

PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS EXCELLENCE: THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE

SECOND EDITION – 2008 - 2013

Are you short on time but still eager to contribute to current consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire?

In response to comments about the length of the full document, the Worcestershire Partnership's Communications Officer has produced this summary, which contains the minimum you need to know.

Remember that if you have a specific area of interest, you can still refer to just that section of the full strategy and let us have your comments.

All comments will be gratefully received by **14 February 2008** in one of the following ways:

1. In writing to Worcestershire Partnership, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP
2. By email to scsconsultation@worcestershire.gov.uk
3. Online at www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/forum

SECTION ONE: THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE

This document is the second edition of "Partnership Towards Excellence - A Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2003 – 2013". The job of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to set out the strategic vision for the future of Worcestershire and to focus on activity needed in the short term to make it happen. The aim is to improve the quality of life of people who live, [visit or work in the county](#).

This document deals with issues at a countywide level, covering six key themes:

- Communities that are safe and feel safe
- A better environment for today and tomorrow
- Economic success that is shared by all
- Improving health and well being
- Meeting the needs of children and young people
- Stronger communities - covering a range of issues including housing, culture and volunteering

In the full document, you can find out more about:

- 1.1 What is the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire? (p. 3)
- 1.2 What is the Worcestershire Partnership? (p. 4)
- 1.3 What is the Worcestershire Partnership's vision for the county? (p. 4)
- 1.4 How is this second edition of the Community Strategy different? (p. 5)
- 1.5 How can you influence the draft Sustainable Community Strategy? (p. 6)

SECTION TWO: SHAPING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The diagram below illustrates the many factors that have shaped the strategy:



In the full document, you can find out more about:

- 2.1 What are the factors that influenced this Sustainable Community Strategy? (p. 8)
- 2.2 How did we find out Worcestershire residents' views? (p. 9)
- 2.3 How did we find out Worcestershire councillors' views? (p. 9)
- 2.4 The Worcestershire 'Story of Place' (p. 10)
- 2.5 Relationship between the Community Strategy and other key plans and strategies (p. 20)

SECTION THREE: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND SPATIAL AND GEOGRAPHIC PLANS

There are close links between this Community Strategy and other geographical and spatial strategies. Inevitably, some of the big issues highlighted in the Community Strategy will have a spatial dimension, for example considering future employment and the need to bring targeted industries to the county, expanding the University in Worcester or considering the need for new and affordable housing. All these facilities need to be located somewhere and it is the role of spatial planning to decide where this will be.

Of particular interest is the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, which sets out a plan for how the region will look in 10 – 15 years time. Phase two of this strategy set out proposals for issues including housing figures, employment land, transport and waste and a focus on towns and cities that could be the site of future development. The Worcestershire Partnership has acted as the joint forum for

responses to consultation on these proposals and will continue to debate the issues in future rounds of consultation with reference to the visions and outcomes expressed in the Community Strategy.

The strategy also identifies particular parts of the county that require a special focus because of challenges such as deprivation, health inequalities, worklessness or isolation from key services. These areas are:

Warndon and Gorse Hill – Worcester City
Oldington and Foley Park – Kidderminster
Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill – Kidderminster
Pickersleigh – Malvern
Batchley, Greenlands and central neighbourhoods - Redditch

Areas of opportunity are the Central Technology Belt and Worcester University city centre campus development.

In the full document, you can find out more about:

- 3.1 Spatial planning in Worcestershire (p. 21)
- 3.2 The Regional Spatial Strategy (p. 23)
- 3.3 Examples of relationships between the Community Strategy and spatial plans (p. 26)
- 3.4 Geographical focus – areas of challenge and opportunity (p. 28)

SECTION FOUR: CROSS CUTTING THEMES

The strategy identifies three cross-cutting themes, i.e. themes that apply to all of the six priority areas listed above. They are:

4.1 Tackling environmental challenges like climate change and flooding (p. 30)

Mitigating the effects of climate change is a priority in Worcestershire and 83% of respondents in a recent Citizens' Panel thought it was important that action was taken in Worcestershire to tackle the issue. The priorities under this theme are to:

- Raise Awareness of the issue of Climate Change, flooding and other environmental challenges
- Reduce harmful Climate Change causing gas emissions across the County by 10% by 2010 & 20% by 2020
- Assist adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change and flooding on the County

4.2 Community engagement (p. 31)

The Partnership believes that better decisions are made, better services are provided and that places are more likely to be improved and transformed when individuals and communities are given a real say and are active in shaping the places that they live. The priority for this theme is to:

- Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery.

4.3 Promoting community cohesion in Worcestershire (p. 33)

The Worcestershire Partnership is committed to building communities that enhance individuals' life opportunities, treat people with equality and value diversity and build strong cohesive communities and good community relations. This takes into account the needs of Worcestershire's BME communities, the Gypsy Traveller community and migrant workers, and also recognises Worcestershire's mix of urban and rural environments and opportunities for challenging inter-generational stereotypes between younger and older people.

The priorities for this theme are to:

- Ensure the development of a strong evidence base through which we will identify the main community cohesion issues in Worcestershire
- Use this evidence to take action to address specific community cohesion issues in the county

SECTION FIVE: COMMUNITY STRATEGY OUTCOMES

Each of the six themes in the strategy has four associated priorities. These are the actions that require a partnership approach to collectively make a difference.

<p>Communities that are safe and feel safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reduce crime - To re-assure the public by reducing the perception of crime - To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol - To build respect for communities and to reduce anti social behaviour 	<p>A better environment – for today and tomorrow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To protect and improve Worcestershire's natural and historic environment - To promote the prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste - To address issues of water quality, supply, consumption and drainage in Worcestershire - To increase energy efficiency and increase the amount of energy generated from renewable sources
<p>Economic success that is shared by all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote technology led growth benefiting all sectors and parts of the County - To support the sustainable development of the County through infrastructure development (in particular, transport infrastructure), and establishing Worcester as a sub regional focus - To remove barriers to employment and improve skills - To ensure that Worcestershire's economic interests are effectively represented at all levels 	<p>Improving health and well being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support adults to lead healthy lifestyles - To reduce health inequalities - To improve the quality of life and independence of older people and those with a long term illnesses - To improve mental health and well-being

<p>Meeting the needs of children and young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles - To prevent bullying and support those affected by it - To raise educational achievement - To ensure children and young people have things to do and enjoy their communities 	<p>Stronger Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide decent, affordable housing which meets the diverse needs of Worcestershire - To improve quality of life in Worcestershire by providing vibrant cultural opportunities for all - To support effective volunteering which is accessible to all <p>To reduce income deprivation, including child and pensioner poverty</p>
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In the full document, you can find out more about:

Section six: Communities that are safe and feel safe (p. 40)

Section seven: A better environment – for today and tomorrow (p. 43)

Section eight: Economic success that is shared by all (p. 47)

Section nine: Improving health and well being (p. 51)

Section ten: Meeting the needs of children and young people (p. 54)

Section eleven: Stronger Communities (p. 58)

Each of these sections explores why these priorities were chosen, what actions will be taken over the next five years and how these will benefit Worcestershire.

SECTION TWELVE: IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the central delivery contract between central Government and local government and its partners. This means it sets out an agreement between these parties on specific actions to improve life in Worcestershire. The LAA will be the primary means whereby the Community Strategy will be delivered.

The Worcestershire Partnership Management Group is responsible for performance managing the targets we set ourselves in the LAA, while the Partnership's theme groups will lead on delivering the actions.

The District LSPs will also be delivering actions against the themes in the Community Strategy at the local level.

In the full document, you can find out more about:

12.1 The Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (p. 64)

12.2 Worcestershire Partnership Management Group and Theme Groups (p. 65)

12.3 District Local Strategic Partnerships (p. 65)