

Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-14



May 2009

This appraisal was undertaken in May 2009 by a panel of local authority officers in Derbyshire with knowledge of and expertise in sustainability issues. It was based on South East England Regional Assembly's 'Rapid Sustainability Appraisal of Community Strategies – A Guide' (August 2008). The aim was to make the draft strategy as sustainable as possible by;

- a. checking the priorities against regional sustainability objectives to highlight any inconsistencies which must be addressed and
- b. cross referencing the priorities to check compatibility of partner priorities and highlight any potential conflicts

Scope of the appraisal

The Sustainable Community Strategy is a high level guiding framework for partnership working so the appraisal concentrated on the strategy's key priorities. It was beyond the scope of the exercise to assess the many specific projects which are undertaken by partners to deliver the objectives of this strategy. These should be appraised individually. The appraisal is organised into the following three sections

1. How draft Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-14 priorities correspond with regional sustainability objectives

The table on page 2 illustrates the how draft Derbyshire Sustainable Strategy priorities correspond with regional sustainability objectives. Where inconsistencies were found these are noted in the third column and are either a) incorporated into the final strategy, or b) noted as further recommendations which partners should implement. Additional points raised during the assessment are outlined on page 4.

2. Sustainability Matrix showing the compatibility of priorities and potential conflicts

The table on page 5 uses symbols to illustrate the relationship between different priorities.

3. Explanation of potential conflicts between priorities and recommendations to reduce the risk of delivering contradictory outcomes for local people in Derbyshire

Where two priorities potentially conflict, this has been highlighted on the matrix with a cross. Further explanation of the potential conflict and recommendations on how these can be avoided are included on pages 6 and 7.

How Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014 priorities correspond with regional sustainability objectives

RSF Sustainable Development Objectives	Relevant Community Strategy draft priorities	Comments/ possible changes/ alterations to improve the priorities
Social		
1. To ensure that the existing and future housing stock meets the needs of all communities in the region	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	Need to improve wording – see comments on priorities sheet
2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing health services	✓ Health and Wellbeing priority	
3. To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the region's heritage and participate in cultural and recreational activities	✓ Culture priority	
4. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	✓ Safer Communities priority	
5. To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across communities in the region	✓ Overarching principle	Needs to be included more prominently in the thematic chapters, particularly Culture and at the beginning of the strategy – too focussed on statutory agencies working together, need to say <u>how</u> we will support local community groups not just the value of their work
Environmental		
6. To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environment and archaeological assets of the region	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	Covered in Sustainable Communities 'Where are we now?' but needs adding to 'how will we get there?'
7. To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the region by increasing the environmental infrastructure	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	As above
8. To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soil and minerals	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	As above
9. To minimise energy usage and to develop the region's renewable energy resource, reducing dependence on non-renewable resources	✗	Needs to be more explicit in 'How will we get there?' section in Sustainable Communities theme
10. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	Covered but may need to improve the specific wording used in 'How will we get there?' section

Economic		
11. To create high quality employment opportunities and to develop a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning skills, giving the region a competitive edge in how we acquire and exploit knowledge	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	
12. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation creating a climate within which entrepreneurs and world class business can flourish	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	
13. To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	Need to add more about Infrastructure Planning (in Sustainable Communities theme and as an overarching principle)
Spatial		
14. To ensure that the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps to reduce the need to travel	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	As above
15. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	
16. To minimise waste and to increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	
17. To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing traffic growth and congestion	✓ Sustainable Communities priority	

Additional discussion items

All the following points have been incorporated into the final strategy.

Safer Communities

- No specific comments

Children and Young People

- Encouraging young people to travel in more sustainable ways will improve their health and reduce pollution

Health and Wellbeing

- Emphasise the close link between affordable warmth/ decent homes and health and wellbeing

Culture

- More emphasis should be placed on community empowerment and building social capital

Sustainable Communities

- Priorities need to emphasise climate change
- 'How will we get there' section
 - Add waste 'minimisation' – check whether energy from waste should be included
 - Add CO2 emissions from quarrying
 - Add carbon dioxide and other emissions
 - Add transport, business and domestic impacts
 - 'Resilient communities' bullet point could include more environmental impacts resulting from climate change. Recommend splitting environmental and economic issues
 - Add environmental vandalism (damage to trees, graffiti etc)
 - Add specific reference to protecting Derbyshire's environmental assets
 - Add reference to renewable energy/ energy efficiency
 - Add a land use planning bullet point to emphasise the role of integrated long term infrastructure planning in building sustainable communities
 - Add 'sustainable' tourism
 - On 'growth sectors' bullet point add to make communities more resilient to change, strengthen the local economy and reduce the risk of unemployment etc
 - More emphasis on promoting sustainability through adult education, Eco Centre etc
 - More emphasis on energy efficiency in homes/ Code for Sustainable Homes as well as Decent Homes Standard
 - Mention health and community safety impacts of climate change

Sustainability Matrix showing the compatibility of priorities and potential conflicts

	✓ Priorities complement each other - No direct relationship between priorities ✗ Potential conflict between priorities (see notes below)																		
	Safer 1	Safer 2	Safer 3	Safer 4	CYP 1	CYP 2	CYP 3	CYP 4	CYP 5	HW 1	HW 2	HW 3	HW 4	HW 5	Cult 1	Sust 1	Sust 2	Sust 3	
Safer1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Safer2	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	
Safer3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	
Safer4	✓	✓	✓		-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	
CYP1	✓	✓	✓	✓		-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	
CYP2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	
CYP3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CYP4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CYP5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HW1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HW2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ 1	✓	✓	
HW3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✗ 2	✓	✓	
HW4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
HW5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cult1	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-		✓	✓	-	
Sust1	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓		✗ 3	✗ 4	
Sust2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✗ 5		✓	
Sust3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ 6	✓		

Explanation of potential conflicts between priorities and recommendations to reduce the risk of delivering contradictory outcomes for local people in Derbyshire

1. HW2 'Increase independent living and improve quality of life' & Sust1 'improve and protect the local environment'

There is potential for these priorities to conflict if, for example, enabling people to stay in their own homes increases the number of car journeys to provide care.

Recommendation – Partners should ensure that plans for increasing independent living are subject to a sustainability appraisal so that independent living objectives can be successfully developed alongside retaining Derbyshire's high quality environmental and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

2. HW3 'Promote choice and control' & Sust1 'improve and protect the local environment'

There is potential for these priorities to conflict if, for example, people have the choice of services and therefore travel greater distances by private car to meet their health and social care needs.

Recommendation - Partners should ensure that plans for promoting choice and control are subject to a sustainability appraisal so that choice and control objectives can be successfully developed alongside retaining Derbyshire's high quality environmental and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

3. Sust1 'Improving and protecting the local environment' & Sust2 'supporting a thriving local economy and sustainable communities'

Generally there is a positive correlation between these priorities. One of Derbyshire's main strengths is its high quality environment which attracts people and businesses to the area. However, these priorities could easily conflict if local environmental protection hinders the development of the local economy. A lack of local employment for people in Derbyshire may result in more people travelling out of the county to find work (increasing travel, congestion and CO2 emissions) and higher levels of unemployment (leading to problems such as increased crime levels and family stress).

Recommendation – Partners should ensure that plans to improve and protect the environmental are subject to a sustainability appraisal and the recommendations implemented so that Derbyshire's high quality environment can be strengthened and carbon dioxide emissions reduced alongside meeting the social and economic needs of Derbyshire's communities.

4. Sust1 'Improving and protecting the local environment' & Sust3 'providing well connected communities'

Generally there is a positive correlation between these priorities. The availability of green infrastructure in Derbyshire means that there are increased opportunities for developing more sustainable methods of travel, e.g. walking and cycling. However, these priorities could easily conflict if environmental restrictions affect the ability of vulnerable people to access services. For example higher fuel prices and measures to reduce CO2 emissions may make it more difficult for services to be delivered in isolated rural areas and therefore

people in those areas may become disadvantaged, particularly those who cannot afford to use a private car.

Recommendation – Partners should ensure that environmental plans are subject to a sustainability appraisal and that recommendations are implemented so that Derbyshire’s high quality environment is retained (and carbon dioxide emissions reduced) alongside ensuring accessibility to services.

5. Sust2 ‘Supporting a thriving local economy and sustainable communities’ & Sust1 ‘improving and protecting the local environment’

Without a sustainable and integrated approach there is the risk that supporting a thriving local economy could conflict with improving and protecting the local environment. Moving towards a ‘low carbon’ local economy will help to reduce the risk of conflict between these two priorities.

Recommendation – Partners should ensure that any economic development plans (in particular tourism, food and drink, creative industries in Derbyshire) are subject to a sustainability appraisal and that recommendations are implemented so that the local economic success can be achieved alongside retaining Derbyshire’s high quality environment and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

6. Sust3 ‘Providing well connected communities’ & Sust1 ‘improve and protect the local environment’

There is the potential for these priorities to conflict if services are developed without consideration of sustainable transport and accessibility, e.g. reducing the need to travel by private car. This sustainable approach is set out in the Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Recommendation – Partners should apply sustainable transport and accessibility principles to all their activities to ensure that wherever possible services are developed in a way which reduces the need to travel (particularly by private car).

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