

# **LEICESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

## **REVIEW DOCUMENT 2005**

### **Leicestershire Together**

A wide range of organisations and partnerships that deliver public services in Leicestershire have come together to form Leicestershire Together. This Partnership seeks to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people and to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County.

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## Leicestershire Together

**Leicestershire Together seeks to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people and to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County.**

To help achieve this aim in ways that meet the needs of Leicestershire people, the Partnership prepared a Community Strategy. This Strategy has been reviewed and updated to reflect the current key issues that the Partnership as a whole and its constituent members need to consider, and the actions that will be undertaken to address them.

Leicestershire Together is working to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people, that is, those who live in, work in or visit the administrative County of Leicestershire. A separate Community Strategy has been prepared for Leicester City by the Leicester Partnership. Furthermore, the seven District Local Strategic Partnerships in Leicestershire have completed Community Strategies, each being at different stages in their own review process. Work is continually being done to ensure that the County and District strategies are complementary.

### Leicestershire Together's Vision

The members of Leicestershire Together are committed to developing:

- A vibrant and thriving County in which to live, work and play
- A County where all have access to quality services
- A County which looks to the future by maximising opportunities for its young people

Leicestershire Together has developed a website that can be found at [www.Leicestershiretogether.org](http://www.Leicestershiretogether.org). This contains more information about the board, including minutes from meetings, current events and latest news.

### Guiding Principles for Leicestershire Together

The Partnership aims to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the County and its people through a number of guiding principles. The Partnership will promote:

**Partnership** - by being pro-active in identifying new opportunities for joint working and encouraging partners to share skills and knowledge. We will utilise the strengths of existing partners and partnerships to deliver projects that meet the needs of communities across the County and improve quality of life for all who live in, work in and visit Leicestershire.

**Equality** - by promoting social inclusion and ensuring that all sections of the community have the chance to contribute to, and benefit from, our work as effective members of **a truly democratic society**. We will work to reduce disadvantages and inequalities of opportunity and promote diversity in terms of the people we serve, the staff we employ, the partners we work with and the services we deliver.

**Quality of Life** – by ensuring that people can live safely in a high quality environment, that is protected and enhanced.

**Community Involvement and Participation** - by encouraging community involvement in planning and delivering services by using innovative and creative approaches that engage all groups in society.

**Sustainability** - by basing its actions upon identifiable community needs, and ensuring that they enhance the quality of life of the residents of Leicestershire now, whilst taking account of the needs of future generations. By considering the impact of local action on the wider world and other social, economic and environmental policies.

**Quality** - by providing high quality and value for money services, by striving to be efficient, economical and effective.

**Accountability** - by consistently evaluating its activities and projects, and seeking ways in which it can operate most effectively and improve upon the lives of the greatest number of people. It will provide regular progress reports to the communities and individuals of Leicestershire.

**One of the guiding principles for Leicestershire Together is the promotion of equality. Within the Community Strategy there are a range of actions specifically intended to achieve this.**

**The approach to equality will be integrated within all Partnership activities. When activities are reviewed or new activities agreed, they will be checked to ensure that the implications for the promotion of equality are being properly considered and appropriately addressed. All of the partners are encouraged to adopt this approach within their own organisations.**

**The Community Strategy has undergone a rural proofing and sustainability appraisal, which was carried out by an independent team. Some changes have been made to the strategy as a result of the appraisal and any further developments/ changes to the strategy will be influenced by it. All Leicestershire Together partners will be asked to consider the results of this exercise.**

## Leicestershire Together Partners

The Partnership comprises:

- Leicestershire County Council
- 7 District Local Strategic Partnerships
- Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Parish and Local Councils
- Leicester Shire Economic Partnership
- Connexions, Leicester Shire
- Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership for Leicestershire (CYPSL)
- Business Link, Leicestershire
- Leicestershire and Leicester City Learning Partnership
- Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council
- Health Sector - Four Primary Care Trusts, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland Strategic Health Authority
- Leicestershire Environmental Partnership – (ENABLE)
- Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Forum
- Leicestershire Rural Partnership
- Leicester Racial Equality Council
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Community Safety Programme Board
- Leicestershire Police Authority
- Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Service Community Partnership
- Faith Communities
- Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority
- Job Centre Plus

## Monitoring the Leicestershire Community Strategy and Leicestershire Together

Leicestershire Together and District based LSPs are jointly developing a common set of 'quality of life' indicators. These will be based on the set proposed by the Audit Commission, for use in monitoring the development and impact of Community Strategies in Leicestershire. A common set of indicators will:

- help to paint a picture of, and monitor change over time, on quality of life issues in Leicestershire;
- help to inform, monitor and evaluate community planning processes - justifying and setting future local priorities;
- enhance partnership working between Councils, other public sector agencies and the business, community and voluntary sectors;
- allow authorities and their partners to compare their performance on those issues with other similar areas;
- help to fill gaps in the knowledge of authorities and LSPs, supplementing existing service delivery indicators; and
- **stimulate** debate and **raise** awareness of quality of life issues.

The draft quality of life indicators are set out on the County Council's website - [www.leics.gov.uk](http://www.leics.gov.uk).

### **Taking your views into account**

The involvement of the people of Leicestershire in identifying key issues of concern and ways to tackle these is an important part of preparing and reviewing the Community Strategy. For the initial Strategy a thorough consultation process was undertaken.

Initial consultation took place in October and November 2002, and involved a range of events including six discussion groups, a Young Persons' Citizens' Jury, and a quality of life questionnaire through 'Leicestershire's Voice', the citizen's panel.

A summary of these consultation exercises overall suggested that the priorities of the Leicestershire people were:

- Children and Young People
- Traffic and Transport
- Crime and Community Safety

The final draft Leicestershire Community Strategy was then circulated in April 2003 for comment. All views expressed during this consultation period were taken into account.

For the 2004 review of the Strategy, further consultation was carried out to ensure that the Community Strategy is still addressing the public's key priorities. This included:

- 4 Focus Groups, involving young people, the elderly, businesses and people from rural areas / farmers.
- A quality of life questionnaire through 'Leicestershire's Voice', the citizen's panel, which posed the same questions as in 2003, in order to establish whether peoples priorities had changed
- A short questionnaire to all Parish Councils; and
- A Citizens' Jury for Disabled People

The key priorities that came out of this consultation were to reduce traffic congestion and work towards lowering the level of crime. Other high priorities included road safety and the condition of the roads and pavements.

The Community Strategy actions are reviewed, monitored and updated on an on-going six monthly basis and reported to the Leicestershire Together Board which meets quarterly.

### **Further Details**

If you have any comments or require information on the content of this Community Strategy please contact:

Nicole Rickard or Donna Mackay,  
Tel: 0116 265 6977 or 0116 265 8137    Fax: 0116 265 7271  
Email: [lt@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lt@leics.gov.uk)    Minicom: 0116 265 6160

Write to: Policy Team, Chief Executives Department, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA

## **Leicestershire Community Strategy**

### **About Leicestershire**

Leicestershire is a diverse County in the centre of England: it rings the City of Leicester and borders with the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. The population of Leicestershire is 619,200 (Mid Year 2003 Population figure) and the County covers an area of 2,083 square kilometres, across seven districts. The County has exceptional transport links – London is just over an hour away by train and there are extensive road networks including the M1, M69, M42 and the A14. Nottingham East Midlands Airport lies in the north of the County and Birmingham International Airport to the west, providing flights to a wide range of destinations. Nottingham East Midlands Airport is also one of the UK's major freight airports.

Leicestershire is predominantly rural, but has a number of vibrant market towns and suburban communities; many of which have a history dating back 1,000 years. Leicestershire has a wealth of heritage sites, both natural and built, reflecting the different uses of land, populations and historical monuments.

Leicestershire hosts the National Forest including Charnwood Forest and precious pockets of ancient woodland. Other recognisable landscapes include the Soar and Wreake valleys, High Leicestershire, the Leicestershire Vales and the Wolds. The wealth of parks and open spaces in the County are well used and treasured by local people. Consultation for Leicestershire's Cultural Strategy revealed that the majority of Leicestershire residents were very proud of the rural beauty of the area, and felt that the County's open spaces offered scope for reflection.

One of Leicestershire's key strengths is its central location and strong communications network, providing easy access to the rest of the UK and beyond. Leicestershire has a diverse economy, which is generally robust and prosperous and the second largest in the East Midlands. Leicestershire's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head is also the second highest in the region. Traditionally, the Leicestershire economy has tended to perform slightly better than other areas of the UK during any downturn in the economic cycle.

The 2001 census also showed that of the total population of Leicestershire, 5.97% are of minority ethnic origin. The districts of Oadby and Wigston, Charnwood and Blaby have the highest proportions of people of minority ethnic origin. 74% of the population of Leicestershire stated they were Christian, 2% Hindu, 0.8% Muslim, 0.8% Sikh and 15% said they had no religion.

### **XX MAPOF LEICESTERSHIREXX**

The Strategy identifies a number of key issues that concern the people of Leicestershire and sets out Leicestershire Together's priorities for action.

### **Working Together**

The Leicestershire Community Strategy is an overarching strategy to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County. It will set the main priorities for public

agencies for the next 2 and 5 years in terms of making real and long lasting changes to our quality of life.

As stated earlier, Leicestershire Together is working to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people, that is, those who live in, work in or visit the administrative County of Leicestershire.

In addition to the Community Strategy, the Leicestershire Together partners have organisational strategies or service plans to which they work. These strategies will also play a key role in improving the quality of life in Leicestershire. In particular, the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership's 'Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Regeneration Strategy 2002-2012' will guide the economic side of the Community Strategy. Appendix 1 sets out the key strategies of the Partnership's members, although it should be noted that these are supported by many other detailed strategies.

Many of the individual member organisations and partnerships of Leicestershire Together, such as the Leicestershire Police Authority and the Learning and Skills Council, have responsibility for providing services in both the County and City, and in some cases beyond. It is therefore important that, where appropriate, there is a co-ordinated approach between County and City 'Community Strategies'.

Over time the Community Strategy will influence the review of all public service strategies and plans and contribute to delivering the vision of Leicestershire Together set out on page 3. A wide range of public agencies, not just those mentioned in this document, will work together to deliver the vision and purpose of Leicestershire Together.

### **About the Leicestershire Community Strategy**

The Strategy consists of three chapters to complement the vision of Leicestershire Together:

- Leicestershire - A County to be proud of
  - Leicestershire - Where there are quality services for all
  - Young People - Leicestershire's Future
- (The strategy gives attention to young people as a number of consultation exercises identified issues around young people as a particular concern for people in Leicestershire).

The Headings on each page state what the people of Leicestershire have told us they would like - a summary of the key issues of concern, drawing from the results of a wide range of consultation exercises previously undertaken by the members of the Partnership. The heading (entitled "The People of Leicestershire Want") of each chapter has been revised in line with the views expressed through the first stage of consultation on the Community Strategy. Underneath each heading there are four sections:

**Section 1** 'In Leicestershire' - statistics to help understand the current situation in Leicestershire, building an image of how the County compares to other local authorities and areas regionally and nationally.

**Section 2** 'As a Priority We Will' - action's' for the Leicestershire Together Partnership to undertake. For each action a measurable target, timescale and lead organisation / partnership is identified. Twelve of the actions are taken from the Public Service Agreement

(PSA) with the government, which target specific service areas and set agreed performance improvement targets.

**Section 3 'We will also support other partnerships to' – actions that are being delivered through other Partnerships or Strategies that the Leicestershire Together Partnership support.**

**Section 4 'Other Actions' - actions not fitting in with the above 3 sections.**



## Appendix 1- Key Strategies and Plans

Strategy/Plan	Contact Officer	Telephone Number
District of Blaby Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Chris Trail, Head of Community Development	0116 275 2518
Blaby District Partnership For Crime Reduction	Jane Taylor, Community Development Officer	0116 272 7575
Charnwood Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Steve Phipps, Head of Policy Unit	01509 634 605
Charnwood Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy	<b>Cheryl Martin</b> Policy Officer	01509 634 901
Crime and Disorder Partnership for Hinckley and Bosworth	Kathy Robinson, Community Safety Officer	01455 238 174 ext 432
Criminal Justice Plan	Supt. Glen Brown, Leicestershire Constabulary	0116 248 2510
Combined Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2002-2007	ACO Ian Scarrott. Director of Corporate Resources	0116 287 2241
Compact on the relationship between the Voluntary and Community Sector in Leicestershire and Leicestershire County Council	Gill Wollerton, Partnership Officer CVS Community Partnership	0116 234 1577
Cultural Strategy – Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Forum	Heather Broughton, Head of Environment & Heritage Services	0116 265 6781
<b>Leicestershire Sure Start (Early Years Development and Childcare) Strategic Plan 2004 - 06</b>	Margaret Aust, Service Manager - <b>Early Years and Childcare</b>	0116 265 6552
Education Development Plan	Mary Hufford, Senior Education Officer -	0116 265 6614

Education Department Strategic Plan	Planning Mary Hufford, Senior Education Officer – Planning	0116 265 6614
Harborough Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Mike Greenway, <b>Corporate Policy Officer</b>	01858 821 176
Harborough District Community Safety Partnership – Crime Reduction & Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005	<b>Chhaya McDonald</b> , Community Safety Officer	01858 821 198
Hinckley & Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Duncan Bell, Corporate Planning Officer	01455 232 729
Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy	Neil Greenhalgh, Waste Partnership Project Manager	0116 265 6837
Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Regeneration Strategy 2002-2012	Kishor Tailor, Chief Executive, LSEP	0116 257 5699
<b>Leicestershire County Council Corporate Equality Plan 2005-2007</b>	<b>Barry Davies</b> , <b>Head of Partnership and Diversity</b>	<b>0116 265 7565</b>
<b>Leicestershire County Council Race Equality Scheme 2005-2007</b>	<b>Barry Davies</b> , <b>Head of Partnership and Diversity</b>	<b>0116 265 7565</b>
Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Sports Strategy	<b>Ilana Freestone</b>	0115 982 1887
Leicestershire Rural Strategy 2001-2006	Thomas Gill Rural Officer	0116 265 7973
Leicestershire Supporting People Strategy	Dianne Esmond, Project Manager	0116 264 5884

Leicestershire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy	Anne Mitchell, Partnership Development Officer	0116 232 3232
Local Transport Plans	Joanne Eynon, Team Leader	0116 265 8249
Local Preventative Strategy (Children & Young People)	Austin Kenney, Childrens Strategic Joint Planning <b>Officer</b>	0116 265 8186
Melton Community Safety Strategy	Hiren Patel Community Safety Officer	01664 502 487
Melton Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Katie Hemsley, Community Planning Officer	01664 502 395
Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust	Trish Crowson, Assistant Director of Public Health	01664 855 012
National Policing Plan (NPP)	<b>Chief Supt. Chris Garnham, Leicestershire Constabulary. West Area Commandor</b>	<b>0116 248 3311</b>
North West Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Danny Goodwin, Director of Development and Regeneration	01530 454 662
North West Leicestershire Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy	Pam Simmonds & Rachael Lukavec, Community Safety Officers	01530 454 704
Oadby and Wigston Local Strategic Partnership and Community Strategy	Clare Sharpe, Head of Community and Cultural Development	0116 257 2610

Oadby and Wigston Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002-2005	Jim Walker, Assistant Chief Executive	0116 288 8961
Three Year Policing Plan	<b>Chief Supt. Chris Garnham, Leicestershire Constabulary. West Area Commandor</b>	<b>0116 248 3311</b>
Valuing People Strategy	Alison Little, Valuing People Co-ordinator	0116 265 7543
Ways Forward for a Better Leicestershire	Donna Worship Development Officer	0116 265 7242
Welland Partnership Economic Development Strategy	Trevor McHugh Director of Operations, Welland SSP	01832 742 131
Youth Justice Plan	Phil Hawkins, Head of Youth Justice & Safer Communities	0116 265 6780

If you require information contained in this booklet in an alternative format, eg. large print, Braille, audio tape or an alternative language, please call 0116 265 6977, fax 0116 265 7271, Minicom 0116 265 6160 or e-mail: [policy@leics.gov.uk](mailto:policy@leics.gov.uk).

**ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGES (to appear on the back cover of the document)**

## Chapter 1 - Leicestershire A County to be proud of.

Public, private and voluntary organisations and agencies work together to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people. Since 2003 when the Leicestershire Community Strategy was agreed, the following actions have been implemented to address **issues of most concern to you:**

- Funding has been secured through the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership for a range of grants to support rural businesses, including New Life for Redundant Buildings, Rural Visitors Accommodation Grant Scheme and Farmers' and Rural Micro Business Support Grants.
- "Springboard in Leicestershire", a charity promoting careers in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism to young people has been established.
- 83% of childcare leaders in Leicestershire are qualified to Level 3 NVQ and 59% of all paid staff to Level 2.
- **11,452** new childcare places were created in Leicestershire between 2001 and 2004.
- Children's Centres have been developed in Coalville and Loughborough.
- The East Midlands Regional Food and Drink festival was held in Melton Mowbray in October 2004.
- Existing Farmers Markets are all expanding and the Local Food Logo has been successfully piloted.
- ESF funding has allowed the LEA to employ a team of "Learning in the Community" workers, and each FE College has a 'Transition to Accredited Learning' worker.
- The Computer Booking Programme is currently being rolled out to all Libraries.
- A Family Learning weekend was held in October 2003, with 288 activities and 211 events at 74 venues across the City and County. A Family Learning conference was held in March 2004 and brought together over 100 participants to share good practice.
- "Aim Higher: Partnerships for Progression" has been set up by the Learning Partnership to encourage young people from backgrounds under-represented in Higher Education to consider moving on to **this educational level**.
- Local Learning Forums have been established in Harborough, Charnwood, Melton and North West Leicestershire.
- The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has secured funding for an employer training pilot **project called 'Skills at Work'**.
- A "Strategic Overview of the Leicestershire Environment" document was published by ENABLE, the county environment partnership.

- More than 100 companies attended a series of Business Breakfasts to explore the potential of sustainable energy sources.
- Four buildings were removed from the list of buildings at risk register in 2003/04.
- Environmental Improvement schemes were implemented in Hinckley, Lutterworth, Castle Donington, Rothley and Markfield.
- CCTV equipment has been purchased to try and catch "fly-tippers" at various hotspots around the county.
- A Market Towns and Rural Centres Support Officer has been appointed **by Leicestershire County Council to implement a range of projects in more towns across the county.**
- Healthcheck Action Plans have been produced in Thurmaston and Broughton Astley and healthchecks have begun in Earl Shilton and Bottesford. **The Rural Centres Project Officer, who is employed by the Rural Community Council (RCC) supports these healthchecks.**
- Seven Community Access Points have been installed in post offices across Leicestershire.
- A programme of training events for shopkeepers and postmasters took place in November 2003, issues covered included protecting your business from crime, marketing and promotion and the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Six post offices have benefited from grants through the Post Office Development Scheme (PODS), including the innovative community post office in Sheepy Magna church.
- A follow-up "Quality of Life" survey was conducted via the Citizens' Panel in May 2004 to check community priorities and assess the impact of County and District Community Strategies.
- **A Citizens' Jury for people with disabilities was held in July 2004. The focus of the jury was access to services and involved people from four disability groups; people with Physical disabilities, Learning disabilities, Hearing impairments and Visual impairments. The jury day was proceeded by four individual focus groups, which prioritised issues to be discussed on the day.**
- A range of partners provided comprehensive responses to 11 Village Appraisals and Parish Plans in 2003/04.
- Significant new facilities have been developed in a number of Country Parks, including a 4km extension to the network of cycle tracks at Watermead Park, a new Buttery at Bosworth Battlefield, and an Audio Trail round the Native Tree collection at Beacon Hill.
- 100% of routes in rural Leicestershire are now signposted.

- There are 167 Heritage Wardens in 122 communities. Centre Stage generated 127 shows attracting 8,255 participants from 51 communities, and Centre Screen put on 23 screenings for 846 people from 26 communities.
- Twenty disabled people are being trained, through Loughborough College, as sports coaches.

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

A positive image for the County, with better community and visitor facilities to help generate a sense of pride in Leicestershire, attract visitors and encourage residents to spend leisure time locally.

**In Leicestershire:**

Over 23 million visitors were attracted to Leicestershire and Leicester in 2000, around 22 million of these were day visitors, contributing around £782 million to the local economy.

**Grants are available through the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP) for promotion of rural tourism.**



**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Establish an image for Leicestershire and Leicester, to which all Leicestershire Together partners can subscribe, which promotes its qualities to attract inward investment and tourism, **including by:**

- **Agreeing a structure for the delivery of inward investment, place marketing and tourism services;**
- **Putting in place arrangements for development of a detailed action plan for approval by partners in October 2004;**
- **Creating/ safeguarding 3,000 jobs in 2004-7;**
- **Creating 46 new businesses in 2004-7;**
- **Managing 1500 investor enquiries in 2004-7; and**
- **Holding 108 investor meetings/ visits in 2004-7.**

*(Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, 2004)*

Develop a web-based portal to promote what is going on in Leicestershire for tourists and local people.

*(Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, 2005).*

**Other Actions:**

Work together to use Information Communications Technology in a pilot project to enhance information, booking and enquiry services for local visitor attractions.

***(Leicestershire County Council, Leicester Shire Promotions, North West Leicestershire District Council 2005).***

**Improve access to and interpretation of 3 Country Parks sites by 2007;**  
***(Country Parks 2007)***

### **The People of Leicestershire want:**

A strong diverse economy where a wide variety of thriving small, medium and large businesses can flourish in both urban and rural areas.

### **In Leicestershire:**

Unemployment is low at 1.9% (October 2002) compared with the East Midlands rate of 2.7% and the UK rate of 3.0%. There are however pockets of high unemployment.

68% of employees in Leicestershire work in the service sector and 32% in manufacturing, construction and primary industries. These proportions are similar to the East Midlands (72% and 28% respectively), but significantly different to the 79% service sector employment for Great Britain. This has important implications for the Leicestershire economy as employment is forecast to fall across many manufacturing sectors although off-set by growth in service sector employment.

Creative industries - architecture, advertising, fashion, film, design, printing, merchandising and broadcast media - employ about 85,000 people in the East Midlands accounting for about 4.3% of the workforce. This sector is highly qualified and has a high proportion of self employed, sole traders and **Small Medium Enterprise (SME)** companies as well as being the fastest growing sector in the world.

Leicestershire's Cultural Strategy aims to assist in the building of a creative economy and the development of sustainable private/public sector partnerships to enable creative businesses to flourish.

Another significant employment sector is the health and social care workforce, including residential and home care assistants, social workers, occupational therapists, doctors, nurses and physiotherapists.

**A significant business and employment sector is the early education, playwork and childcare industry, where approximately 2000 small businesses operate throughout the county. Childcare has become a central part of the county's economic infrastructure.**

**11,452 new childcare places were created in Leicestershire between 2001 – 2004.**

Farm income levels have declined significantly in recent years in Leicestershire and nationally.

The agriculture sector accounts for approximately 2.4% (6,800 jobs) of employment in Leicestershire and Rutland which is similar to the national average. However, agriculture remains important to rural areas with many jobs, such as those related to tourism, indirectly dependent on this sector.

Farmers markets are currently held in Castle Donington, Coalville, Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Hinckley and Oadby.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Assist the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership in delivering key actions from the Leicester Shire Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2004-7, and in so doing:

- **Create/ safeguard 1,750 jobs;**
- **Remediate/ recycle 27 hectares of brownfield land;**
- **Create/ attract 565 new businesses;**
- **Create 3250 individual learning opportunities;**
- **Support 675 businesses to increase their use of ICT;**
- **Create 35 new social enterprises;**
- **Ensure 170 people over 45 receive advice on returning to the labour market.**

*(Leicester Shire Economic Partnership, 2004-7).*

Achieve the national standard for qualification of the social care workforce locally, so that at least 50% are qualified to NVQ Level 2 or above by 2006/07.

*(Leicestershire Social Care Development Group, 2005).*

Achieve the national standard for qualification of the childcare workforce locally so that **93% of leaders are qualified by 2006** to NVQ Level 3 or above, with **65%** of paid staff qualified to NVQ Level 2 or above.

*(Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Sure Start Strategic Plan 2006, Ongoing)*

**Establish 1,448 new childcare places, including 1,061 in the 20% most disadvantaged wards and in smaller pockets of disadvantage, and establish 55 new childcare places in the Children's Centre wards by March 2006.**

*(Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Sure Start Strategic Plan 2004)*

**Promote local food initiatives, for example by:**

- **Creating at least two markets every year for the next three years across the county and increasing the frequency of existing farmers markets**
- **Engaging 24 businesses in cluster activities**

*(Food Links Leicestershire, 2005)*

**Build on the 2004 Regional Food and Drink Festival by:**

- **Aim to hold a further 2 food festivals in Melton Mowbray and/or elsewhere by 2008;**
- **Encouraging cluster activities to stimulate innovation and investment in the food and drink cluster;**
- **Developing further food related initiatives to help diversify the employment base of rural areas and boost tourism.**

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership/ Food Links Leicestershire, 2005)*

**Diversify the rural economy by delivering:**

- **A Rural Visitor Accommodation scheme to offer financial assistance for over 50 rural businesses;**
- **A Redundant Building grant scheme that will bring 7 buildings back into use and create or safeguard 14 jobs;**
- **A Rural Micro Business grant scheme to support 8 businesses;**
- **A Farm Business Development Grant scheme to support 6 agricultural businesses;**
- **a Land-based Industries Training Scheme (through LANTRA) to develop 24 learning opportunities and 40 training plans**

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership, 2006)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

The provision of lifelong learning opportunities to enhance skill levels.

**In Leicestershire:**

According to a household survey of Leicestershire and Leicester conducted in 2000, 43% and 25% of adults are qualified to NVQ3 ('A' level equivalent) and NVQ4 (first degree) levels respectively. Only 56% of managers have level 3 qualifications of any kind.

Local research from Leicestershire and Leicester suggests that 1 in 10 adults have not participated in any training since leaving school.

**Work is planned through 2004/5 which will support the development of a Consortium which will become a provider with the LSC on behalf of the sector. Initial research has been carried out, seminars held in June 2004, and a support programme is planned.**

**The County Council's Children's Information Service works closely with Job Centre Plus to help parents entering training and employment to find appropriate childcare.**

Over 50 villages have been visited by mobile training tutors who bring laptops to villages to provide introductory computer training.

Enrolments on local authority adult education courses are high at 101 per 1000 adult population in 2001, compared to the national average of 33.

A range of lifelong learning services are provided to local communities by further education colleges, local universities, Jobcentre Plus and the Information Advice and Guidance Partnership. Early years and childcare learning opportunities, youth services and adult and community education are also available.

All Libraries in Leicestershire are "UK On-Line" Centres.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Work with the voluntary and community sectors to bring about effective partnerships with mainstream providers to engage new adult learners.

(Learning Partnership, Council for Voluntary Service Community Partnership, 2004.)

**Support the Learning Partnership in delivering key projects, including:**

- **Putting in place 12 “learning in the community” workers in locations across the County, and 5 transition workers attached to FE colleges. Target – 2550 new learners, 195 working towards a qualification;**
- **90 new Basic Skills tutors trained, with support and staff development for existing tutors;**
- **Hold a Family Learning week in October 2005 – target 85 events;**
- **Hold 200 events during Adult Learning Week in 2005;**
- **Distribute 150,000 leaflets through the “You can do it” campaign;**
- **Work with young people without a family history of participation in Higher Education through the “Aim Higher” project**

(*Learning Partnership, Learning and Skills Council, 2006*)

Create 400 childcare places in targeted areas and develop 1,000 childcare taster placement opportunities for lone parents and workless families by March 2006.

(*Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006*)

**Develop 3 fully operational Children’s Centres, which offer integrated services for families**  
(*Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership 2004-2006*)

**Run Seven Local Learning Forums three times a year with worker groups in conjunction with District LSPs to provide a focus for local collaborative activity**

(*Learning Partnership, 2005*)

Work with partner agencies to enable equal access for teenage parents to allow more into education training or employment and therefore reduce the risk of long-term social exclusion.

(*Leicestershire County Council, 2010*)

**Other Actions:**

Assist Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council in raising the level of skills within the Leicestershire workforce, focusing in particular on the key sectors of health, education, manufacturing, construction and hospitality.

(*Leicestershire Together, 2005*)

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Cleaner air, less pollution, a reduction in the impact of climate change and efficient use of natural resources.

**In Leicestershire:**

Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in all Districts, as healthy limits for some air pollutants are expected to be exceeded.

**The public is aware of some aspects of environmental risk and of some positive actions that they can take to protect the environment, such as recycling.**

**Increasing recycling and waste minimisation is an ongoing county priority.**

Over 330,000 tonnes of household waste is produced by Leicestershire residents each year. Of this, **75%** is landfilled, **14%** recycled and **11%** composted. This represents less than a fifth of the total amount of waste in the county, when commercial and industrial wastes are included.

The Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy, agreed by County and District councils, identifies a more sustainable approach for dealing with household waste. Waste awareness and reducing the amount we all produce is a key element of the strategy as is maximising the amount that is recycled and composted.

In Partnership with the District Councils, a Waste Awareness Action Plan and a Waste Minimisation Action Plan have been developed. These plans outline activities to be developed over the next 5 years, which will help to increase awareness and reduce the amount of waste, which is produced.

Over 3 years, members of Leicestershire Waste Minimisation Association report that almost £250,000 worth of savings have been made through efficient management of resources and reducing waste.

Fly tipping is the illegal disposal of waste and affects all of the community. It is an activity that can potentially harm the environment and pose a risk to health. It is anti-social and spoils our enjoyment of both our towns and countryside.

**As a priority we will:**

In Partnership with District Councils, additional recycling and composting above statutory targets to achieve around 35% by 2005/2006, an overall increase of around 52% on current levels.  
(*Leicestershire County Council and District Councils, PSA Target 10, 2006*)

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Produce a climate change strategy for partnership approval (including an action plan), by the end of March 2005**  
(*ENABLE, 2005*)

**Lead the community by raising awareness of environmental good practice by ensuring environmental and biodiversity considerations are considered in the development of strategies and action plans.**  
(*ENABLE, 2006*)

"**Raise environmental awareness by working with partners to have in place 117 school travel plans by the end of 2005/06, and to introduce 22 workplace travel plans in 2005, rising to 28 in 2006.**"  
(*Local Transport Plan, ENABLE, 2006*)

**Encourage local companies and organisations to minimise waste.**  
(*Community Transport, LWP - Ongoing*)

**Raise awareness of sustainable energy sources, such as solar and wind power and promote successful local schemes.**  
(*ENABLE, 2006*)

Support the Clean Leicestershire's Environment and Neighborhood (CLEAN) project that will provide an education and awareness campaign and an enforcement team to reduce the incidence of fly tipping in the county.  
(*CLEAN Project Steering Group, 2004*)

**Other Actions:**

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Vital and thriving market town centres and village centres which act as “hubs” for surrounding communities.

**In Leicestershire:**

‘Healthchecks’, to identify strengths and weaknesses, are being undertaken in 4 market towns and 4 village settlements over the next 3 years.

**Environmental improvements to enhance the economic viability of small centres in response to public pressure such as planting and street furniture are being undertaken in settlements.**

43% of new housing was built on previously developed land in 2000/01. This compares to regional and national averages of 40% and 61% respectively.



**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Complete healthchecks and support the implementation of action plans for 8 Market Towns and Rural Centres by 2005 and a further 6 by 2008. **In addition we will:**

- **provide co-ordinated business support in the form of property improvement grants;**
- **provide employment units where needed by converting upper floors to new economic uses;**
- **encourage sustainable communities through people living, working, shopping and accessing services locally, specifically by refurbishing 840 sq.m. of residential floorspace above shops;**
- **help promote an enterprise culture through production of up to 10 promotional shopping maps/guides for market town /rural centres.**

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership, 2008)*

Provide extra support for post offices by:

- Awarding 10 grants to rural Post Offices via the Post Office Development Scheme.
- Locating 12 Community Access points in Post Offices across the county.
- **Reviewing the** frequently asked questions **leaflets** located in all Leicestershire Post Offices.

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership, 2005)*

**Contribute to the enhancement of market towns through townscape improvements in 10 market towns and rural centres.**

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership - Ongoing )*

**Implement 3 environmental improvement schemes across the county per year in response to “demand” and as funding allows.**

*(ENABLE, Ongoing)*

**Other Actions:**

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Local people to have a sense of “community spirit” and to be supported in community activities to bring people together.

Local people to feel part of the decision making process and to have a role in planning the future of their own community.

**In Leicestershire:**

Many agencies provide a wide range of support for local communities and individuals including support from the County Council for environmental improvements, village halls and sports projects through its **SHIRE** and **FLAG** Grants scheme.

Rural Community Council Community Development Officers, funded by the County Council, District Councils and Countryside Agency, have supported 52 communities in undertaking village appraisals. A further 23 communities are currently developing Parish Plans for their settlements.

Each parished area in Leicestershire has either a Parish Council or a Parish Meeting. Parish Councils are the grass roots level of local democracy. Encourage non-parished areas to consider Parish Council status. The Association of Parish and Local Councils co-ordinates and supports the work of Parish Councils and Meetings.

The Leicestershire Together Partnership supports the proposal that the Leicestershire County COMPACT provides a model for local COMPACT development in Leicestershire generally. A COMPACT is a written agreement providing a framework for the way in which Leicestershire’s voluntary and community organisations work together with local authorities.

**As a priority we will:**

Use the Citizens' Panel to gather information about the needs of local communities and to assess the impact of the Leicestershire Together action plan.  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

Produce a Community Cohesion Action Plan and implement the three projects identified as a priority.  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

Review **and co-ordinate** the location, focus and key activities of the range of community development workers working in the County.  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Encourage community led consultation and development by supporting local community groups, including Parish Councils, to complete at least: 30 community consultation and engagement processes, including Village Appraisals, Parish Plans, and Village Design Statements.  
*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership, CVS Community Partnership, Leicestershire Together 2005)*

**Support the Association of Parish and Local Councils in developing local Parish Councils, by encouraging them to apply for Quality Council status and develop web sites. Encourage non-parished areas to consider Parish Council status.**  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2006)*

**Develop Codes of Practice on Volunteering, Community Groups, Funding, Black and Minority Groups, Consultation and Policy Appraisal by December 2005.**  
*(CVS Community Partnership, Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**Other Actions:**

Develop a protocol to ensure that the results of consultation activities such as Citizens Panels and Juries are used effectively, disseminated widely and fed into the decision making process. **Ensure that the voluntary and community sector are involved in this process in the most timely and efficient way.**  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**Pilot at least one** new method of consultation to seek the views of those who do not normally respond to consultation.  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

Hold at least one Citizens Jury per year.  
*(Leicestershire Together, Ongoing)*

**Support the development and implementation of COMPACTS in Melton, Charnwood, Oadby & Wigston, and North West Leicestershire and the Learning Compact with the Learning & Skills Council.**  
*(CVS Community Partnership, Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Access to the countryside, green spaces, biodiversity and built heritage to be conserved and enhanced.

**In Leicestershire:**

The Leicestershire, Leicester and **Rutland Structure Plan and District Local Plans/Local Development Frameworks encourage the protection, development** and accessibility of green spaces and playing fields.

Leicestershire has 36 country parks for local people and visitors to discover the County's landscapes **and over 3000km of rights of way.**

**There are 4810 statutorily designated sites in the County.** The Cultural Strategy Action Plan outlines how a number of partners intend to work together to safeguard, and improve access to heritage.

Currently, only 2.5% of Leicestershire Leicester and Rutland is notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) compared with an average of 6% per county in England.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Support the achievement of the biodiversity enhancement targets in the Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan.  
(ENABLE, LCC) (ongoing)**

**Other Actions:**

Increase to **78%** the percentage of the length of footpaths and other rights of way that are signposted where they leave rights of way and easy to use by members of the public.  
(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)

**Increase access to the countryside by improving 600kms of the rights of way network per year**  
**(LCC, 2006)**

Take action to increase the number of buildings removed from the listed buildings at risk register to 4 per year.  
(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)

Develop a network of community parks.  
(District Councils, 2005)

**Support the implementation of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and work to protect priority habitats; and look for opportunities for creating further habitats.**  
**(ENABLE, LCC Environmental action programme, Ongoing)**

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

More opportunity for all sections of society, including disabled people, to participate in sports, leisure, arts and culture, heritage, the economy, learning and other aspects of life.

**In Leicestershire:**

26% of all volunteers are involved in sporting activities.

The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Sports Forum plays a significant role in developing high quality and accessible sport in the County, including activities for young people.

There are over 50 indoor sports facilities in the County with activities ranging from climbing walls to swimming pools and fitness gyms to courts for tennis, badminton and squash.

**All the County's early years and childcare providers have a Special Educational Needs Policy, a named Co-ordinator and undertake specialised training to ensure the needs of all youngsters are met.**

**The Community Outreach Workers based in the Ethnic Minority Achievement Support Service work with ethnic minority communities, traveller, asylum seeking and refugee families throughout the county in order to promote early education, play and childcare opportunities.**

**The commitment to develop a county-wide Play Strategy by 2006, was launched at the Early Years Development and Childcare 2004 Conference.**

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Conduct an audit of current school sports/leisure facilities and** develop or improve 15 new community and leisure facilities on school and college sites by 2006.  
*(Cultural Strategy Forum, Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

Develop arts and heritage based projects in rural communities such as rural and community touring schemes and heritage wardens by using funding such as the Countryside Agency's Local Heritage Initiative.

*(Leicestershire Rural Partnership, Cultural Strategy Forum and ENABLE, 2005)*

**Ensure all children with SEN/disabilities, whose parents wish it, are able to access early education and/or childcare provision in mainstream settings by March 2006.**  
*(Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006)*

**Ensure an increased use of libraries by families with young children by March 2006**  
*(Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006)*

**Other Actions:**

## **Chapter 2: Leicestershire – where there are quality services for all**

Public, private and voluntary organisations and agencies work together to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people. Since 2003 when the Leicestershire Community Strategy was agreed, the following actions have been implemented to address **issues of most concern to you:**

- Five Model service shops are being developed in Hinckley, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire County Council and Braunstone Town.
- Hours of opening have been extended at Fleckney, Broughton Astley and Shepshed libraries, including Saturdays at two locations. All libraries offer free ICT access to small businesses.
- Building work has started on new libraries at Measham and Glen Parva. Planning is underway for a further Seven new libraries.
- A network of village portals has been established at [www.leicestershirevillages.com](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com).
- A joint Data Sharing Protocol has been developed and software purchased to enable easier, more efficient transfer of information between agencies.
- A Strategic Assessment of Service Delivery Issues was produced in July 2004, which lists a number of key recommendations for local partners, including LSPs.
- New arrangements for providing information about planned road works, including information boards, letter drops, advance notification signing and notification to public transport operators will be introduced in **early 2005**. The County Council's new website will, from **early 2005**, contain up to date information on roadworks. A single Roadline telephone number – 0800 626203 – has been launched.
- The Leicestershire Together Website [www.leicestershiretogether.org](http://www.leicestershiretogether.org) was launched in June 2004.
- Leicestershire County Council adopted the Equality Standard for Local Government in April 2004. **The Equality Standard will ensure that equality and diversity are at the heart of everything the council does.** A Corporate Equality Plan covering race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, age and belief **was produced in November 2004.**
- A draft Renewal **and Development** Framework has been prepared, identifying ways of improving the quality of life for disadvantaged communities in Charnwood.
- 'Frequently Asked Questions' Leaflets have been circulated to every Post Office. These provide answers to the questions that postmasters are asked most frequently about public services.
- All District Councils produced Homelessness Strategies in 2003.
- Seventeen Assessment beds have been purchased to offer an alternative to hospital stays and prevent discharge, to help with the development of rehabilitation services for older and disabled people.



- Recruitment campaigns for adoptive and foster carers were very successful.
- Integration has been achieved between Social Services and the NHS in relation to adult mental health services, including joint information systems.
- Patronage on commercially run and contract bus services increased from 14.7 million in 2002/03 to 14.9 million in 2003/04.
- We are on target to achieve countywide coverage of transport schemes for people with mobility impairments.
- Current figures show that Leicestershire is ahead of **its target to improve** 'A' class roads, and that deterioration of 'B' and 'C' roads has also been halted.
- All District Councils are working to establish baselines for 'cleanliness of relevant land and highways'.
- The Leicestershire Partnership for Safer Communities has been replaced by a new Community Safety Programme Board for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, with the aim of creating greater synergy between community safety priorities and the Criminal Justice Agenda.
- Areas of greatest health needs are identified in all PCT Public Health Annual Reports.
- **The Leicester Shire Online Research Atlas (LSORA) was launched to Leicestershire Together partners in September 2004.**
- Leicestershire and Rutland "tackling overweight and obesity" strategy has been adopted by Primary Care Trusts (PCT's).
- The Leicestershire Tobacco Control Strategy has been adopted by PCT's.
- South Leicestershire PCT produced an issue of their Public Eye newsletter focussing on prevention of accidental injury and death.
- All PCT's are working to implement the National Sexual Health Strategy.
- The Exercise Alliance is currently being re-established to promote schemes such as 'walking for health'.
- **Leicestershire's Children's Information Service received a prestigious Partners in Excellence Award from the national Sure Start Unit in 2004 for the information management systems it has developed to keep track of early years and childcare places across the County.**

### **The People of Leicestershire want:**

Access to public services:

- Which are easy to contact, friendly and helpful
- That use the most convenient method (such as telephone, letter, email, fax or personal visit) for them
- Which are open at times that suit local people
- Where a range of services can be accessed at the same time

### **In Leicestershire:**

People think that telephone, internet and face to face will be their three most important contact demands in three years time.

All public libraries have Internet access. Six libraries have videophones.

There are 20 “Self Help” points within libraries and County and District Councils jointly run Six service shops, to provide ‘one stop’ access to council services.

31 schools and colleges provide sports facilities, whilst 54 are community education providers.

31% of the public transactions that are capable of being dealt with by electronic means are delivered in this way by the County Council.

Each rural community in Leicestershire has been provided with the opportunity to develop a website through the village websites project **through [www.leicestershirevillages.com](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com)**.

**As a priority we will:**

Improve our cost effectiveness on a range of services giving 7.5% improvement overall by 2005/06  
(*Leicestershire Together PSA Target 11, 2006*)

**Develop and launch (January 2005) a web portal containing statistical information about communities in Leicestershire, including data at small area level on deprivation, the economy, education, census, crime and health.**  
(*Leicestershire Together, Leicester Partnership and LSEP, 2005*)

**By December 2005 Leicestershire Together Partners to have published policies showing how they will make information about their services accessible to all sections of the community e.g. by making it available in different languages and formats.**  
(*Leicestershire Together, 2005*)

Agree multi-agency arrangements for better access to services through new joint face to face access centres and better arrangements for receiving telephone calls and managing web sites, including:

- one service shop in each town
- extending the hours so that some services are available during evenings and at weekends
- new web sites covering Leicestershire, young people, public safety, public transport and health
- arrangements to provide access to areas and groups which are hard to reach

(*Leicestershire Together & District Local Strategic Partnerships, Joint Strategy agreed by 2004 with substantial improvements in place by 2006*)

Implement specific actions arising from the Strategic Assessment of Service Delivery Issues, conducted in May/June 2004, including:

- an audit of community facilities across Leicestershire
- **an audit of community transport across the county**
- a working group on recruitment and retention issues, particularly in the areas of Social Services and Education

(*Leicestershire Together, 2005*)

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

Leicestershire Together partners to co-ordinate use of communication media. Single newsletter for all Leicestershire LSPs to be produced by December 2004.  
(*Leicestershire Together and District LSPs, 2005*)

Improve access to and quality of libraries by extending the % evening and weekend opening hours of libraries from 27 to 30% by 2005  
(*Leicestershire County Council, 2005*)

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Access to good quality affordable and energy efficient homes and a reduction in homelessness

**In Leicestershire:**

House prices in Leicestershire have risen by 25% on average in the last year compared to the national average of 18%. This figure includes (masks) rises of 31% in Melton and 32% in Harborough and has had a particular impact in terms of the amount and choice of affordable housing available in rural areas.

Leicestershire now has a Rural Housing Enabler working with rural communities to assess the nature of rural housing needs, and to develop schemes to address these needs.

Local councils, at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001, accepted 517 households as homeless. This is lower than the recent average.

There is an under provision of services for single homeless people and homeless families across the County. An improved multi-agency response to homelessness amongst 16/17 year olds is a key theme of the preventative strategy for children and young people.

**Regional, structure and local planning guidance contains policies for energy efficiency within new developments.**

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Promote policies that encourage the provision of affordable housing in the County, including the work of the Rural Housing Enabler and additional funding for affordable housing.  
*(Housing Association, District Council, Housing Corporation, 2008)*

**Other Actions:**

Develop, **monitor** and review policies to secure land and funding through the planning system for affordable housing.

*(County and District Council Planning Officers- Ongoing)*

Develop and deliver flexible housing related support services to enable vulnerable people to live more independently.

*(Supporting People, led by Housing Authorities supported by County Council - ongoing)*

### **The People of Leicestershire want:**

Equality of access to services and facilities for everyone, including disabled people, older people, **Black & Minority Ethnic (BME)** groups, teenage parents, people who are vulnerable and people who live in deprived areas, so that everyone can have a voice and secure independent living

### **In Leicestershire:**

**We aim to increase year on year the numbers of older and disabled people helped to access services from home.**

**Approximately, 8,000 people in Leicestershire aged 65 or over were receiving Social Services support to live at home in March 2004. That is a 10% increase on the number in March 2003.**

**In March 2004, approximately, 2,700 people were supported by the County Council in residential and nursing home care, a 5% fall from the number in March 2003. Of the 2,700, approximately 1,400 are 65 years of age and over, a 7% fall from the number in March 2003.**

**We currently provide support to 1663 carers and aim to increase the numbers of carers who receive services directly.**

**In March 2004, 918 adults with learning disabilities were also being helped to live at home, a 3% drop from March 2003.**

In Leicestershire 36% of the County Council's buildings open to the public are suitable and accessible to physically disabled people, as defined under part M of the Building Regulations. As part of the Authorities Capital Programme, further access works will be carried out ***in consultation with local access groups*** over the next three years, which should provide access to the balance of these buildings.

74% of the Police Authority buildings in Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, which are open to the public, are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.

Leicestershire has an ethnically diverse community, **7.25%** of the population is from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups.

5.29% of this group are non-white.

The ten areas where access to services (post office, food shops, GP and primary school) is most difficult are located in the districts of Melton (part of Wymondham, Somerby and Croxton Kerrial wards) Harborough (part of Kibworth, Billesdon, Peatling and Tilton wards) and Hinckley and Bosworth (part of Twycross and Ambien wards).

There are pockets of deprivation in Leicestershire. Parts of Loughborough Hastings, Loughborough Shelthorpe wards in Charnwood and part of Greenhill ward in North West Leicestershire are amongst the 20% most deprived in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

**The Three Children's Centres established in the Greenhill ward in North West Leicestershire and Shelthorpe and Hastings wards in Charnwood will provide a range of early education, childcare, information, training and health services, which have been devised in response to the needs of local children and parents. The full range of services will be delivered from 2005.**

**As a priority we will:**

Increase the number of people with disabilities assisted into work from 112 to 628 by 2005/06.  
*(Leicestershire County Council PSA Target 5, 2006)*

**All public agencies and authorities to be set challenging targets against the Equality Standard for Local Government. The County Council to achieve Level 5 of the Equality Standard by 2007.**  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**Implement an Action Plan to address the priorities for action identified by the Citizens Jury for Disabled People held in July 2004. Organise a follow up event to monitor progress in January 2005.**  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

**Hold a Citizens Jury for People from Black & Minority Ethnic Communities in summer 2005.**  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

Review the Renewal and Development Framework for Charnwood Borough and apply in an appropriate format across the county.  
*(Leicestershire Together, Ongoing)*

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Increase year on year the proportion of elderly people supported in their own home and continue to reduce the numbers requiring long term care by 2008.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2008)*

**By 2006, the County Council, in partnership with the NHS will aim to increase the number of people who access a range of rehabilitation and preventative services aimed at helping them to remain at home to 700 per year.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

**An additional 70 carers will be supported in the community across Leicestershire.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Achieve a 12% reduction in the proportion of young children living in households where no-one is working, in Children's Centre wards by March 2006.**  
*(Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006)*

**Deliver the key outcomes in the Sure Start Strategic Plan 2004 – 06.**  
*(Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006)*

**Other Actions:**

**Work with all district/borough councils in Leicestershire, police and fire authorities, and CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection), to develop work placement opportunities for looked after children as part of the 'Teenagers to Work' initiative in 2005.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Increase the range of subsidised/ free leisure and cultural facilities for looked after children and their carers by at least 2 further providers.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

Raise aspirations and encourage future participation by providing opportunities for looked after

children and their carers to access services by developing and sustaining links with other providers, including District Councils for free or concessionary leisure schemes. To develop new opportunities for culture and leisure pursuits.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Raise awareness across strategic partnerships of the needs of housebound frail older people in Leicestershire. Develop action plans to extend the range of Community Services used by frail older people.**

***(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)***

Modernise services for people with learning disabilities:

- New Day Services – for Oadby/Wigston and Blaby areas by January 2005 and Charnwood by 2006 /07.

- Accommodation Respite, services introduced by 2006/07 for Oadby/Wigston/Blaby areas.

***(Leicestershire County Council, 2007)***

Undertake a disability audit of local **County Council** services, taking account of the views and knowledge of local disability access groups and organisations, to make them more accessible for disabled people. *(Leicestershire County Council, 2004)*

Improve disabled access to County Council buildings open to the public to 60% by the end of 2003/04, 90% by 2004/05 and 100% by 2005/06.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

**Establish a County wide equality and diversity group of public sector organisations to share good practice and learning to help drive the agenda forward in Leicestershire by 2006.**

***(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)***



### **The People of Leicestershire want:**

Reliable, safe and comfortable public transport (buses, trains and community transport) and integration with walking and cycling facilities, so that people can more easily access essential services such as education, shopping, employment, health and leisure.

### **In Leicestershire:**

**95%** of all households are within a 13 minute walk of an hourly or better bus service.

In 2000/01, 65% of users were satisfied with bus services overall and 69% were satisfied with public transport information.

In rural Leicestershire **76%** of people have access to an hourly or better bus service.

Leicestershire people usually travel to work by:

- Car or van (71%)
- Bus or train (6%)
- Bicycle (3%)
- Walking (**9%**)
- **Motorcycle (1%)**
- **Work at home (10%)**

These are similar to regional and national averages.

**As a priority we will:**

Increase patronage on commercially run and County Council contract bus services from 14.7m in 2002/03 to 15.3m in 2005/06.

*(Leicestershire County Council and bus operators, 2006)*

Work with the Rural Transport Partnerships to achieve by 2005 the maximum affordable level of access to services by public transport for the 5% of people who do not have access to an hourly bus service.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Run pilot services for providing better access to health services by public transport during 2004 and prepare an action plan for expansion in 2005.**

***(Leicestershire County Council, Rural Transport Partnerships, Primary Care & NHS Trusts, 2004)***

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Safer roads, where there is less speeding, and reduced congestion.

**In Leicestershire:**

In **2003, 262** people were killed or seriously injured on the roads, excluding motorways; this was less than the national average (per 100,000 people).

**As a priority we will:**

Implement road safety measures, including road improvements, road safety education and safety camera enforcement to bring about a reduction of 28% by 2005/06 in the numbers killed or seriously injured, compared with the 1994-98 average, to 235 on County roads and 42 on trunk roads.

*(Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Constabulary, PSA Target 12, 2005)*

**In the second Local Transport Plan, covering the period 2006 to 2011, set targets for containing congestion in the worst affected areas and thereafter carry out the measures to achieve this, including making best use of available road space, improving the bus service alternative, and influencing travel behaviour to reduce car use.**

**(Leicestershire County Council, 2011)**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Clean roads and pavements in a good state of repair.

**In Leicestershire:**

In 2002/03, 17% of principal roads were in need of strengthening and 24% of non-principal and 15% of minor roads had significant visual defects.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Ensure that roads and pavements are cleaned to an appropriate standard compatible with the national code of practice.

*(District Councils, Ongoing)*

**Other Actions:**

Halt the deterioration of roads by 2004 and thereafter work to remove the backlog of worn out carriageway by 2010.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2010)*

Improve information about planned road works, and improve arrangements for customers to contact the service, such that public satisfaction with these aspects of the service increases from 36% satisfied in 2001 to at least 55% satisfied in 2006.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2003)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in particular violent crime, burglary, vehicle crime and domestic violence.

A reduction in the availability and misuse of drugs including alcohol.

Improved support for victims of crime particularly racially motivated crime and domestic violence.

**In Leicestershire:**

17% of people are very worried about burglary and 25% are very worried about violent crime.  
( Source LLCC Crime Survey ,2001)

A survey indicates that only **42.6%** of domestic violence incidents were reported to the police.

1.3 per 1,000 population have recorded drug offences in 2001/2 compared to the national figure of 2.4.

Over the last 3 years in the County (2001/02 to 2003/04):

- Assault has increased by 56%
- Vehicle crime has fallen by 9%

**As a priority we will:**

**Support the work of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Safety Programme Board (CSPB) in improving cross agency working to reduce levels of crime and disorder across the County.**

*(Leicestershire Together, Ongoing)*

Increase reporting of the number of incidents of domestic violence from 4,294 to 4,852 by 2005/06. More support for victims to reduce the repeat victimisation rate by 2005/06.

*(Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, PSA Target 7, 2006)*

Increase the number of drug users in treatment programmes from 972 to 1150 by 2005/06. 6 GP's to be involved in treating drug users by 2005/06.

*(Drug and Alcohol Action Team, PSA Target 6, 2006)*

Reduce car crime by 20% from current levels by 2005/06.

*(Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Leicestershire Constabulary, PSA Target 8, 2006)*

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Map and target the specific causes of crime to:

- Direct resources to individuals, young people and families most at risk of offending **through the implementation of the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy.**
- Identify priority neighbourhoods suffering from disproportionately high rates of crime **and antisocial behaviour.**
- Reverse the trend of increasing violent crime. *(Crime and Disorder Partnerships, 2005)*
- **Implement the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme targeted at those offending, where the crime is related to their drug misuse and the Prolific Offender Strategy based on the three stands of "Prevent and deter, catch and convict, rehabilitate and resettle".**
- Improve and co-ordinate communications to provide information to reduce the fear of crime.
- Map out the nature of hate crime (religious, racial, homophobic and domestic violence) and concentrate resources where they are most needed.

*(Community Safety Programme Board, (CSPB) 2005)*

**Other Actions:**



**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Healthy communities where people look after themselves and each other

Better health for all, better and equal access to health care, treatment and social care

Promotion of healthy active lifestyles that prevent illness and reduce accidents

**In Leicestershire:**

Circulatory disease (coronary heart disease, stroke and related diseases) kills more people under the age of 75 than any other disease.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death for people under 75, accounting for about one in five deaths.

Children, young adults and elderly persons are particularly at risk of injury due to accidents, in many instances leading to loss of mobility and/or permanent incapacity.

A high proportion of attendance by persons at Accident and Emergency Departments is due to alcohol and/or drug misuse.

Nearly 40% of children aged 12 or under have decayed, missing or filled teeth.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Provide sexual health services for young people in local settings.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, Public Health & Health Promotion Services, 2005)*

Review measures to promote healthier exercise through GP Referral and other means.

*(Primary Care and NHS Trusts, 2005)*

Undertake joint measures to reduce the levels of smoking in the public at large.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, 2005)*

Develop a combined plan to reduce the number of accidents to children, young adults and elderly persons.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, Local Authorities 2005)*

Work together to encourage improved diet with emphasis on increased consumption of fruit and vegetables.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, Ongoing)*

Provide sexual health services for young people in local settings.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, 2005)*

Promote activities to reduce the prevalence and effect of sexually transmitted diseases.

*(Primary Care and NHS Trusts, Ongoing)*

**Information and guidance on breast feeding, nutrition, hygiene and safety available / given to all families with young children in Children's Centre wards.**

***(Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2006)***

**Other Actions:**

Establish health promotion plans amongst all employees of partnership agencies.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, Connexions, District Councils, Leicestershire County Council, schools and colleges, 2005)*

Identify 'target community action zones' for priority attention for healthcare.

*(Primary Care & NHS Trusts, 2005)*

## Young People - Chapter 3

Public, private and voluntary organisations and agencies work together to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people. Since 2003 when the Leicestershire Community Strategy was agreed, the following actions have been implemented to address **issues of most concern to you**:

- ❑ Connexions One-Stop Shops have been established in Coalville, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Hinckley and Loughborough.
- ❑ All schools/colleges in Leicestershire are Connexions Information Points and have personal advisors who deliver drop-in clinics, group work and one-to-one guidance.
- ❑ A Pilot website "The Jitty", designed by and for young people, has been developed and **will be launched in spring/ summer 2005**.
- ❑ 33 Teachers are registered to undertake the accredited course in drug education and sexual and relationships education.
- ❑ Grants of **£461,396** have been awarded to **22** providers, creating **564** additional out of school places for young people in the County.
- ❑ New Youth Work Recruitment Policy and Induction Training Strategy documents are now in place.
- ❑ Area Youth Games are held annually.
- ❑ A Youth Promoters project is being progressed in Oadby and Wigston, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth and North West Leicestershire.
- ❑ Sixteen joint truancy patrols were undertaken in 2003/04, with 249 young people stopped and 102 returned to school.
- ❑ The Local Preventative Strategy for Children and Young People has now been agreed. This sets out the long-term vision for the development of services for vulnerable children and young people.
- ❑ Weekly drug awareness sessions for young people are held on the Buzz Bus in Charnwood. A drugs guide for parents has been distributed to all schools, together with Drugscape publicity for young people.
- ❑ A full review of arrangements for safeguarding children at risk of abuse and neglect was carried out following the Laming Report.
- ❑ Two District Councils have developed schemes to give foster families free and concessionary use of leisure facilities.
- ❑ 90% of all 3 year olds attend some part-time **early education** provision.
- ❑ The teenage conception rate dropped by 3.1% between 2001 and 2002.

- The % of schools with a minimum 2mb synchronous broadband connection rose from 20% in 2002/03 to 42% in 2003/04.

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Young people to have access to co-ordinated information, advice and support to enable them to make informed decisions at key points in their life, for areas such as lifelong learning, employment and skills.

**In Leicestershire:**

59% of young people felt well or very well informed about the options open to them when they left school. 32% rated their knowledge as 'average', with 8% indicating they felt poorly or very poorly informed.

**Leicestershire Youth Service provides accessible education, information and advice to young people aged 11-25.**

"The Jitty" website has been created and content is currently being finalised.

Connexions Leicester Shire, is a service offering free information, advice, practical help and support to young people aged 13-19 years.

**Young people to have access to good quality information about the environment and to be given opportunities to get involved in practical action.**

**Leicestershire's Children's Information Service provides objective, accurate, accessible information about childcare, children's services, qualifications and training opportunities in the early education, playwork and childcare sector.**

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Develop a staff recruitment and workforce development strategy for the Youth Service by September 2005**

- **Part time vacancy rate reduced to 20%**
- **20% of all responsible part time leaders posts a minimum of 460 hours per annum**
- **Expand the trainee youth worker scheme by establishing one traineeship in each area by October 2004**

**(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)**

Provide a One-Stop Shop for young people to go and get information and advice (venues for Connexions Service and other organisations).

*(Connexions, 2005).*

Improve the promotion of supported housing for young people and crisis accommodation

*(Crime & Disorder reduction strategies, 2005)*

**Achieve 21 schools with eco-school status by March 2005.**

**(ENABLE, 2005)**

**Other Actions:**

Promote information and advice for young people through schools and colleges.

*(Leicestershire County Council, Connexions, Colleges, 2005)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Increased involvement of young people and those working with them in decisions about their future and community activities.

**In Leicestershire:**

An annual 'Vox Pop' event is held where young people share their views and have an opportunity to question County Councillors.

Young People, aged 8-11 years have been involved in Leicestershire County Council's award winning Dreaming4Real consultation on the services they would like to be developed in the County. The use of arts-based activities as a consultation tool has also been used with the 5-13 age range in developing Leicestershire's Anti-bullying and the Children's Fund Plan which outlines services for vulnerable young people.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

Prepare a joint consultation strategy for involving young people in decision making; Implement a range of activities to engage and involve young people in decision making:  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2005).*

**Develop a County Youth Council that offers representation to young people from across the County.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Work with partners to develop Youth Forums/Councils in each District/ Borough.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Ensure representation and effective engagement by young people on each Area Youth Advisory Committee in order to influence planning and delivery of services.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Continue to provide funds to support the local groups and the voluntary sector in establishing and maintaining youth clubs and activities across the County.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**Continue to consult with children and families in Leicestershire's Children's Centre wards to ensure services developed reflect and meet local community needs.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*



**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Young people to be able to access a diverse range of activities for leisure.

**In Leicestershire:**

Young people have been involved in many Village Appraisals across Leicestershire, supporting their local communities.

In the evenings or at weekends, young people prefer to go to the cinema, town centres, fast food outlets, leisure centres or swimming baths, the local chip shop or take-away and to meet mates. Other activities with significant responses included sports or youth club, library, park/recreation ground, games arcade and community centre.

Recognition that young people are reliant on public transport and so need access to public transport that is reliable, safe, affordable and connected.

Leicestershire already has **four** school sport partnerships, based at Burleigh, **Bosworth College (Desford), King Edward VII (Coalville) Community Colleges and Melton Longfield School**, and others may be developed in the future.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

Develop, through consultation with young people, activities for leisure such as shelters and sports taster days at leisure centres.

*(Parish Councils, Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Forum and Leisure Centres, 2005)*

Work with young people, **including those from traditionally excluded groups**, in developing a revised network of evening bus services for the County during 2005 **and ensure** that these provide the maximum affordable level of access to evening leisure and other activities.

*(Rural Transport Partnerships, 2005)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

All young people to be protected from being involved in or affected by crime **and bullying**, either as victims or perpetrators.

**In Leicestershire:**

In 2001/2 there were 2250 offences recorded as committed by young people. These included:

- 'other' offences such as motoring and traffic (28%)
- theft and handling (20%)
- arson and criminal damage (13%)
- violence against the person (12%)

The Youth Offending Service has a target to reduce re-offending by young people by 5% by December 2004. Youth Offending was reduced by 15% between 2000 and 2001.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Support the implementation of the Youth Justice Plan.  
*(Community Safety Programme Board)*

**Other Actions:**

Develop and co-ordinate inter-agency initiatives to educate 11-18 year olds about the effects of drug and alcohol misuse and sexual health matters.  
*(Drug and Alcohol Action Team, 2005)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

All children and young people protected from abuse and neglect.

**In Leicestershire:**

Around **320** children and young people are looked after in foster homes or children's homes. All will have experienced upheaval in their lives and some will have been abused. Their experiences may lead to emotional and behavioural problems. Some will spend just a few days in care while others will spend many years.

Children looked after by the County Council are more vulnerable to experiences that damage their lives. This might include poor educational outcomes, risk taking behaviour and reduced aspirations for their adult life.

There were 120 children and young people on the Child Protection Register in Leicestershire in July 2004.

**The Joint Education/ Social Services Action Plan sets out the means by which we intend to improve the education of looked after children.**

**As a priority we will:**

Increase the % of **leavers (aged 19)** going into education, training or employment from 50% to 80% by 2005/06. A reduction in **secondary** school absences from 21% to 9%. For primary age children: improvement in their educational achievement at Key Stage 2.

*(Leicestershire County Council, Connexions, PSA Target 4 2003-2006)*

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

**Other Actions:**

Improve the quality and range of foster and adoption provision.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

Identify areas of joint working and collaboration to promote the social inclusion of children and young people.

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2005)*

**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Young people to be able to access healthcare services and advice.

**In Leicestershire:**

The number of conceptions among teenage girls under the age of 18 years causes increased health and social care problems.

**As a priority we will:**

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Work towards reducing the teenage conception rate, with the specific aim of halving the rate of conceptions among young women aged less than 18 years between 1998 and 2010.  
*(Leicestershire Together, 2010)*

**Ensure that all schools have drug education and sex and relationship policies in place by March 2006.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

**Ensure that 150 schools meet the national Healthy schools standard by March 2006.**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

**Implement the national Continuous Professional Development (CPD) initiative for teachers (20 trained by June 2005).**  
*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*

**Other Actions:**



**The People of Leicestershire want:**

Quality education for young people, both in terms of academic results and practical skills, up to 16 years and beyond.

**In Leicestershire:**

In 2002, 78% of pupils achieved level 4 for English and 73% for Maths at Key Stage 2.

In 2001, 49.6% of pupils obtained 5 or more GCSEs at **grades** A-C. The figure for 2002 has increased to 53% to close the gap on our OFSTED neighbours.

1.7% (5) schools have serious weaknesses compared to a UK average of 2.6%. Also, 5 schools required special measures to improve their performance following OFSTED inspections, in 2002.

**As a priority we will:**

Increase the percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 in English from 30% to 39% and in Maths from 29% to 38% by summer 2005.

*(Leicestershire County Council, PSA Target 2, 2005)*

Increase the percentage of pupils obtaining 5 GCSEs' at A-C grades from 53.2% currently to 63% by summer 2005.

*(Leicestershire County Council PSA Target 1, 2005)*

Achieve an increase for pupils in special schools **obtaining their personal targets** from 78% to 86% ~~in pupils obtaining their personal targets~~ by summer 2006.

*(Leicestershire County Council, PSA Target 3, 2006).*

**We will also support other partnerships to:**

Provide nursery education for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents wish to take this up

*(Leicestershire **Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, 2004 - 2006**)*

**Other Actions:**

Work with Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council and other partners in further education to improve the participation of 16-18 year olds in education and training and to improve the achievement of appropriate vocational qualifications.

*(Leicestershire Together, 2005)*

Using Information and Communications Technology to transform **schools** by, for example:

- **Enabling parents/ guardians to apply for school places on line for the 2007 School Year.**
- **Providing synchronous broadband connections for all schools by August 2006**
- Ensuring that teachers are competent to use ICT to raise standards with all pupils in all schools in all subjects

*(Leicestershire County Council, 2006)*