

Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy

DRAFT

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Contents

Introduction	5	Efficiencies	24
About Leicestershire Together	5	Sport & Culture	25
About Our Structure & Partners	5	PEOPLE & THEMES	27
Our Mission, Vision and Principals	5	Safer Communities	27
Mission	5	Stronger Communities	29
Vision	5	Cleaner & Greener	31
Principals	7	Economic Development & Enterprise	33
About this draft Sustainable Community Strategy	7	Transport	35
Sustainable Development	8	Housing	37
Leicestershire in its wider geographical setting	9	Children & Young People	39
The local context	9	Older People	41
Our Priorities 2003 – 2008: How did we do?	10	Healthier Communities	43
The Local Area Agreement: How are we doing?	11		
The Evidence Bases	12	PLACES IN LEICESTERSHIRE	45
“This is Leicestershire” summary of issues	12	Introduction	45
Location	12	Main Towns	45
Economy & Labour market	12	Map 1 - Community Forums in Leicestershire	46
Population	13	Priority Neighbourhoods	47
Deprivation	13	Rural/ Service Centres	47
Health	13	Rural Areas	47
Crime	13		
Educational Attainment	13	PLACES IN BLABY	
Community Cohesion	14	Blaby Central Community Forum Area	48
Housing	14	Blaby North Community Forum Area	48
Resident Satisfaction	14	Blaby South Community Forum Area	49
Environment	14		
CROSS CUTTING THEMES	15	PLACES IN CHARNWOOD	
Vulnerable People	15	Loughborough East, North West & South West Community Forum Area	50
Vulnerable Places/ Priority Neighbourhoods	17	Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Community Forum Area	50
Access to Services	19	Syston, Thurmaston & Wreake villages Community Forum Area	50
Rural	20		
Equalities	22		

Shepshed & Hathern Community Forum Area	51
Quorn, Barrow, Sileby & the Wolds Community Forum Area	51
PLACES IN HARBOROUGH	52
Market Harborough Community Forum Area	52
Lutterworth Community Forum Area	52
Rural West Community Forum Area	52
Mid Rural Community Forum Area	53
Rural East Community Forum Area	53
PLACES IN HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH	54
Hinckley Area Community Forum Area	54
Markfield, Groby & Ratby Community Forum Area	54
Bosworth Community Forum Area	55
PLACES IN MELTON	56
Melton Mowbray Community Forum Area	56
Melton West Community Forum Area	56
Belvoir Community Forum Area	56
PLACES IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE	58
Coalville Community Forum Area	58
Ashby Community Forum Area	58
Valley Community Forum Area	59
PLACES IN OADBY & WIGSTON	61
Oadby Community Forum Area	61
Wigston Community Forum Area	61
South Wigston Community Forum Area	61
Leicestershire Together Strategic Governance Framework	63

Introduction

We are pleased to present this Draft Sustainable Community Strategy to you on behalf of Leicestershire Together, the Local Strategic Partnership for Leicestershire. Leicestershire Together includes all of the organisations and partnerships that deliver public services in Leicestershire, and we seek to improve the quality of life and of public services delivered in the County.

This draft Sustainable Community Strategy proposes priorities for improvement in Leicestershire over the next 5 years. These are largely based upon two draft evidence base reports “This is Leicestershire” and “Places in Leicestershire”.

The structure of the new Sustainable Community Strategy is quite different to that of the existing Community Strategy in that it focuses on **what** we are going to do rather than **how** we are going to do it. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) will be the key delivery framework for the strategy (the “how” bit) – and more details on the LAA can be found later in this document.

The Public Consultation period runs until the 16th January 2008, although we would really appreciate responses as early as possible to allow us maximum time to consider your comments. Following the consultation period, the document will be revised and the final Sustainable Community Strategy will be published in April 2008.

Please read through the document and let us know **your views on both the draft priority outcomes and our new long term vision**. Further details on how to respond to the consultation can be found on the partnership website – <http://www.leicestershiretogether.org> – alternatively, you can contact us via the details below.

We very much look forward to receiving your comments.

ABOUT LEICESTERSHIRE TOGETHER

Leicestershire Together is the partnership of partnerships for the County and provides an over-arching framework within which other thematic and area-based partnerships operate. Our aim is to improve quality of life for the people of Leicestershire and make Leicestershire.

ABOUT OUR STRUCTURE AND PARTNERS

There are four main levels to the Leicestershire Together structure:

- 1) the Board and the Strategic Senior Officer Group
- 2) the Local Area Agreement Leads and Leads Plus Groups
- 3) the seven key theme partnerships, plus other supporting and cross cutting partnerships, including District-based LSPs
- 4) the Leicestershire Together Forum

In addition, an annual conference is held which involves people across all levels of the structure and a wide range of stakeholders.

Our structure is set out in the diagram on page 63, which lists the partners involved in the different levels of the structure.

OUR MISSION, VISION AND PRINCIPLES

Mission

“Together we will do things differently to deliver improved public services so that we make Leicestershire the best possible place in which to live and work for everyone”

Draft Vision

We have developed a new draft vision which sets out what we want Leicestershire to be like in 2026.

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;
 - o people support the city's ambition to make Leicester the most cohesive city in Britain;
 - o strong elected parish councils and community organisations work together to empower and engage local people to shape the future of their settlements; and
 - o 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.
- Its engaged, informed and optimistic people who;
 - o look to the future and recognise the needs of future generations.
 - o actively engage in the life of their communities;
 - o seek to protect vulnerable people within their communities and support them to live independent lives;
 - o respect the needs of different social groups and accept social diversity and new people in their place or community;
 - o take responsibility for their own physical and mental well being whatever their age;
 - o as children and young people, 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;
 - o feel safe in their communities without the fear of crime;
 - o adapt to change through life long learning;
 - o have equal opportunities for long and healthy lives;
 - o are able to secure accommodation that meets their housing needs; and
 - o 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:
 - o developed successful business clusters and attracted new business to the sub region;
 - o developed and attracted higher levels of skills that match business requirements;
 - o maintained high employment levels;
 - o adequate employment land to meet future demands of the economy;
 - o seen Loughborough achieve its full potential as a major economic and cultural centre in the heart of the 3 cities sub region;
 - o ensured that transport nodes including East Midlands Airport, Leicester and Midlands Parkway stations and M1 Junction 21 are linked to business growth;
 - o entrepreneurial businesses in rural areas trading in strong local supply chains and networks and supported by high quality Information Technology (IT);
 - o enough to offer to persuade many graduates from our Universities to stay in Leicestershire; and
 - o 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:
 - o 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 increased on the eastern side of the County; and
 - habitats are protected and new habitats retain and encourage bio-diversity.
 - o its main attractions - like the National Forest Visitor Centre, Conkers, Foxton Locks, Bosworth Battlefield and Snibston Museum - are managed as centres for understanding

- Leicestershire's history and culture;
 - o its National Forest is fully planted and supports leisure, tourism and local employment;
 - o steps have been taken to protect places along the M1 corridor from noise or other pollution;
 - o 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; and
 - o there are excellent transportation networks which make getting about easy.
- A full contribution to a sustainable future for the world because:
 - o waste generated and landfilled is minimised, most waste is recycled and some waste provides renewable energy;
 - o there are attractive opportunities to use foot, cycling and public transport for most journeys, including park and ride facilities ringing Leicester; and
 - o major new development and all public buildings achieve the highest environmental standards.
- High quality, responsive, efficient and accessible public services:
 - o which are accessible to all, personalised and offer choice and control to customers;
 - o where the quality and cost balance is one that most local people support;
 - o where the service is more important than the agency or agencies that provide it;
 - o where a range of health provision is available, mostly in locally delivered community services and facilities;
 - o where schooling is second to none, which reduces levels of crime and tackles problems caused by alcohol and drugs; and
 - o provide the infrastructure needed to support new development.

Principles

The members of the partnership have agreed a set of principles to guide our work. These principles are Partnership, Equality, Quality of Life, Community Involvement and Participation, Sustainability, Quality and Accountability.

ABOUT THIS DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

This Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) outlines the things that local people see as a priority and our Local Area Agreement (to be produced by June 2008) will set out how we will tackle the most important of these issues.

The first Leicestershire Community Strategy was produced in 2003 and reviewed in 2005. It was based around local priorities "The people of Leicestershire want..." and what, together, partners would do to tackle these priorities. The section on page 10 highlights some of our achievements since 2003.

Our first Local Area Agreement was signed in March 2006. It set targets, agreed between Leicestershire Together and the Government, for improvement. A number of these are universal – applying to everyone and everywhere in the County, but it also includes a new focus on 19 priority neighbourhoods - small areas with above average problems (see page 47) - and vulnerable people.

This new Sustainable Community Strategy builds upon these two documents and outlines the priorities for Leicestershire in the form of outcomes that we want to work together to achieve by 2013.

These outcomes focus on people, themes and places and have been developed through the lead theme and cross-cutting partnerships (including the District-based Local Strategic Partnerships), based on two evidence base reports – "This is Leicestershire" and "Places in Leicestershire". These are

important documents which outline the key issues for Leicestershire, including the findings from consultations and what makes people in Leicestershire happy.

This draft document has been published for a 10 week consultation period between 12th November and 16th January, although we are asking people to respond by 21st December if possible, to maximise the time available to make revisions. We want your feedback on whether the outcomes that are included in the document are the right ones, which are the most important, and whether any key issues are missing (and what the evidence is for this), remembering that the SCS cannot include all the things we want to do.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A Sustainable Community Strategy should explain how the often competing priorities for economic, social and environmental issues are reconciled within Leicestershire (Figure 1- DEFRA (2005) Inspiring a Sustainable Local Future p44). This means, for example, encouraging investment to help development of the economy or developing community facilities to give people better access to leisure and other social opportunities. It also means ensuring that any investment and development isn't at the expense of the environment in the long term.

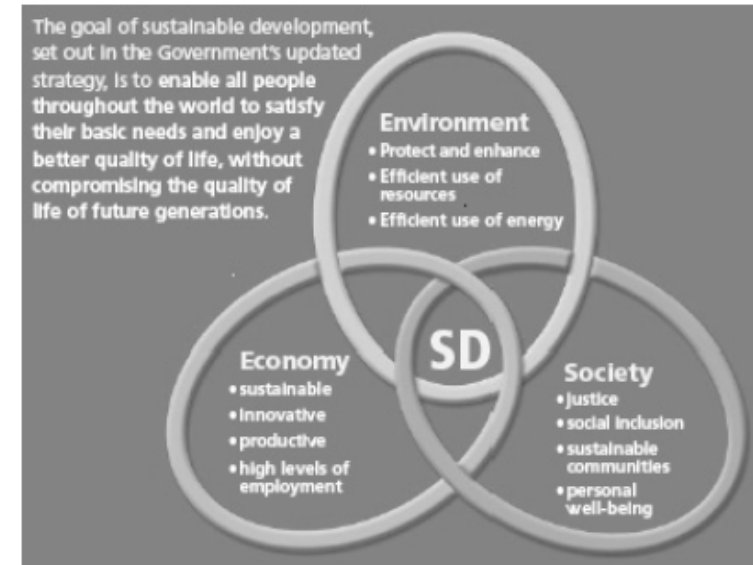


Figure 1- DEFRA (2005) Inspiring a Sustainable Local Future p44

To enable the right balance for Sustainable Development to be achieved, the final strategy will include:

1. A sustainability appraisal to be carried out during the consultation phase;
2. A specific reference within each thematic chapter about how Sustainable Development is supported by evidence and actions within that chapter to ensure it is integrated throughout; and
3. Specific reference within the Economic Theme about how outcomes around economic development, transport, strategic housing and related large infrastructure developments are to be achieved in a sustainable fashion with reduced impact on strategic environmental issues such as climate change.

LEICESTERSHIRE IN ITS WIDER GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Leicestershire is not an island cut off from surrounding areas. Nor is Leicester a self-contained enclave within the County. People who live in the County work and play in surrounding areas and vice versa. There is a constant process of people (and businesses) moving in and out. At any one time there will be many people in the County who neither live nor work here, but are visitors or people travelling through. Large quantities of goods are also transported from, to and across our area. Some developments and investments in adjoining areas will bring benefits to Leicestershire residents and businesses; others will pose challenges.

There exists, therefore, a complex set of socio-economic, environmental and demographic inter-relationships between Leicestershire, the City of Leicester, other parts of the East Midlands and adjoining regions. Not least through the freight and passenger facilities at East Midlands Airport in the north of the County, these relationships are becoming increasingly international.

This means that effective solutions to issues such as transport, housing, the economy and climate change are not likely to be found solely by taking action at a County or sub-county level. We will need to work with our neighbouring local authorities and other agencies with sub-regional, regional and national roles to find the best answers to the challenges facing us.

On some issues Leicestershire can play its part in addressing global issues, such as climate change. On others we will be contributing to national agendas, including the need for more housing and improved skills. We will need to continue to influence international and national agencies where appropriate and also maximise access to the funding they can make available to us.

The same applies at a regional level where the successful implementation of regional strategies, such as the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Plan will both influence and rely on the achievement of successful outcomes

in Leicestershire. If Leicestershire prospers this will be good for the region. But it is also true that our own prosperity will also depend on how the region as a whole fares.

It is being increasingly recognised that Leicestershire forms part of a wider area within the East Midlands which shares common opportunities and faces similar challenges. Agencies across the Three Cities and Three Counties sub-region (known as the 6Cs and also including Leicester, Derby and southern Derbyshire, and Nottingham and southern Nottinghamshire) are already collaborating on strategic land-use planning, housing, transport and green infrastructure and have secured Government funding through this joint working.

More locally, the boundary of Leicester and Leicestershire as a sub-region provides a reasonably good match for real economic, labour market, travel to work, shopping catchment and housing market areas. This is reflected in enhanced joint working and it has recently been agreed that the economic, housing, transport and strategic green infrastructure aspects of the Leicester and Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategies will be complementary. This will be more fully reflected in the next draft of this Strategy.

Both at 6Cs and Leicester/ Leicestershire level there will be scope to consolidate collaboration by developing Multi Area Agreements.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

This Strategy sits on top of other, more detailed, strategic frameworks covering the full range of themes. So, for example, for issues affecting Children and Young People there is a Children and Young People's Plan for Leicestershire which goes into more detail on those issues. The Strategy should set specific themes within a wider context and add value by ensuring that cross-cutting issues are integrated appropriately across all themes. It should also help ensure the LAA is a driver for more co-ordinated delivery in places. Each theme chapter includes information on the main strategic documents where the reader can find more detail on that theme.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2003 – 2008: HOW DID WE DO?

The current Leicestershire Community Strategy has been in place since 2003. The strategy contains a large number of actions around these themes:

- Leicestershire - A County to be proud of
- Leicestershire – Where there are Quality Services for all, and
- Young People – Leicestershire's Future

Progress on the Strategy has been monitored on an annual basis, and reported to the Leicestershire Together Board. A performance review of the full Strategy is underway, which will be completed ahead of the new Sustainable Community Strategy being published.

What did the Strategy achieve?

Highlights

- The LSR Online (Leicestershire Statistics & Research) website. <http://lsora-content.leics.gov.uk/lsora/index.htm> was launched in 2004 – offering statistical information on communities in Leicestershire, including economic data, education, deprivation, census, crime and health;
- 11,452 new childcare places were created in Leicestershire;
- 2 Citizens Juries have been held to gain community views on service delivery in the County – the first jury involved disabled people and the second people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups;
- “The Jitty” website <http://www.thejitty.co.uk> has been created. The Jitty is a very successful website designed and managed by young people for young people across Leicestershire;
- Recycling and composting sites/facilities have improved considerably, a total of 111,160 tonnes of waste was recycled in 2006;
- Car crime was reduced by 20% in Leicestershire in 2005/06;
- A web based funding toolkit has been developed to offer better information, advice and guidance on funding opportunities for

- community groups in Leicestershire. <http://www.fundingtoolkit.org> ;
- Access to the countryside has been increased by improving the Rights of Way network;
- Access to and quality of libraries has increased, with extended opening hours including weekends;
- A County Youth Council (CYCLe) has been established and meets regularly. CYCLe has contributed to the Children and Young persons Planning process and is actively engaged in designing and delivering services; and
- We worked with the Valuing People team to carry out an audit of community facilities. The resulting database (available on <http://www.leicestershiretogether.org>) includes information on over 500 venues across the county, including rooms available to hire, opening hours, accessibility and contact details.

What are we still working towards?

- **Crime and Community safety** - a collection of actions around mapping and targeting specific types of crime, tackling the increase in violent crime and reducing the fear of crime have progressed. These are now included as indicators within the Safer Communities theme of the LAA.
- **Disabled access to County Council buildings** – we are slightly behind our target to ensure that 90% of County Council buildings open to the public have disabled access by 2010. This is partly due to the number of buildings added to the list of public buildings; however we still progressed this year by achieving a 5% increase. Our slightly revised milestones to achieve the 90% target in 2010 now stand at: 82% by 2007/08, 86% by 2008/09 and 90% by 2010.

A review of the full Community Strategy 2003 - 2008 will be published on the Leicestershire Together website, following the publication of the new Sustainable Community Strategy:

<http://www.leicestershiretogether.org>

THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) – HOW ARE WE DOING?

The process of negotiating and agreeing the LAA and the first 18 months of delivery have already resulted in improved outcomes for Leicestershire, these include stronger partnership arrangements and a stronger focus on new issues.

Outcomes

Some examples of improved outcomes between 2006 and 2007 include: the number of first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System reduced by 7.8% (against a target reduction of 2%); the percentage waste recycled at Civic Amenity sites has increased to 47% from a 40% baseline and there was a 14.7% increase in take up of youth service activities by vulnerable groups (the target for 2006-07 was 5%).

Partnership

In terms of partnership, the Leicestershire Together structure has been revised following a peer review in March 2006. This has led to a clarification of the relationship and role of partnership organisations and their constituent members within Leicestershire.

At a theme level, a Health Partnership and Economic Strategy group has been developed. These bodies bring together key delivery agencies to consider how evidence on what will improve outcomes for people in Leicestershire is translated into effective interventions.

At the delivery level, practical partnership collaboration is evident throughout the LAA. For example to improved support to people thinking of going into business, the LAA has loss enabling business support partners to identify and address support needs within the County and develop a more effective referral system. Another example is the Stronger theme initiative where a Rural Housing Enabling Officer is employed in partnership

with Leicestershire Rural Housing Association to increase the availability of affordable housing in rural areas.

New Policy Focus

The LAA introduced a number of relatively new outcome areas which required further work to measure outcomes and specify delivery. So for example youth crime prevention and anti-social behaviour were already priorities prior to the LAA, but including them within it has added emphasis and accelerated progress. The Health theme has included an outcome aimed at achieving better health by focusing on access to food and promoting healthy eating. Similarly, within the Cleaner Greener theme, a local outcome is to reduce the amount of CO2 emitted by public buildings.

The specific emphasis in the Stronger theme on carrying out a social capital survey has been a significant achievement. Within 20 neighbourhoods LAA partners have, working with local volunteers, measured the principle factors contributing to social capital which will enable clear measurement over time of changes in levels of social capital.

This is a flavour of the achievements of the first LAA. These developments and many others will feed into consideration of the new framework.

THE EVIDENCE BASES

As part of the process of developing the Sustainable Community Strategy for Leicestershire and the next Local Area Agreement (LAA), the Research and Information Team at Leicestershire County Council were asked to summarise existing evidence about what it is like to live in Leicestershire. The outcome of this was the production of a report titled 'This is Leicestershire – An Evidence Base' (<http://www.leicestershiretogether.org>).

This report, which focuses on people and themes, draws upon detailed national and local research to highlight issues that the Strategy and LAA should consider. The report is structured around ten themes, looking at how Leicestershire has changed in recent years, what it is like now and what it will be like in the near future. Using information from a number of recent surveys, there are two sections looking at what people in Leicestershire say they want, and what issues are important in making people happy.

The introduction to each theme chapter of the Sustainable Community Strategy is a summary of the evidence for that theme from the 'This is Leicestershire' evidence base.

The 'This is Leicestershire' report is complemented by the 'Places in Leicestershire' report (<http://www.leicestershiretogether.org>) which focuses on the main towns, priority neighbourhoods, rural centres and rural areas in each of the 27 Community Forum areas in the County. The report was produced on behalf of the Policy Team at Leicestershire County Council and uses information from sources including the Indices of Deprivation 2004, Town and Village Centres Survey, Parish Plans, Leicestershire Rural Partnership Access to Services Report, Leicestershire Social Capital Survey and input from District and Borough Councils and District-based Local Strategic Partnerships.

The "Places in Leicestershire" evidence base is a good starting point but needs further work to make it more robust. Over the next few months we

will be adding further data and information, and agreeing priorities with each of the 27 Community Forums.

Throughout the lifetime of the Sustainable Community Strategy, there is a commitment to regularly review and update the evidence base reports so that we continue to have the most current and complete picture of what it is like to live in Leicestershire.

"THIS IS LEICESTERSHIRE" – SUMMARY OF ISSUES FROM THE EVIDENCE BASE

Location

Leicestershire is in the heart of England and has been described as being on the north/south divide, at the outer limits of the area prospering from the effects of the economy of London and the South East. Leicestershire encompasses eighteen landscape character areas – including The Wolds, Charnwood Forest, High Leicestershire, and the Soar Valley – a reflection of its rural diversity .

Leicestershire is a predominately rural County, with 55% of the population living in 210 rural parishes. The County has over 300 settlements, each with a population of fewer than 10,000. The majority of these settlements are very small, nearly half having a population of under 250. Agriculture is the main land use accounting for 80% of the land area.

Economy and labour market

The Leicestershire economy has a strong manufacturing heritage but, in terms of the number of jobs, manufacturing has declined since the mid-1960's with the strong emergence of a service sector based economy over the last few decades. Today, after a major shift in the structure of the local economy, more than three quarters of all jobs in Leicestershire are in the service sector with just less than one fifth in manufacturing. In future the fastest growing sectors are predicted to be communications, business services, health, other services and hotels and catering.

Unemployment is low. Claimant rates have fallen steadily from a high in 1993 to a low in 2004. Since 2004 the rate has increased slightly, mirroring the national trend, but unemployment in Leicestershire is still low and lower than the average for both the region and the UK.

Population

Leicestershire's 2006 mid-year population stood at 635,100 which placed it seventeenth largest of England's thirty four Shire counties. There has been some natural increase in population due to the difference in births and deaths, but most of the population increase has been due to migration, both from other areas of the UK, and from overseas. Based on past trends, it is projected that by 2029 the population of Leicestershire will have increased by around 14.5 per cent to 714,400 (2004-based projections, ONS). Increases in life expectancy together with a declining birth rate has led to an ageing population, with the population in Leicestershire ageing at a rate that is faster than that regionally or nationally.

Along with natural change the effect of these migration changes has been a broadening of the diversity of Leicestershire, with the non-White 'British' population now approximately 9 per cent, lower than the regional and national figure. Four groups make up over two thirds of the county's non-White 'British' population (in order of size): Indian, Other White, White Irish and Chinese.

Deprivation

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 showed that overall deprivation in Leicestershire is low, ranked the 136th most deprived local authority area out of 149 in England. With the exception of Rutland, Leicestershire is the least deprived local authority area in the East Midlands. Nevertheless, there are pockets of deprivation.

Health

The health of the local population is now better than ever. Overall, the decline in the incidence of infectious diseases has coincided with an upsurge in the importance of the so-called "chronic diseases" and diseases associated with "lifestyle". Obesity is now considered the number one public health challenge facing the nation with the health service now beginning to see cases in children of the type of diabetes linked to obesity that was once restricted to middle age and beyond.

The demographic shift towards an older population will have a significant impact on the health and health needs of the population as diseases such as coronary heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, stroke and dementia are all more prevalent in the older populations.

Crime

In 2006/07 the crime rate in Leicestershire was 44 per 1,000 people, compared to 63 in the East Midlands and 61 for England and Wales. So compared to the region and England and Wales, Leicestershire is a relatively safe place to live. However it is important to remember that around 60 per cent of crimes are not reported to the Police.

The total number of recorded offences has remained stable over the last few five years at around 44,000 offences, although for the last year of data, recorded crime had increased slightly by 3 per cent. The biggest year-on-year increases have been in burglary dwelling and damage to a motor vehicle.

Educational attainment

For educational attainment at Key Stage 1, children aged 7 in Leicestershire achieved results in reading, writing, and maths which were above the national average and in recent years local results are above the County's 'Statistical Neighbours'. At Key Stage 2, the proportion of 11 year olds in

the County achieving level 4+ in English remains well above the average for both national and statistical neighbours. At Key Stage 3, Leicestershire's results are outstanding and at Key Stage 4 the proportion of 15 year olds achieving 5+ A* - C at GCSE or equivalent (including English and Maths) is now above the national average – however progress from Key Stage 3 requires improvement.

Community cohesion

The evidence of community cohesion in Leicestershire shows that locally, as is the case nationally, the picture is a positive one where overall perceptions of cohesion are good. The majority of people think their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on and that their neighbourhood was a good or very good place to live. Participation was much higher for informal volunteering than for formal volunteering, but nevertheless there was a more positive picture of community cohesion in some areas of the County than others.

Housing

It is apparent that the current supply of houses is not enough to keep up with changing demographic trends, such as an ageing population and the increase of single person households and smaller family sizes.

The change in housing market ratios between 1997 and 2006 illustrates the extent to which the affordability of housing has decreased. The relationship between house prices and average earnings has more than doubled across the County, as well as the region and country. The average house price has gone from being just over three times the average annual salary in 1997, to over seven times across Leicestershire. The lack of affordability is particularly noticeable in Harborough district, with the average house costing almost nine times the average salary.

Resident satisfaction with the area

When asked, 67% of people in Leicestershire said they were satisfied with their area as a place to live. To put this figure in context, this is below the average level of satisfaction for all single tier and county authorities (which is 71%) and considerably below the average for all County Councils (which is 78%).

Individuals satisfaction with their area as a place to live is a complex issue that can be influenced by a range of factors. Levels of satisfaction differ by key demographics, for example older people aged over 60 are more satisfied with their area than younger people aged 18-29. Also, those people that have been living in their area for less than 20 years and in particular those people that have been in their area for 5 years or less are much more satisfied than those people who have been in the area for over 21 years.

Environment

A key thread that runs through many of the issues surrounding the environment is the need for the creation of well managed, quality, natural and urban environments for the mutual benefit of both people and wildlife.

Finally, one of the greatest influences on the Leicestershire environment will be climate change. The effects of climate change will impact on every aspect of the way we live, not just on the environment.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The current LAA includes a number of targets that apply to everyone and everywhere in the County, but it also introduced a new focus on vulnerable people, for example children leaving care, people with mental health problems and older people with support needs. This is a theme that cuts across each and every one of the other themes in the Strategy and is key to tackling its priorities and achieving the targets in the LAA.

There are already a number of partnerships, for example Supporting People and Valuing People, who are working to support vulnerable people in the County.

There are likely to be higher concentrations of vulnerable people within the priority neighbourhoods in the County (see page 47) and therefore enhancing individual life chances is intrinsically linked to what we do to ensure that people are not disadvantaged by where they live.

The term vulnerable people means different things to different people but the suggested list of priority groups for Leicestershire Together, based on the Supporting People Strategy, is as follows:

Priority A:

- Younger people: including those Leaving Care, at Risk (including at Risk of Offending or Re-Offending), Teenage Parents, with Drug Problems, Single Homeless People with Support Needs and with Mental Health Problems
- Offenders and Offenders with Mental Disorders
- Older People with Support Needs/Frail Elderly/Older People with Mental Health Problems/Dementia
- People with Learning Disabilities

Priority B:

- Homeless Families
- Remaining People with Mental Health Problems

Priority C:

- People with HIV/AIDS
- Women at Risk of Domestic Violence

Other client groups covered in the Supporting People Strategy are people with physical and sensory disabilities, refugees, travellers, rough sleepers, older single homeless and people with drugs problems not covered by the younger persons group. There is also reference to people with a generic range of needs which cover several categories. All of these areas have been prioritised for further work.

The Government has introduced a new PSA target around vulnerable people -“increasing the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and in employment, education and training” – where the target groups are care leavers, adult offenders under probation supervision, adults in contact with secondary mental health services and adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities.

Leicestershire Together wants to adopt a person centred approach, a single collective view across all agencies of the needs of our target groups, the key trigger points in people’s lives and joined up interventions.

Strategic Context:

The Supporting People programme offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve their quality of life by providing a stable environment which enables greater independence. Local authorities and their partners, plan, commission and provide, quality housing related support services, which help vulnerable people to live independently in the community.

The Supporting People 5-Year Strategy (2005 – 2010) was agreed and submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on 31st March 2005:

http://website/index/social_services/general_information/sc_plans_policies/supporting_people_strategy.htm

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOMES: Improved life chances for vulnerable individuals and families

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved access to services by emerging and minority ethnic communities;
- More vulnerable people supported to achieve and sustain independent living;
- Improved access to housing and housing related support; and
- More people with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition.

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VULNERABLE PLACES/ PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

People in Leicestershire generally enjoy a good quality of life. The County does not experience the levels of deprivation experienced in some parts of the Country. Nevertheless, there are areas where people individually and collectively are more likely to have reduced life chances, poorer health, be unemployed or in low skilled jobs, live in low income households and experience higher levels of crime and poor living environments.

The current Local Area Agreement (2006-09) identified 19 priority neighbourhoods – areas which perform significantly worse than other parts of the County across a basket of deprivation indicators. These are parts of:

Ashby	Bagworth
Burbage St Catharine's	Castle Donington
Charnwood South	Coalville, Thringstone & Whitwick
Earl Shilton & Barwell	Enderby
Greenhill	Hinckley
Ibstock	Loughborough East
Loughborough West	Market Harborough
Measham	Melton Mowbray
Moira	Mountsorrel
Wigston & South Wigston	

The business case for tackling underperformance in these areas is strong. Effective joined up interventions can bring about very significant savings to the public purse as well as real improvements to the lives of those who live and work in these areas. The savings can be many more times the investment needed to bring them about, freeing up resources to spend on other priorities. A partnership approach is crucial to ensure co-ordinated action and avoid unnecessary duplication and unintended consequences of single agency intervention. It is also necessary as the savings generated by effective interventions will not always accrue to the agency making the initial investment.

Neighbourhood management initiatives in the priority neighbourhoods have been co-ordinated by District-based Local Strategic Partnerships. Models vary across the County depending on capacity and existing structures, but the approach adopted in most areas is based on having a *neighbourhood manager*, a *neighbourhood action team* ((NAT) made up of people working on the ground in the area) and a *neighbourhood forum* (made up of local representatives) to oversee the work of the NAT.

Neighbourhood profiles have been produced for each of the priority neighbourhoods, providing an evidence base to guide interventions and identifying the specific areas of need within each neighbourhood.

Work in the priority neighbourhoods is all about understanding need in that specific area and adopting a joined up, action-focused approach to tackling this need. It relies on agencies working together, sharing information/ intelligence and working smarter in a sustained way to tackle deep-rooted problems.

Strategic Context:

The development of neighbourhood management arrangements in Leicestershire has been informed by advice from IMPOWER who were commissioned to suggest appropriate models of neighbourhood management. The IMPOWER report has been taken into account by local partners establishing arrangements in the 19 priority neighbourhoods. For more information about neighbourhood management in Leicestershire and contact details, visit:

http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/index_neighbourhood_management.htm

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

OUTCOME: Improve the quality of life for people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods at a faster rate than the County generally

Over the next few months, and before the next draft of this Sustainable Community Strategy is published, we will develop a set of shared sub-outcomes for all priority neighbourhoods in Leicestershire.

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ACCESS TO SERVICES

There is a range of evidence that suggests that some people have barriers to accessing services which are important to their quality of life. 'This is Leicestershire' identifies barriers to accessing services for a wide range of members of society, including for example: older people, offenders, rural communities and those with a mental illness. The list here categorises the main factors affecting access to services:

- Reasons of place - where services are not available and/or have been withdrawn e.g. because of post office closures in rural areas and/or the closure of shops and banks in deprived areas;
- Difficulties in accessing appropriate transport to assist access to services;
- Where some of the easiest means to access a service are more appropriate for some people rather than others e.g. computer and car ownership in general is proportionately lower in older people. This includes access issues because of cost for people on low incomes;
- Where there is a lack of clarity around service provision, rights and entitlement and a consequent lack of awareness among some members of the public;
- Access issues for people presenting with numerous and/or complex needs to an agency and organisation that is only designed for addressing some of those needs. This can result in failure demand where people move from one service to another without successful support for all of their issues; and
- Access issues for vulnerable communities (minority ethnic communities, older people, people with English as an additional Language, people with learning disabilities, children in workless households, care leavers, ex-offenders, people in deprived areas, people with disabilities).

The current LAA and related mainstream services include a range of interventions designed to improve access to services e.g. the Older People's Handbook, Children's Centres and Extended Schools Services and Access

Centres. Developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA framework provides an opportunity to ensure that the links are made between initiatives designed to improve access to services.

It is therefore proposed to include specific 'access to services' outcomes within this Strategy to build on existing developments and, through the LAA support further improvements to address the access issues highlighted above.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

OUTCOME: Access to facilities and services is enhanced across the County

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved access to employment, education, housing, recreation, health care, community facilities and food shopping, specifically for those communities for whom access is a particular challenge;
- Increased coverage by community transport schemes; and
- Improved information provision, referrals between services and service co-ordination in places in Leicestershire.

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RURAL

Leicestershire is predominately rural - 55% of the population live in 210 rural parishes and 300 settlements have a population of less than 10,000 people. Rural Leicestershire is diverse in terms of its landscape, its economy and the people that live within it.

Living in rural areas brings with it access to open spaces and a sense of community. Its attractiveness is evident in the net migration from those living in urban areas to our rural communities. However, living and working in rural areas also brings unique issues and challenges:

Level of rurality - impacts on the availability of public transport, access to education, learning and work opportunities, shopping and health facilities.

Sense of community - often centres on village facilities and activities and is reliant on the people in the community being empowered and getting involved.

Strong rural economy - is essential to the sustainability of rural areas in terms of income, wealth generation and employment as well as the environmental benefits of minimising travel to work distances and traffic congestion.

Surrounding landscapes - are a key attraction, whether this is the woodlands in the north-west or the rolling landscape of the east. These areas bring with them tourism, as well as broader recreational and environmental benefits.

In Leicestershire, partners work together through the Leicestershire Rural Partnership to tackle key priorities, including:

- Developing social capital and empowering local people to play a role in the development, support and activities of their rural communities;
- Providing affordable homes so that young people and families can

- afford to continue living in their home communities;
- Supporting business start-up, growth and diversification in rural areas (particularly in sectors important to the rural economy e.g. micro-enterprise, woodland economy, land based sector and tourism);
- Increasing accessibility of community resources, education, learning, work, healthcare and leisure by retaining and enhancing facilities and services whilst improving rural public transport; and
- Improving the quality of market town and rural centre environments as well as the surrounding rural landscapes; increasing the quality, quantity and management of green space.

Strategic Context:

The third Leicestershire Rural Strategy, which will provide a strategic framework for the work of the Leicestershire Rural Partnership (LRP) for the next seven years, was published in June 2007. The new Strategy reflects the fact that the policy context within which we operate has changed considerably, for example with the advent of Local Area Agreements, the creation of the Commission for Rural Communities and Natural England and the development of the Regional Rural Action Plan. For more information about the work of the LRP, please visit:

<http://www.oakleaves.org.uk>.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES: High quality and accessible facilities and services in rural areas

Sub Outcomes:

- Joined up service planning and delivery in rural areas;
- Enhanced rural transport, including community transport;
- Increased business start-up, growth and diversification in rural areas;
- Increased number of affordable homes in rural areas; and
- Reduced isolation of older and young people living in rural areas.

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EQUALITIES

Leicestershire is an ethnically and culturally diverse County, benefiting greatly from close links with Leicester City, one of the most culturally diverse cities in the UK. Black and minority ethnic groups make up about 9% of the County population.

In the early 1970's there was a substantial immigration to Loughborough of people of Bangladeshi and Gujarati origin. More recently there has been movement out of the City of Leicester into Leicestershire, substantial migration into the County from Eastern European countries and there are significant communities of Gypsies and Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers.

The ethnic diversity of the County is reflected in the wide range of religions and beliefs followed by local people including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faiths.

The Census 2001 showed that 15.5% of the population have a long term limiting illness, which compares with 10.5% from the 1991 Census. It is recognised that this will represent a broad range of disabilities.

Overall, there is an equal gender split between women and men - 50.6% and 49.4% respectively. However, there are more females over the age of 75 (61.8%) than males (38.2%).

Whilst no specific data is available for Leicestershire, research suggests that in Britain lesbian, gay and bisexual people constitute 5 - 7% of the total adult population.

Ensuring equality of access to services and employment, and promoting good relations between people from diverse backgrounds, is fundamental to the work of Leicestershire Together as it strives to meet the needs of everyone in the County.

The Leicestershire Together partners use frameworks such as the Equality Standard for Local Government, to guide their work and to ensure that they understand and respond appropriately to the needs of all sections of the community. A community engagement framework exists which supports the establishment of forums for interest groups. A number of citizens juries and panels have taken place (including one exploring issues facing minority ethnic communities and one for disabled people) and many of the theme and cross cutting partnerships have their own consultative groups.

In Leicestershire we have a Hate Incident Monitoring project which is a multi agency initiative which seeks to develop effective reporting of incidents and inform work undertaken across the County to tackle hate incidents. The Police estimate that most racist and religious crime and as much as 90% of homophobic crime goes unreported because victims are too frightened or embarrassed to let someone know. This under-reporting prevents us from being able to take effective action. We need to know the number, type and range of hate incidents in Leicestershire. This will show us where the problem areas are and help us to improve services to deal with hate incidents.

Strategic Context

Public bodies have general and specific legal duties to promote equality and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of race, disability and gender. These sit alongside other anti-discrimination legislation relating to age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. Though less extensive in their coverage, these other legal requirements are also important and action needs to be taken to ensure that discrimination does not take place on any of the above grounds.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:**OUTCOME: Leicestershire is cohesive and inclusive**

Sub Outcomes:

- Social justice and mutual respect is promoted through all our services and in our employment practices; and
- The needs of all sections of the community are understood and all residents can access essential services.

OUTCOME: Levels of Hate Incidents are reduced**OUTCOME: Equality of access to life opportunities.**

Sub Outcomes:

- No individual experiences disadvantage because of their race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief; and
- People have equality of access to life opportunities, employment, learning and services that meet individual needs.

OUTCOME: All sections of the community are empowered to influence local decision making.

Sub Outcomes:

- The barriers that prevent people from being involved in affecting the decisions that affect their lives have been removed; and
- All sections of the community can actively influence local services.

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EFFICIENCIES

Value for money and efficiently delivered public services are important to the people of Leicestershire. This is borne out by public consultation on budget decisions and surveys of customer satisfaction with public services.

The Government has set a 3% per year savings target for the whole of government (including locally delivered services such as health, police, transport, waste collection and disposal, youth services and education) for the next three years. The Government expects this to be achieved by agencies collaborating more, services being redesigned, smarter procurement and better management of assets such as buildings.

Within all these areas, partnership working has a very important role and some organisations will not be able to achieve the targets without collaboration.

Public expenditure will not grow very fast in relation to demand in the next three years which means that the achievement of efficiency savings is essential if funding is to be made available to invest in priority services and if council tax increases are to be restricted.

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PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

Outcome: Public Services are provided in the most efficient and effective way

Sub Outcomes:

- Services are shared by a number of agencies to reduce costs and make delivery more effective;
- Common mechanisms are used to engage and consult with communities and to share information; and
- Economies of scale are achieved whenever possible, without reducing (and if possible enhancing) the delivery experience.

SPORT AND CULTURE

Leicestershire is a County of diverse communities and cultures and one steeped in history. It has an important place in the country's industrial and rural heritage with established traditions in sport, cuisine, textiles, quarrying and engineering. This heritage is displayed in our 54 libraries, 7 museums, and 9 country parks, all providing access to learning and recreation. Museums and parks play a significant role in attracting tourism, with recent developments such as Conkers and Snibston Discovery Park attracting large numbers of visitors.

The County has an important sporting function, with Loughborough University a key component of the 2012 Olympics preparation (infrastructure benefits should result from this). Sporting success in Rugby Union, Football and Cricket have all put Leicestershire on the sporting map.

Sport and culture are important because they provide significant benefits to physical and mental well being. Sporting activities are a key way of supporting physical health which, in turn, is one of the most significant determinants of happiness. Indeed, a recent Mori report identified people suffering from long term illness as being amongst the least satisfied people in the UK. The County currently performs reasonably well in terms of a recent "active people" survey where 22% of people take part in at least 30 minutes moderate participation at least three times a week; but this is still too low.

There are very strong links between Sport and Culture and the building of social capital, that is, "the development of networks and social trust that facilitate co-ordination and co-operation for mutual benefit" (Putnam 2000). The building of social capital in turn supports the development of community cohesion and sport can play a significant role by bringing together different sections of the community. It can also be a means to promote pro-social values such as team work, fairness and rule following.

A survey in Leicestershire showed that 9.3% of the local population have

said that access to cultural facilities was important in making an area a good place to live. This ranked above issues such as the level of pollution and the cost of living.

Strategic Context

While there are numerous policies relating to specific sporting and cultural activities, the link between sport and culture and the building of communities was identified by the Social Exclusion Unit Policy:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/07A1BD1B-9367-422D-A5A2-65AD2D9A3B0D/0/PAT10_foreword.pdf.

Within Leicestershire there are a number of partnerships delivering key sports and cultural services, including the Leicestershire and Rutland Sport Partnership and the Cultural Strategy Partnership.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Improved physical health and community cohesion through enhanced access to sport, recreation and cultural activities

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased high quality access to recreation and active pursuits; and
- Everyone is able to participate in the cultural life of the county and this provision addresses issues of equality and access.

OUTCOME: Improved community cohesion through shared learning and recreation.

Sub outcomes:

- To strive for everyone to participate in the cultural life of the county and for cultural provision to embrace issues of equality and access; and
- To support learning through the provision of opportunities for people to value heritage and the diversity of cultures.

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PEOPLE AND THEMES

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Crime can have a devastating effect on the lives of victims, offenders, families and communities.

Key priorities are making communities stronger and more effective, reducing serious violent crime, reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol, building a culture of respect by tackling anti-social behaviour effectively, and improving people's lives so that they are less likely to commit offences or re-offend.

To put this into context, however, Leicestershire is a relatively safe place to live and the likelihood of being a victim of crime is lower compared to both the East Midlands and England and Wales. Nonetheless, we need to make it still safer.

Some facts about crime in Leicestershire are as follows:

- Violent crime, criminal damage, theft and theft from motor vehicle accounted for over half of recorded offences in 2006/07, with violent crime alone accounting for one in five recorded offences;
- A total of 554 hate incidents were reported to the police in 2006/07;
- Locally, we want to increase reporting of domestic violence and reduce repeat offending. A total of 6,380 incidents of domestic violence were reported to the police during 2006/07;
- The town centres account for 21% of all violent crime;
- Anti-social behaviour includes a variety of behaviour that makes life unpleasant and holds back the regeneration of disadvantaged areas, creating an environment where more serious crime can take hold. However, perceptions of anti-social behaviour as a serious problem fell between 2003 and 2006;
- Reducing re-offending is key to the reduction of crime and disorder – it is estimated that 10% of the active offender population is responsible for 50% of all crime committed; and

- One of the common motivators for high levels of offending and re-offending among Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO's) is drug abuse, particularly heroin and crack.

The creation of safer environments involves a range of issues which have strong links across most, if not all, the other themes in this Sustainable Community Strategy, including the improvement of public spaces, the availability of housing, road safety, reducing exclusion, increasing education, training and employment opportunities and reducing the fear of crime.

Strategic Context:

The National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009, updated in November 2006, sets out the Government's commitment and plans to improve community safety in England and Wales. This is complemented by the Home Office's Cutting Crime Strategy for 2008-11, which focuses on building upon crime reduction success. Locally in Leicestershire there are seven district-based Community Safety Partnerships, each with a Community Safety Plan that outlines the priorities and delivery plans for that partnership. The Community Safety Programme Board coordinates priority setting across Leicestershire Partners are currently working on a Partnership Strategic Assessment which will inform the new district community safety plans and an overarching county community safety agreement for 2008-11. The work on this Assessment is summarised in this evidence base, ensuring that these plans complement each other.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: People feel safer from violence

Sub Outcomes:

- Levels of serious violent crime are reduced; and
- Levels of repeat domestic violence offending are reduced.

OUTCOME: Disorder and anti-social behaviour is low compared to comparable areas and people feel that anti-social behaviour is being tackled effectively in their area

Sub Outcomes:

- Levels of recorded anti-social behaviour are reduced; and
- Levels of criminal damage are reduced.

OUTCOME: The harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse is reduced in local communities

Sub Outcomes:

- The number of drug users in effective treatment is increased;
- The rate of drug related offending, particularly the level of acquisitive crime is reduced; and
- The number of alcohol related admissions to hospital are reduced.

OUTCOME: The lives of offenders and those at risk of offending are improved so they are less likely to offend

Sub Outcomes:

- Levels of re-offending by both young and adult offenders are reduced;
- Young people are diverted from criminal behaviour and numbers of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System are reduced.

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STRONGER COMMUNITIES

This Stronger Communities Strategy, within the Sustainable Community Strategy, seeks to empower communities, first to define themselves, so that the members identify with each other, to recognise other communities and to engage effectively with the authorities, which plan and provide public services in order to improve the lives of everyone in Leicestershire.

Strong communities are cohesive communities where social capital is high. Locally the picture is a positive one where overall perceptions of cohesion are good. The majority of people think their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on and that their neighbourhood is a 'good' or 'very good' place to live.

A number of social capital and cohesion issues (sense of belonging, perception of neighbourhood, trust, social contact) affect how strong a community is and therefore we need to address a number of different factors which impact on an area and the perceptions and circumstances of the people living there:

- Greater participation of residents in their communities and devolution of power to local people so that they feel that they have a say in what happens in their neighbourhood;
- Opportunities for local voluntary groups to emerge and develop, as well as network together;
- Extending volunteering opportunities and promoting neighbourliness;
- Responding to emerging new communities, and changing demands for services, particularly in areas without previous experience of diversity; and
- At a strategic level, providing access to services to all, giving opportunity to local people to influence the planning of those services, and issues like affordable decent housing and provision of meeting places will all contribute to enhancing social capital. Communities however need to be supported to set their own priorities for addressing these issues.

Volunteering was identified as a priority within the first Local Area Agreement for Leicestershire. Volunteers make a fundamental contribution to society. Volunteering is a key element to building community spirit and cohesion and has wide benefits for both the individuals involved and local organisations and businesses:

- Volunteering helps older people to stay active, make new friends and learn new skills (Wheelock 2006);
- Volunteering in sport can create huge health benefits, by getting people actively involved in sporting activities;
- Local people can contribute to Safer Communities through formal and informal volunteering. These activities can include road safety groups, Neighbourhood Watch schemes and activities to engage young people, which can help to reduce crime and the fear of crime, as well as anti-social behaviour; and
- Community Transport schemes run by volunteer drivers give people access to shops, medical facilities and social activities.

Strategic Context

The next Stronger Communities Strategy is currently being developed. Development is ongoing, however this stage of the process will finish at the end of December. To contribute to this strategy please visit:

<http://www.ccp.org.uk/strongercommunitiesstrategy2008-.html>

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Stronger communities (both geographical and interest) where people are involved, engaged and play a role in decision making

Sub Outcomes:

- Social capital is enhanced;
- The voluntary and community sector is vibrant and Parish Councils/ Neighbourhood Forums/Local Development Groups, Local Voluntary and Community Groups, Faith Groups, School organisations, Local businesses/Social Enterprises are frontline delivery organisations for strong communities;
- Neighbourhoods have a greater voice and a role in scrutinising service delivery;
- Increased levels of financial and social inclusion in deprived areas;
- Increased Parish Council capacity and even more effective Parish Plans;
- Local communities are assisted to find local solutions to local problems; and
- Children and young people play a positive role in their communities and use their time for constructive activities.

OUTCOME: New, well-supported volunteering opportunities are provided within and by the community

Sub Outcomes

- More older people are engaged in volunteering activities that maintain an active lifestyle, and enable them to use experience and give back to society;
- More young people are engaged in volunteering that contributes to society, develops skills and opens up employment opportunities;
- More people with mental health issues and learning difficulties have opportunities for supported volunteering ;
- More employers offer work taster/volunteering programmes for staff;
- More people are aware of the benefits offered by volunteering;

- Volunteers are trained and supported effectively; and
- More people volunteer in the Criminal Justice System.

OUTCOME: There is a positive view of diversity

Sub Outcomes

- The needs of emerging communities are taken into account in planning services

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CLEANER AND GREENER

The Cleaner and Greener section of the evidence base highlights the need to make Leicestershire a cleaner, greener and better place to live by improving:

Green Infrastructure – the network of multi-functional green spaces and natural elements such as waterways, gardens, woodlands, cycleways, green corridors (including the Rights of Way network), street trees and open countryside that intersperse and connect our towns and villages.

Biodiversity – the historical management of land within Leicestershire has led to a loss of natural and semi-natural habitats and their associated species, which means that Leicestershire is one of the ‘poorest’ counties in terms of the biodiversity it supports and its biodiversity is continuing to decline. The geo-diversity of Leicestershire is very special and needs to be protected.

Mineral Resources – there are extensive mineral resources including igneous rock and fire clay. Mineral workings are of national importance and essential for meeting local and regional community needs but there is a conflict between ensuring continuity of supply and the environmental consequences of extraction.

Water – water quality is generally good or fair. The County is covered by a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone which means that farmers need to reduce the amount of nitrates lost from their land into the water. There is significant pressure on surface water resources in summer and the efficient use and conservation of water resources is therefore essential. However, in recent years flooding of low-lying areas and town centres (through overwhelmed drainage systems) has also become an issue of increasing concern.

Waste – 4.8 million tonnes of waste are generated per year and the amount of waste produced is increasing. The way in which waste is managed has significant implications for the environment. The Waste Management

Strategy identifies three key areas – waste prevention and re-use, recycling and composting.

Quality Built Environment - how we design and maintain our urban, suburban and village environments has a significant impact on people’s sense of place, quality of life and how communities function.

A well-designed built environment contributes to a wide range of benefits such as improved public health, reduced carbon emissions or reduced levels of crime.

Strategic Context:

ENABLE (Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire) is the lead strategic partnership for this theme. ENABLE is a countywide forum for the protection and enhancement of the environment whose mission is "To unite Leicestershire for the protection and enhancement of the environment". The partnership aims to create, enable and promote action and to help prioritise issues and monitor environmental change in the County. ENABLE have recently developed a draft Leicestershire Together Declaration on Climate Change for the Board.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Reduce our contribution to Climate Change

Sub Outcomes:

- CO2 emissions in public sector operations and estates are reduced;
- Enhanced energy efficiency of buildings; and
- Improved resource efficiency.

OUTCOME: There is high resilience to the effects of Climate Change

Sub Outcomes:

- Resilience and adaptation plans are prepared and resourced

OUTCOME: Less waste is produced and a reduced proportion of this goes to landfill

Sub Outcomes:

- Reduced waste creation;
- Increased reuse of items that can be put to good use;
- Increase recycling and composting of waste;
- A waste infrastructure which improves the treatment of residual waste to reduce our reliance on landfill and minimise the environmental impact of waste disposal; and
- An effective means of commissioning and decommissioning any necessary landfill sites with due regard for environmental concerns.

OUTCOME: Increased resident satisfaction with the built environment and improved green infrastructure

Sub Outcomes:

- New development, including housing, is accompanied by high quality green infrastructure;
- Improved green infrastructure and better access to this;
- Improved street and environmental cleanliness and maintenance with regard to fly-tipping, graffiti and littering; and
- Improved air quality (see Transport section).

OUTCOME: An enhanced natural environment with improved protection

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved local biodiversity, geodiversity and natural habitats;
- Improved supply of minerals to satisfy society's needs, balanced against protection of the environment and the impact on local residents; and
- Local communities use, understand and appreciate the natural and historical environment.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE

Leicestershire has a strong enterprising economy, with high levels of self employment, strong business survival rates, highly skilled workforce and is home to a number of successful international companies. Data shows that although Leicestershire is a productive area it is not achieving its full potential in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) – the total economic activity in the area.

Its economy has been undergoing a structural change which has seen a transition from traditional manufacturing to a growth in high tech manufacturing and the service sector. The number of people employed within the manufacturing sector remains relatively high whilst there has been a steady increase in the numbers employed within the service sector. There has recently been a small decline locally in high tech manufacturing as a proportion of all employment, although total jobs have increased. There is an opportunity to build on the high tech manufacturing base and the expertise of the University at Loughborough. Knowledge based services are under-represented in Leicestershire although the position is improving and knowledge based service employment has increased. Consumer services play a prominent employment role in the County, particularly within the growing tourism and retail sectors.

Although skill levels in the County are high, there is a need to ensure that training and learning opportunities are available to adapt to the changing needs of employers. A large proportion of people have graduate level qualifications. There is therefore a need to provide high quality employment options for these people by promoting inward investment and supporting the growth and start up of businesses within the high value and knowledge based sectors. In order to achieve this, local partners will need to work together to provide the appropriate infrastructure and employment land and premises required by existing businesses and potential investors. A recent sub-regional employment land study has shown that there is currently an inadequate amount of quality employment land and premises available within both the City and County.

The unemployment rate is significantly lower than the national average. The majority of the unemployment is concentrated in the Priority Neighbourhoods. There are a number of issues which need to be addressed in the SC neighbourhoods to ensure that people make a positive contribution to the local economy. This includes improving skills and access to learning and employment opportunities. The number of people claiming incapacity benefits has not reduced over the past eight years even when the number claiming Job Seekers Allowance has declined and the numbers employed have increased. The Government has set a target of increasing employment by moving people off inactive benefits and into work. There are a considerable number of people who are hidden from the traditional unemployment measures and can be encouraged into employment.

Workplace earnings are lower than resident earnings. This demonstrates that a significant proportion of the working population are employed outside the County boundary. The economy therefore cannot be viewed in isolation from the economy of the city of Leicester. There are very strong inter-relationships between their economies, and the two administrative areas taken together broadly cover the functional economic sub-region, particularly in terms of travel to work. Most of the economic solutions for Leicestershire will only be sensibly achieved through joint working at a sub-regional level.

Strategic Context

Economic interventions at regional level are led by emda in the context of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). More locally the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership (LSEP) takes the lead at a sub-regional level working closely with local authorities and other key economic development agencies. Leicester Shire Promotions leads on inward investment and tourism. A new employer-led Employment and Skills Board will improve the co-ordination and targeting of skills interventions.

The economy outcomes included in this Sustainable Community Strategy will form part of a new sub-regional economic strategy for Leicester and

Leicestershire, meaning that there will be one single set of economic priorities for the sub-region.

In the context of the Government's Sub-national Review of Economic Development and Regeneration consideration is currently being given to the most appropriate arrangements for governing and managing economic and related initiatives at sub-regional level. The potential delivery role of a City Development Company (CDC) is also being assessed.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Improved business performance

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased number of business start-ups; and
- Increased business survival and growth rates.

OUTCOME: An improved image

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased number of new businesses attracted and key sectors developed; and
- More people visit and they stay for longer.

OUTCOME: Quality employment sites and premises are more widely available

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased provision of premises for employment use;
- Earlier release of land for employment uses; and
- Increased re-use of brownfield land for employment uses.

OUTCOME: A highly skilled population and more people in high valued jobs

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased numbers of young people and adults qualified to Level 2, adults with Level 3 qualifications and people progressing to higher level skills (Level 3 and beyond);
- Increased number of people with improved basic skills;
- Increased number of people taking apprenticeships;
- Increased number of young people and adults equipped with employability skills; and
- Increased number of graduates retained in the local labour market.

OUTCOME: Increase the employment rate

Sub Outcomes:

- Reduced gap between the unemployment rate amongst disadvantaged places and groups and the overall rate; and
- Increased employment rate of disadvantaged groups including lone parents, IB customers, Ethnic Minority Communities, people with disabilities, offenders, those aged 50+ and those with lower qualifications.

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TRANSPORT

An effective transport system is not an end in itself, but a means of helping to deliver wider aims like strengthening the economy or tackling social deprivation. Transport is a cross-cutting issue which has links to all of the LAA themes and has therefore an important role in improving the quality of life in Leicestershire. The County's longer-term transport strategy must therefore ensure that the transport system can meet the many demands placed on it in the future.

Traffic growth in Leicestershire is higher than the national average for England and the cost of owning and running a car has fallen significantly in real terms over recent years. This is a real disincentive for people to travel by other means, even though 95% of all people in Leicestershire have access to an hourly daytime bus service.

The aim is "to achieve a transport system for Leicestershire which meets our requirements for access and economic development in a way which seeks continuous improvement in sustainability and people's quality of life". Guided by this, the following objectives have been developed for the next five years:

- Tackling congestion;
- Improving access to facilities including employment, education, health care and food shopping;
- Reducing road casualties;
- Improving air quality in the traffic-related air quality management areas;
- Reducing the impact of traffic through local communities, near schools and within town centres; and
- Managing transport assets effectively.

Strategic Context:

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out our transport strategy for Leicestershire, which is based on a thorough review of transport needs. In March 2006 we published our second LTP for 2006/07 - 2010/11. Find out more at:

http://website/index/highways/transport_plans_policies/ltp/ltp2_summary/local_transport_plan_pdf_index.htm.

In July 2006 we produced a Delivery Report on our Local Transport Plan delivery over the whole of the first LTP period from 2001/02 to 2005/06:

http://website/whole_delivery_report_without_photos_and_plans__shrunk_.pdf

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Growth of road congestion is reduced

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased use of public transport, walking and cycling;
- Reduced growth in car mileage; and
- More effective use of congested road space.

OUTCOME: The number of road casualties is reduced

Sub Outcome:

- Effective local safety schemes, speed management activities, road safety education, training and publicity campaigns

OUTCOME: Air quality is improved

Sub Outcome:

- Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are reduced in Air Quality Management Areas.

OUTCOME: The impact of traffic on communities and individuals is reduced

Sub Outcome:

- Vehicle speeds through local communities, near schools and within town centres are reduced

OUTCOME: Transport assets such as roads and footways are well managed and maintained

Sub Outcome:

- Condition monitoring is robust, intervention timely and effective and repairs and renewals cost efficient.

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HOUSING

The availability, price and quality of homes in Leicestershire is an issue that affects every resident of the County.

At expected rates of housing replacement, the existing dwelling stock will continue to provide the majority of housing within the County into the foreseeable future. Fortunately the existing stock is generally of high quality although there are areas where housing conditions are relatively poor.

The Decent Homes initiative was launched by the Government in 1997 and PSA Target 7 (2004) stated that “By 2010, bring all social housing into a decent condition with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas, and for vulnerable households in the private sector, including families with children, increase the proportion that are in decent condition”. A decent home, in the private or social sectors, is one that meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing, is in a reasonable state of repair, has reasonably modern facilities and services and provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

There is evidence that new homes built in recent years have not been built to especially high standards – for instance CABI has reported that just 3% of new residential developments in the East Midlands were rated as either ‘good’ or ‘very good’.

The building of new homes offers opportunities for people to secure better quality homes provided as part of high quality developments. The provision of the right number and types of homes in the right places and to high design and environmental standards will have an impact on housing prospects and circumstances in the County.

The numbers and broad locations of homes to be provided in Leicestershire will be decided in the Regional Plan with more detailed site allocations being agreed through Local Development Frameworks. The Draft Regional Plan includes proposals for a rate of house building significantly above previous

levels, and sufficient to support the designation of Leicestershire as part of the Three Cities and Three Counties New Growth Point. In the context of the Government’s housing aspirations and updated evidence on future household growth, the scale of provision could increase further. Getting the level and location of housing provision right is not only important in meeting housing needs and demands but will also support future economic growth, determine travel needs and ensure the protection of land not needed for new development.

Ensuring that the housing needs of all sections of the community are met will be a particular priority. The provision of affordable homes, including as part of large new developments, but also in smaller developments in rural areas, will be particularly important. An appropriate mix of house types, in terms of size and tenure, as part of new developments will also assist in meeting the full range of housing demands.

New large sustainable urban extensions of between 3750 and 8000 dwellings each will form a key part of the future strategy for new housing provision. These provide the best new opportunities to secure very high quality developments with very low or zero carbon impacts fully supported by necessary social, economic, transport and green infrastructure (for example schools and health facilities). Master planning will be vital to ensure the highest standards are achieved. The development of strong social capital will be a key aspect of ensuring these new communities are integrated.

Strategic Context:

The Government has introduced a new planning system to manage how development takes place in towns and the countryside. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new ‘two-tiered’ planning system comprising:

- Regional Spatial Strategies prepared by the Regional Assembly. These set out a broad spatial planning strategy for how a region should look in 15 to 20 years time and possibly longer.

- Local Development Frameworks - a folder of local development documents prepared by District Councils or unitary authorities that outline the spatial planning strategy for the local area.

The Local Development Framework, together with the Regional Spatial Strategy, will determine how the planning system will help shape Leicestershire communities.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: New developments are built to higher design and environmental standards and better supported by services and infrastructure

Sub Outcomes:

- More homes built to better environmental/energy efficiency standards;
- More new homes provided as part of master-planned and mixed use new developments; and
- Social capital is strong in new communities.

OUTCOME: The housing needs of the people of Leicestershire are met

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased provision of homes to meet household growth;
- More people live in decent homes;
- A better mix of homes to meet peoples needs/demands; and
- More vulnerable people are supported to maintain independent living.

OUTCOME: An increase in the provision of affordable housing

Sub Outcomes:

- There is a strategic approach to housing affordability;
- Parish Councils and local groups have more influence; and
- More affordable homes, including in rural areas.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Every Child Matters agenda requires all Local Authorities to produce a Children and Young People's Plan, including a needs analysis. The Leicestershire Plan for 2008/11 will expand on the outcomes below and provide additional detail about how partners will continue to work together to improve the lives of Children and Young People.

There are currently approximately 152,300 (mid 2005 estimates) children and young people aged 19 and under. The population of children and young adults is expected to stay stable over the short-term, but with a slight decrease to 149,800 by 2019.

There are a range of issues for children and young people aged 0-19 around attainment and achievement, health, safety, making a positive contribution and economic well-being:

- Be Healthy – issues such as self harm, obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption, disability, teenage pregnancy and substance misuse
- Stay Safe – child protection services are good and this is an area where we need to remain vigilant. Bullying is reducing, however more than one in ten children have been bullied and young people are more likely to be victims of crime
- Enjoying and achieving (including attendance and attainment) – issues such as children in care missing at least 25 school days and the proportion of 15 year olds achieving 5+ A-C at GCSE or equivalent.
- Make a positive contribution – promoting of opportunities for young people to get involved in positive activities, reducing exclusions from school and involving them in decisions affecting their lives
- Economic well-being – issues such as groups of young people being less likely to be in employment, education and training, relative poverty and the effect of a deprived background on health, achievement and attaining economic well-being in adulthood

In all its work Leicestershire will pay special attention to:

- making sure the voice of children and young people is heard; and
- the needs of vulnerable children and young people are met.

Strategic Context

The Children and Young People's Plan for Leicestershire was published in April 2006 under the strategic guidance of the Leicestershire Children and Young People's Board. The Plan is a key tool in achieving the improvements in outcomes for children and young people that are expected following the publication of Every Child Matters: Change for Children and the passing of the Children Act 2004.

http://website/children_young_peoples_plan_web_version.pdf

The Board are currently developing the second Children and Young People's Plan, which will be published by April 2008. Leicestershire will continue to work with children, young people, parents and carers from across the county to ensure that their views are captured.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Improved educational progress

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved achievement at foundation and key stages, particularly Key Stage 4;
- Further reduction of children Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET);
- Improved quality of teaching at foundation and each Key Stage;
- Improved quality of leadership and management, including Governance, in all learning settings;
- Increased school attendance and reduced persistent absence; and
- Reduced school exclusions.

OUTCOME: Improved health outcomes for children and young people

Sub Outcomes:

- Reduced levels of obesity in children;
- Increased participation in positive activities;
- Maintain high levels of immunisation and vaccination;
- Maintain high levels of breastfeeding;
- Reduction in teenage pregnancy rates; and
- Improved mental health of children and young people.

OUTCOME: Improved life chances for vulnerable children and young people

Sub Outcomes:

- Reduction in permanent exclusions;
- Reduction in young people's homelessness (including improving the range and provision of appropriate accommodation for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seekers and young offenders access to suitable accommodation);
- Reduction in repeat offending by first time offenders;
- Improved outcomes for looked after children; and
- Corporate parenting further developed for children in care.

OUTCOME: Children in Leicestershire are safe

Sub Outcomes:

- Children are safe from bullying; and
- Safe recruitment policies are implemented.

OUTCOME: Improved support to families and parents

Sub Outcomes:

- Increased support for disabled children and their families; and
- Increased number of parents & carers groups and activities.

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OLDER PEOPLE

Leicestershire has an ageing population and it is predicted that, by 2028, a quarter of its population will be over 65. People over 85 is the fastest growing age category and the percentage of the population aged 85 plus is projected to increase from 1.8 % in 2003 to 3.6 % in 2028. With older people becoming an ever more significant proportion of the population there is an opportunity to explore the even larger contribution older people can make to society, and prepare more effectively for the new horizons of later life. Being older or being a pensioner does not equate to dependence. Rather than make assumptions about age we must focus on the contributions individual's make to their communities.

In 2006 the Older People's Network was established to look at key priorities. When consulted, members of this group have told us that services do not currently support older people respectfully and responsively enough and there is strong feeling that older people should be put at centre of service delivery via a 'Charter for Dignity in Later Life'.

A number of factors make a difference to older people's wellbeing. Often the foundations for a good quality of life for older people include good relationships with family, friends and neighbours, participation in social, voluntary and community activities, living in a good home and neighbourhood and having a positive outlook.

Studies have identified loneliness as an issue adversely affect older people. . 20% of people over 50 and 50% of people over 85 live alone with many having only limited contact with friends and family. This isolation can leave people feeling vulnerable and isolated and there are strong links between loneliness and poor mental health, in particular depression and anxiety amongst older people. Participation is also an important element in developing a cohesive community and community well-being. Engagement of older people in service planning and decision making helps to make services more relevant to users.

Problems of isolation can be exacerbated by a reducing access to a car as people age (either due to economic or health reasons). High quality public transport is therefore essential in providing access to services. 95% of households, including 76 percent of rural households, are now within 800 meters of an hourly bus service. This helps support an identified need of increased participation in cultural, learning, leisure and sporting activities closer to home. However, aside from transport, some older people have a much broader range of needs which services have to be able to address in order to provide services for these groups. It is also crucial that people have access to good information and advice, across all agencies, so that they can understand the options they have and make informed choices and decisions.

Crime, and the fear of crime, have a negative impact on the quality of life for older people, with people over the age of 75 being amongst the most 'worried'. Crimes such as distraction burglary are increasing which has led to 14 "No Cold Calling Zones". Figures in these areas show overall crime reducing by up to 80% with an even bigger impact on distraction theft.

Figures for the county show that 11% of the over 60 population live in income deprived households and experience fuel poverty (where 10% or more of household income is spent on maintaining a satisfactory heating regime). Support in helping people to manage finances and avoid debt, along with ensuring people accept their benefits entitlement, can all assist in helping older people have sufficient income. Linked to economic wellbeing is the increasingly important role of older people in the labour market and the need for more flexible working arrangements and a change in the attitude of employers to older people in the workplace.

Older people are significant users of healthcare services. Although people aged over 65 account for only 16% of the population they occupy almost two thirds of general and acute hospital beds, and account for 50% of the recent growth in emergency admissions. Therefore, while health is an important issue for all age groups, preventative actions are particularly important for older people, including promoting physical activity, fire safety and falls prevention schemes. In 2005 there were 39 deaths in Leicestershire

due to falls, and these were mainly females aged over 75. Stroke is the third largest cause of death in the U.K., responsible for 11 per cent of all deaths in England and Wales. Between 20 and 30 per cent of people who have a stroke die within a month. The increasing importance of mental health in over 65's is evident in prevalence rates of dementia and depression. In Britain it is estimated that one in every four people aged over 65 has depression (or serious symptoms) and one in every five aged over 80 has dementia.

Independence is a significant desire for many older people, especially for those over 75 who are the highest users of social care services. Supporting people to live independently in their own homes with local community support is preferred by many but it is essential for all service agencies to provide dignified care. As more older people are supported to live at home the role of informal/family carers becomes increasingly important.

Strategic Context:

At a local level the County Integrated Partnership for Older People (CIPOP) is developing a older persons' strategy for the County. On a national level there are numerous policies influencing the delivery of services. While much of the National Service Framework for Older People promotes access to medical services, standard 8 is focused on promoting health and active life in older age. The Standard emphasises the importance of multi-agency initiatives to promote health, independence and well-being in later life, and requires communities to develop programmes "to promote healthy ageing and to prevent disease in older people".

Currently in development is the National Strategy for Housing an Ageing Society which is looking at how local and national government can support the provision of high quality housing solutions for older people. The government are currently consulting on this and a link to the outline of the consultation document can be found by using this link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/324804>.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

Outcome: More older people are able to live independent lives

Sub outcome:

- More older people are supported to live at home;
- The income of older people is maximised; and
- Older people have improved access to advice and information to support decision making.

Outcome: The health and well-being of older people is increased

Sub outcome:

- Older people have access to a wide range of cultural and learning activities;
- The number of older people unnecessarily admitted to hospital and residential care is reduced; and
- Older people's well-being is at the centre of services.

Outcome: Older people are empowered to play an active part in the community

Sub outcome:

The Older People's Network and Older People's Champion Network enable older people to play an active part in decision making.

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HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Health in Leicestershire is generally better than average when compared to the East Midlands and England. People in Leicestershire have above average life expectancy and low rates of premature mortality from the major killers.

However, whilst the overall picture is good, health experience is distributed unequally across our local communities. Whilst the pattern of ill health is similar to that for deprivation, it is also influenced by other factors including ethnicity.

The demographic shift towards an older population will have a significant impact on the future health and health needs of the population, and diseases such as coronary heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, stroke and dementia are all projected to rise by over 10% by 2014. This will be exacerbated by increasing levels of obesity.

The major cause of death in adults in Leicestershire is cancer, followed by circulatory disease and accidents. The main causes of death in people over 65 are diseases of the circulatory system, cancers and diseases of the respiratory system. Less than 0.15% of total deaths are 0-14 year olds and the infant mortality level in the County is similar to the national average.

Leicestershire County and Rutland (LCR) PCT, in partnership with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils, commissioned a lifestyle survey, which was completed in April 2007. The main points arising from this survey were:

- Most respondents were eating 3 portions of fruit & vegetables a day;
- Less than 50% of respondents were eating 5 or more portions;
- Younger age groups were less likely than older groups to be eating 5 or more portions daily;
- 1 in 5 respondents were taking little or no regular exercise;
- “Lack of time” was cited as main reason for taking little exercise;
- Significantly more men were overweight (45%) than women (31%);
- However overall obesity levels were similar (18% vs 17%); and

- Men were more likely than women to be consuming alcohol over the “safe limit”.

Six joint health issues which require multi-agency action have been agreed in Leicestershire:

- Smoking – a leading cause of preventable illness and premature death, it is estimated that 126,000 people across the Primary Care Trust (PCT) area smoke. Smoking prevalence in 14-16 year olds is estimated to be over 20%;
- Obesity – it is estimated that 128,100 adults and 18,500 children are obese and that these levels will continue to rise – if the current trend continues then one-third of adults, one-fifth of boys and one-third of girls will be obese by 2020;
- Physical activity – Only 37% of men and 24% of women currently meet the minimum recommendation for activity in adults;
- Accidents – preventable injury is one of the main causes of death, ill health and disability and has a considerable cost to society as a whole;
- Sexual Health – there has been a rise in the number of people diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Infections, in risk taking sexual behaviour and a small increase in teenage pregnancy; and
- Mental Health and Well-Being – Mental illness affects up to a quarter of the population and contributes to health inequalities with those having a serious mental illness being 1.5 times more likely to die prematurely.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

OUTCOME: Inequalities have been reduced

Sub Outcome:

- Vulnerable people and areas experience less health disadvantage

OUTCOME: Improved mental health and wellbeing

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved mental health and wellbeing in workplaces;
- Vulnerable people have better mental health;
- People get more help to meet their own mental health and wellbeing needs;
- There are more volunteers to support people with mental health problems; and
- Professionals have a greater understanding of mental health and wellbeing issues, including the stigma attached to it.

OUTCOME: More people are physically active at a level which makes them healthier

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved and more accessible facilities and opportunities for physical activity; and
- People with long-term conditions and other vulnerable people are assisted to access physical activity.

OUTCOME: Obesity is reduced and there has been an increase in healthy eating in all age groups

Sub Outcomes:

- Families make healthy food choices and eat for health;
- Fewer children are obese; and
- Healthy food choices are available on workplaces.

OUTCOME: Fewer people smoke

Sub Outcomes:

- Fewer women smoke during pregnancy;
- Vulnerable people and people in priority areas get greater support to give up smoking; and
- Increased number of smoke free homes.

OUTCOME: Improved sexual health, particularly for young people

Sub Outcomes:

- Improved access to a range of appropriate support services; and
- Referrals to drug and alcohol services are increased.

OUTCOME: There are fewer accidents in the home

Sub Outcome:

- Health and safety co-ordination and information across a range of sectors is improved

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PLACES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to identify priority outcomes for places in Leicestershire. It is important that service providers understand how priorities vary across the County and what people think is most important for their area.

This section needs more work to ensure it truly reflects the priorities of each Community Forum area (see below) and we will be working with partners, including the District Councils and District based LSPs, to refine these further. The Community Forums will decide the final list of priorities for their areas at meetings between January and March – your comments will help them in that task. The draft priorities suggested in this section of the Strategy are based upon the Places in Leicestershire evidence base reports which are available to view at:

http://www.leicestershiretogether.org/index/sustainable_community_strategy/new_sustainable_community_strategy.htm.

These seven reports are divided into chapters structured around the key places in each District, arranged by Community Forum. The priorities have been informed by input from District LSPs, including place based priorities from their Community Strategies. Those Community Forums that had met by the end of October also influenced the selection of priorities.

Community Forums (or Area Forums or Have Your Say meetings as they are also known) bring together County, District and Parish Councillors and the public to identify and address the priorities for that area. Community Forums also have a key role in scrutinising the way in which services are delivered and resources allocated in a particular area.

The map on page 46 shows the location of the 27 Community Forums in Leicestershire.

The priority outcomes relate to the following type of places:

Main Towns

These 17 settlements were identified in our first Local Area Agreement as key large service centres which provide health services, employment, education, leisure and shopping facilities for the surrounding population.

Some of these have been identified in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy as a Sub Regional Centre (SRC);

Ashby	Birstall
Blaby	Broughton Astley
Coalville (SRC)	Earl Shilton
Hinckley (SRC)	Loughborough (SRC)
Lutterworth	Market Harborough (SRC)
Melton Mowbray (SRC)	Oadby
Shepshed (SRC)	South Wigston
Syston	Thurmaston
Wigston	

The Principle Urban Area (PUA) of Leicestershire includes the settlements of Glen Parva, Braunstone Town, Leicester Forest East, Kirby Muxloe, Glenfield, Birstall, Thurmaston, Scraptoft, Thurnby and Bushby, Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston

Map I - Community Forums in Leicestershire

1. Loughborough North-West
2. Loughborough East
3. Loughborough South-West
4. Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel & Birstall
5. Syston, Thurmaston & Wreake Villages
6. Blaby North
7. Oadby
8. Wigston
9. South Wigston



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Priority Neighbourhoods

Identified in the Local Area Agreement 2006-09, these 19 neighbourhoods are small areas of the county with bigger than average problems, usually in relation to multiple aspects of deprivation. They cover parts of;

Ashby	Bagworth and Thornton
Castle Donington	Central Market Harborough
Coalville, Thringstone and Whitwick	Earl Shilton and Barwell
Enderby	Greenhill
Hinckley and Burbage	Ibstock
Loughborough East	Loughborough West
Measham	Melton Mowbray
Moirs and Albert Village	Mountsorrel
South Charnwood	Wigston and South Wigston

Rural/Service Centres

These are smaller service centres, identified through the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and/or through District Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), that provide a range of facilities for the surrounding rural villages and hamlets. They vary in size, but are all a focal point for a cluster of smaller settlements.

Anstey	Asfordby
Bagworth	Barrow
Billesdon	Blaby
Bottesford	Castle Donington
Countesthorpe	Desford
East Goscote	Fleckney
Great Glen	Hathern
Husbands Bosworth	Ibstock
Kibworth	Market Bosworth
Markfield	Measham
Mountsorrel	Narborough

Quorn
Sapcote
Stoney Stanton

Rothley
Sileby
Whetstone

Rural Areas

This section covers the rural parts of each Forum area and identifies the priorities based on aspects of deprivation (particularly the Barriers to Housing and Services domain of the IMD), poor access to services (identified in the LRP Access to Services report) or specific needs identified through a Parish Plan.

A list of all communities completing a Parish Plan in the last three years is shown below:

Anstey	Barlestone
Barrow upon Soar	Burton on the Wolds
Claybrooke Magna and Parva	Cossington
Cotesbach	Countesthorpe
Croft	Eastwell
Frolesworth	Groby and Field Head
Hallaton	Harby
Heather	Husbands Bosworth
Kibworth	Leicester Forest East
Long Clawson	Measham
Medbourne	Mountsorrel
Ratby	Rearsby
Sheepy	Stathern
Stoughton	Swinford
Thurnby and Bushby	Twycross
Twyford and Thorpe	Wanlip
Woodhouse (Eaves)	Wymeswold

PLACES IN BLABY

Blaby Central Community Forum Area

This Forum area includes the Main Town of Blaby and the settlements of Countesthorpe, Narborough and Whetstone in the Central Leicester Policy Area. It also includes the Priority Neighbourhood of Enderby.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- More older people are living good quality independent lives and are able to access support and advice, benefit take-up has increased and incomes are improved in Enderby & St. Johns and North Whetstone;
- People are healthier, with improved mental health and well-being and the number of people suffering from long-term limiting illness and disabilities has reduced, particularly in Enderby & St Johns;
- Young people are able to make positive choices about their health and behaviour and life chances, including educational attainment improvement has been achieved, particularly in Blaby South and North Whetstone;
- There are reduced levels of and fear of crime, including anti-social behaviour;
- The Central area has well integrated communities where people of all ages and backgrounds are able to engage with and access services;
- The environment has been improved with a reduction in excessive pollution (air, noise and light), particularly along the M1 corridor and around Junction 21;
- Unemployment rates in Blaby South and Saxondale have been reduced and local people's skills and qualifications well-matched to the needs of local employers, particularly in Blaby South;
- Blaby Town Centre attracts more people to shop;
- Housing standards have improved and meet the needs of those living in the area and there are a range of affordable, high quality and sustainable homes, in particular in relation to Enderby & St Johns; and
- An integrated transport system has been achieved with improved access to work and retail opportunities and facilities.

Blaby North Community Forum Area

This Forum area borders Leicester City and includes the Principal Urban Area settlements of Braunstone Town, Kirby Muxloe and Glenfield, plus the Fosse Park shopping complex. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- More older people are living quality independent lives, with good access to services and integrated public transport, particularly within the Forest ward;
- People are healthier both physically and mentally, particularly within Fairstone and Millfield and there has been a reduction in the number of hospital admissions for people aged 65+ suffering from falls and hypothermia in Forest;
- Young people are able to make positive choices about their health and behaviour and have been actively involved in making decisions about their future and the services they want to receive, and have achieved their maximum potential;
- Educational attainment has improved at Key Stage 2 in Ravenhurst & Fosse and at GCSE in Ravenhurst & Fosse and Winstanley;
- There are reduced levels of and fear of crime, including anti-social behaviour;
- People from different groups are engaged with each other and in decision making about their area and the services they receive are co-ordinated and focussed;
- The environment has been improved with a reduction in excessive pollution (air, noise and light), particularly around the M1 corridor, Narborough Road South and Fosse Park area;
- Unemployment rates have been reduced, particularly in Ravenhurst & Fosse and people have the right skills and qualifications to meet the needs of employers;
- Housing standards have improved and meet the needs of those living in Fairstone, Ravenhurst & Fosse and Winstanley and people have affordable, high quality and sustainable homes; and

- Public transport is integrated with improved links to services and retail opportunities and facilities.

Blaby South Community Forum Area

This Forum area includes the Rural Centres of Stoney Stanton, plus a wider rural area. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- More older people are living good quality independent lives and are able to access services supported by improved integrated public transport, particularly in Stanton & Flamville;
- People are healthier and there has been a reduction in the number of hospital admissions for people aged 65+ suffering from falls and hypothermia in Stanton & Flamville;
- Young people are able to make positive choices about their health and behaviour and have been actively involved in making decisions about the services and facilities they want;
- Educational attainment has increased at Key Stage 2 in Normanton and Stanton & Flamville and GCSE level in Croft Hill;
- There are reduced levels of and fear of crime, including anti-social behaviour;
- Integration of communities has been improved and all groups across the South Community Forum feel they are engaged and able to access support and services;
- The environment has been improved with a reduction in excessive pollution (air, noise and light). There has been a reduction in the level of traffic through Sharnford;
- Local people are well equipped with the skills and qualifications needed to respond to the needs of local employers; and
- Housing standards have improved across the area but particularly in Croft Hill.

PLACES IN CHARNWOOD

Loughborough East, Loughborough North West and Loughborough South West Community Forum Area

Four Community Forums cover the Main Town of Loughborough, the three above and a small part of the Shepshed and Hathern Forum. Loughborough is a Sub-Regional Centre and includes two priority neighbourhoods – Loughborough East and Loughborough West and is one of the areas in the County where a Sustainable Urban Extension is proposed.

Loughborough is the largest town in Leicestershire. On one hand it has one of the best Universities in the country. On the other a substantial proportion of the population have lower than average earnings, there are higher levels of benefits claims, low skills and school attainment levels. It hosts major business but the town centre does not attract all the major retailers and there are above average levels of crime and anti social behaviour. It is a young town with great potential for growth and improvement partly because of its excellent transport links.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- An improved town centre, better shops, leisure and evening economy, less crime and anti social behaviour, less litter and graffiti and reduced air pollution;
- A wider range of knowledge based businesses and employment opportunities;
- Higher adult skills levels and increased attainment for school children.
- Improved social cohesion where resident and students, old and young, and different cultures and faiths get on well;
- Children and young people have spaces, places and activities to engage them;
- Relative deprivation in the priority neighbourhoods has been reduced, with specific attention to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- New development is physically and socially integrated and environmentally sustainable and housing is of an excellent standard and meets local housing needs;

- More travel by public transport, walking and cycling means that traffic is less of a problem and congestion is reduced in the town;
- Historic and environmental assets, including the Great Central Railway, have been safeguarded;
- Better access to health facilities across the town; and
- The 2012 Olympics legacy has been used to benefit the town.

Bradgate and Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of Birstall (included in the Principal Urban Area of Leicester), the Rural/Service Centres of Rothley, Anstey and Mountsorrel and a priority neighbourhood which covers part of Mountsorrel.

The area lies between the northern fringes of Leicester City and the southern fringes of Loughborough, the attractive Charnwood Forest and the busy Soar Valley. There are some larger villages, (Birstall, Mountsorrel, Rothley and Anstey) but most villages are relatively small. Most people have higher incomes than the county average and children do well at school. Some villages have older than average populations. There are substantial new developments at Birstall (housing) and Rothley (employment).

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Village centres including Anstey, Birstall & Mountsorrel are maintained and improved with less litter and vandalism and fear of crime;
- The relative deprivation in the Mountsorrel priority neighbourhood is reduced with specific attention to reducing anti-social behaviour; and
- Youth facilities including the Soar Valley Centre are fully used.

Syston, Thurmaston and Wreake Villages Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Towns of Syston and Thurmaston (within the Leicester Principal Urban Area), the key Rural Centre of East Goscote and a

priority neighbourhood covering Syston and Thurmaston. It is also one of the areas in the County where a Sustainable Urban Extension is proposed.

This area extends from the north eastern fringe of Leicester through the villages in the Wreake Valley and to farming areas in the east. There are shopping facilities in Syston and at Thurmaston which adjoins Leicester and where an 'out of town' shopping centre was completed a few years ago. The eastern part of the area is far more rural in character.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Syston and Thurmaston town centres are developed with better shops and businesses, less litter, vandalism and anti social behaviour;
- New development provides more affordable housing and a wider range of knowledge based employment that is physically and socially integrated and environmentally sustainable;
- Cohesion in communities is improved and communities living in the new developments are integrated;
- New development allows significant improvements to infrastructure and local services on the northern fringe of Leicester, improving accessibility from the rural part of the Forum area; and
- Relative deprivation is reduced in the priority neighbourhoods in Syston and Thurmaston with:
 - Less fear of crime
 - Less anti-social behaviour
 - Better educational attainment
 - Fewer school exclusions

Shepshed and Hathern Community Forum Area

This Forum includes the Main Town of Shepshed, the Rural/Service Centre of Hathern and surrounding rural area. There are no priority neighbourhoods in this Forum area.

Shepshed is a small town and Hathern a village to the east and north of Loughborough respectively. Shepshed has higher than average manufacturing

industry but its town centre has declined. Hathern experiences considerable traffic volumes along the A6.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Shepshed Town Centre is improved with better range of retailing, improved cleanliness and less antisocial behaviour in the evening; and
- Less traffic goes through the centre of Hathern.

Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and The Wolds Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Rural/Service Centres of Barrow-upon-Soar, Quorndon and Sileby and the rural area around these Centres. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods.

Quorn is a large and prosperous village in the A6 River Soar corridor close to Loughborough. Barrow & Sileby are on the other side of that corridor on the eastern side of the Soar Valley. Villages in the Wolds are generally small and some to the east of Loughborough experience considerable traffic volumes.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- People in the area have improved access to facilities, particularly through development of Quorn, Barrow and Sileby as service centres;
- The effects of traffic have been mitigated; and
- Flood risks are assessed and managed effectively.

PLACES IN HARBOROUGH

Market Harborough Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of Market Harborough (a Sub Regional Centre) including a priority neighbourhood.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Market Harborough is a strong community where people are involved, engaged and play a role in decision making;
- Levels of recorded anti-social behaviour and crime are reduced;
- Improved street and environmental cleanliness i.e. fly-tipping, graffiti and littering;
- Increased levels of participation amongst teenagers in a wide range of activities accessible within their communities;
- Increased provision of free play for children and young people;
- Older and younger people are engaged in volunteering that contributes to society, develops skills and opens up employment opportunities and volunteers are trained and supported effectively;
- New developments are built to higher design and environmental standards and better supported by services and infrastructure;
- More vulnerable people are supported to maintain independent living;
- There is good local healthcare;
- Market Harborough maintains a strong local economy and its town centre is attractive to both visitors and residents; and
- The effects of traffic congestion are reduced and through traffic is well managed.

Lutterworth Community Forum Area

This Forum consists of the Main Town of Lutterworth and the surrounding rural area, including the settlement of Ullesthorpe. There are no priority neighbourhoods or Rural Centres.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Lutterworth town centre is more attractive to both visitors and residents with less traffic and litter;
- Levels of recorded anti-social behaviour in Lutterworth are reduced;
- New developments are built to higher design and environmental standards and better supported by services and infrastructure;
- Lutterworth and surrounding villages are strong communities where people are involved, engaged and play a role in decision making;
- Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are monitored and reduced in Air Quality Management Areas;
- The impact of traffic on communities and individuals is reduced;
- Local employers have adopted Green Travel Plans; and
- There is integrated local healthcare.

Rural West Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of Broughton Astley, the Rural Centre of Husbands Bosworth and the surrounding rural area. There are no priority neighbourhoods.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Levels of recorded anti-social behaviour in Broughton Astley are reduced;
- The town and villages are strong communities where people are involved, engaged and play a role in decision making;
- Broughton Astley maintains a strong local economy and its town centre provides a range of retail services;
- Increased levels of participation amongst teenagers in a wide range of activities accessible within their communities;
- Increased number of affordable homes, particularly in rural areas;
- Increased business start-up, growth and diversification in rural areas;
- Access to facilities and services is enhanced;
- Increased coverage by community transport schemes; and
- Communities take action reduce their impact on the environment.

Mid Rural Community Forum Area

This Forum consists of the Rural Centres of Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney and surrounding rural area. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods in this Forum area.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- The impact of traffic on the A6 on communities and individuals in Kibworth is reduced;
- Increased number of affordable homes;
- Increased business start-up, growth and diversification;
- Access to facilities and services is enhanced, especially for older and younger people;
- Increased coverage by community transport schemes;
- Strong local communities where people are involved and engaged, play a role in decision making and take action to reduce their impact on the environment; and
- Reduced isolation of older and young people living in rural areas.

- Reduced isolation of older and young people; and
- Communities feel safe and anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping is controlled.

Rural East Community Forum Area

This Forum area is based around the Rural Centre of Billesdon and surrounding rural area, plus the Principal Urban Area of Leicester settlements of Thurnby, Bushy and Scraptoft. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Increased number of affordable homes;
- Increased business start-up, growth and diversification;
- Access to facilities and services is enhanced, especially for older and younger people;
- Increased coverage by community transport schemes;
- Strong local communities where people are involved and engaged, play a role in decision making and take action to reduce their impact on the environment;

PLACES IN HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH

Hinckley Area Community Forum Area

This Forum includes the Main Towns of Hinckley (a Sub Regional Centre) and Earl Shilton and four priority neighbourhoods covering parts of Hinckley, Burbage North, Earl Shilton and Barwell. There is also a small rural area surrounding the towns. This is one of the areas in the County where a Sustainable Urban Extension is proposed.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- The image of Hinckley is good - more people live in the Town Centre, there is good range of shops, including specialist shops, more leisure and cultural facilities, and people feel safe in the Town Centre at all times;
- The relationship between pedestrians and traffic in the Town Centre is improved, accessibility is better for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, and there are better links across the town centre;
- The Earl Shilton by-pass has led to town centre improvements - it looks better, shops fronts and factories have been enhanced and street furniture is improved;
- There is better access to health facilities, sports facilities and certain shops in Barwell;
- There is less anti-social behaviour, litter, damage and graffiti, on the streets and in jitties, violent crime and domestic violence are reduced, there are less burglaries in Earl Shilton and Barwell and fewer assaults in Barwell;
- People feel that they have influence over their lives and the decisions affecting them;
- Less people are obese, people eat well and levels of smoking and binge drinking are reduced (particularly in Barwell);
- There are more facilities, activities and meeting places for children and young people, fewer young people are NEET, fewer pupils excluded from school and children do well at all Key Stages; and
- Household income levels are higher in Earl Shilton and Barwell and

fewer children and older people experience poverty, more people are economically active and there are fewer job seeker allowance (JSA) and income support claimants.

Markfield, Groby and Ratby Community Forum Area

This Forum includes a priority neighbourhood, covering parts of Bagworth and Thornton, the Rural Centres of Bagworth, Desford, Barlestone, Groby, Ratby and Markfield and the surrounding rural area. There are no Main Towns in this Forum area.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Fear of crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour is reduced;
- People get on well with other people from different backgrounds, there is good community spirit, and people feel involved in decision making;
- People in Groby have better access to health facilities;
- Speed of traffic around the schools in Groby has been reduced and through traffic is minimised;
- Pollution, including noise pollution from the A50 road, and light pollution, has been reduced;
- Parking has been improved in both Groby and Ratby;
- There are more facilities and activities for young people in Desford and the village hall has been improved;
- Deprivation in relation to income, employment and income deprivation affecting children in Bagworth and Thornton has been reduced;
- People are healthier in the priority neighbourhood and fewer people smoke; and
- There are better education and health facilities.

Bosworth Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the key Rural Centre of Market Bosworth and the surrounding rural area. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods within this area.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- There is less HGV traffic and speeding through the villages;
- There is a greater range of shops in Market Bosworth and better parking facilities;
- Access to services and affordable housing has been enhanced and there are more facilities for the elderly, young people and young children; and
- There are more leisure and learning opportunities for all ages.

PLACES IN MELTON

Melton Mowbray Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town/Sub Regional Centre of Melton Mowbray and one priority neighbourhood divided into three zones – Town Centre Flats, Egerton and Fairmead and South Melton. There are no rural centres.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Melton Mowbray Town Centre is clean, safe and accessible with a wide choice of employment, shops, office accommodation, affordable housing, leisure and entertainment;
- The railway station has been improved and there are good transport links into the town centre, including from the station;
- The amount of traffic in the centre of Melton has been reduced; and
- The employment base is more diverse.

In the Melton Town Centre Flats priority neighbourhood zone:

- Attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 has improved;
- Less older people and children experience financial exclusion;
- Anti-social behaviour has been reduced, as has violence against the person and theft, including from stores; and
- Fewer people binge drink and people eat more fruit and vegetables - as a result fewer people in the area are obese.

In the Melton Egerton and Fairmead priority neighbourhood zone:

- Household incomes are higher and less people are poor;
- Levels of domestic violence, violence against the person, theft and theft from motor vehicles are all lower;
- There are fewer obese people – people eat more fruit and vegetables and exercise more;
- Less people smoke; and
- Fewer children and young people are excluded from school and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), and educational attainment is much better at all Key Stages.

In the South Melton priority neighbourhood zone:

- Levels of domestic violence have been reduced;
- Average household income is higher;
- Attainment at Key Stage 2 is as good as it is at Key Stages 3 and 4; and
- Less children are excluded from school.

Melton West Community Forum Area

This Forum consists of the Rural Centre of Asfordby and surrounding rural area. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods within this Form area.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- The living environment is improved in Asfordby, more people attend training and education and fewer older people live in income deprived households;
- People have a choice of affordable housing and access to key services (health, post office, libraries etc) is improved, including through the provision of mobile services and better public and community transport;
- Less people are obese and people have better access to sport and leisure facilities and to healthy food; and
- People have a strong sense of community.

Belvoir Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Rural Centres of Bottesford, Long Clawson and Waltham on the Wolds and the surrounding rural areas. There are no Main Towns or priority neighbourhoods within this Forum area.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- People have improved access to services, including health services at Grantham hospital, post offices and village shops and village halls;
- Public transport is better, traffic volume and speed has been reduced

- and roads have been improved;
- There are improved facilities and activities for young people; and
- People feel safer and there is less anti-social behaviour.

PLACES IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

Coalville Community Forum Area

The area covered by this Forum includes the Main Town/Sub Regional Centre of Coalville, two priority areas within the town and a small rural area. This is one of the areas in the County where a Sustainable Urban Extension is proposed.

Coalville Town Centre

Draft Priority Outcome:

Coalville Town Centre is a quality, sustainable, urban environment, providing a range of business, retail, leisure and cultural opportunities that are suitable for all ages and communities.

Draft Sub-outcomes

- A strong and vibrant night-time economy;
- More places, spaces and activities for children and young people (especially teenagers);
- Reduced levels and fear of crime;
- The towns carbon footprint is reduced; and
- All housing and other growth has been developed using sustainable principles and practices.

Priority Neighbourhoods

Draft Priority Outcome:

The inequality between the priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the County has been reduced and people are able to access a range of quality services, support and advice locally.

Draft Sub-outcomes:

- More older people are living independent lives;
- Children's Centres provide spaces and opportunities for families to

develop their skills and help provide a sure start in life for 0-5 year olds;

- People are active and healthier and are able to access support, advice and information locally, including drug and alcohol services, smoking cessation and mental health services and are able to make lifestyle choices to improve well-being;
- Public transport is integrated and enables everyone to have greater access to a wider range of learning, training and employment opportunities; and
- People want to live in the Greenhill and Coalville Urban area and have a sense of belonging, pride in where they live, and feel safe.

Ashby Community Forum Area

This Forum area includes the Main Town of Ashby, including a priority neighbourhood, two Rural Centres – Measham and Ibstock - and the rural areas around these.

Ashby

Draft Priority Outcome:

Ashby Town Centre provides a range of quality business, retail, leisure and cultural opportunities that supports and encourages sustainability locally

Draft Sub-outcomes:

- Sustainable business opportunities have been developed in sectors associated with the local environment including wood products and tourism;
- The role and coverage of the National Forest has been increased;
- More spaces, places and activities for young people within Ashby and surrounding neighbourhoods;
- The quality of the urban environment has been improved with all growth, including housing, developed using sustainable approaches;
- The carbon footprint of the town is reduced; and

- There is less crime and fear of crime, particularly during the evening.

Priority Neighbourhoods

Draft Priority Outcome:

The inequality between the priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the County has been reduced and people are able to access a range of quality services, information, support and advice close to where they live.

Draft Sub-outcomes:

- More older people are living independent lives and have good access to learning opportunities;
- Children's Centres provide spaces and opportunities for families to develop their skills and help provide a sure start in life for 0-5 year olds;
- People are more active and healthier and are able to access support, advice and information locally, including drug and alcohol and mental health services and receive support to help them make lifestyle choices to improve well-being;
- The number of teenage parents has reduced;
- Public transport meets the needs of all local people by providing access to employment, training, leisure and cultural activities in and around the area; and
- People have pride in where they live, have reduced levels of crime and fear of crime and are involved in making decisions about their neighbourhood.

Rural Centres-Measham and Ibstock

Draft Priority Outcome:

There are increased opportunities for people locally to access services, retail, leisure and cultural activities which has been achieved by the unique collaboration achieved through being at the heart of the National Forest. The quality of the local environment has been enhanced and sustainable developments delivered.

Draft Sub-outcomes (in addition to those covered under Priority Neighbourhood):

- More opportunities have been created in sustainable business developments, particularly with those associated with wood products;
- All members of the many communities within the area feel included and intolerance is challenged;
- Anti-social behaviour has been reduced; and
- People have better access to health services.

Valley Community Forum Area

This Forum consists of the key Rural Centre of Castle Donington and Kegworth, a priority neighbourhood and a large rural area. There are no Main Towns within this Forum area.

Priority Neighbourhood

Draft Priority Outcome:

The inequality between the priority neighbourhood and the rest of the County has been reduced and people are able to access a range of quality services, information, support and advice close to where they live.

Draft Sub-outcomes:

- More older people are living independent lives;
- Children's Centres provide spaces and opportunities for families to develop their skills and help provide a sure start in life for 0-5 year olds;
- People are more active and healthier and are able to access support, advice and information locally, including drug and alcohol and mental health services and receive support to help them make lifestyle choices to improve well-being;
- Roads and public transport has been improved and enable people to access services, training and employment opportunities; and
- People have pride in where they live, have reduced levels of crime and fear of crime and are involved in making decisions about their neighbourhood.

Rural Centres

Draft Priority Outcomes:

The range of local employment opportunities, access to services, retail, leisure and cultural activities has been developed to meet the needs of the people of Castle Donington and Kegworth. This has been achieved by building on the unique opportunities provided locally through the Airport and Donington Race track and has been developed to enhance the quality of the local environment.

Draft Sub-Outcomes:

- Young people have been involved with creating more places, spaces and activities for them to take part in and use;
- The night time economy is strong and vibrant with the centres being used by all;
- More opportunities have been created in sustainable business developments, particularly with those associated with wood products;
- People have pride in where they live, have reduced levels of crime and fear of crime and are involved in making decisions about their neighbourhood;
- Public transport meets the needs of all local people by providing access to employment, training, leisure and cultural activities in and around the area; and
- People are more active and healthier and are able to access support, advice and information locally, including drug and alcohol and mental health services and receive support to help them make lifestyle choices to improve well-being.

PLACES IN OADBY AND WIGSTON

Oadby Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of Oadby. There are no Rural Centres or rural areas.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Oadby is a safe and attractive place to shop, live and work with an improved image, a pedestrian friendly environment and good accessibility to local facilities;
- The buildings are high quality and well designed;
- There are good physical and economic links within the town, and between the town and surrounding catchment;
- All services are accessible, regardless of ethnicity or age;
- There is more recreational and social activity amongst different groups;
- Better training and employment opportunities have reduced the unemployment rate amongst disadvantaged places and groups; and
- There are more high quality businesses in the area, which has led to increased economic activity.

Wigston Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of Wigston.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- Wigston town centre has a diverse range of local facilities and shops, including spaces for young people;
- Wigston town centre is a safe and clean place where the numbers of young people involved in drug crime and fear of crime are reduced;
- Wigston is an attractive and accessible place to shop, live and work; and
- Wigston looks like a better place with high quality properties/buildings.

South Wigston Community Forum Area

This Forum covers the Main Town of South Wigston.

Draft Priority Outcomes:

- There is a vibrant, safe, attractive and successful town centre, South Wigston looks better and there are more local businesses;
- South Wigston is more outward looking and maximises its countryside and canalside setting; and
- There are better facilities for businesses, education and communities so that local people can access employment, training and social activities There are accessible, safe and pedestrian friendly routes by all modes, to key destinations in and around the town centre.

Please forward **your views on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy to the details below**. Further details on how to respond to the consultation can be found on the partnership website.

Contact details:

Telephone: 0116 305 6977/8137

E-mail: lt@leics.gov.uk

Website: www.leicestershiretogether.org

Write to us:

Policy Team,

Chief Executives Department,

Leicestershire County Council,

Room G49,

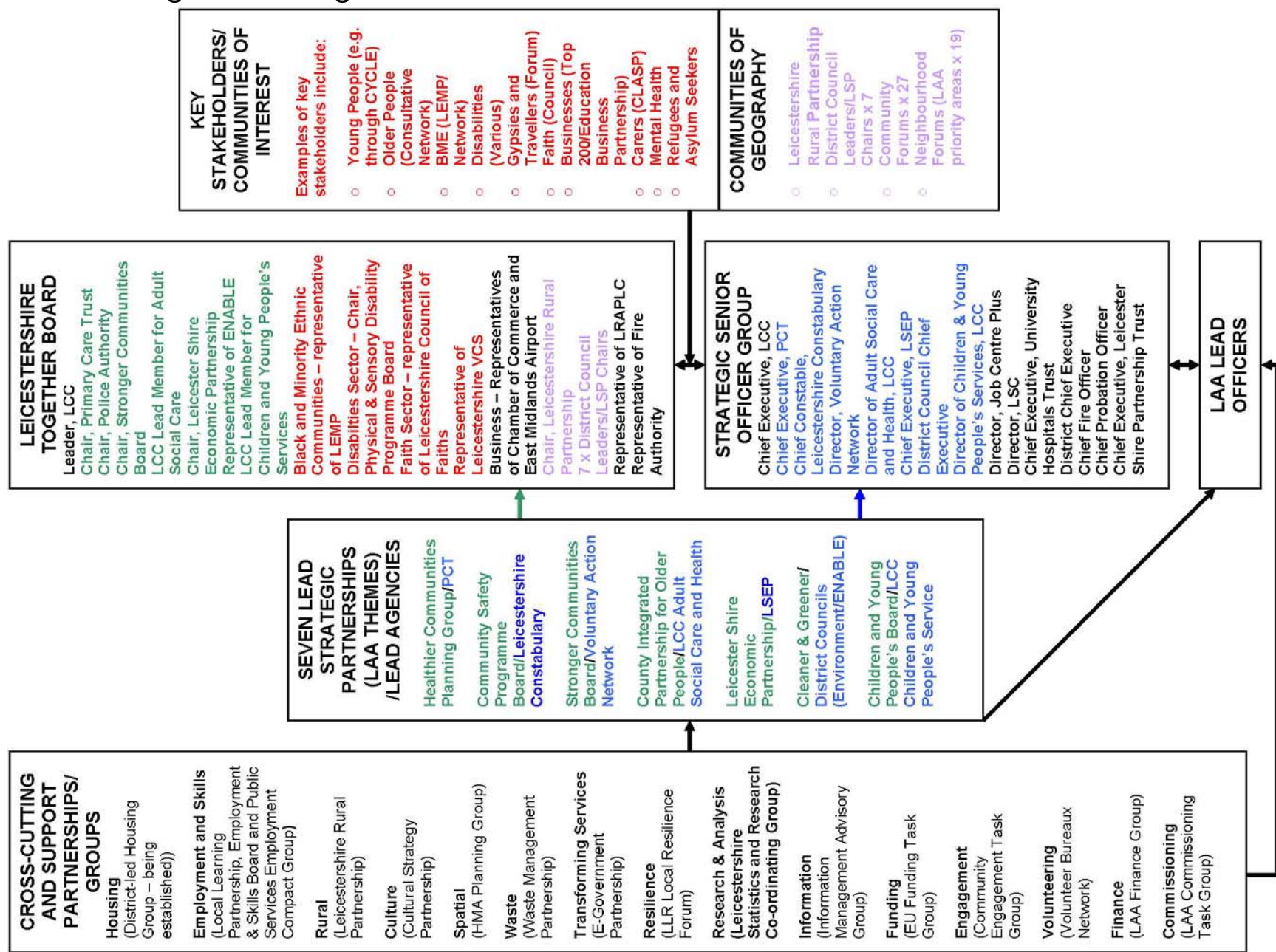
County Hall,

Glenfield,

Leicestershire,

LE3 8RA.

The Leicestershire Together Strategic Governance Framework



If you require this information in an alternative version, such as large print, Braille, audio tape or help in understanding it in your language, please contact 0116 305 8137, fax 0116 305 7271, Minicom 0116 305 6160 or email LT@leics.gov.uk



Policy, Research & Information Group
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Leicestershire County Council
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Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA

www.leicestershiretogether.org

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ
ઈચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 8137 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને
અમે આપને મદદ કરવા યત્ન કરીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ
ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 8137 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ
ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন
সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 8137 এই নম্বরে
ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，
請致電 0116 305 8137，我們會安排有關人員為你
提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji
w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 8137,
a my Ci pomożemy.