

Get involved in planning Herefordshire's Future Shaping Our Place....2026

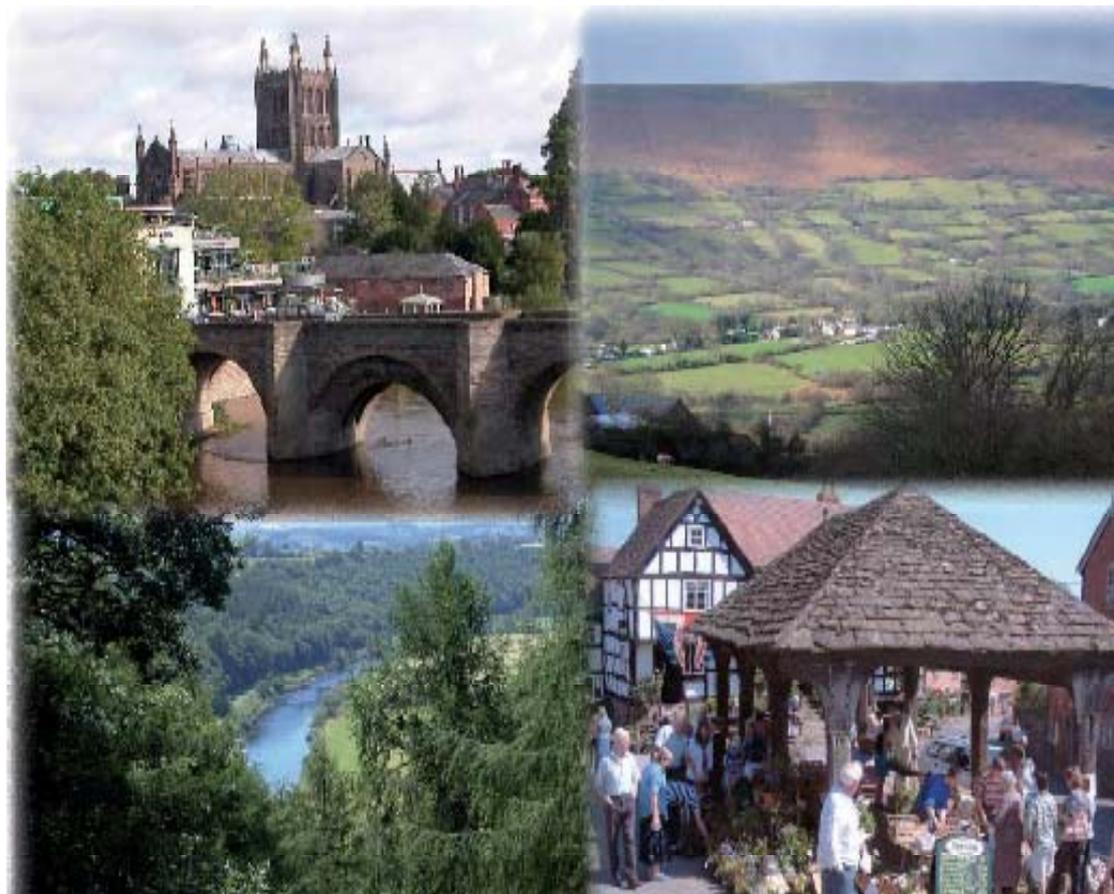
Issues Paper (September 2007)

Introduction

We are preparing a new style of development plan for Herefordshire which will shape the County's future until 2026. The plan known as the Local Development Framework, will influence many aspects of the way we live, work, travel and spend our leisure time. It will set out where development will be directed whilst continuing to protect and enhance Herefordshire's distinctive environment.

The first part of the new development plan is called the **Core Strategy**. This will set out the overarching principles for housing and economic growth within the County and the manner in which the County's rich environment and cultural heritage will be protected and enhanced. While the Core Strategy will not identify specific sites for housing and employment growth, it will identify broad locations around the County where development should be focused.

Core Strategy: Issues Paper



How can we shape the

A place to Work | A place to Move | A place to Improve

Tourism and Culture

Promote tourism and holiday locations, landscape, market towns, promote unique character

Local Economy

Promote existing employment areas, support agriculture, diversity of economy, business support

Transport and Accessibility

Walking, cycling, rail, park and ride, new transport infrastructure, car parking

Sport and recreation

Efficient use of resources, dual use, improved access

Regeneration

Design, Edgar Street Grid, enhanced public realms, market towns

Services and facilities

Greater range of facilities, libraries, community facilities, retain rural services

Environmental Assets

Green trails, walking, cycling, enhance heritage, protect wildlife, farm diversification, tourism



Herefordshire of 2026?

A place to Grow | A place to Live | A place to Enjoy

Climate Change

Renewable, cleaner energy, energy efficiency, alternative, carbon neutral, energy proofing, carbon emission offsetting, self sufficiency

Population

Good quality employment, education links, improved health care

Learning and Skills

Better access to higher education, vocational training, learning village, specialist academic bases

Housing provision

Location, type and tenure - including affordable housing

Air quality

Reduce car use / traffic congestion, park and ride, cycling, minimise air pollution

Waste

Reduce, recycling, proximity principle, self sufficiency

Water

Flood protection, management of flood plains, efficient use of water



What do we need from you?

The first stage of preparing the new development plan is to identify the issues that are important across the County and to develop a long-term future vision for Herefordshire in 2026. We have set out below 14 key issues for the County and would like to know whether these are the right issues and what the future should be. These issues have been identified from a range of sources including:

- The Herefordshire Community Strategy
- Existing Council strategies
- Consultation responses from awareness raising initiatives, in particular responses to the Herefordshire Matters article in May 2007
- Sustainability Appraisal work
- On-going consultation and meetings with stakeholders
- Other relevant planning documents and strategies, in particular the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands and its emerging review.

The purpose of this consultation is to find out whether the 14 issues identified within this paper are the most pressing issues facing Herefordshire, or whether there are any additional ones.

The Core Strategy will also have to set out how Herefordshire will change and evolve in the future and therefore we are also keen to hear your views on what kind of place Herefordshire will be in 2026.

Key Issues

□ Addressing the impacts of Climate Change

The effects of climate change will have a significant impact on Herefordshire more far reaching than flooding. A major element of the County's economy and landscape is associated with agriculture and food production, which could be affected by drier summers and wetter winters.

A Vision for the County could put climate change at the forefront of all policy considerations, seek to reduce the County's carbon footprint and promote more efficient use of resources such as energy and water. The County's future economy could also be shaped in a manner that takes a lead in the promotion of sustainable land management and resource efficiency.

What do you feel should be the future for the County in terms of addressing the impacts of climate change?



❑ An ageing population and the loss of younger generations

Herefordshire's population in 2005 was 177,800 of which about one third lives in Hereford City and a little more than a fifth in the market towns. The total population of the County is expected to increase by 1.5% between 2005 and 2011 (3% Nationally). The number of people aged between 75 and 84 years is expected to increase by 6.7% and those aged over 85 by 35.5%, while the equivalent for England and Wales lies at 3.0% and 19.4% respectively. People within the 15-24 year age group represent 10% of the County's population compared with 13% in England and Wales - a situation which is likely to be the same in 2011.

While we should seek to capitalise on the knowledge of our ageing population, we should also consider how the dispersed rural nature of Herefordshire will place specific demands on service providers such as healthcare, transport and community services.

Fewer younger people within the County will also have a significant impact on the future economic viability of the County.

A long-term future Vision for the County will need to consider how to meet the needs of an ageing population and ensure that the right kind of services and facilities are readily available. It must also consider the needs of our younger generations, and seek to attract those from elsewhere.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the high rate of growth in the County's older population combined with the loss of young people is an issue to be addressed in planning the future of Herefordshire?

❑ The need to capitalise on educational achievements

The County performs well in terms of educational attainment, however it is failing to capitalise on the learning and skills of its young people as they leave the County in search of higher education and career prospects.

A future Herefordshire should look to capitalise on the educational achievements of its younger generations to provide a viable and available workforce. The vision for learning and skills within Herefordshire could seek to offer important skills for life training and develop vocational and traditional skills based training that capitalise on the rural and agricultural strengths of Herefordshire that are not available elsewhere. Such opportunities may be in the form of sustainable land management, agriculture and specialist areas such as Farriery, Veterinary services, energy crops or IT.

How do you see the future in terms of opportunities for learning and skills in the future?

❑ Housing provision including affordable homes

The County falls within the West Midlands and will be required to accommodate the levels of housing as being determined within the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the Region.

Low levels of earnings in Herefordshire, relatively high house prices and a high proportion of detached dwellings mean that there is a serious shortage of affordable housing in the County.



The Vision for Herefordshire needs to identify how the right kind of housing should be provided in the right locations to support the other issues identified in this paper and create sustainable and inclusive communities. The Vision needs to consider how creating employment opportunities, meeting the needs of an ageing population and retention of younger generations could be achieved by providing new homes.

How do you see the future in terms of the kind of housing you would like to see and where?

❑ Improving Air Quality



Despite the rural nature of the County, air quality and pollution in certain areas is above national targets. Hereford and Leominster in particular have higher levels of NO² and CO². Two Air Quality Management Areas have been declared within the County.

The quality of air can also be affected by the by-products of agricultural operations and industrial processes.

It is important that the Vision takes into account efforts to reduce air pollution especially from cars and traffic congestion.

What would you like the future to look like concerning air quality?

❑ Better Waste Management

The growth of the County over the next 20 years will have an impact on the amounts and disposal of waste. Low remaining landfill capacity and the need to export waste to other areas results in a greater demand for efficiency in waste management and pressures to recycle. The Vision for Herefordshire will need to take into account how we can encourage the reduction in waste especially that sent to landfill and enable better access to recycling facilities.

How would you like the future to look in relation to waste production and management?

❑ Better Use of Water

Water supply is at a premium with competing interests such as industry, agriculture, environment and housing. The County also enjoys high quality ground and river waters, but these are susceptible to pollution.

Flooding can have a major impact and restricts the opportunities for development.

Should flooding issues in the County be accepted as a natural occurrence or should more be done to introduce flood protection measures?

The Vision also needs to consider how to address the demand for water in the future growth of Herefordshire and reduce any possible effects to water quality.

❑ Protecting and enhancing Environmental Assets

Herefordshire has beautiful countryside rich in wildlife, distinctive heritage, attractive valleys and rivers, including the River Wye which flows east through Hereford. The Malvern Hills are to the east and the Black Mountains lie to the south west. This attractive environment is one of the County's strengths and should be protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy. The County's rich distinctive heritage can play an important role in defining a distinctive Herefordshire environment.

The County has a number of European, National and Local environmental designations that are to be protected or enhanced for wildlife and geology. However, within the County the conditions of these sites varies.

In planning the future of the County to 2026, all elements of the environment will be a key consideration, both in terms of protection and areas where enhancement can be gained.

How do you see the future of Herefordshire in relation to its landscape and wildlife?



❑ Access to important services and facilities



Herefordshire is the most sparsely populated unitary authority in England, with only two other counties having lower population densities. It is therefore important that convenient access to essential services and facilities such as healthcare, education, shopping, sport, culture and recreation, are maximised. Hereford is the major location in the County for employment, administration, health, services, education facilities and shopping not only for Herefordshire but mid-Wales, with the five market towns of Ross-on-Wye, Leominster, Ledbury, Bromyard and Kington being the other principle service centres.

In planning the future of the County, it is essential that Hereford and the market towns are able to thrive and provide important services and facilities for both those living in urban and rural areas.

What kind of place would you like Herefordshire to be in relation to shopping, leisure, health and educational provision?

❑ Diversification of the Economy

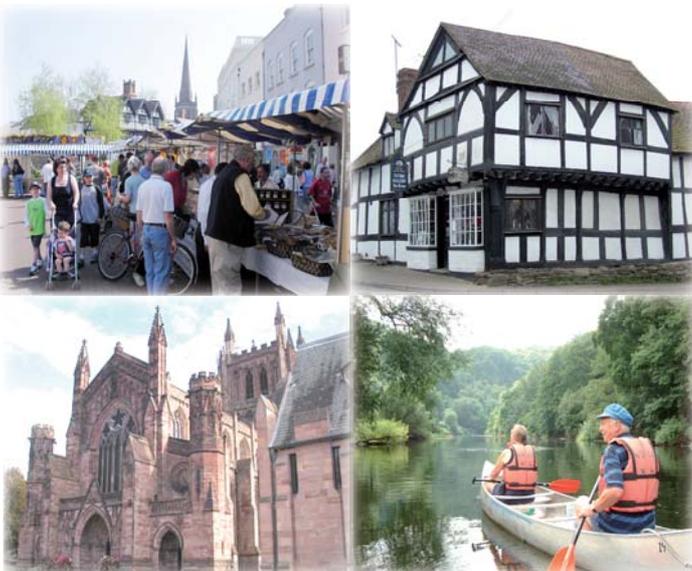


Employment within the County has a high dependence on sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and tourism which continue to provide an important role within the Herefordshire economy.

This brings about many challenges such as the need to attract and retain businesses in an increasingly globally competitive environment; to use land more efficiently for employment uses, to improve wages to at least that of the national average; and to reduce the need for young people to leave the area to seek jobs and prospects elsewhere.

How do you see Herefordshire's economy in the future and what types of jobs do you think Herefordshire should attract in the future and where?

❑ Tourism and culture



The County's tourism economy, based on its environmental character and heritage, also has an important role in the wider Herefordshire economy. Tourism should continue to be supported where it can bring about both economic and environmental benefits. It is essential to ensure that tourism is appropriate to the County and locality.

How should we address the promotion of tourism and culture as a part of Herefordshire's future?

❑ Transport and Communications

There is a high degree of car ownership in the County, especially in the more remote rural areas. This level of dependency and the capacity of the A49 trunk road results in Hereford experiencing high levels of traffic congestion at peak times, exacerbated by limited crossings over the River Wye. Herefordshire's geographic location also results in limited road access to the motorway network via the M50. There are rail links to Birmingham, London, Manchester and Cardiff, but these have limited potential for capacity improvements.

There is a need to enable the continuing growth of the County for housing and jobs, however this is unlikely to be achieved without the provision of improved transport for people and goods, as well as further provision of sewerage facilities, water, gas and electricity.

How could a Vision for 2026 consider the provision of transport and utilities alongside housing and economic growth, in a way that improves the conditions for everyone and the environment?

❑ The Regeneration of the County

There is also a need to ensure that Hereford remains vital and vibrant as the major location in the County for employment, administration, health, services, education and shopping facilities. The Edgar Street Grid area provides an important opportunity for regeneration in Hereford. Herefordshire should provide a range of services and facilities for its population to avoid people travelling to other nearby towns.



While Hereford is the administrative capital of the County, there is a need to ensure that the Market Towns are also vital and vibrant and continue to provide essential services and facilities across the County.

How would you see the role and function of Hereford City and the market towns?

Which locations do you feel should be regenerated and what should their future be like?



❑ Access to Sport and Recreation



Access to formal and informal sport and recreation does not only provide the population with valuable leisure facilities but also plays a part in improving people's health and general well being.

How do you see the future with regards to accessibility to sport and recreation facilities within the County?



❑ *Or are there other important issues?*

How you can help?

You can help us focus on what is important to the County and help create the Herefordshire of 2026. Please use the questionnaire to tell us if you think that the issues highlighted are the right ones.

Are there any important issues which you feel we have missed?

How do you see Herefordshire in 2026?

Let us have your views so that the policies we put into the Core Strategy will be built on firm foundations.

Please complete the questionnaire online at:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf

or return to:

**Core Strategy
Licence No. RRJX-TLSH-SCYH
FREEPOST
Forward Planning
Herefordshire Council
PO BOX 4
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0XH**

or e-mail to: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk
by **Friday 26th October 2007**

Where can I find out more?

You can come and visit our roadshow at the following venues:

- **Hereford Courtyard** - 8th October
9.30am to 1.30 pm
- **Bromyard Centre** - 9th October
3.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Larruperz Centre, Ross** - 10th October
3.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Green Lane Methodist Church, Leominster** - 11th October
3.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **The Burgage Hall, Ledbury** -
15th October, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre, Kington** - 16th October
4.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Golden Valley Community Centre, Peterchurch** - 18th October
3.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- **Hereford High Town** - 20th October
10 am to 3 pm

What happens next?

We will analyse all the information gathered from this consultation, formulate a Vision for Herefordshire, prepare a set of possible options to assist its achievement and consult you on them in February/March 2008.

For further information, please contact the Forward Planning Team on:

ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk

Useful websites

Department of Communities and Local Government - www.communities.gov.uk

Royal Town Planning Institute - www.rtpi.org.uk/

Planning Advisory Service - www.pas.gov.uk

Planning Aid - www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk/

Herefordshire Council 's Local Development Framework - www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf

West Midlands Regional Assembly - www.wmra.gov.uk

Herefordshire Partnership - www.herefordshirepartnership.com

Further stages of the Core Strategy

Issues (September 2007) [[We are here](#)]

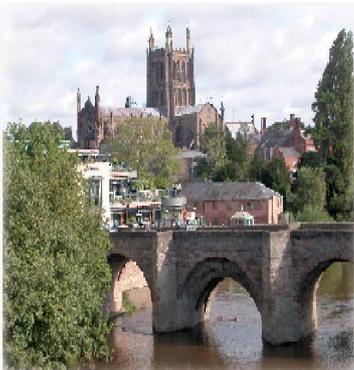
Developing Options (March 2008)

Preferred Options (September 2008)

Submission for examination (June 2009)

Examination (December 2009)

Adoption (July 2010)



If you need help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Forward Planning Team on 01432 260000 or send an email to: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk



HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL

www.herefordshire.gov.uk