

Future Matters



The Sustainable Community Strategy for the
New Forest District 2008 - 2012

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If so please contact:

Debbie Holmes

New Forest District Council, Appletree Court,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7PA

Tel 023 8028 5434 or email
debbie.holmes@nfdc.gov.uk

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New Forest Sustainable Community Strategy

Contents

	Page
Introduction	4
The vision for the district	5
What this strategy is designed to deliver	6
How this strategy will be delivered and how it works with other plans	7
Chapters - local context, priorities and outcomes	
1 Children & Young People	8
2 Community Safety	10
3 Economy	12
4 Built Environment	14
5 Natural Environment	16
6 Environmental Protection & the Wise Use of Natural Resources	17
7 Health and Well Being	19
8 Housing	21
9 Leisure	23
10 Older People	24
11 Tourism	25
12 Transport	26
13 Active Communities	28
14 Flagship Projects	30
How will we know the strategy has delivered what it was designed for?	31
Further information about the Changing Lives Partnership	32
Partners main strategies and action plans	34
Member organisations of the LSP	Inside back cover

Introduction

Welcome to the new Sustainable Community Strategy for New Forest District.

Looking back

Six years ago, a wide variety of organisations from across the public, private and voluntary sectors in the New Forest District came together to develop better ways of working to improve the district's quality of life. This was the start of the Changing Lives Partnership. Since then, we have developed the first community strategy for the district which was published in 2003, and delivered around 300 partnership actions (around 80% success rate) to target the priorities identified. The commitment and achievements of the partnership have given us a solid base on which to build.

Looking forward

As society, the economy and the environment have changed, we need to refocus on what needs to be done to maintain and improve people's quality of life. Perhaps the biggest changes in the past four years have been at the global level - a shift in the world's economic picture and much more awareness and acceptance of our impact on climate change.

At a local level we now have a National Park which places more emphasis on conservation and preservation, a need to explore new ways of providing affordable housing, and medium to longer term population projections that show an ageing population and a major increase in the number of single people households.

These and many other issues challenge us all to play our part in helping to make sure the communities in the district are sustainable for both present and future generations.

During the past year, the partnership has been reviewing the community strategy, compiling evidence and working with the two local planning authorities and the Hampshire Strategic Partnership to achieve alignment of direction and avoid duplication of effort. This is particularly important in terms of working as part of the Hampshire Local

Area Agreement which will have significant implications for funding streams coming into this district.

The new Sustainable Community Strategy has also been shaped by the results of the Future Matters consultation - a major consultation undertaken with individuals and organisations. Future Matters has provided a sound evidence base along with a raft of other data and information for the agreed priorities and outcomes. It has also provided ideas to help action planning in the months and years to come. An important part of this action planning is the development of flagship projects which are a feature of this new strategy. These projects are designed to focus resources on a variety of priorities to make a real difference to people's lives over the period of the strategy.

This strategy is not about organisations - it is about communities - communities of interest and localities. Every one of the district's population has a role to play, whether it is doing the right thing for climate change, being a good neighbour and looking out for others, or perhaps volunteering in some way to make a difference to someone or something that needs help or improvement.

As local communities develop their own action plans through such initiatives as town and parish plans, the partnership stands ready to help deliver those multi agency actions that best meet the priorities within this strategy.

Together we can make a significant difference.

Michael Clowes, Chairman, Changing Lives Partnership

The Vision for the District

What do we want the New Forest to be like in 2026?



What this strategy is designed to deliver

Although much of the strategy is structured in topic based chapters, the priorities within them inter relate to help deliver the medium term objectives of the strategy. Those contributions are shown at the beginning of each chapter using the following symbols.

Compared with today (April 2008), by the end of the strategy (March 2012) the New Forest District will be a community where:



More people lead healthier lifestyles



People are safer and feel safer



People have better access to services and facilities



People have more opportunity to shape their communities and the services they receive



People's impact on the environment is better managed and controlled



People have greater opportunity to develop as individuals



People's housing needs are better met



The built and natural environment are improved and protected



The environment is an asset that provides opportunities for the economy and people's enjoyment



Businesses have better local opportunities to thrive and influence decisions that affect them

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) membership

Michael Clowes, Community First, New Forest

Di Roberts, Brockenhurst College (Post 16 Education)

Alun Richards, Citizens' Advice Bureau

Mike Seddon, Forestry Commission

Chief Supt Richard Rowland, Hampshire Constabulary

Cllr Kathy Heron, Hampshire County Council

Cllr Nigel Clarke, Hampshire County Council

Andy Eades, Hampshire Fire and Rescue

Christine Jackson, Hampshire Primary Care Trust

Barry Olorenshaw, New Forest Business Partnership

Cllr Alan Shotter, New Forest District Association of Local Councils

Cllr Maureen Holding, New Forest District Council

Cllr Maureen Robinson, New Forest District Council

Clive Chatters, New Forest National Park Authority

Lindsay Cornish, New Forest National Park Authority

Stephen Lorton, New Forest Tourism

Rob Webber, Registered Social Landlords

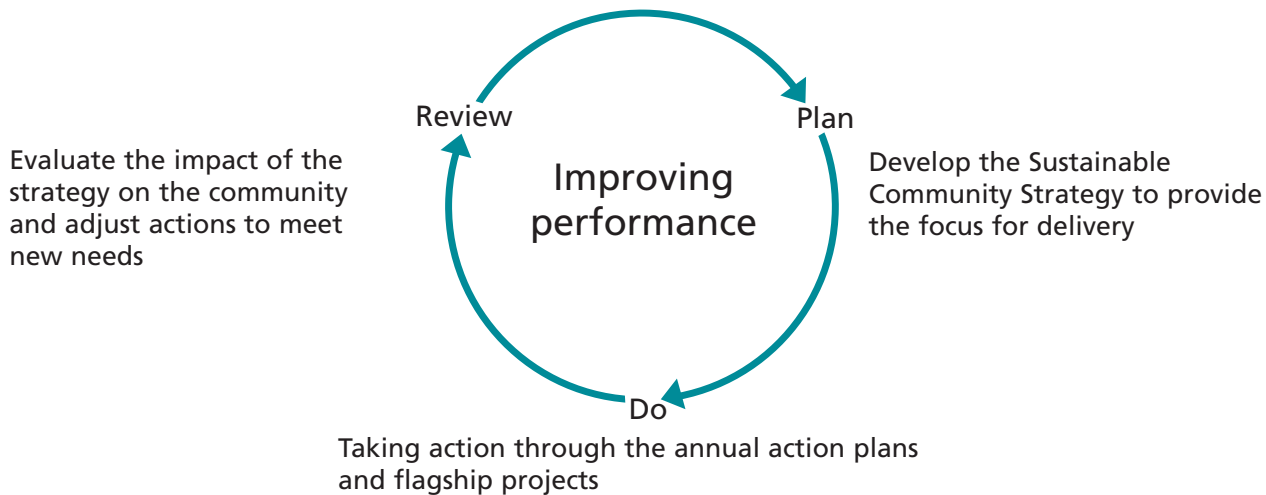
James Binns, Young Persons' Forum

LSP Members pledge:

"We will do all we can to achieve both the Vision and the strategy objectives"

How this strategy will be delivered and how it works with other plans

Delivering the Strategy



Strategies and Plans Working Together



1. Children and Young People



New Forest District Context

Over 21% of residents in the New Forest District are young people under the age of 20 - that's some 37,000. 3,800 children live in low income households. These are significant numbers, facts that can be overlooked in an area generally regarded as having a population which is proportionally "older" and more affluent than the rest of Hampshire and the region.

The area has a dispersed population across the towns and villages but not all the settlements have the same age profile. It is the coastal towns and rural areas which tend to have proportionally fewer young people. A challenge for service providers is to recognise the differing age profiles within different neighbourhoods in order to deliver services effectively. This can be particularly challenging in the more rural areas.

The special environment of the district provides specific opportunities for young people's enjoyment, recreation, education and well being. This has been further reinforced by the National Park designation.

Many of the services and facilities children and young people require are similar to those of other residents, although their needs may be different. Some services are clearly needed specifically for them or for their parents to help look after them, for example, child care and nurseries. Others are particularly important to them as a user, for example schools and colleges and sports and play facilities.

The agenda for children and young people has been taken up by central government encouraging all agencies to work around the needs of the child. It has led to wholesale changes in structures and planning processes of the agencies involved. In this area there is a strong and well established history of agencies working together.

Hampshire Children and Young People's Partnership has recently produced a Children and Young People Plan as it is required to do under legislation. There is also the 'National Service Framework for Health'. Both have been the subject of extensive consultation. These two documents are the fundamental cornerstones of work in this field but they need to be developed and delivered locally if they are to have effect.

The five aims of the 'Children and Young People Plan' form the headings of the "Key issues" section - with each showing options for ways in which they can be addressed to meet local needs. Much of the work needed with children and young people demands a multi-agency approach. At the moment, agencies work together in the Children and Young People Community Action Network of the Changing Lives Partnership. This will be a principal means for all the agencies to work together.

Priority	Outcomes
<p>1.1 Being healthy: Promote healthy eating along with increased activity</p>	<p>Improved diet and increased levels of activity</p>
<p>1.2 Staying safe: Foster the development of self esteem / need for success</p>	<p>Increased levels of well being and self esteem amongst children & young people</p>
<p>1.3 Enjoy and achieve: Development work in communities with areas of relative poverty to engage with Children’s Centres and Extended Schools</p>	<p>Inclusive access within target communities to these facilities</p>
<p>1.4 Make a positive contribution: Involve young people to enable themselves to make a positive contribution</p>	<p>Real engagement of children & young people in matters which affect their lives and communities</p>
<p>1.5 Economically active: Improve public transport for children & young people, particularly outside of 9-5</p>	<p>More frequent and accessible public / community transport which children & young people use</p>

2. Community Safety



New Forest District Context

Crime and disorder figures clearly show that this area is one of the safest places in the UK to live in, work in, and visit.

It is important that local people feel safe; surveys that have been undertaken show that local worries about crime are higher than actual crime levels. It is recognised that these worries can have an impact on people's quality of life, restricting or influencing how they go about their daily lives and older people in particular may need greater reassurance that they are safe.

There are some issues which need addressing to make life within the district even safer. The responsibility for this lies not just with the Police or the District Council, but a wide range of partner organisations and the community itself.

There are a number of priorities currently being delivered by the Community Safety Partnership in addition to the core work of crime reduction by all partners which continues on a day to day basis. Eight specific priorities for Partnership working have been identified and these are listed on the next page. The methodology used for the process of identifying priorities used both recorded crime figures and reported levels of concern by the community. Details of this process can be found in the strategic assessment which is available at www.communitysafety.newforest.gov.uk. There is a recognised community based requirement to tackle what is seen as a growing issue of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour particularly that related to alcohol misuse. Much of the partnership's work focuses on this priority and a reduction of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour also demonstrates an associated reduction in criminal damage and assault.

Theft from vehicles and criminal damage to one's property is a high concern to our communities as well as being a more frequently experienced crime in this area. Along with assault causing injury these crimes have been selected as priorities.

The Partnership has identified three overarching priorities; these are the reduction of re-offending, the reduction of crimes and incidents related to alcohol misuse and improvements in how the Partnership works in order to enhance its outcomes.

The Government requires the Partnership to undertake annual strategic assessments and to deliver a rolling three year plan to tackle identified priorities. This approach gives flexibility for the Partnership to respond to identified crime trends in a timely manner and in order to guide this the Partnership is operating to 'live' action plans that can be updated and adjusted quarterly. In the case of geographical areas that are identified as particular 'hotspots' (usually for volume crimes eg rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, criminal damage, alcohol related behaviour) the Partnership will operate monthly action planning.

The identified priorities for 2008 – 2009 are listed on the next page however these may change in future years dependent on the issues identified by further strategic assessments.

Priority	Outcomes
2.1 Anti-social Behaviour	Reduction of anti-social behaviour and related assault in a public place Reduction of arson Reduction of criminal damage of public places and vehicles
2.2 Assault	Reduction of assault resulting in injury
2.3 Vehicle Crime	Reduction of the number of thefts and attempted thefts from vehicles
2.4 Domestic Violence	Reduction of the number of domestic violence assaults resulting in injury Increase in the reporting of domestic violence assault
2.5 Community engagement and reassurance	Reduction of community worries by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promulgating the nature of crime and anti-social behaviour and - engaging the community in problem solving
2.6 Alcohol	Reduction of the number of alcohol related crimes and incidents
2.7 Re-offending	Reduction of re-offending by perpetrators
2.8 Partnership working	Improvement in how the Partnership works in order to enhance its outcomes (including how it collects and uses data)

Each of the above has a current and 'active' action plan which can be accessed at www.communitysafety.newforest.gov.uk

3. Economy



New Forest District Context

The economy of the area is closely related to that of the nearby conurbations. In 2001 some 18,000 people commuted to work in the district each day, with some 31,000 district residents commuting out elsewhere. There are differences in skill and income levels between those who live and work in the district and those who commute out, with resident workers more likely to be in lower paid occupations than commuters.

The economy of New Forest District and the National Park is diverse with some 70,000 jobs in over 6,000 businesses, and with most employment located in the six towns. While manufacturing still accounts for some 12.5% of local jobs, the economic structure of the area's employment base has moved away from larger-scale manufacturing towards service activities. Economic activity is increasingly in the form of small businesses in the service sector providing part-time employment.

While the environment around the National Park is an economic asset for the tourism sector which supports some 7% of jobs in the district, it also limits potential to allocate new sites for employment uses in parts of the area. There can however be opportunities provided by the special quality and identity of the National Park, both in terms of economic benefit and the reciprocal contribution of business to the special qualities.

Employment growth has been in line with the County average. Between 1994 and 2004 employment in the New Forest grew by an average of 1.4% per annum compared with 1.6% for Hampshire as a whole.

A particular issue highlighted in the Employment Development Plan Document (Issues and Options Report) is the future of the land near M27 junction 2, north of Totton, where there has been substantial pressure for major employment uses. The Council's view is that any potential employment use in this area, which is separated from the town, has to be considered in the context of acceptable uses for the whole of the area north of Totton through the Core Strategy.

Key Issues :

Increasing investment

Investment is necessary to increase prosperity. While the Local Development Framework should provide sites to meet the needs of business, opportunities for employment growth within the district and New Forest area are constrained. In addition to the National Park, many other parts of the district are subject to environmental designations giving them protection and have poor links to the strategic road network. Even where sites are allocated for employment development, the potential value of land for housing is so high that sites for business development may be difficult to retain against market forces.

Technology has increased the potential for home working with the district now having full Broadband coverage. This is of particular benefit in rural areas, where the re-use of redundant buildings also has potential in meeting needs.

Improving skills and human capital

There is a need to improve skill levels in the district. District residents with higher level skills are commuting out of the area to work while the level of basic skills in the district is below the national average. This is reflected in the earnings of residents which are lower than the regional average, with employment sectors which normally provide higher paid jobs, such as business and financial services and 'high-tech' knowledge intensive industries, not well represented within the district. The low average level of local earnings, together with high local housing costs, results in significant housing affordability problems - with many new households unable to afford to buy a home in the local housing market.

The district has a particularly high percentage of employees who work on a part-time basis – nearly 40%, compared with a national figure of 32%. Levels of unemployment are low - lower than Hampshire and South East averages, and only a third of the national average rate.

The area has a high proportion of people of working age (19%) who are economically inactive.

Retirees dominate the economically inactive sector, especially among the over 50s. Encouraging them to become more involved in the labour market and utilising their skills and knowledge would be of great benefit to the local economy.

Increasing levels of enterprise

With either the closure or relocation of larger employers, the local economy is becoming more dependent on the success of small businesses. Increasing the formation rate of new businesses is central to the economic future of the area.

Numbers employed in traditional rural industries associated with forestry, farming, commoning etc now account for a very small percentage of the workforce, although such activities contribute significantly to maintaining traditional landscapes.

Increasing competition

The more vibrant the local economy, the more likely it is to develop healthy competition locally. This will not only provide more opportunities but also bolster the retail sector in competition with major centres outside the District.

Town centres within the district provide a range of shops and services and are also important centres of employment. If they are to be sustainable they must be able to attract customers from their local communities to use their retail and service businesses.

Priority	Outcomes
3.1 Improving access to training opportunities for developing business skills	Improved employment prospects and earnings of individuals. Increased longevity of small businesses
3.2 Increasing the economic benefits derived from local distinctiveness	Increased prosperity of both small producers and tourism businesses Added value for local producers Additional marketing edge for local hospitality trade adds to the local tourism offer
3.3 Increasing the numbers of small businesses in the district	Increased numbers of small businesses. More diverse and robust local economy
3.4 More businesses involved in the activities of the business partnership and representing the interests of local commerce	Establishment of strong business voice in district. Stronger links between Council and business Increased participation in business support activities
3.5 Increasing the vitality and viability of town and village centres	Greater vitality and viability of centres

4. Built Environment



New Forest District Context

New Forest District has a high quality and diverse environment. Scattered settlements, villages and towns sit in an area of internationally renowned landscape with its unique blend of woodland heath downland and coastline.

Despite the district's largely rural character, it has a significant number of towns and villages and its population of 172,000 puts it second highest amongst all non-metropolitan districts in England. Many of the district's built areas have grown substantially in recent decades and there has been concentrated growth in the Waterside eastern parishes and to the south in the coastal towns.

The New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) assumed its full powers in April 2006. Geographically, two thirds of the area of the district lies within the National Park, but more than 80% of the population lives outside the Park. Within the Park boundary, statutory planning responsibility rests with the NPA.

The district as a whole has a rich built heritage. There are 37 conservation areas of which 15 are within the Park, 19 are outside, and 3 straddle the boundary. There are over 1500 Listed Buildings, of which around 600 are within and 900 outside the Park.

The importance of conserving and enhancing the special character of the built environment is well recognised. Special attention has long been focussed on the historic environment, but there is a need to raise design quality across the whole district. Considerable effort is made through statutory planning functions and through implementation programmes. Application of sound urban design principles will ensure that new development is effectively integrated and that opportunities for economic, social and environmental benefits come out of the planning process. The role of design has been greatly strengthened by recent changes in planning legislation and national guidance. Previously the presumption was that development should be permitted unless it could be shown to cause demonstrable harm. The onus is now on developers

to show that their proposals will be positively beneficial. In other words the test is now 'Are the proposals good enough to approve?' rather than 'Are they bad enough to refuse?'. This provides a unique opportunity, but the availability of design expertise and attention to raising awareness amongst officers and decision-makers is essential to take advantage of this opportunity.

There has been widespread concern amongst local communities over the impact of planning decisions taken in recent years in a climate where the Government has been strongly promoting higher density development in urban areas in the interests of sustainability. There is a belief that the scales were tipped too far in favour of higher densities and that cherished aspects of local character have suffered as a result. In 2007, new government guidance emerged allowing greater local flexibility, provided the evidence is there to back up policies. If we are able to identify those aspects of local character that are most valued by our communities with sufficient clarity to support new policies, then we will have the ability to protect them.

The quality and quantity of public space is a key element in successful towns and settlements. It is highly valued by the community, and scientific evidence is accumulating on wide-ranging health and social benefits as well as recreational value. Recent work undertaken (the district-wide 'PPG17' study) has confirmed the need for more attention to be paid to securing adequate quality and accessibility of open space as well as quantity, which has tended to be the primary policy focus in the past.

Priority	Outcomes
4.1 Promote understanding and achievement of high quality design	High quality design becoming the norm not the exception Better designed places Stronger sense of civic pride
4.2 Identify and protect distinctive valued local character and increase engagement with the historic environment	Valued local character and identity given greater weight in decision-making Residential environments where people feel at home in their neighbourhood Stronger sense of place and civic pride Value of green spaces and biodiversity better recognised Solid evidence available to support promotion of quality in design of the built environment throughout the district Fewer historic buildings or structures in the high risk categories Communities more engaged with their cultural heritage and the buildings and landscape around them
4.3 Encourage creation of safe and healthy places by raising quality and quantity of public space and access to natural greenspace	More appealing and more plentiful public spaces accessible to and used by all sectors of the community Better opportunities for outdoor leisure, recreation and social interaction Safer healthier places for people to work, live and spend leisure time in resulting in an increased sense of community well-being
4.4 Reduce carbon footprint of new development	More low-carbon and zero-carbon development More efficient use of natural resources Widespread acceptance of renewable energy technology
4.5 Make town centres more attractive	More thriving, diverse and economically buoyant towns attracting increased investment Increased social well-being in citizens and visitors

5. Natural Environment



New Forest District Context

New Forest District is predominantly rural in character and has a natural environment of exceptional quality.

The New Forest National Park covers about two thirds of the area and encompasses 57,000 ha (220 square miles). The variety of distinctive landscapes and habitats are widely recognised to be of national and international importance and include the unfenced Open Forest, enclosed farms and estates and the coast between Keyhaven and Calshot. The Open Forest, at the heart of the National Park, is a unique survival of an extensive medieval landscape, still maintained by the ancient pastoral system of commoning - the grazing of free-roaming ponies and cattle.

The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) extends across the north west of the district. It has a distinctive landscape character of gentle downland and chalk stream valleys. The AONB includes Martin Down National Nature Reserve, a large and nationally important area of chalk grassland.

46% of the land area of the district is protected by national and international nature conservation designations. The largest is the New Forest Special Area of Conservation, covering 29,000 ha (112 square miles) within the National Park. Its mosaic of heathland, mire, ancient woodland and Forest lawn habitats support many rare and unusual species. The coastal marshes, lagoons and shingle spits of the Solent and Southampton Water are also protected, as are the valleys of the Rivers Test and Avon, including parts of the Blashford Lakes complex. The coastal cliffs of Christchurch Bay are within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) predominantly for their geological interest. Throughout the area a large number of further sites have been identified as being of local nature conservation importance, including significant tracts of land in Ringwood Forest, and are afforded a level of protection through planning policies.

The wider countryside outside the designated sites is also essential in contributing to the overall quality of the natural environment, including the network of hedgerows, road verges, farmland and private gardens.

Priority	Outcomes
5.1 Restore or enhance landscapes and habitats at the landscape scale where character or condition has been lost or degraded	Enhancement or extension of specific areas of landscape / habitat where funding has been achieved Improvement in condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
5.2 Support land management that sustains the special qualities of the area	Improved long-term viability of commoning Greater uptake and implementation of government land management schemes with conservation benefits Greater area of woodland under sustainable management
5.3 Improve understanding and good management of the wealth of individual landscape features which contribute to local distinctiveness	Gradual loss of the special character of the local landscape is prevented More communities value their local landscape and are involved in local projects to conserve it
5.4 Manage the impacts of development (both direct and indirect) on the natural environment	Maintenance of the special qualities of the natural environment, including its tranquillity Sustainable new development Conservation or creation of natural green spaces for wildlife and people in urban areas

6. Environmental Protection and the Wise Use of Natural Resources



New Forest District Context

The district's size, demographic make up, geology and geographical position bring their own opportunities as well as challenges to face in ensuring its environment is protected now and in the future. It is also in a position to make a worthwhile contribution to regional, national and global challenges. Much of this can be achieved by making better use of the natural resources we consume and reduce the amount of pollution we are all responsible for.

The coastline contains 64 km (40 miles) of varied, interesting and attractive scenery which provides for a variety of uses including leisure and economic pursuits and wildlife habitat. The coastline is changing due to both human impact and natural forces. Average sea levels are rising due mainly to climate change and this significantly threatens some of the existing coastal defences. Difficult choices will need to be made over which areas are the priorities for protection.

As well as rising sea levels, climate change is likely to bring increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, increasing incidents of flash flooding in both coastal and river valley areas. Longer, hotter and drier summers with wetter winters will impact on water supply and are likely to have major implications for the way people live their lives. It will also affect the local economy. The ecosystems and the plants and animals which depend on them as well as the overall appearance of the landscape will all be affected. This may have adverse impacts on tourism and agriculture, including systems such as commoning.

To help avoid the worst effects of climate change, we all need to make better use of the natural resources that we have, reduce and manage waste better and reduce pollution. The potential for making better use of the sun, wind, tide and the earth's natural heat, thinking more about the materials we use in buildings and how they are designed all need to be considered as ways of reducing our reliance on, and use of, non renewable resources. National targets are emerging around these issues eg all new homes built by 2016

will be carbon neutral, 10% of all electricity will be generated from renewable sources by 2010 (20% by 2020).

The district holds considerable reserves of sand and gravel which is relied on by the construction industry and others in the area. Mineral extraction and associated transport provides specific challenges. It generates problems for landscapes, habitats and the general quality of life as a result of noise and air pollution coming from the size and frequency of traffic movements in what is often a sensitive area.

The waste we all produce is significant. 172,000 residents each produce an average of 365 kgs pa - a total of 64,328 tonnes of domestic waste pa. 30.26% of this is recycled and 2.94% is composted giving an overall recycling rate of just over 33%. In 2007/08 about 42,000 tonnes of waste were incinerated producing 4.2 megawatts of energy which served about 4000 homes. About 500 tonnes of non-combustable waste went to landfill. Landfill sites are being filled up across the UK with no room left in nine years time. Landfill is the least favoured way of dealing with waste as it contaminates large areas of land and generates greenhouse gases. The district has a good track record in recycling due to the desire of residents to use the facilities provided. Part of the future challenge is to identify ways of reducing the use of, and re-using materials as well as increasing the amount of recycling taking place in both the domestic and commercial sectors.

The district does suffer from fly tipping and litter accumulation in some areas particularly along the coastline, the countryside adjacent to the Waterside towns and villages and some road side verges and Open Forest edges. This not only creates an untidy appearance but can be a serious hazard to wildlife and commoners stock.

Pollution comes in many forms - air, light, noise, water and land - and can significantly affect the health and well being of the district. The way we live our lives, the way we travel, work, enjoy leisure and live in our homes can all create pollution. Much of this is monitored and controlled through the various environmental health and planning services.

Priority	Outcomes
6.1 Reducing environmental pollution – greenhouse gas emissions	<p>Homes, businesses and public sector buildings will be more energy-efficient</p> <p>Less use of the car with more cycling, walking, public transport use and car sharing taking place</p> <p>Better and integrated transport infrastructure, more cycle routes and storage</p> <p>Improved health and better air quality</p>
6.2 Reducing the use of non renewable resources	<p>The district will have a wide variety of renewable energy installations (domestic and commercial)</p> <p>More energy used in the district will come from renewable sources</p> <p>The public will demonstrate commitment and use renewable energy</p>
6.3 Reducing the amount of waste	<p>Waste minimisation, less packaging being used and more composting taking place</p> <p>Re-use of goods and materials is common place</p> <p>More opportunities for businesses to recycle and reduce waste going to landfill</p>
6.4 Adapting to climate change	<p>More efficient use of water</p> <p>Fewer problems caused by flooding</p> <p>Rapid and appropriate responses in place to minimise the impact of any emergency arising from climate change</p> <p>People’s health is not adversely affected by the increase in temperature</p> <p>Different crops and other plants grow that are adapted to the climate (longer term)</p>
6.5 Keeping the district clean and tidy	<p>Incidents of fly-tipping have reduced</p> <p>Less litter is picked up by the Council off streets and road verges</p>

7. Health and Well Being



New Forest District Context

Health can be influenced by many socio-economic factors that determine how healthy we are. There are wide health status differences among social groups, the more affluent enjoy better health than less well off people. Those from lower income households have significantly higher rates for nearly all major conditions, particularly coronary heart disease, strokes, lung cancer and mental health problems. Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991) described these factors as different spheres of influence, which range from individual to societal levels. This model highlights the existence of wider determinants of health that are beyond the direct influence of the individual. Tackling these wider determinants of health requires strong partnerships with other organisations.

Improving well-being is integral to the work of New Forest District Council. We need to consider the wider economic, social and environmental benefits policy can bring. Improving people's well-being and health requires joint action across the health, local government and voluntary sectors. Public health interventions will be targeted at lifestyle issues – smoking cessation, sexual health, physical activity, weight management and alcohol and drug harm reduction. Improving how we engage with the public is essential for delivering effective and sustainable health improvement.

The New Forest has an older population than the England average. For men, there are differences in life expectancy between the highest and lowest income groups. While overall poverty is low, almost 12,000 people are dependent on means tested benefits and over 3,800 children live in low income households. Although early death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke are lower than the England averages, smoking is still estimated to account for over 300 deaths a year. The rate of road injuries and deaths is higher than the England average; around 125 people die or are seriously injured on the roads of the New Forest each year. Only 1 in 8 adults take the recommended level of physical activity and over 1 in 5 are estimated to be obese. The rate of hip fracture in people aged 65 and over is higher than the average for the South East and England.

References: Area Health Profile, Association of Public Health Observatories, 2007, Healthy Horizons, enabling the people of Hampshire to live longer and healthier lives, Hampshire Primary Care Trust, 2007

Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) is the largest in the country. It aims to improve the health of the local community, reduce inequalities in health and make sure people have access to safe, high quality health services. It commissions health care services from a range of primary care providers, including GP's, community pharmacists, dentists and NHS hospital trusts including Lymington. It covers the same area as Hampshire County Council, this enables them to build strong partnerships for health and social care. The PCT and New Forest District Council will provide joint leadership to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities through the New Forest Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board and tackle health inequalities. The Board will bring together statutory, community, voluntary and business sector organisations. Partnership working is essential to ensure national policy is effectively delivered locally in partnership.

We are guided by government policy laid down in Choosing Health, Every Child Matters, Our health, our care our say: a new direction for community services, The Commissioning Framework for Health and wellbeing, Healthy weight, healthy lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England and Strong and Prosperous Communities. Local and national priorities are: tackling health inequalities, personalised and accessible services, promoting health and wellbeing, keeping people well and independent, informed choice, partnership working, reducing the number of people who smoke, tackling obesity, increasing uptake of physical activity, improving sexual health and reducing the harm that drugs and alcohol cause to society.

Responses from the consultation on this Strategy suggested that access to services such as hospitals, doctors and dentists and sexual health services, obesity in children and tackling alcohol issues in young people are essential. Involving voluntary and community organisations was thought to be particularly important. In this Strategy there are

four key cross cutting issues; promoting the health and wellbeing of adults and older people, tackling the harm that alcohol and drugs cause society and discouraging harmful drinking, promoting healthy eating and encouraging physical activity in children and young people.

Priority	Outcomes
7.1 Reduce adult and childhood overweight and obesity	Increase in people who are physically active, particularly older people and those with long term conditions such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease and those with a mental health condition. Reduction in overweight and obese children
7.2 Reducing the number of people who smoke	Reduce smoking prevalence and reduce smoking related deaths in targeted groups Greater disposable income for those who need it to reduce inequalities
7.3 Improving the sexual health of all groups, particularly young people and at risk groups	Reduction in teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, improved support for teenage parents
7.4 Reduce harm to young people and the wider community connected with alcohol	Improved health and people feeling safer Reduce under age drinking Reduce alcohol related crime Reduce alcohol related health problems including alcohol related hospital admissions
7.5 Improve access to information and support to enable older people to live independently	Increase health and wellbeing of older people and maintain independent living
7.6 Reduce the number of older people suffering injury as a result of falling	Reduce rate of hip fractures

8. Housing



New Forest District Context

Of the 77,000 dwellings in the District, approximately 85% are privately owned, 4% are rented privately and 11% are either Council or Housing Association properties. The proportion of public sector dwellings is half the UK average and rates of second home ownership are higher in New Forest District than elsewhere in Hampshire.

The provision of affordable housing is a key priority set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2008-12. Affordable housing is defined in Planning Policy Statement 3 as:

social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should:

- *meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined by local incomes and local house prices; and*
- *include provisions for the home to be retained for future use by eligible households, or if restrictions are lifted, for any subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.*

The affordability of housing continues to be a significant problem facing the area. The district is one of the least affordable places to live in the South East England. With average local incomes relatively low, the gap between local incomes and house prices continues to widen. This problem is not confined to those on the lowest incomes, but affects many people on average or above salaries who in the past would have been able to buy a home.

Rural communities are particularly affected by problems of affordability. The limited supply of housing, planning policies that restrict new development, low wages, and public sector homes that are lost through 'Right to Buy' legislation, contribute towards severe local problems that often force local people to relocate to meet their housing needs, weakening local community and social networks. The lack of affordable housing for New Forest Commoners is also a particular local issue.

In 2004, the Council met the Government target to reduce the use of bed and breakfast for homeless families and has had considerable success in preventing homelessness. However, there is now increasing pressure for the Council to also reduce the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation. Unfortunately, the number of households on the district's housing waiting list is steadily increasing, with many households facing a long wait for their preferred choice of social housing.

It is important that the right type of housing is built to meet people's needs and provide a variety of housing options. The overall number of new homes being built has been significantly reduced, with a higher proportion of small flatted accommodation being built over the past 4 years. Small properties often provide inflexible accommodation which may only meet a household need for a short period. In future, it is essential that the right type of housing, in terms of type, size and tenure, is built in the New Forest. The Central Hampshire and New Forest Strategic Housing Market Assessment completed in July 2007 has provided the evidence and recommendations to inform our Local Development Framework.

All new homes will be well designed with environmental performance standards that will reduce the carbon footprint of the development. They will be built using sustainable materials, make better use of resources and will meet the minimum standard of Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. This supports the priorities of the Built Environment set out in Chapter 5 of this Strategy.

New housing represents only a small proportion of housing in the area. The existing housing stock will provide the future homes for most residents in the New Forest. It is therefore important that this housing stock is also in good condition. All public sector stock will meet the decent homes standard by 2010. But attention must also be paid to the private sector stock – particularly that occupied by older people or those on lower incomes. Joint working with other agencies, or cross boundary partnerships will provide greater opportunities to access resources and other initiatives, such as equity

release schemes. These and other projects will assist residents to maintain or improve their homes, and to live in a safe environment and enjoy thermal comfort.

Close collaboration between the public and private sectors and voluntary groups is delivering improvements in support services for vulnerable groups, and a programme of 'strategic reviews' of local housing related support services funded through Supporting People is continuing. The development of 'extra care' housing for older people is a priority of both the County and District Councils.

The Council continues to hold a strong partnership with housing associations who own, manage and develop homes in the district but is also a member of the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH). HARAH is formed of the six

rural local authorities in Hampshire, the Housing Corporation and Community Action Hampshire. Hyde Housing Association is the appointed delivery partner. The purpose of the alliance is to enable a strategic approach to the investment of public resources for the delivery of more affordable housing in rural areas.

The Totton and Waterside areas of the New Forest fall within the PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) Sub Region. This will bring future challenges to support the economic growth by increasing the supply of housing to deliver a balanced housing market, including family and affordable homes.

Priority	Outcomes
8.1 Increase the supply of affordable housing	Sustainable communities - enabling households on lower incomes to live and work in the New Forest area and not need to migrate out of the district to meet their housing needs
8.2 Preventing homelessness and meeting the needs of special groups	Households that are living in suitable and secure housing that meets their housing needs A socially inclusive district
8.3 Providing the right type of new housing to meet the needs of local communities	Development of sustainable housing that will provide flexible use over the long term in a balanced housing market
8.4 Making the best use of existing stock	Improved housing opportunities Less anti social behaviour (the use of empty homes which can sometimes be a blight on communities)

9. Leisure



New Forest District Context

Leisure and recreational activities are wide ranging in their nature. It is important that local communities have access to a range of entertainment, arts and culture, children’s play, sports and recreation facilities for enjoying their leisure time. Activities can be provided commercially, through clubs, some by public bodies and informally. Brief examples illustrate the diversity: local clubs in sport; trusts in arts and heritage; Hampshire County Council for libraries; town and parish councils with parks and playgrounds; the National Park Authority, Forestry Commission and other bodies for countryside recreation and New Forest District Council with health and leisure centres and development work.

A feature of the area is its dispersed population. This has implications for service providers in making their activities accessible. Where facilities are concerned, this often leads to provision at a local (rather than central) level. Examples are the health and leisure centres of the District Council, libraries and the arts venues in Totton and New Milton. Some providers take the service into communities such as with touring theatre or mobile play projects. Local facilities, such as village halls, pubs, church halls and schools can provide new venues for cultural and other leisure activities. This may be of particular importance in maintaining community

identity in small rural communities.

In terms of large commercial leisure and entertainment facilities (cinemas, concert halls, tenpin bowling) the communities within the New Forest tend to look towards Bournemouth, Southampton and Salisbury.

The National Park provides a major recreational resource for local people and those visiting from further away. It is estimated that at least 13.5 million people visit the National Park each year (Visitor Survey by Tourism South East, 2004/5). Local day visitors from home accounted for 35% of all visitors. A further 25% of visitors are day visitors from outside the New Forest. The coastline also provides major leisure and recreational assets for the area. Although lacking a ‘seaside resort’ as such, the coast provides beaches, coastal walks and marinas, and popular facilities such as Lepe Country Park.

As well as being of benefit in themselves, leisure activities are known to have positive benefits in a range of other ways, for example, improvements in physical and mental health; fostering independence in older age; reductions in reported crime; helping social inclusion and improving environmental conditions. The benefit of enjoyment, fun and social well being purely from the act of being part of leisure activity must not be overlooked.

Priority	Outcomes
9.1 Healthy communities: More people being more active	More people taking part in activities
9.2 Local facilities: Making the most of local leisure facilities through marketing	A single, co-ordinated approach to information and marketing
9.3 Improving accessibility: Make best use of community transport / public transport	More people attending events and activities other than by car
9.4 Managing recreation: Strategic management of recreational opportunities and pressures	Greater enjoyment of outdoor recreation while conserving the special qualities of the area
9.5 Enabling everyone to recognise and appreciate the special qualities of the area	Improved levels of awareness of the special qualities and a variety of programmes and projects targeted at different audiences

10. Older People



New Forest District Context

New Forest District has an over 65 population that exceeds 38,000, which represents 22.4% of the total population and is well above the national average. This is higher than any other Hampshire district. Of all households 32% are made up solely of pensioners with 12,500 pensioners living alone. More significantly in terms of resources the over-85 population stands at almost 5,200. By 2012, it is estimated that the number of people living in the district who are 85 or more years old will have increased to over 8000. The predicted growth in the number of older people challenges many services to plan how they will meet a range of needs that have a clear impact on the quality of life for older people. Examples here include health, housing, transport, leisure and community safety. At present many stakeholders and voluntary agencies continue to provide significant levels of services designated for “older” residents. Hampshire County Council Adult and Children’s Services, New Forest District Council and the South West Primary Care Trust Alliance continue to work together to share common goals.

However, the growth of the older person’s population is as much a benefit to the district as a possible greater strain on scarce resources. Older people make a significant positive contribution to the success of this district through volunteering and other routes and there is scope for developing the older person’s sector as a significant resource that can be used for the benefit of all residents of the

district. That contribution needs to be better recognised and a greater understanding of the older person’s contribution to the quality of life in the district more widely developed and supported. As part of this, the partnership will be developing a more strategic approach to the lives of older people and strengthening multi-agency working in this area.

The New Forest District Council area, as a predominantly rural area, also poses significant problems in providing access to services and in older people being able to provide effective support to the community. It is recognised that better transport could assist in developing and improving current support networks and access to services. Independence for many older people is crucial to their overall well-being and the availability of suitable and appropriate transport is essential.

A major issue that will be recognised within the strategy and the subsequent action plans is that older people need to be involved in the design of services in the district and also that those older people who wish to be involved, not only in the design but in the provision of services to older people more generally, are actively encouraged to be involved and empowered. Such action will recognise the significant contribution that older people can make to the quality of life in the district.

Priority	Outcomes
10.1 Access to health and care facilities	Improved self esteem Improved mental health
10.2 Providing more care facilities/ day centres/ care homes	Greater support for people recovering from illness/ hospitalisation
10.3 Improving transport	Improved independence and mobility
10.4 Improved access to information	Better informed communities

11. Tourism



New Forest District Context

New Forest District, including the Avon Valley and coast, is one of England’s most popular tourist and leisure destinations. Much of the area is also of international importance for nature conservation.

Its recent designation as a National Park acknowledges the importance of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area; but also the importance of promoting opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the whole district.

There are around 843,000 visitors coming to stay in the area as a whole. This amounts to around 3.75 million visitor nights. It is estimated that around 13.5 million visits are made each year, many of these are day visits by local people living in New Forest District

Tourism needs to be managed in order to be sustainable. New Forest District Council, working with a wide range of local interests, has led the way nationally in developing a sustainable approach to tourism management, for example, improved management and use of access and travel arrangements for all visitors.

There are opportunities to build on current visitor stewardship initiatives designed to help visitors

understand and contribute to the local area, including means of contributing directly to the management of the National Park.

It is vital that we conserve what is after all the essence of the destination. However there is a need for realism in regard to the need for investment and keeping the current infrastructure up with the market. Within the New Forest there are some 600 businesses employing over 9,000 people directly related to tourism. It is a sector that is of significance to the local economy, generating £395m in 2004.

Communities often engage very well with the tourism sector, with community tourism groups in many towns and villages. These groups bring together local stakeholders from the tourism sector and beyond.

Considerable effort has also been made to promote sustainable transport for visitors, for instance by encouraging hotels to look at ideas for car free holidays and by establishing the ‘New Forest Tour’ open top bus and cycle carrier.

The priority issues reflect the requirement to integrate visitor, industry, community and environmental matters. In doing so, a range of interests need to be involved so that the actions that are carried out are effective.

Priority	Outcomes
11.1 Engagement of local, day and staying visitors in a comprehensive visitor stewardship programme	Visitors contribute to the effective management and conservation of the destination area through improved understanding
11.2 Support to all sectors of the Local Tourism Industry, particularly serviced accommodation (eg hotels & B&B), to improve quality in standards and services	A more competitive tourism industry trading effectively in a dynamic global market place to provide locally improved quality, income and jobs
11.3 Engagement of local communities in tourism development and decision making	A network of local community tourism groups, producing local tourism action plans that ensure community benefits accrue from tourism and visitor activities
11.4 The promotion of local New Forest Marque produce to the tourism and visitor industry	New Forest Marque produce is used by all appropriate local tourism and visitor businesses
11.5 An effective Car Free Tourism Programme	Improved management of visitor access and travel arrangements that help minimise visitors carbon footprint

12. Transport



New Forest District Context

Car ownership levels in the district are high with 84% of households having access to a private car. Traffic levels are increasing in parts of the district. Congestion is of particular local concern along:

- A31 Ringwood area
- A31 and M27 Cadnam area
- A35 and A337 in the Lyndhurst area
- A36 West Wellow area
- A35 east of A326
- A326 south of the A35

Through traffic generated from outside the district is a significant factor particularly in respect of the first four.

Lyndhurst's traffic problems are contributing to poor air quality (see below), increased costs for local businesses in the Coastal Towns' area that need to move goods through Lyndhurst to access the strategic road network and frequent delays to local bus services. Measures to assist public transport without increasing congestion will be considered. As the main roads get increasingly congested drivers increasingly use unsuitable alternatives in an attempt to reduce journey times. The Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) includes a locally developed congestion indicator as one of its priority indicators. This will see the introduction of a number of small scale schemes targeted at congestion.

High traffic related air pollution (nitrogen dioxide) levels have resulted in statutory air quality management areas being declared for Totton (Junction Road area) and Lyndhurst High Street. Draft Air Quality Action Plans have been adopted.

Road casualty rates continue to be of concern. Countywide, Hampshire County Council has been successful in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads below the annual target of 684 KSIs agreed with Government. However there was a small increase in the number of recorded injury accidents on roads within the district in 2007/8 (125 KSIs compared to 123 KSIs in 2005). Accidents involving stock animals on unfenced Forest Roads and deer are also a concern.

Traffic speeds are a concern for many communities and the Police, District Council, Hampshire County Council and other stakeholders are working together to address these concerns through a variety of initiatives. The 'Village 30' initiative is

introducing or extending 30 mph limits in many villages. A "20mph is plenty" campaign is being run outside schools and speed indicator devices (SIDs) are being deployed in a number of locations. A priority area in the LAA introduces a target of an average 5% speed reduction in village speed over the next three years.

As regards demand management measures that do not have a detrimental impact on local communities and businesses, revised off-street parking charges and decriminalised on-street parking enforcement have made a positive contribution. On-street parking charges are being considered along with ideas to better manage Forestry Commission car parks.

Many of the Forest's unfenced roads take relatively high levels of traffic and a number of drivers do not adjust their behaviour to take account of local factors including the presence of leisure cyclists and stock animals that are able to roam freely. There are local aspirations to reduce the adverse impact on the New Forest of cars and lighter good vehicles using unfenced Forest roads.

Whilst car ownership levels in the district are high there are a significant number of households (2001 Census indicates 10,236 households) without access to a private car. Where there is a lack of adequate public transport having community transport provision to ensure that transport difficulties do not prevent anyone from accessing essential services and facilities is very important.

Milton Ward has over 23% of households that are "Pensioner Only" households with no car. As well as impacting on older people it also affects young people especially those wanting independent access to services, work and leisure activities. A third locally devised LAA indicator focuses on accessibility. Partners are currently working to identify a suitable local scheme to improve accessibility and, hence, the quality of life of a community through enhanced access.

The local concessionary fares scheme for those over 60 has encouraged greater use of buses across the district and into adjacent areas. This has improved accessibility and travel horizons for many. The local scheme has been replaced by a national scheme from April this year, which provides free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England while still enabling pass holders to travel free within the District at any time of day. The Hythe ferry can also be used off-peak by pass holders. Financial help to community

transport and care (car) schemes was recently increased but an issue is the reduction in volunteering which means some Call & Go services have to use some paid drivers.

There have been improvements to bus services in the Waterside and Totton areas and some improvements to services in the coastal town's area. However there have been reductions in some of the more poorly used services and financial pressures and 'value for money' considerations may result in more poorly used services being withdrawn.

Measures to encourage more visitors to use public transport will be supported. A new bus service – Lyndhurst Links – is being trialled to improve access to Lyndhurst for rail users and thereby reduce peak summer traffic pressures. A number of significant

cycle route proposals are being progressed and although there are still many gaps in strategic and local level cycle networks, it is hoped that as these are filled, better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists will result in less reliance on the private car. Similarly accessibility improvements in many of the district's main settlements are being progressed. These will make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to access and move round the town centres. It is planned that town access plans for Ringwood and Totton will be prepared and resultant improvements progressed for these towns. Priority continues to be given to Schools who have a Travel Plan with the aim of enabling school journeys to be made in a safer, healthier and more environmentally friendly way.

Priority	Outcomes
<p>12.1 Manage congestion on the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A35 and A337 in the Lyndhurst area • A35 east of A326 • A326 • A31 	<p>Identification of deliverable proposals that will manage congestion in the Lyndhurst area</p> <p>Complete the 'Access to the Waterside' Study, to identify the potential for improving bus, rail and ferry services and scope to influence traffic levels to and from Southampton</p>
<p>12.2 Reduce the negative impact of transport on people and on the environment</p>	<p>Reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured each year through road traffic accidents.</p> <p>Reduction in traffic speeds in villages</p> <p>Reduced nitrogen dioxide levels in Lyndhurst centre (see also below)</p> <p>Reduced nitrogen dioxide levels in Lyndhurst centre and Totton's Junction Road area.</p> <p>Ensure that adequate provision is made to accommodate additional demand for travel arising from new development in the most sustainable way possible.</p>
<p>12.3 Invest to maintain and improve the local road network</p>	<p>Investment to improve road maintenance and reduce the number of pot holes on the highway.</p> <p>Major enhancements to Rumbridge Street, Water Lane and Ringwood Road Totton</p> <p>Implement an agreed programme of smaller scale traffic management improvements</p>
<p>12.4 Improve accessibility whilst reducing reliance on the private car.</p>	<p>Development of town centre access and cycle route proposals that are realistic and can be achieved through developer and public funding.</p> <p>Introduction of local accessibility schemes linked to LAA</p> <p>Improve public transport links serving visitors to Lyndhurst.</p>

13. Active Communities



New Forest District Context

The district has its own cultural distinctiveness which has grown from the history and heritage of the area. This has created a distinctive “living culture” and a strong sense of local identity still found in many New Forest communities.

The district is sometimes perceived as having a single, uniform identity - a fairly affluent society and a community that has one set of needs. In fact, the large size and varied make up of the people living in the district means there are a large number and wide variety of communities. These “communities” can either be localities eg a town, village or hamlet or a group of people sharing similar interests or issues. These communities need opportunities to shape the services they receive and help identify issues that affect them and find solutions to those issues.

Effective community engagement is a key part of establishing and maintaining a sustainable community and creating social cohesion. It increases the capacity of that community to achieve its needs. Community ownership of issues and solutions is crucial if we are to ensure communities develop as they want to. All agencies need to agree how they can work together to inform, consult, involve, collaborate with, and empower communities. The voices of minority and/or hard to engage with groups, need to be heard and understood. This will require us all to challenge current practices and develop new ways of working. Communities themselves can help shape the way they engage with us.

Our track record to date is good. Community planning is an established way of working particularly through the parish plans, market town health checks and participatory needs assessments. These plans identify local issues and an action plan

to tackle those issues. From the experience to date many of the actions are deliverable by the communities themselves but where help is needed a process has been established to connect the Local Strategic Partnership and its agencies to community action plans. To date 17 community plans have been completed with 9 started but not yet completed.

Good progress has been made in working on equalities issues and plans are in place to improve further. This work specifically addresses issues around disabilities, race, gender, sexuality, age and religion. 1 in 7 of all residents has a disability. The projections for the increases in the number of older people living in this district are startling. By 2026 there will be 55,000 people over the age of 65 compared to 40,000 today. Many of these will be living in single person households, with others requiring specific support and care. Although the numbers within ethnic minority groups is small as a percentage of the overall population (1.1%), that still equates to about 2000 individuals from minority communities. The ongoing challenge is to ensure that everyone can access all partners’ services and information and therefore be able to take a full part in community life.

The district benefits from the support of a vibrant and active voluntary and community sector that contributes to many aspects that support quality of life. The role of volunteers is critical to many activities. Without the help of volunteers many services would stop or be severely curtailed. More has to be done to encourage volunteering and remove or reduce any unnecessary barriers.

Priority	Outcomes
13.1 Improving community engagement	<p>Communities shaping communities and the services they receive</p> <p>Community cohesion - a community that has a sense of belonging, with shared vision, values, challenges and equal opportunities to participate</p> <p>Democratic renewal - people being more involved and having an interest in the democratic process</p>
13.2 Using community planning as a key tool	<p>Communities shaping communities and the services they receive</p> <p>Community cohesion - a community that has a sense of belonging, with shared vision, values, challenges and equal opportunities to participate</p> <p>Democratic renewal - people being more involved and having an interest in the democratic process</p>
13.3 Integrating the impact of equalities issues into service delivery	<p>Service delivery that meets the needs of all users including minority groups</p> <p>Community cohesion - a community that has a sense of belonging, with shared vision, values, challenges and equal opportunities to participate</p>
13.4 Increasing opportunities to volunteer	<p>A greater awareness and understanding of the role of volunteering and how it benefits both the volunteer and the community</p> <p>Increased ability to meet identified needs in the provision of services through volunteering</p>

14. Flagship Projects

The Partnership has developed some specific projects that it wishes to progress during the life of this strategy that demonstrate strong partnership working aimed at some of the priorities within this strategy. These are:

Theme 1 - Community Engagement

Flagship Project	Outcomes
Establishing a common community engagement framework for the New Forest District	Clear understanding by the Local Strategic Partnership agencies about how best to inform, consult, involve, collaborate with and empower communities Communities knowing the opportunities they have for participation
Climate change	Individuals and organisations having a better understanding of their impact on climate change and what they can do to reduce that impact Reduction in the carbon footprint of the district
Cherishing local distinctiveness	Increased recognition and enjoyment of residents and visitors of the sense of place and cultural identity expressed in the quality and characteristics of the built environment and landscape

Theme 2 - Children & Young People











Flagship Project	Outcomes
Improving access to the services they receive through better public and community transport for children and young people	More children and young people accessing services and facilities through community and public transport
Improving levels of influence over service delivery	More opportunities for children and young people to influence the services they receive

Theme 3 - Economic / Skills Development

Flagship Project	Outcomes
Development of a range of managed workspaces and skills and training facilities	Improved skills in the workforce and extended opportunities for small business start ups across the district

How will we know the strategy has delivered what it was designed for?

The priorities link with the objectives that this strategy is designed to deliver. This can be summarised as follows:

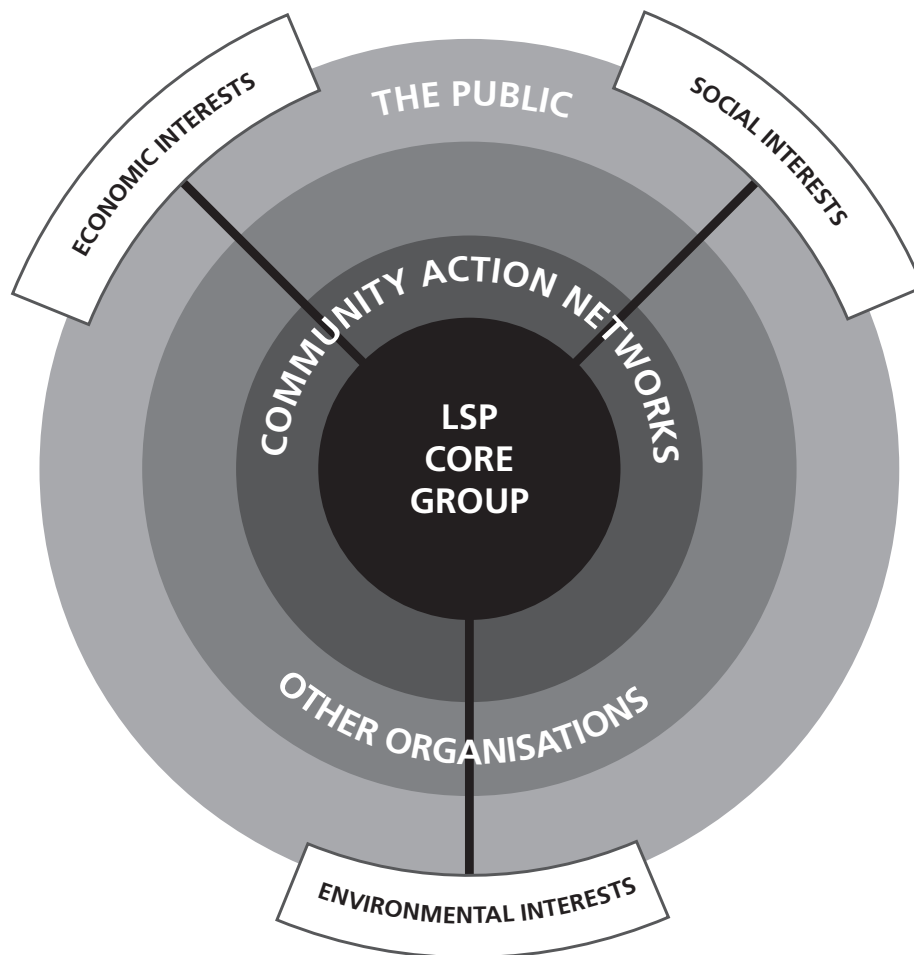
Strategic Objectives		Priorities - Ref Numbers
	More people lead healthy lifestyles	1.1, 4.3, 6.1, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 9.1, 10.1, 10.2, 12.1,12.2
	People are safer and feel safer	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4.3, 7.4, 8.4, 9.1, 12.3
	People have better access to services and facilities	1.3, 1.5, 4.3, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 7.6, 8.1, 8.2, 9.2, 9.3, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 11.2, 12.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3
	People have more opportunity to shape their communities and the services they receive	1.3, 1.4, 2.5, 4.2, 9.5,10.4, 11.1 11.3, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4
	People's impact on the environment is better managed and controlled	1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 8.3, 9.3, 9.4, 11.1, 11.5, 12.1, 12.2, 12.5
	People have greater opportunities to develop as individuals	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 3.1, 10.3, 10.4, 13.3, 13.4
	People's housing needs are better met	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 10.2
	The built and natural environment are improved and protected	2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 12.1, 12.2, 12.5
	The environment is an asset that provides opportunities for the economy and people's enjoyment	3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 9.4, 9.5, 11.1, 11.4
	Businesses thrive and influence decisions that affect them	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.5, 11.2, 11.4

Quality of life measures are being developed against each of these strategic objectives. These will be published separately and will enable the performance of the Sustainable Community Strategy to be monitored and reported

Further information about the changing lives partnership

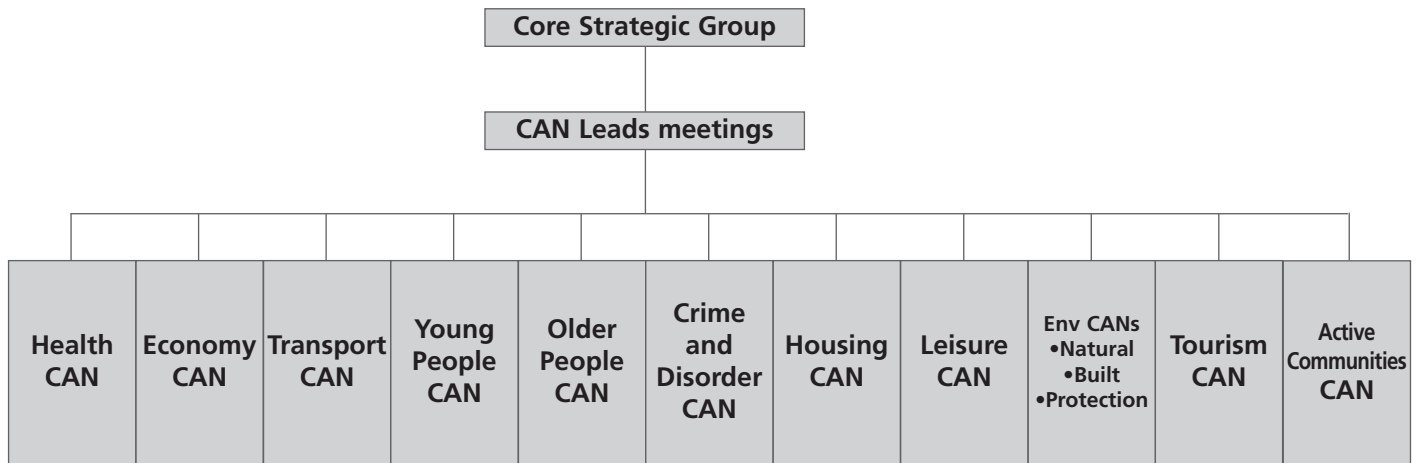
Details about the partnership can be found on www.changinglivesnewforest.gov.uk

The partnership operates at different levels - strategic (Core Group) and operational (Community Action Networks - CANs). It provides opportunities for other organisations, communities of interest, geographical communities and individuals to join in.



Another way of viewing this is:

Structure of the Changing Lives Partnership (The LSP for New Forest District)



CANs - Community Action Networks. Multi-agency groups, developing and delivering the actions within their respective chapters of the Community Strategy. Meet as teams or interact through other means. CAN leads come together to work on joint projects and cross cutting issues

Each of these Community Action Networks comprises a variety of partners who work together to develop and deliver the actions that help turn this strategy into something that makes a difference to people's lives. Each of these partners has their own plans and strategies which all work with the Sustainable Community Strategy. The main ones that link with this strategy can be seen on the next page.



Other organisations - either through being involved in networks, stakeholder events or through the community planning process in communities.

Public - mainly through community planning initiatives such as Parish Plans and Market Town Healthchecks but also through opportunities to become involved at all levels (eg stakeholder conferences, responding to consultations such as draft issues paper and draft sustainable community strategy).

Partners main strategies and action plans

Name of Partner	Name of strategy / plan	View at:
Community First	Hampshire Infrastructure Development Plan (the VCS plan for Hampshire)	http://action.hants.org.uk/HVSCIDP.html
Forestry Commission	Crown Land Forest Design Plans Crown Land Management Plan (in revision)	FC Offices, The Queen's House, Lyndhurst www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest
Hampshire Constabulary	Hampshire Constabulary Policing Plan	www.hampshire.police.uk
Hampshire County Council	Local Area Agreement Hampshire Strategic Partnership Structure Plan South East Plan	www3.hants.gov.uk/localareaagreement.htm www.hampshirestrategicpartnership.org.uk/ www.hants.gov.uk/structureplan/summary.html www3.hants.gov.uk/southeastplan/south-east-plan.htm
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	Fire service plans	www.hantsfire.gov.uk
Hampshire Primary Care Trust	Hampshire PCT 5 Year Strategy	www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk
New Forest Business Partnership	Future strategy under development	www.nfbp.org.uk
New Forest District Council	Corporate Plan Economic Strategy Housing Strategy Local Development Framework Core Strategy	Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7PA or www.newforest.gov.uk
New Forest National Park Authority	National Park Management Plan (updates) Corporate Plan Local Development Framework (updates) Recreation Management Strategy (updates)	South Efford House Milford Road, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 0JD www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

Member organisations of the LSP

Brockenhurst College

Citizens Advice Bureau

Community First

Forestry Commission

Hampshire Constabulary

Hampshire County Council

Hampshire Fire and Rescue

Hampshire Primary Care Trust

New Forest Business Partnership

New Forest District Association of Local Councils

New Forest District Council

New Forest National Park Authority

New Forest Tourism

Registered Social Landlords

Young Persons' Forum

