

Appendix

Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy

(July 2011)

The current Herefordshire Sustainable Community Strategy is a document valid for the two-year period ending December 2011. There continues to be a requirement for a Sustainable Community Strategy, but this position is currently subject to a review nationally.

During Spring 2011 Herefordshire Partnership reviewed its structure and governance procedures. This was in part a response to the changing environment in which we work and deliver services, including a number of nationally driven directives as well as those we are promulgating locally. These include:

- A climate of constrained and **reducing financial resources**.
- The County's **relatively old age structure** (which is projected to increase).
- **The Localism Bill**, to shift power from central government to local people and communities, enhancing local democracy and individual responsibility. (Community empowerment will be a key driver through which local people and communities have the opportunity to articulate their views and aspirations about the quality of life in their area).
- **National Health Service reforms**, including the proposed (and statutory) **Health and Well Being Board** which, through a **Health and Well Being Strategy** will seek to address health inequalities and raise lifestyle standards.
- Provision of accountability for the statutory functions of **Safer Herefordshire**, with acknowledgment of **Safeguarding Boards** for **Children** and **Adults**, and their statutory remit.
- The **Community Engagement Framework**, setting appropriate engagement activities through which communities are first and at the heart of improving local service delivery, and linked to...
- The **Locality Strategy for Herefordshire** through which intelligence relating to nine geographic areas can be best utilised to commission services appropriate to local need.

Taking into consideration the above influences, Herefordshire Partnership is striving to best position itself to drive forward the objectives of Sustainable Community Strategy through its streamlined, focussed Executive Group and the development of locality partnerships.

Although it had been intended to review and publish a new Sustainable Community Strategy in the latter half of 2011, the newly formed Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group has resolved to adhere to this current edition until 2012, when the full impact of external influences are apparent and all members across the wider partnership are best placed to deliver real improvement across the County.

A new Sustainable Community Strategy for Herefordshire will therefore be published in 2012.