

Achieving Excellence for Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

SECOND DRAFT

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.

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

Add ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGES

Contents

The Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership	Page x
List of Partners	
The Partnership's Vision	
The Partnership's Guiding Principles	
Monitoring the Leicestershire Community Strategy & Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership	
Let us know Your Views	

Leicestershire Community Strategy

About Leicestershire
 Working Together
 About the Leicestershire Community Strategy

Chapter 1 - Leicestershire - A County to be Proud of
 A Positive Image for Leicestershire
 A Strong Economy
 A Safe, Clean and Green Environment
 Thriving Market Towns and Village Centres
 Strong Communities

Chapter 2 - Leicestershire - Where there are Quality Services for all
 Councils and Other Public Agencies to Work Together
 Safe Roads with a Strong Transport System
 Communities Safe from Crime and Disorder
 Healthy Communities

Chapter 3 - Young People - Leicestershire's Future
 Needs and Aspirations of Young People

Appendix 1-Key Strategies and Plans

Index of key words

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 has prepared this second draft Community Strategy for consultation.

The LLSP is working to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people, that is, those who live, work and visit in the administrative County of Leicestershire. A separate Community Strategy has been prepared for Leicester City by the Leicester Partnership. Furthermore, the seven Leicestershire District Councils are at different stages in the process of preparing community strategies for their areas. Work is being done to ensure that these strategies are complementary.

LLSP Vision

The members of Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership are committed to developing:

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

LLSP Partners

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 - Four Primary Care Trusts, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland **Strategic** Health Authority
- 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
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland **Combined Fire** Authority
- Job Centre Plus

Guiding Principles for the Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring the Leicestershire Community Strategy and LLSP

The Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership and District based LSPs are jointly developing a common set of 'quality of life' indicators, based on the set proposed by the Audit Commission, for use in monitoring the development and impact of community strategies in Leicestershire. A common set of indicators will:

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

The draft quality of life indicators are set out on the County Council's website - www.leics.gov.uk.

Let Us Know Your Views

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

Stage 1 - took place in October and November 2002, and involved 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.

As well as views expressed about the first draft community strategy, a range of other consultation events took place - six discussion groups, a young persons' citizens' jury, and a quality of life questionnaire through 'Leicestershire's Voice', its citizen's panel. A summary of these consultation exercises is available, but overall they suggesteded that the priorities of the Leicestershire people are:

- Children and young people
- Traffic and transport

- Crime and community safety

In response to the results of the stage 1 consultation, a number of changes have been made:

- Revising the list of key issues to take account of consultation responses including re-organising some issues, such as transport, between chapters,
- Adding actions for the Partnership to tackle
- Expanding the introductory text to include a background profile for Leicestershire, references to partners and the linkages between the community strategy and other key strategies

Stage 2 - The second stage is consultation on this document, a final draft Leicestershire Community Strategy, with an emphasis on the action points in Section 3.

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 30th April 2003, whether the actions in the community strategy will tackle the issues that you are concerned about in the right way.

Your views are important to the Partnership and will be taken into account when the final Community Strategy is prepared. Following consideration of these views it is intended to publish the finalised Strategy in July 2003. The Community Strategy will be reviewed, monitored and updated on an on-going basis.

Further Details

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

Nicole Rickard or Donna Mackay,
Tel: 0116 265 6977 or 0116 265 8137 Fax: 0116 2657271
Email: policy@leics.gov.uk Minicom: 0116 265 6160

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

Leicestershire Community Strategy

About Leicestershire

Leicestershire is a diverse County in the centre of England: It rings the City of Leicester and borders with the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. The population of Leicestershire is 609,578 and the county covers an area of 2,083 square kilometres, across seven districts. The County has exceptional transport links – London is **just over** an hour away by train and there are **extensive road networks including the M1, M69, M42**. East Midlands Airport lies in the north of the County **and Birmingham airport to the west**, providing flights to a number of destinations in Europe.

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

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

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

XxADD MAPOF LEICESTERSHIREXX – **CHECK LOCATIONS ON MAP**

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

Working Together

The Leicestershire Community Strategy is an overarching strategy to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County. It will set the main priorities for public agencies for the next 2 and 5 years in terms of making real and long lasting changes to your **our** quality of life.

As stated earlier, the LLSP is working to improve the quality of life for Leicestershire people, that is, those who live, work and visit in the administrative County of Leicestershire. A separate Community Strategy has been prepared for Leicester City by the Leicester Partnership and the seven Leicestershire District Councils are at different stages in the process of preparing community strategies for their areas.

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

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

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

About the Leicestershire Community Strategy

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

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

Within each chapter there are 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 members of the Partnership. This section of each chapter has been revised in line with the views expressed through the first stage of consultation on the Community Strategy.

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. For each action a measurable target, timescale and lead organisation is identified.

