

Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2012

The new Sustainable Community Strategy will have a long term vision to set the context for shorter term priorities. The following draft vision has been developed using the new evidence base for discussion within the Leicestershire Together partnership and with the City Council before being included in the draft Community Strategy that is published for consultation in early November.

Draft Vision

In 2026, Leicestershire will be made up of thriving, sustainable, safe and secure communities and be recognised locally, regionally and nationally, for:

- The strength of social capital in its towns, villages and suburbs where;
 - people support the City's ambition to make Leicester the most cohesive city in Britain.
 - strong elected parish councils and community organisations work together to empower and engage local people to shape the future of their settlements.
 - people have pride in the social diversity of their towns, rate their physical environment highly and have a clear understanding of the role they play in providing employment and services.
- It's engaged, informed and optimistic people who;
 - look to the future and recognise the needs of future generations.
 - actively engage in the life of their communities.
 - seek to support and protect vulnerable people within their communities to live independent lives.
 - respect the needs of different social groups and accept social diversity and new people in their place or community.
 - take responsibility for their own physical and mental well being whatever their age.
 - as children benefit from the 'Good to Great' programme and our top class Universities to get the most from their education and want to put something back into Leicestershire.
 - feel safe in their communities without the fear of crime.
 - adapt to change through life long learning.
 - have equal opportunities for long and health lives.
 - are able to secure their housing needs.
 - are generally satisfied with the public services they receive.
- A strong (Leicester and Leicestershire) economy that plays to its strengths including its location, culture, specialist products and services, tourism and environment, and has:
 - developed successful business clusters and attracted new business to the sub region.
 - developed and attracted higher levels of skills that match business requirements.
 - maintained high employment levels.
 - seen Loughborough achieve its full potential as a major economic and cultural centre in the heart of the 3 cities sub region.

- ensured that transport nodes including East Midlands Airport, Leicester and Midlands Parkway stations and M1 Junction 21 are linked to business growth.
- entrepreneurial businesses in rural areas trading in strong local supply chains and networks and supported by high quality IT.
- enough to offer to persuade many graduates from our Universities to stay in Leicestershire.
- a clear identity and quality products that make people want to visit for at least a few days.
- Its attractiveness as a place to live and work because:
 - of its countryside where food production and environmental quality are balanced ensuring
 - parks and rights of way are well used for leisure and exercise.
 - farms are diverse and profitable and well run.
 - tree cover is much greater in the eastern side of the County.
 - habitats are protected and new habitats retain and encourage bio-diversity.
 - its main attractions like the National Forest Visitor Centre, Conkers, Foxton Locks, Bosworth Battlefield, Snibston Museum are managed as centres for understanding of Leicestershire's history and culture.
 - its National Forest is fully planted and supports leisure, tourism and local employment.
 - steps have been taken to protect places along the M1 corridor suffering from noise or other pollution.
 - town centres, urban parks and streets are places where people of all ages can enjoy a high quality environment free from traffic, litter, dirt, anti social behaviour and unnecessary traffic.
 - there are excellent transportation networks make getting about easy.
- A full contribution to a sustainable future for the world because:
 - waste generated and landfilled is minimised, most waste is recycled and some waste provides renewable energy.
 - there are attractive opportunities to use, foot, cycling and public transport for most journeys, including park and ride facilities ringing Leicester.
 - major new development & all public buildings achieve the highest environmental standards.
- High quality, responsive, efficient and accessible public services:
 - which are accessible to all, personalised and offer choice and control to customers.
 - where the quality and cost balance is one that most local people support.
 - where the service is more important than the agency or agencies that provide it.
 - where a range of health provision is available, mostly in locally delivered community services.
 - where schooling is second to none, which reduces levels of crime and tackles problems caused by alcohol & drugs.
 - provide the infrastructure needed to support new development.