

Achieving Excellence for Leicestershire

# **LEICESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

**Draft for Stage 1 Public Consultation**

**October 2002**

**Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership**

### **The Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership**

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

To help achieve this aim in ways that meet the needs of Leicestershire people, the Partnership is preparing a community strategy. Once completed, this Strategy will identify both the key issues that the Partnership as a whole and its constituent members need to consider and the actions that will be undertaken to address them.

The Partnership comprises:

- Leicestershire County Council
- 7 District Local Strategic Partnerships
- Leicestershire Association of Parish Councils
- Leicester Shire Economic Partnership
- Connexions, Leicester Shire
- Business Link, Leicestershire
- Leicestershire and Leicester City Learning Partnership
- Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council
- Health Sector
- Leicestershire Environmental Partnership
- Leicestershire Cultural Strategy Forum
- Leicestershire Rural Partnership
- Leicester Racial Equality Council
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire Partnership for Safer Communities

- Leicestershire Police Authority
- Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Service Community Partnership
- Faith Communities
- Business Community

### **The Leicestershire Community Strategy and Consultation Process**

The Partnership is proposing that each chapter of the Strategy will include three sections:

Section 1 'The people of Leicestershire have told us they would like' - a summary of the key issues of concern, drawing from the results of a wide range of consultation exercises previously undertaken by the partners of the Partnership.

Section 2 'In Leicestershire' - statistics to help understand the current situation in Leicestershire, building an image of how the County compares to other local authorities and areas regionally and nationally.

Section 3 'We will' - action points for the Partnership to undertake.

The involvement of the people of Leicestershire in identifying the key issues of concern is an important part of preparing the community strategy. A two stage consultation process is being undertaken:

- The first, taking place now, will involve verifying the issues raised in previous consultation exercises to ensure that the key issues identified in Section 1 of each chapter are consistent with what the people of Leicestershire consider are important today.

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- The second will involve consulting on the full draft strategy with an emphasis on the action points in Section 3. This is will take place in early 2003.

### **Let Us Know Your Views**

The Partnership wants to make sure that the Leicestershire Community Strategy reflects the views of the people of Leicestershire so that we can focus our efforts on the issues that are important to local people.

Please let us know, by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2002, whether the key issues identified in Section 1 'The people of Leicestershire have told us they would like' match your views or whether we have missed some key issues that are important to you, your community or your organisation.

Your views are important and will be taken into account when the final list of key issues is prepared. They will also influence the actions to be set out in Section 3, which the Partnership will undertake. A second opportunity to comment on the draft

Community Strategy, focussing on the actions in Section 3, will take place in early 2003.

### **Further Details**

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

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## LEICESTERSHIRE - A COUNTY TO BE PROUD OF

This chapter of the Community Strategy is about protecting, enhancing and promoting the economic, social, environmental and cultural assets of Leicestershire for the benefit of all residents, businesses and visitors.

SECTION 1 The people of Leicestershire have told us they would like:	SECTION 2 In Leicestershire:	SECTION 3 We Will:
<b>A positive image for Leicestershire and the promotion of what is best about the county</b>		
An improved image for the County with better public and visitor facilities, to help generate a sense of pride in Leicestershire.	Over 23 million visitors were attracted to the County in 2000, around 22 million of these were day visitors, contributing around £782 million into the local economy.	
<b>A strong economy, with quality job opportunities and skills for the future</b>		
A strong diverse economy where business can flourish, and good quality workers, including graduates, are attracted and retained.	<p>Unemployment is low at 2.1% (July 2002) in Leicestershire compared to the East Midlands rate of 2.9% and the UK rate of 3.2%. There are however pockets of high unemployment.</p> <p>68% of employees in Leicestershire work in the service sector and 32% in manufacturing, construction and primary industries. These proportions are similar to the East Midlands (72% and 28% respectively), but significantly different to the 79% service sector employment for Great Britain. This has important implications for the Leicestershire economy as employment is forecast to fall across many manufacturing sectors although off-set by growth in service sector employment.</p>	

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<p>The provision of lifelong learning and skills opportunities appropriate to the needs of current and future employment opportunities</p>	<p>43% and 25% of adults are qualified to NVQ3 and NVQ4 levels respectively. Only 56% of managers have level 3 qualifications of any kind.</p>	
<p>Support for the economy to promote and develop a variety of thriving businesses in both urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>Farm income levels have declined in both Leicestershire and nationally.</p> <p>The agriculture sector accounts for approximately 2.4% (6,800 jobs) of employment in Leicestershire and Rutland which is similar to the average. However, agriculture remains important to rural areas with many jobs, such as those related to tourism, indirectly dependent on this sector.</p>	
<p><b>Safe roads, with a strong transport system that enables people to access key services when they want</b></p>		
<p>Safer roads and less speeding.</p>	<p>The number of people killed or seriously injured on Leicestershire's roads last year is lower than the national average - 63 compared to 81 for every 100, 000 people.</p>	
<p>Better, safer conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, with a network of safe routes to help increase in journeys by bike and on foot.</p>	<p>Of the people killed or seriously injured on Leicestershire's roads last year 8.3 per 100,000 were pedestrians and 3.3 were cyclists.</p>	
<p>Improved public transport services (buses, trains and community transport) and integration with walking and cycling facilities, so that people can more easily access essential services such as education, employment, health and leisure.</p>	<p>89% of <u>all</u> households are within a 13 minute walk of an hourly or better bus service.</p> <p>In 2000, 65% of users were satisfied with bus services overall and 69% were satisfied with public transport information.</p>	

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Improved transport infrastructure in and between rural areas.	In <u>rural</u> Leicestershire only 27% of people have access to an hourly bus service.	
Car use, the transport of goods by road, congestion and car travel to schools to be tackled.	<p>The most frequent methods of travelling to work in Leicestershire are by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ car (71% alone, plus 3% car share)</li> <li>▪ walking (14%)</li> <li>▪ bus (6%)</li> <li>▪ bicycle (4%)</li> </ul> <p>These are similar to regional averages and published national statistics.</p> <p>10 schools have adopted a travel plan to encourage more sustainable forms of transport for journeys to and from school.</p>	
<b>A safe, clean and green environment</b>		
To feel safe as individuals - at home, within their own community and throughout the County, with reduced opportunities for crime.	16.8% of people are very worried about burglary and 24.5% are very worried about violent crime.	
Cleaner air and less pollution of all kinds.	Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in all of the Districts due to predicted exceedence of healthy limits of some air pollutants.	
To reduce the rate and impact of climate change, including flood risk.	There were more storms in the East Midlands during the 1990s than in the rest of the 20th century.	
Efficient use and prudent management of natural resources, eg through recycling and energy efficiency.	Each year, over 300,000 tonnes of waste is disposed of in Leicestershire. Of this, 80% of household waste is landfilled, 7% is re-cycled and 8% composted, compared to national	

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	<p>averages of 85%, 7% and 5%.</p> <p>Over 3 years, members of Leicestershire Waste Minimisation Association report that almost £250, 000 worth of savings have been made through efficient management of resources and reducing waste.</p>	
Biodiversity, landscape and built heritage to be conserved and enhanced	<p>Currently, only 2.5% of Leicestershire and Rutland is notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) compared with an average of 6% per county in England.</p>	
<b>Thriving market towns and village centres and high quality built areas</b>		
Vital and thriving market town centres and village centres which act as “hubs” for surrounding communities.	<p>'Healthchecks', to identify strengths and weaknesses, are being undertaken in 4 market towns and 6 village settlements over the next 3 years.</p> <p>Environmental improvements, such as planting and street furniture, are being undertaken in settlements such as Ashby de la Zouch, Hinckley, Lutterworth, Castle Donington, Rothley and Markfield.</p>	
Development that is sensitive to the protection of the local and global environment, eg. by building on previously developed land and buildings before green field sites, maintaining the unique character of settlements, and encouraging good quality and energy efficient buildings.	<p>49% of new housing was built on previously developed land in 2000/01. This compares to regional and national averages of 40% and 61% respectively.</p>	

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<p>A reduction in homelessness.</p>	<p>517 households were accepted as homeless by local councils in Leicestershire in 2000/01. This is lower than the recent average.</p>	
<p><b>Strong communities where people feel that they have a say in their future</b></p>		
<p>Local people to have a sense of “community spirit” and to be supported in community activities which bring people together to celebrate who they are and where they live.</p>	<p>Many agencies provide a wide range of support for local communities and individuals including support from the County Council for environmental improvements, village halls and sports projects through its Shire Grants scheme.</p>	
<p>Local people to feel part of the decision making processes and to have a role in planning the future of their own community.</p>	<p>76 communities have undertaken village appraisals and 21 communities are currently developing Parish Plans for their local settlements.</p>	
<p>More opportunity to participate by all sections of society and all ages in sports, leisure, arts and culture, heritage, the economy, learning and other aspects of life.</p>	<p>Leicestershire has 36 country parks for local people and visitors to discover the County's landscapes.</p> <p>There are over 50 sports facilities in the County with activities ranging from climbing walls to swimming pools and fitness gyms to courts for tennis, badminton and squash.</p>	
<p>Lifelong learning opportunities to enhance skills and enrich lives</p>	<p>1 in 10 adults have not participated in any training since leaving school.</p> <p>Enrolments on local authority adult education courses are high at 105 per 1000 adult population compared to the national average of 33.</p>	



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	<p>A range of lifelong learning services are provided to local communities such as further education colleges, local universities, Jobcentre Plus and the Information and Guidance Partnership.</p>	
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# LEICESTERSHIRE – WHERE THERE ARE QUALITY SERVICES FOR ALL

This chapter of the Community Strategy is about improving and maximising access to quality services for everyone in Leicestershire.

SECTION 1 The people of Leicestershire have told us they would like:	SECTION 2 In Leicestershire:	SECTION 3 We Will:
<b>Access to be improved to all services and facilities</b>		
All residents to have access to a range of services and facilities in safe, appropriate locations that open at times that suit service users.	26% of libraries are open outside of normal working hours and 100% of major libraries are open more than 45 hours per week.	
Existing buildings such as libraries, community centres, schools, shops and post offices, to be used to provide services to the local community eg. Health facilities, education and training, recreation and leisure, culture and arts, public transport, counselling, emergency services, housing, policing and information.	A major post office initiative, 'Your Guide', was piloted in Leicestershire last year to join the delivery of information and services across the public, private and voluntary sectors through the use of post office branches. (The Post Office Limited and Government are currently evaluating the pilot project.)  31 schools and colleges in the County provide sports facilities, whilst 54 are adult education centres.	
<b>Service providers to work together and to deliver services in different ways to offer choice to those who use them</b>		
County and District Councils to work together with other public and private sector organisations to co-ordinate services through joint provision.	The Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership has formed to enable its partner organisations to co-ordinate cross cutting activities.  County and District Councils jointly run 6	

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	<p>service shops to provide 'one stop' access to councils services.</p> <p>There are a number of partnerships which encourage improved co-ordination of service provision in the county, such as the Leicestershire and Leicester City Learning Partnership.</p>	
Service providers to be easy to contact, friendly and helpful.	Two thirds of people surveyed did not feel well informed about who to contact with regard to roads and traffic issues.	
Services to be provided via traditional methods (eg. telephone, letter or face to face) <u>and</u> alternative methods (eg. mobile provision, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and other “new” technology).	<p>31% of public transactions that are capable of being dealt with by electronic means are delivered in this way by the County Council. Equivalent district council figures range from 17-47%.</p> <p>37% of service points in the county provide internet access</p> <p>Over 50 villages in Leicestershire have been visited by mobile training tutors who bring laptops to villages to provide introductory computer training.</p>	
<b>Communities safe from crime and disorder and where people don't fear crime</b>		
A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, in particular; violent crime, burglary, vehicle crime and domestic violence	<p>Over the last three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burglary from dwellings has fallen by 24%</li> <li>▪ Theft of motor vehicles has fallen by 20%</li> <li>▪ Theft from motor vehicles has fallen by 19%</li> <li>▪ Violent crime has risen steadily. This</li> </ul>	

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	reflects the national trend.	
A more visible and responsive police presence particularly in rural areas.		
A reduction in the availability and misuse of drugs including alcohol.	1.3 per 1000 population have recorded drug offences in 2001/2 compared to a national figure of 2.4.	
Improved support for victims of crime, particularly racially motivated crime and domestic violence.	A survey indicates that only 42.6% of domestic violence incidents and 23% of 'crime because of ethnicity' were reported.	
<b>Healthy communities where people look after themselves and each other</b>		
Better health for all, with better and equal access to healthcare, treatment, and social care.	Last year, of all the deaths in the County, a large proportion are circulatory system related or due to cancer.	
Promotion of healthy active lifestyles that prevent illness and reduces accidents.	Last year, of deaths caused by accidents in the County more than half were road traffic related.	
<b>A range of housing and affordable homes for all</b>		
Good quality, affordable, and energy efficient homes for all.	House prices in Leicestershire have risen by 15% in the last year compared to a national average of 12.5%. This figure masks rises of 34.5% in Melton and 20.7% in Oadby and Wigston.	
Support for the elderly and other vulnerable people and help for people to stay in their own homes.	2,477 people are supported by the County Council in residential and nursing home care. Of these, 1,971 are aged 65 years or older.  5,500 people in Leicestershire aged 65 or over are helped to live at home.	

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	2.5 adults with learning disabilities out of every 1000 adult population are helped to live at home.	
<b>Fair communities where everyone can achieve their potential</b>		
Equality of opportunity for everyone in all areas of life, to prevent discrimination against particular groups, eg. disabled people, ethnic minorities, the elderly and other vulnerable people.	<p>27% of the County Council's buildings and 74% of the Police Authority's buildings that are open to the public are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.</p> <p>Leicestershire has an ethnically diverse community, although the percentage of non White people in the County is 3.4%. Oadby and Wigston and Charnwood districts have the highest figures at 8.7% and 7.2% respectively.</p>	
Councils and other service providers to consult with people who often do not have a "voice".	A Young Persons Citizens Jury, a Citizen's Panel and other approaches are being taken to consult with people and groups who do not normally respond to traditional consultation methods.	
Pockets of deprivation to be tackled, including those in otherwise affluent communities.	The top ten wards where access to services, (post office, food shops, GP and primary school) for people on low incomes is most difficult are located in wards in Melton and Harborough, with 1 ward in Hinckley and Bosworth.	

## YOUNG PEOPLE – LEICESTERSHIRE’S FUTURE

Young people are the key to the future of the county and this chapter of the Community Strategy is about supporting and developing young people, encouraging them to participate fully in society and to maximise the opportunities open to them in terms of education, learning and skills, employment, leisure, healthcare and decision making.

SECTION 1 The people of Leicestershire have told us they would like:	SECTION 2 In Leicestershire:	SECTION 3 We Will:
<b>The needs and aspirations of young people to be identified and addressed</b>		
Young people and those working with them to be involved in decisions about their future.	An annual 'Vox Pop' event is held where young people meet with County Councillors to ask questions and share their views.	
Increased involvement of young people in community activities.	<p>Young people have undertaken village appraisals for their local community, for example in Thurmaston.</p> <p>A group in Mountsorrel prepared a publication to raise awareness of young people in Mountsorrel and to promote the development of permanent youth and community facilities.</p>	
A quality education for young people, with good results for all key stages up to 16 years, and beyond.	<p>In 2001, Leicestershire scored 89% in Key Stage 1, 80% in Key Stage 2 and 76% for Key Stage 3 matching that achieved by the best 25% of our OFSTED neighbours.</p> <p>In 2001, 49.6% of pupils obtained 5 or more GCSEs at A-C. Provisional figures for 2002 indicate this has increased to 52% to close the gap on our OFSTED neighbours.</p>	

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	<p>1.7% (5) schools have serious weaknesses compared to an average of 2.6%. Also, 5 schools are failing and thus the Government has placed them on special measures.</p>	
<p>Support for disadvantaged, disaffected and vulnerable young people who may have emotional or behavioural difficulties.</p>	<p>Around 320 children and young people are looked after in foster homes or children's homes. All will have experienced some form of abuse or severe upheaval which can result in emotional and behavioural problems. Some will spend just a few days in our care whereas others will spend many years in foster or residential care.</p> <p>Children looked after by the County Council have a higher prevalence of homelessness, health problems, teenage pregnancy, offending behaviour and education.</p> <p>The specialist Teaching Services have supported over 1,700 children with special educational needs in a variety of early years settings, schools and colleges.</p>	
<p>Young people to have access to good quality information, advice and support to enable them to make informed decisions at key points in their life, including about lifelong learning and skills.</p>	<p>59% of young people felt well or very well informed about the options open to them when they left school. 32% rated their knowledge as 'average', with 8% indicating they felt poorly or very poorly informed.</p> <p>Connexions Leicester Shire, launched in September 2002 across Leicester and Leicestershire, is new service offering free</p>	

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	information, advice, practical help and support to young people aged 13-19 years.	
Young people to be able to access a diverse range of services, facilities and activities. eg. leisure activities, healthcare and access to transport	In the evenings or at weekends, young people prefer to go to the cinema, to meet mates, town centres, McDonalds/ Burger King, leisure centres or swimming baths, the local chip shop or take-away. Other activities with significant responses included sports or youth club, library, park/recreation ground, games arcade and community centre.	
Young people to be protected from being involved in crime, either as victims or perpetrators.	<p>Leicestershire &amp; Rutland Crimebeat is a multi-agency scheme to encourage and empower young people aged of 8 and 25 years to foster community safety and become responsible members of their communities. Since 1993, over 300 groups have been given grants totalling more than £100,000 to fund projects on drugs, bullying, car crime, shoplifting and vandalism.</p> <p>There were 2250 offences recorded as committed by young people for which a substantive outcome was received. Of these, 28% fell into the category of "other" including motoring and traffic offences, 20% were theft and handling, 13% were arson and criminal damage and violence against the person was 12%.</p>	