbury, Ross and Rural Hinterlands	HR8 1	Ledbury (East)	Bosbury; Eastnor
	HR8 2	Ledbury (West)	Trumpet; Newtown; Much Marcle; Munsley
	WR13 5 (West)		Mathon; Bromyard; Edwyn Ralph; Stoke Lacy; Pencombe
	WR6 5 (West)		Acton Green; Whitborne; Stanford Bishop; Evesbatch
	HR9 6		Glewstone; Peterstow; Llangarron; Whitchurch
	HR9 7	Ross on Wye	Brampton Abbots; Upton Bishop; Linton; Crow Hill
	HR9 5		Hope Mansell; Walford
Northern Rural	HR6 0		Steens Bridge; Luston; Docklow; Ivington Green
	HR 7 4		Bromyard; Collington; Pencombe
	SY8 4 (South)		Orleton; Little Hereford
	SY8 2 (South)		Burrington; Elton
	SY7 0		Letton; Lingen; Buckton; Birtley
	HR6 9		Lower Lye; Lucton; Pembridge; Wigmore; Croft
Hereford	HR4 9	Hereford	
	HR1 1	Hereford	
	HR 4 8	Hereford	
	HR4 0	Hereford	
	HR1 2	Hereford	
	HR2 7	Hereford	
Kington & West Herefordshire	HR3 5	Hay on Wye	Hardwicke
	HR3 6 (East)		Winforton; Britley; Almeley; Kinnersley; Bredwardine;
	HR2 0		Bacton; Peterchurch; Michaelchurch Escley; Longtown
	HR5 3 (East)	Kington	Nash; Lyonshall; Holme
Hereford Northern and Southern Hinterland	HR4 8		Canon Pyon; Dilwyn; Wellington
	HR1 3		Preston Wynne; Maund Bryan; Sutton St Nicholas; Westhide; Ocle Pychard
	HR4 7		Kenchester; Norton Canon; Monnington-on-Wye; Stretton Sugwas
	HR1 4		Sollers Hope; Weston Beppard; How Caple
	HR2 8		Orcop Hill; Michaelchurch; Saint Weonards
	HR2 9		Thrupton; Blakemere; Killeck; Allensmore
	HR2 6		Dinedor; Ballingham; Little Dewchurch
Leominster	HR6 8	Leominster	

Source: Market value areas as agreed between Three Dragons and Herefordshire Council, and taking into account discussion at development industry workshop

Note: Kington and West Herefordshire includes that part of Hay-on-Wye lying within Herefordshire.

SECTION THREE – CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE FORM

Please complete any sections for which you have particular interest.

When the relevant parts of the table are completed, this page can be detached and sent to the contact details below.

Do you agree with the preferred policies for:		Yes/No?	If not, please explain which elements you don't agree with and why?
Local distinctiveness	Natural and Built Heritage Assets		
	Green Infrastructure		
Movement	Movement		
Waste	Waste Streams and Targets		

	Location of New Waste Facilities		
	Existing and Permitted Waste Treatment Sites		
	Anaerobic Digesters		
	Waste Minimisation and Management in New Developments		
Minerals	Minerals Safeguarding Areas		
	Criteria for the Assessment of Minerals Related Development		

	Small Scale non-Aggregate Building Stone and Clay Production		
	Secondary (Reused and Recycled Aggregates)		
	Moreton-on-Lugg Railhead		
	Apportionments		
Employment	Maintaining Supply of Employment Land		
	Employment Land Provision		

Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing		
Gypsy and Traveller Sites	Gypsy and Traveller Sites		
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Open Space		
	Sport and Recreation Facilities		
Social and Community Infrastructure	Social and Community Infrastructure		

Please ensure you complete the following table:

LDF reference number: (if you have one)	
Name:	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Postcode:	
E-mail:	
Telephone number:	

Thank you for taking the time to complete these questions.

Please post it (no stamp required) to:

Local Development Framework
Licence No. – RRJX-TLSH-SCYH
Freepost, Forward Planning
Herefordshire Council
PO Box 4
Plough Lane
Hereford HR4 0XH

Your response can also be
faxed to:

01432 383031