

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2002**

**THE BLABY COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the comments of the five member panel on the consultation draft of the Blaby Community Strategy.

**Background**

2. The five member scrutiny panel considered the attached consultation draft of the Blaby Community Strategy (**Appendix 1**). In considering the Blaby Community Strategy the Panel was mindful of the view taken by the Executive (and supported by the Scrutiny Reference Group) that the approach to scrutiny of district based community strategies should not be unnecessarily interventionist. The Panel has therefore not commented on the style or layout of the Strategy and has confined itself to considering and commenting on those elements in the Strategy which impact on or are reliant on the services delivered by the County Council.

**Decision of the Panel**

3. The Panel noted that the Strategy contained more than 100 references to actions which would require the County Council to have an input. The Panel was of the view that the Cabinet should satisfy itself that the commitments ascribed to the County Council are deliverable, appropriately resourced and consistent with the priorities of the County Council. In particular, the Panel drew attention to the certain commitments which have a specified timescale for completion and may also have significant resource implications. These are set out in **Appendix 2** to this report.

**Timetable for Decision**

4. In view of the timescale for responding (comments being required by 31 October) the comments of the Panel were considered and endorsed by the Chairman and Spokesmen of the Scrutiny Commission and forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration.

5. The Cabinet is due to consider the matter on 29<sup>th</sup> October (the day the papers for this meeting are being circulated). The Cabinet is being advised to:-
- i) give general support to the content of the Blaby Community Strategy on the basis that County Council officers have worked closely with the Blaby LSP in the preparation of the draft strategy and comments of County Council Departments on the pre consultation draft have mostly been taken on board;
  - ii) consider the further comments made by County Council Departments (**set out in Appendix 3 to this report**) and ask the Blaby LSP to take these into consideration; and
  - iii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any further comments in the light of the views expressed by the Scrutiny Panel.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

6. Equal opportunity and diversity is one of the general issues identified in the introduction to the Strategy

### **Recommendations**

7. The Commission is asked to note that the views of the Panel have been submitted to the Cabinet following consultation with Chairman and Spokesmen of the Commission in order to comply with the tight timescale for submitting responses.

### **Background Papers**

Draft Leicestershire Community Strategy (attached)

### **Officers to contact**

Mr A. Robinson  
Mr M. I. Seedat

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Consultation Draft Blaby District Community Strategy  
Appendix 2 – Comments of the Scrutiny Panel  
Appendix 3 – Further comments from County Council Departments on Blaby District Community Strategy Consultation Draft

CONSULTATION DRAFT

**BLABY DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

**Vision Statement**

**“To create in partnership with other organisations, an area in which people want to live and work and create in that area the sort of communities in which people want to live”**

This first Strategy does not cover every aspect of the lives of the people of the district. It concentrates on those issues which the Blaby District Local Strategic Partnership and local people have said are important to them. The main purpose of the Strategy is to provide a common guide to the priorities which need to be taken into account when planning services and activities so as to make the best contribution to the desired improvements. The other purpose of the Strategy is to enable the people of the district and the Partnership to check on progress.

The Strategy is not set in stone. There will be regular reviews of progress and a system of continuous consultation between the Core Partners and the people of the district to make sure it will not become outdated. Set out at the back of the Strategy is a list of the Core Partners.

**There is a contact point and short form at the back of this draft of the Strategy for you to use in making your comments and suggestions.**

The Strategy has been set out as a series of themes but it is important to point out that there are some general issues which apply to those themes and to all the other work of the partners. These general issues are just as important as the individual themes and are set out below.

**Communication/Service Delivery**

- all the partners recognise that it is important to keep you informed.. It is particularly important that account is taken of the increasing use of electronic communication.. There will therefore be a definite emphasis on looking at ways of making increasing use of means such as electronic kiosks, web sites and call centres to allow you to find out what is happening, give your views and access the services which partners provide.

## **Equal Opportunity/Diversity**

- all the partners are committed to the principles of equal opportunity, the elimination of discrimination and an appreciation and use of the wide range of cultural, ethnic and mental and physical abilities available to the district.

## **Locality**

- the district itself ranges in nature from urban to very rural. Taking account of these differences, particularly the problems of rural areas, will be a factor in looking at actions to improve the district.

## **Joint Working/Coordination**

- the partners are committed to working together to avoid duplication of effort, avoid confusing customers and to reduce costs by combining work and budgets when this is possible and to the benefit of the people of the district.

## **Sustainability**

- all the partners recognise the importance of balancing the social, economic and an environmental needs of the district.

## **Links to Other Plans**

The Community Strategy is the big plan but it is not the only plan for Blaby District. The aims are the same as those in more specific plans such as the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy, Health Plan, Leicestershire Police Authority Policing Plan, Leicestershire County Council Medium Term Corporate Strategy, Local Transport Plans and the Leicestershire Community Strategy. These other plans will be guided by the Community Strategy on what is important to you as well as being guided by national and local priorities for individual services.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Why do we need a Community Development programme?**

- because Community Development
  - Promotes social inclusion, i.e. everyone being able to be involved
  - Helps people to come together to help themselves
  - Builds an awareness of community identity and community responsibility

- Positively influences the health of individuals

### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Providing more opportunities for people to take part in community activities (many people are not involved)
  - These activities provide positive benefits to communities
- Increasing the opportunities for individuals and community groups to be involved in decision making, including increasing the low participation in elections
  - Creating ways for everyone to provide their views helps provide better information on the communities' needs
- Improving the availability and condition of facilities for the community
  - Which are needed by community groups and others for community activities
- Helping achieve equal opportunities for young people, ethnic minorities, disabled people, people with learning disabilities, vulnerable people and carers
  - So that they can participate more fully in community life
- Continuing to improve access to services and the provision of information
  - So that people's needs can be met more effectively

### **OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

#### **1. INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.**

##### **We will do this by.....**

Increasing the advice/support to existing Community Groups and helping people to set up new Community Groups by 2004. (BDC, CVS, County Council)

Providing funding for at least 50 Community Groups per year and helping Groups access other sources of funding. (BDC, County Council, CVS).

## **2. INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT BY EVERYONE IN DECISION MAKING**

### **We will do this by...**

Introducing a joint approach on consultation by 2004. (BDC, County Council, CVS, Leics. Constab. SLPCT)

Establishing a Voluntary Sector Compact by 2003. (BDC, CVS)

Making more efforts to involve all groups in decision making including young people, ethnic minorities and other 'traditionally excluded' groups e.g. disabled people and people with learning disabilities. (BDC, CVS, County Council, SLPCT, Leics.Constab.)

Supporting and encouraging consultation within communities, e.g. via Village Appraisals and/or Parish Plans in all Parishes by 2013 (BDC, CVS, County Council, Leics. Constab, SLPCT)

Examining alternative voting methods by 2005 (BDC, County Council)

## **3. IMPROVING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **We will do this by...**

By 2004 developing a more coordinated approach to provision of services and information including use of e technology (BDC, County Council, CVS, Leics.Constab. SLPCT)

Participating in the County Council's Better Access to Better Services Initiative to improve services and access to services (County Council, BDC, Leics. Constab., SLPCT)

Producing regular newspapers on services and activities and developing links between our Websites (BDC, County Council, SLPCT, CVS, Leics Constab, Parish Councils)

Undertaking an audit of facilities by 2004 and establishing a programme to make better use of underused facilities (County Council, CVS, BDC, SLPCT)

By 2006 looking at ways to secure more community facilities via the planning system (BDC, County Council)

Working together to identify those communities with greatest need for community facilities (BDC, Leics Constab, SLPCT, County Council, CVS, Parish Councils)

Developing or expanding community transport initiatives (County Council, BDC)

Helping Community Groups obtain more advice and funding to improve community facilities. (BDC, CVS, County Council)

Developing more Community ICT Access Points (Leicestershire Rural Partnership, County Council, BDC)

#### **4. PROMOTE EQUALITY**

##### **We will do this by....**

Promoting awareness of and implementing action to reduce discrimination for reasons such as race, religion, disability, mental ill health or gender. (BDC, CVS SLPCT, County Council, Leics Constab, Parish Councils)

Promoting awareness of specific needs of groups including young people, older people, disabled people, people with learning disabilities, vulnerable people, people with mental ill health and carers and providing initiatives to respond to these (BDC, CVS, County Council, SLPCT, Leics Constab, Parish Councils)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly community safety, leisure/culture, and environment, economy and work and health**

#### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

##### **Why should we be working on a Community Safety programme?**

- because crime and the fear of crime
  - Has negative impacts on community life and activities
  - Can cause health problems, particularly mental ill health
  - Can reduce employment opportunities through its impact on business
  - Can reduce the quality of the local environment

##### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- The need to reduce unnecessary fear of crime
  - The fear of crime causes distress and reduces participation in community life
- Continuing to reduce burglary and vehicle crime

- These crimes cause particular distress to individuals
- How to resolve and further reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents
  - This can improve various aspects of community life
- The need to promote awareness of the effect of domestic violence and racist behaviour
  - Domestic violence and racist behaviour are not only crimes but also have negative impacts on individuals' lives
- That young people are more at risk of offending and being victims of crime
  - To help young people be more involved in community life and develop their potential
- Issues arising from drugs use
  - Drugs use can have harmful effects on health and lead to crime

**OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

**1. REDUCE FEAR OF CRIME AND PROVIDE REASSURANCE AS APPROPRIATE**

**We will do this by...**

- Increasing provision of information on initiatives and levels of crime. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council, Parish Councils)
- Supporting crime reduction initiatives via the Crime Challenge Fund and similar schemes (BDC, Parish Councils,)
- Improve visibility of policing from 2003. (Leics Constab)
- Encouraging layouts and design in new developments which seek to minimise crime (BDC, Leics. Constab, County Council)
- Encouraging the community to become more involved in tackling the fear of crime (Leics. Constab, BDC)

**2. REDUCE BURGLARY AND VEHICLE CRIME**

**We will do this by...**



- Reducing burglary of people's homes by local Leicestershire Constabulary annual targets. (Leics Constab, BDC)
- Reducing vehicle crime by local Leicestershire Constabulary annual targets. (Leics Constab BDC)
- Demonstrating a more co-ordinated approach to tackling burglary of people's homes and vehicle crime problems by 2004. (Leics Constab, BDC, County Council)
- Promoting prevention and security initiatives to businesses and farmers. (Chamber, NFU, Leics Constab)

### **3. REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Demonstrating a more co-ordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour by 2004. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council, Parish Councils)

### **4. PROMOTE THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF OFFENCES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RACIST INCIDENTS AND RAISE AWARENESS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Further developing the programme of awareness and support initiatives on Domestic Violence by 2004. (Leics Constab, BDC)
- Establishing and maintaining a Diversity Panel by 2004. (BDC, County Council Leics Constab)
- Supporting promotional initiatives per year to tackle racial equality issues. (BDC, CVS, Leics Constab)
- Monitoring the effectiveness of schemes designed to tackle racial equality issues (BDC, Leics Constab,)

### **5. PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BEING INVOLVED IN CRIME, AS VICTIMS OR OFFENDERS, AND INVOLVE THEM IN COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES THAT CONCERN THEM**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Developing initiatives to reduce youth crime by 2005. (Youth Offending Team and Leics Constab)

- Contacting, listening to, and involving young people in identifying, and contributing to community safety issues. (BDC, Leics Constab)
- Further developing a co-ordinated approach to resolve reported incidents of nuisance and anti-social behaviour involving young people by 2003 and assessing the approach by 2004. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council)
- Reducing alcohol related offences involving young people (County Council & CVS, Leics Constab.)
- Discouraging use of drugs by young people. (BDC, CVS, County Council)
- Encouraging all relevant agencies to work in partnership to address young people's community safety issues. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council, SLPCT,)

## **6. TACKLE DRUGS ISSUES IN COMMUNITIES**

### **We will do this by ...**

- Continuing the introduction and operation of Communities Against Drugs Initiative projects. (Leics Constab, BDC, County Council, Parish Councils)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly community development, leisure/culture and environment**

## **ECONOMY AND WORK**

### **Why should we be working on an Economic Development programme?**

- because Economic Development
  - Contributes to viability of communities
  - Contributes to well-being of individuals
  - Can provide environmental benefits which could be increased and negative environmental benefits which could be reduced

### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Continuing to diversify into new types of business
  - These activities provide positive benefits to communities
  - To maintain the low unemployment rate

- Some groups have higher than the district average unemployment rates
  - Improving employment and related opportunities for these groups would benefit the individuals and communities
- Promoting provision of and maintaining the viability of local shops and services
  - These help maintain viability of local communities and reduce the need to travel
- Farmers continuing to diversify including into other farm based businesses and development of other employment opportunities in rural areas
  - Farmers make a significant contribution to protection of the countryside and provision of employment opportunities in rural areas can reduce the need to travel
- Investigating the potential to increase the level of tourism
  - This could provide an additional source of jobs

**OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

**1. SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

**We will do this by...**

- Promoting release of previously developed sites for employment use where appropriate (BDC)
- Improving co-ordination of availability of information on funding and training (Chamber, BDC, County Council)
- Working with the LSEP on initiatives to support local business such as helping all business to have access to ICT technology and training (County Council, BDC, Chamber)

**2. REDUCE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN GROUPS WHERE ABOVE THE DISTRICT AVERAGE**

**We will do this by...**

- Developing a co-ordinated approach with the LSEP to introduce employment initiatives for priority groups. (BDC, County Council, Chamber)

- Investigating the opportunities for community based enterprises to provide employment opportunities (BDC, CVS)
- Participating in Welfare to Work initiatives (County Council, CVS, NHS, LSC)

### **3. HELP IMPROVE THE VIABILITY OF LOCAL SERVICES**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Developing a co-ordinated approach with the LSEP to assisting viability of local services such as participating in establishment of a Countywide Town/Rural Centres Managers resource (BDC, County Council, Chamber)
- Supporting initiatives such as Rural Centre 'Healthchecks'. (Leicestershire Rural Partnership, BDC County Council, Parish Councils)

### **4. SUPPORT FARMING AND DIVERSIFICATION IN RURAL AREAS**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Supporting initiatives to reuse redundant land and buildings, e.g. New Life for Redundant Buildings initiative. (Leicestershire Rural Partnership, BDC, County Council)
- Promoting the role of farming in providing local food and in protecting the countryside (NFU, BDC County Council)
- Encouraging the development of more local food production/processing (NFU, BDC, County Council, Chamber)
- Developing a co-ordinated approach to produce and use crops which provide renewable sources of energy. (NFU, BDC, County Council, Chamber)

### **5. PROMOTE TOURISM**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Developing a Tourism Strategy linked to the LSEP programme. (BDC, County Council)
- Investigating the potential to develop farm based accommodation (NFU, BDC, County Council)
- Promoting and encouraging farmers' and others provision of countryside recreation activities. (NFU County Council, BDC)

- Expanding the information for tourists available in Blaby and at other locations (County Council, BDC)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly education, environment and transport**

## **EDUCATION**

### **Why should we be working on an Education Programme?**

- because Education can help build a competitive and inclusive society by:-
  - Creating opportunities for everyone to develop their learning
  - Releasing potential in people to make the most of themselves
  - Achieving excellence in standards of education and levels of skill

### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Giving children an excellent start in education.
  - To provide a better foundation for future learning
- Providing young people with opportunities to develop skills and knowledge
  - To help equip them for life and work
- Providing adults with opportunities to develop skills and knowledge
  - To help equip them for life and work
- Making full use of the resources provided by schools for the community
  - To help individuals and communities
- Making full use of the resources provided by libraries for the community
  - To help individuals and communities

**NB This Chapter does not cover mainstream education**

## **OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

### **1. GIVE CHILDREN AN EXCELLENT START IN EDUCATION SO THEY HAVE A BETTER FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE LEARNING**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Working with the Early Years Partnership to support early years provision. (CVS, County Council)

### **2. ENABLE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP AND EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL QUALITIES NEEDED FOR LIFE AND WORK**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Working in partnership with the Youth Service and the new Connexions Service to respond to the identified needs of young people in Blaby District. (County Council, BDC, SLPCT)
- Working with other agencies to deliver services targeted at dealing with misuse of drugs and alcohol and associated crimes (County Council, Leics. Constab, BDC, SLPCT)

### **3. ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE ADULTS TO LEARN, IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND ENRICH LIVES**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Encouraging community development activities that support adult learning opportunities (County Council)

### **4. WORK WITH SCHOOLS IN CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Assisting schools to recruit/retain governors. (County Council, BDC,)
- Investigating increasing access to community facilities, especially on educational sites. (County Council, BDC,)

## **5. WORK WITH THE LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICE TO ENSURE LIBRARIES PLAY A VITAL ROLE AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **We will do this by...**

- Addressing issues of ensuring access for all persons entitled to use the service in terms of appropriate resources and for all needs and abilities. (County Council)
- Developing the use of ICT Systems and services. (County Council)
- Working with partners to increase wider community use of libraries. (County Council)
- Providing services for special groups e.g. disabled people (County Council)
- Developing services for adults. (County Council)
- Developing services for children. (County Council)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly community development, economy and work and leisure/culture**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Why should we be working on an Environment programme?**

- because protecting and enhancing the environment:-
  - Conserves natural resources and heritage
  - Contributes to active communities
  - Contributes to health of individuals

### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Reducing the increasing amount of waste produced by individuals and organisations and recycling and reusing more waste.
  - This will improve conservation of our natural resources and reduce pollution.
- Tackling the increases in litter, flytipping and abandoned vehicles.
  - These all reduce the quality of our local area

- Taking action to improve air quality in priority areas and limit the increase in noise levels
  - Poorer air quality can harm peoples health and noise levels reduce quality of life
- The shortage of woodland, loss of wildlife habitats and continuing pressure for new developments on greenfield sites
  - These all affect the number and variety of wildlife species
- Protecting the built heritage
  - This is irreplaceable and important for community sense of identity
- Reducing energy and water consumption by individuals and organisations
  - Providing these resources has a harmful effect on the environment

**OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

**1. REDUCE THE WASTE WE PRODUCE AND REUSE AND RECYCLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**

**We will do this by...**

Working together to achieve a Waste Management Strategy.

Working together to achieve a household waste recovery rate of 33% by 2006. (BDC, County Council, Parish Councils)

Introducing or promoting 3 new reuse or recycling initiatives for trade waste by 2006 (Chamber, NFU, CVS , BDC , County Council)

Increasing the reuse and recycling initiatives in own facilities by 2006. (BDC, County Council, CVS Leics Constab, SLPCT)

Promoting purchase of reused and recycled products. (County Council, BDC, Chamber, Leics Constab, CVS, SLPCT, Parish Councils)



## **2. REDUCE LITTER, FLYTIPPING AND ABANDONED VEHICLES**

### **We will do this by...**

- Reducing litter and flytipping by 2008 by anti-litter education campaigns, more effective enforcement and other initiatives. (BDC, County Council, Leics Constab, Parish Councils)
- Developing a more co-ordinated approach by 2004 to deter the abandoning of vehicles. (BDC, Leics. Constab, County Council)
- Seeking to include litter, flytipping, abandoned vehicles and graffiti in work of any Countywide Town/Rural Centre Managers Group established. (BDC, Chamber)

## **3. IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND LIMIT THE INCREASE IN NOISE LEVELS**

### **We will do this by...**

- Introducing measures to improve air quality to meet national air quality standards by 2005. (BDC, County Council)
- Working together to identify and implement new opportunities to limit increases in noise levels. (BDC, County Council, Chamber).
- Promoting and using vehicles and fuels which produce less emissions. (BDC, County Council, Leics Constab, Chamber, NFU, CVS, SLPCT, Parish Councils)

## **4. PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **We will do this by...**

- Implementing a co-ordinated approach to encouraging action by individuals and others to help protect our natural environment. (NFU, CVS, Chamber, BDC, County Council)
- Designating more Local Nature Reserves by 2007. (BDC, County Council).
- Increasing the area of major wildlife habitats identified in the countywide Biodiversity Action Plan by 2007. (BDC, NFU, County Council)
- Increasing the proportion of new housing developments and new business developments built on previously developed land. (BDC)

## **5. PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR BUILT HERITAGE**

### **We will do this by...**

- Designating 5 more Conservation Areas by 2006. (BDC)
- Assisting protection of historic buildings such as farm, commercial, dwellings and other buildings. (BDC, NFU, County Council)

## **6. REDUCE WASTE OF ENERGY AND WATER**

### **We will do this by...**

- Continuing to promote action to achieve the improvement of energy efficiency in households of 30% by 2010 including achieving a minimum Standard Assessment Performance of 8 in Council housing by 2008. (BDC)
- Developing more co-ordinated approach to promoting energy saving and increase the take up of energy saving initiatives by 2008. (BDC, Chamber, CVS, NFU, County Council, SLPCT)
- Continuing to promote use of water saving fittings in households including developing a programme to install water saving fittings in Council housing stock. (BDC)
- Developing more co-ordinated approach to promoting water saving and increase the take up of water saving measures by 2008. (BDC, CVS, NFU, County Council, SLPCT)
- Improving energy and water efficiency in own buildings by 2008. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council, SLPCT, Parish Councils)
- Promoting enhanced energy and water design criteria in new buildings. (BDC, County Council)
- Promoting and supporting generation of renewable energy and usage of renewable energy tariffs. (NFU, BDC, County Council, Chamber)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly economy and work, leisure/culture and transport**

## **HEALTH**

### **Why should we be working on a Health programme?**

- because :-
    - Good health is fundamental to all our lives
    - Too many people unnecessarily suffer from poor health and are ill for much of their lives
    - Too many people die too young from illnesses that are preventable
    - People can improve their own health
    - Unemployment, bad housing, poor education, and inadequate recreational facilities also affect people's health
- Socially excluded groups usually have greater health needs

### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Co-ordinating the actions of key local agencies to jointly address health and well being of all the groups and communities
  - The actions of a wide range of organisations influence an individual's health
- Encouraging people to take positive action to improve their own health
  - How people live their lives - what they eat, how active they are, whether they smoke - is central to improving health
- Encouraging communities to improve health in their local area
  - Health is influenced by a wide range of factors such as education, employment, housing, lack of affordable and accessible transport services and access to facilities
- Reducing premature death and seeing more people lead longer, healthier lives
  - The main causes of premature death are: cancer, heart diseases and stroke, accidents and mental ill health
- Improving access to health services
  - To address public concerns regarding access to health services

## **OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

### **1. CO-ORDINATE THE ACTIONS OF KEY LOCAL AGENCIES TO JOINTLY ADDRESS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

#### **We will do this by...**

- By 2004, developing a strategic framework for improving community health and well-being. (BDC, SLPCT, County Council, CVS)
- Adopting a partnership approach to identify the health needs of the community and particularly those at most risk of suffering health inequalities. (BDC, SLPCT, County Council, CVS, Leics Constab)
- By 2005, ensuring needs assessment influences the development of local policies. (BDC, SLPCT, County Council, CVS, Leics Constab)
- Identifying common priorities and targets for community health and well being across Blaby District. (BDC, SLPCT, County Council, CVS, Leics Constab, NFU)

### **2. ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN HEALTH**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Improving information and access to information on healthy lifestyles. (SLPCT, BDC, CVS, County Council)
- Encouraging people to participate in the recommended levels of physical activity: 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times per week. (BDC, County Council, SLPCT, CVS)
- Encouraging people to have a good diet, especially during pregnancy and childhood. (SLPCT, BDC, CVS, County Council)
- Reducing drug and alcohol abuse and encouraging people to stop smoking. (SLPCT, BDC, CVS, County Council)

**3. ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES OF ILL HEALTH AND TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL HEALTH**

**We will do this by...**

- Working in partnership to provide a range of community activities aimed at improving the health of Blaby District residents. (BDC, SLPCT, County Council, CVS, Leics Constab)
- Working to ensure that those on low incomes have access to the benefits to which they are entitled. (BDC, County Council, CVS)
- Working to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to develop their learning. (County Council, CVS, BDC)
- Working with major employers to promote safe healthy workplaces. (BDC, County Council, Chamber)
- Working to ensure that food and drink which is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed within the District is without risk to the health and safety of the consumer. (BDC, Chamber)

**4. REDUCE ILL HEALTH AND PREMATURE DEATH AND SEE MORE PEOPLE LIVE LONGER HEALTHIER LIVES**

**We will do this by...**

- Taking action to address cancer, heart disease and stroke, accidents and mental ill health. (SLPCT, BDC, CVS, County Council)
- Working with key statutory service providers, voluntary sector partners, users and carers to develop services such as rehabilitation and housing services to help older people, disabled people, people with learning disabilities, people who suffer mental ill health and vulnerable people to live as independently as possible. (SLPCT, BDC, County Council, CVS)
- Working to address the needs of people from minority ethnic communities (SLPCT, County Council, BDC, CVS)

**5. IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

**We will do this by...**

- Working with GP practices to ensure that by 2004 patients will be able to have access to GP's appointments within 48 hours. (SLPCT)

- Working with secondary care to ensure that by the end of 2005 the maximum waiting time for an out-patient appointment will be three months and for in-patients, six months. (SLPCT)

**6. WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE GOOD QUALITY LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND MINIMISE HOMELESSNESS AND HELP PEOPLE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES**

**We will do this by...**

- Working in partnership to deliver Supporting People initiatives. (County Council, BDC, SLPCT, CVS)
- Working towards implementing the 'Decent Home for All' targets. (BDC, County Council, SLPCT)
- Providing assistance via grants and other mechanisms to meet identified housing needs and priorities in new and existing housing. (BDC, County Council)
- Working to ensure people have access to homes they can afford. (BDC, County Council)
- Working in partnership to produce a strategy by 2003 which aims to reduce homelessness in Blaby District. (BDC, County Council, SLPCT)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly leisure, community development, community safety and environment.**

**LEISURE/CULTURE**

**Why should we be working on a Leisure/Culture programme?**

- because Leisure/Culture activities:-
  - Improve people's quality of life.
  - Improve physical and mental health.
  - Provide employment.
  - Contribute to active communities.
  - Contribute to community safety.
  - Develop lifetime skills.

## **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Getting more people involved in leisure/culture activities e.g. arts, sports, countryside recreation.
  - These activities are beneficial to quality of life and health of individuals and communities
- Increasing the involvement of the voluntary and commercial sectors in helping to provide and management local facilities.
  - To help tackle the need and demand for more facilities
- Overcoming the barriers to participating in and accessing leisure facilities/activities such as transport, cost, disability issues and availability of facilities, initiatives and supplying staff with appropriate skills
  - To help give everyone the opportunity to take part in leisure/culture activities

## **OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

### **1. INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN ARTS ACTIVITIES**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Working with other organisations to promote and support the arts. (BDC, County Council)
- Investigating and developing opportunities to involve more people in the arts by 2008. (BDC, County Council).
- Further developing the programme of arts initiatives which benefit the local environment and community by 2008. (BDC, County Council)
- Providing funding for and helping Community Groups to increase the funding secured from other sources by 2008. (BDC, County Council)

### **2. INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN SPORTS AND RECREATION**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Completing the assessment of the demand for facilities for various sports by no later than 2003. (BDC, County Council)
- Continuing to develop sport initiatives for a range of target groups. (BDC, County Council)

- Continuing to explore opportunities to develop and increase provision of facilities for sports activities. (BDC, Leics Constab, County Council)
- Providing funding for and helping Community Groups to increase the funding obtained from other sources by 2008. (BDC, County Council)
- Further developing the sports coach education programme by 2008. (BDC, County Council)
- Supporting the development of sports clubs by 2008. (BDC, County Council)
- Exploring opportunities to improve provision of public or other transport to leisure facilities. (BDC, County Council)
- Continuing to improve access for disabled people and their carers, people with learning disabilities and those from minority ethnic communities to leisure facilities. (BDC, County Council)
- Investigating the provision of a Leisure Pass Scheme by 2006. (BDC)
- Developing the sports facilities and their use at educational premises. (BDC, County Council)
- By 2005 developing co-ordinated approach to provision of open spaces and playing pitches. (BDC County Council)

### **3. INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

#### **We will do this by...**

- By 2006 developing a co-ordinated approach to provision of Countryside Recreation Areas and Country Parks. (BDC, County Council)
- Developing a programme to increase the use of Countryside Recreation Areas by 2007. (BDC)
- Completing the way marking of the Public Rights of Way by 2008. (County Council)



#### **4. INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN HERITAGE ACTIVITIES**

##### **We will do this by...**

- Investigating the feasibility of developing a Blaby District museum/multi purpose facility (County Council, BDC)
- Expanding the Open Museums project. (County Council, BDC, SLPCT).
- Supporting the network of local heritage groups. (BDC, County Council).

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly community development, the economy and work, education and transport**

#### **TRANSPORT**

##### **Why should we be working on a Transport programme?**

- because Transport:-
  - Has a significant impact on the activity of communities and promoting involvement of everyone
  - Provides access to facilities and employment
  - Supports economic activity
  - Can cause harmful effects on the health of individuals and the environment

##### **Which are the important issues in Blaby District and why?**

- Reducing the need to travel
  - This can reduce road traffic congestion and help support local services
- Improving the alternatives to cars and increasing their use including addressing issues such as accessibility and safety
  - This would contribute to reducing road traffic, improving health and helping everyone to access facilities and employment
- Improving business transport needs and reducing its impact
  - Good transport is essential for business activity but it can have harmful social and environmental effects

- Making effective use of road space
  - To reduce road traffic congestion and the need for more roads

**OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO:-**

**1. REDUCE THE NEED TO TRAVEL**

**We will do this by...**

- Continuing to implement and review appropriate planning policies for location of new developments (BDC, County Council)
- Implementing a co-ordinated approach to protect local services viability (County Council, BDC, Chamber, SLPCT, Leics Constab)
- Implementing a co-ordinated approach to provision of information to households by electronic and other means eg newspapers (BDC, County Council, SLPCT, Leics Constab)

**2 INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY AND USAGE OF ALTERNATIVES TO CARS**

**We will do this by...**

- Improving the bus services and increasing the number of bus passenger journeys by 2006 (County Council)
- Improving the bus service provision in rural areas by 2006 (County Council)
- Continuing to support the Concessionary Fare Scheme (County Council, BDC)
- Seeking to implement improvements to rail facilities and services (County Council, BDC)
- Continuing to investigate benefits arising from increasing the opportunities to join up different types of transport (County Council and BDC)
- Increasing or improving the provision of cycle routes by 2006 (County Council)
- Improving condition of footpaths by 2006 (County Council)

- Continue to take action to reduce accidents to road users, cyclists and pedestrians. (County Council, Leics Constab)
- Supporting development and introduction of Green Transport Plans by Schools (County Council, Leics Constab)
- Introducing Green Transport Plans in own organisations by 2006 (BDC, County Council, Leics. Constab, PCT)
- Supporting development and introduction of Green Transport Plans and other initiatives by business (County Council, Chamber, BDC)

### **3 REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ROAD FREIGHT**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Encouraging the transfer of freight from road to rail. (County Council. BDC, Chamber)
- Completing the area wide lorry control plan (County Council)

### **4 MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF ROAD SPACE**

#### **We will do this by...**

- Implementing improvements to roads such as flow controls. (County Council)
- Investigating designation of 'non car' lanes. (County Council)

**Other actions are included in other chapters particularly community development, economy and work and leisure**

### **CORE PARTNERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Blaby Branch of Leicestershire and Association of Parish and Local Councils

Blaby District Council

Council for Voluntary Services for Blaby District

Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Leicestershire Constabulary

Leicestershire County Council

National Farmers Union

South Leicestershire Primary Care Trust

**CONTACT POINT AND RESPONSE FORM**

**PLEASE USE THE SPACE BELOW TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS ON THE  
BLABY DISTRICT DRAFT CONSULTATION COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

Please forward comments to: The Director of Community Strategy, Blaby  
District Council, Council Offices, Narborough, Leicester, LE19 5EG

**BLABY COMMUNITY STRATEGY – COMMENTS OF THE PANEL**

**COMMITMENTS WHICH HAVE A SPECIFIED TIMESCALE FOR COMPLETION AND MAY ALSO HAVE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**“COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Involve more people in Community Activities

Providing funding for at least 50 Community Groups per year and helping Groups access other sources of funding. (BDC, County Council, CVS).[PAGE 3]

Improving Access to Community Services and Facilities

Undertaking an audit of facilities by 2004 and establishing a programme to make better use of underused facilities (County Council, CVS, BDC, SLPCT). [PAGE 4]

Developing more Community ICT Access Points (Leicestershire Rural Partnership, County Council, BDC). [PAGE 4]

**EDUCATION**

Work with Schools in Contributing to Community Life

Investigating increasing access to community facilities, especially on educational sites. (County Council, BDC). [PAGE 13]

**LEISURE/CULTURE**

Involve more people in Sport and Recreation [PAGE 22]

Completing the assessment of the demand for facilities for various sports by no later than 2003. (BDC, County Council)

Providing funding for and helping Community Groups to increase the funding obtained from other sources by 2008. (BDC, County Council).

Further developing the sports coach education programme by 2008. (BDC, County Council).

Supporting the development of sports clubs by 2008. (BDC, County Council).

Developing the sports facilities and their use at educational premises. (BDC, County Council).

Involve More People in Heritage Activities

[PAGE 23]

Investigating the feasibility of developing a Blaby District museum/multi purpose facility (County Council, BDC).

**TRANSPORT**

Increase the Availability and Usage of Alternatives to Cars

[PAGE 25]

Improving the bus services and increasing the number of bus passenger journeys by 2006 (County Council)

Improving the bus service provision in rural areas by 2006 (County Council).

## Appendix 3

### FURTHER COMMENTS ON BLABY DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

#### Introduction

The draft strategy includes a lot of proposed improvements in County services. There should be some qualification in the introductory section about the availability of resources dictating the speed and extent to which the vision is realised.

The expression of cross cutting themes agreed by partners is welcome.

#### Community Safety Theme

Partners	Note the role of LCC Regulatory Services in actions relating to food and drink within the District
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#### Economy and Work Theme

Partners	Welcome mention of Leicestershire Strategic Economic Partnership (LSEP)
Aim 1 action on initiatives to support local business; Aim 2 action to introduce employment initiatives for priority groups; Aim 3 action to assist viability of local services; Aim 4 action on Tourism Strategy.	Leicestershire Strategic Economic Partnership (LSEP) could be listed in the list of key partners on back cover.

#### Environment Theme

Partners	Leicestershire Environment Partnership hopes to support a co-ordinated approach to environmental information and lifestyle choices and seeks to support initiatives which improve peoples quality of life and protect the environment. We hope that Blaby District Council will remain involved with the Partnership and will implement some of the Community Strategy actions on the Environment through this forum. List LEP as key partner on back cover.
Objective on reducing energy and water consumption by individuals and organisations (in full report)	In order to help understanding and encourage different behaviour, objective given needs to be less negative and simplistic e.g. change objective to: "Providing these resources <b>can have</b> a harmful effect on the environment."
Means of achievement	The planning system will be a key factor in achieving some of these improvements

<b>Aim 2 Reduce Litter, Fly Tipping and Abandoned Vehicles</b>	
Reduce litter and fly tipping by 2008 (BDC, Leic Constab, PC, public)	The Environment Agency should be identified as a core partner on fly tipping

### Health Theme

Partners	Note the role of LCC Regulatory Services in actions relating to food and drink within the District
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### Transport Theme

General	The comments are intended to bring about compatibility with the two statutory Local Transport Plans (LTPs) and the July 2002 Annual Progress Reports (APRs).
<b>Aim 2 Increase Availability and Usage of alternatives to Cars.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the bus services and increase the number of bus passenger journeys by 2006. (County Council)</li> </ul>	2006 mentioned without the extent of the increase intended. No % increase target for Blaby alone - any such would be hard to measure. Should delete <u>by 2006</u> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the bus service provision in rural areas by 2006. (County Council)</li> </ul>	2006 mentioned without the extent of the increase intended. No % increase target for Blaby alone - any such would be hard to measure. Should delete <u>by 2006</u> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the Concessionary Fare Scheme. (County Council, BDC)</li> </ul>	Should refer to Concessionary <u>Travel Scheme</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to investigate benefits arising from increasing the opportunities to join up different types of transport. (County Council and BDC)</li> </ul>	<u>Join up</u> is not a recognised term in this context. Should refer to opportunities to <u>integrate</u> different types of transport.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase or improve the quality and provision of cycle routes by 2006. (County Council)</li> </ul>	Following Leics LTP target review, there is now no output target for this. Should delete <u>by 2006</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve condition of footpaths by 2006. (County Council)</li> </ul>	New BVPI requiring surveys with target not yet settable. Should delete <u>by 2006</u>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to take action to reduce accidents to road users, cyclists and pedestrians. (County Council, Leics Constab)</li> </ul>	<p>Cyclists and pedestrians <u>are</u> road users. Could refer to vehicle occupants instead of <u>road users</u>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development and introduction of Green Transport Plans by Schools. (County Council, Leics Constab)</li> </ul>	<p>Instead of <u>Green Transport Plans by Schools</u> should refer to School Travel Plans. (the word Green is no longer used by DfT in this context)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development and introduction of Green Transport Plans and other initiatives by business. (County Council, Chamber, BDC)</li> </ul>	<p>Instead of <u>Green Transport Plans and other initiatives by business</u> should refer to Workplace Travel Plans and other initiatives by business.</p>
<p><b>Aim 3 Reduce Impact of Road Freight.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the area wide lorry plan. (County Council)</li> </ul>	<p>Instead of <u>lorry plan</u> this should refer to <u>lorry control plan</u>. Could include target of completion by 2004</p>
<p><b>Aim 4 Make Effective Use of Road Space.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing improvements to roads such as flow controls. (County Council)</li> </ul>	<p>This does not reflect LTP measures. Suggest wording as follows: <u>Concentrate traffic movements and growth on the safest and most suitable roads.</u></p>