

COTSWOLD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

2008 - 2012



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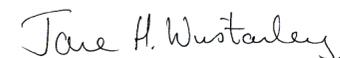
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Foreword

Welcome to the Cotswold Local Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy for the Cotswold district. The content of this strategy has developed from our consultation with partners, from the initial ideas considered at our 2006 Stakeholder Conference, through to discussion at the 2007 Conference, which started off the consultation on the draft version of this document.

The conferences were attended by representatives of parish and town councils, voluntary groups, community groups, education and all statutory services, reflecting the broad range of partners who play a part in maintaining and developing our area. The LSP has also been mindful of the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA), which came into force in early 2007, and has broadly aligned the Sustainable Community Strategy with its thematic priorities, while developing a document which seeks to address local issues and concerns.

As Chair of the Cotswold LSP I commend to you our new Sustainable Community Strategy and look forward to working with you all, to implement the strategy which in turn will benefit our communities in the Cotswold district.



Jane Winstanley
Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership

Introduction

Welcome to the Cotswold Sustainable Community Strategy. This document was developed by the Local Strategic Partnership to provide direction to its activities over the period 2008-2012. Its purpose is to set out an overall vision for Cotswold district, supported by partnership values. This will be implemented through an Action Plan, laid out in Part 2, which interprets this vision into real activities to be delivered by partner organisations – a core principle of this strategy is that these actions will be relevant and achievable. This will coordinate the actions of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate within Cotswold district.

We have consulted with partners asking them to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities to be taken into account in the development of this strategy.



Cotswold District

Cotswold district is one of the largest districts in England, with a very high quality natural and built environment. It covers an area of just over 450 square miles in the eastern part of Gloucestershire, within the South West of England. Around 70% of the district lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). With a population of just under 83,000, this means the district has a low population density compared with the regional and national averages. The district is rural in character - the largest settlement, Cirencester, has around 19,000 inhabitants. Cirencester and the other 8 market towns provide a focus for much of the economic activity and public service provision within the district.

These characteristics give Cotswold district a distinct identity and enviable reputation, but also give rise to distinct issues which we hope to address within this strategy. The attractive local environment means that property prices are high, particularly when compared with average incomes within the district, putting home ownership beyond the reach of many. In turn this can cause shortages of labour within both the private and public sectors. This problem may well be exacerbated by the new Regional Spatial Strategy, limiting the number of new properties to be developed in the district at a time of increasing demand. There is an ever-increasing number of older people in the district, which is beginning to put pressure on local social care and health provision. At the same time, the number of young people in the district will decline, further threatening our long-term economic and social well-being. Rural isolation is a key concern, particularly for younger and older people who are less likely to have access to their own transport, presenting major barriers for access to public services.

Despite the overall affluence of the district, there are pockets of deprivation, particularly within Cirencester and Tetbury. Key sectors of the economy, agriculture and tourism, typically provide a low average wage. The district has a very low number of residents from a minority ethnic background, with some 98.8% of the population classed as 'white'. However, there are significant numbers from the Gypsy and Traveller communities, occasionally giving rise to some tension, particularly around the time of the Stow Fair, a twice-annual horse fair. The district has also been a destination for in-migration, attracting significant numbers of migrant workers, predominantly from Eastern Europe, helping to address skills and labour gaps in the economy, but also creating different demands on local services.

Cotswold LSP

The Cotswold Local Strategic Partnership (LSP for short) was established in 2002. It is a partnership of the major agencies in the Cotswolds who are committed to work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits the Cotswolds.

The LSP is a group of organisations from the public, voluntary and community and private sectors, which come together voluntarily to improve the quality of life of the residents, businesses and tourists in the Cotswolds and to deliver the vision, priorities and actions in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It is governed by a partnership protocol and operates at three levels:

REFERENCE GROUP

The reference group is made up of a broad range of stakeholder organisations and will meet annually. It represents the community at large and has a dual role in that it receives feedback on progress with the delivery of the community strategy and informs the partnership of challenges or problems which need to be addressed in the future. The LSP is accountable to the reference group.

LSP MANAGEMENT BOARD

The management board makes sure that the partnership delivers its business, which is the delivery of the community strategy. The Management Board is split across three sectors, public, private and community and voluntary. It involves the following organisations:

- Cheltenham & District Citizens Advice Bureau
- Connexions Gloucestershire
- Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
- Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service
- Cotswold District Council
- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cirencester College
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Fosseway Housing Association
- Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucestershire First
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
- Private Sector – to be confirmed

Thematic Groups

The LSP has a number of Thematic Groups that deal with specific themes. Thematic Groups also feed back information and data to the Management Board and may be asked to prepare research on specific themes. The Thematic Groups are:

CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION

This is the Council's statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Membership is made up from the emergency services, health service and the local authorities. Guided by the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy (2005-2008), its main role is to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime across the district. This is achieved through the agencies working closely together, sharing vital information and finding fresh ways of tackling problems.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

This group is chaired by Cotswold District Council and brings together organisations that have concerns about people's Health and Well-being. The group works with service users, carers and the community to promote their well-being.

ECONOMY AND SKILLS

This group is chaired by the Federation of Small Businesses and brings together representatives of the business community such as Chambers of Commerce, business support agencies and learning/skills providers. Their role is to identify specific needs for the business community, to develop projects to address them and to maximise external funding opportunities.

ENVIRONMENT

The group is chaired by the Cotswolds Conservation Board and brings together environmental partners across the district. Its role is to maintain and enhance the local environment, and realise the contribution we can make at a local level to global issues such as climate change and finite resources. This is achieved through sharing of information and specific environmental projects.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIP

This group involves a wide range of organisations that are working with children and young people in the district. A Children and Young People's Plan has been developed for the district and this dovetails with the County Plan, which was created to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004, the Every Child Matters White Paper and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. More importantly, it has also been created to enable all organisations to address the issues that matter most to children, young people and their families.

The Economy and Skills Thematic Group, meeting at the Royal Agricultural College's Rural Skills Centre, a project financially supported through the LSP.



FIGURE 1 STRUCTURE OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Strategic Fit

The Cotswold Sustainable Community Strategy has to take note of various County structures and strategies, as well as having regard to regional documents. A brief overview of this strategic fit follows.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Cotswold LSP is a partner within the Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership, an overarching partnership within the County which draws together many strands of public policy and public service delivery. This enables us to influence the delivery of activities at County level, and ensure that partners' work locally within the district is additional to this.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

'Partnership of Partnerships' – representatives from thematic, sectoral and local strategic partnerships. Developing the long-term vision and provides forum for deliberation and evaluation.

ACCOUNTABLE BODIES GROUP

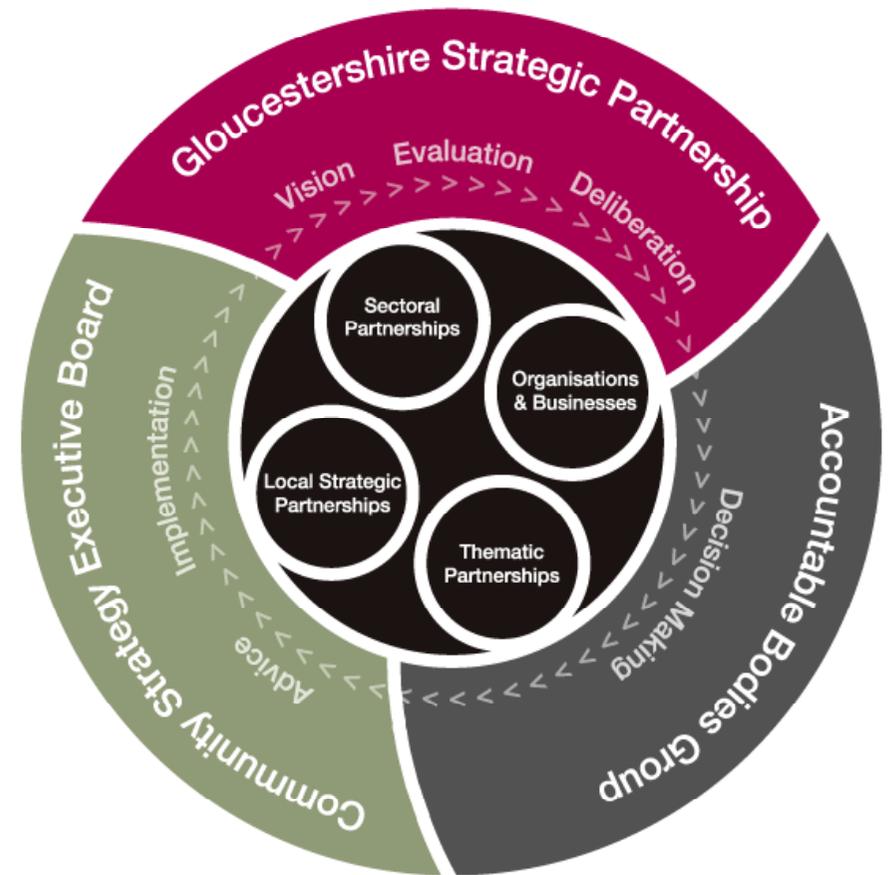
Elected and non-elected leaders of major organisations. Provides collective decision-making and allocates resources.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chief Executives and lead officers from major organisations and key partnerships. Commissions work to deliver agreed strategies and monitors progress.

These bodies are collectively known as the **'Gloucestershire Conference'**.

FIGURE 2
GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONFERENCE



OUR PLACE: OUR FUTURE-BUILDING A BETTER GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Sustainable Community Strategy for the County is 'Our Place: Our Future – Building a better Gloucestershire'. Its vision is; 'We want Gloucestershire to be a place where:

- The actions we all take today mean that Gloucestershire remains a great place to live and work, and
- We do not compromise the quality of life for future generations'

This is translated into FIVE aims:

- AIM 1:** A place where the future matters
- AIM 2:** A place where communities matter
- AIM 3:** A place where everyone matters
- AIM 4:** A place where people want to live
- AIM 5:** A place that thrives

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement between government and a partnership of local public and voluntary organisations, led by Gloucestershire County Council through the Gloucestershire Conference. It sets out how local partners will pool a range of government funding streams to deliver real improvement in outcome for local people within a specific area, making it a key delivery mechanism for 'OUR PLACE: OUR FUTURE-BUILDING A BETTER GLOUCESTERSHIRE'.

It is built around FIVE 'blocks':

- Children and Young People
- Economic Development and Enterprise
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Natural and Built Environment
- Safer and Stronger Communities

Under a Refresh process undertaken in late 2007/early 2008, the importance of affordable housing was picked up with this structure.

The LAA prioritises issues at a county level, and according to blocks of activity defined by central government. This document allows us to recognise local issues, and prioritise them appropriately for our district. It will pick up on themes within the LAA, but will set these in a Cotswold context.

Activity led by Cotswold LSP will contribute to LAA targets across a wide range of issues, but in particular around Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Older People and Safer and Stronger Communities.

REGIONAL

This strategy also needs to interpret at a local level and contribute towards regional priorities laid out in the Regional Economic Strategy, developed by the South West Regional Development Agency, the Regional Spatial Strategy and the South West Integrated Regional Strategy, both developed by the South West Regional Assembly. Please see the action plan at page 24 below to see how our local themes and priorities will complement regional aims.

This strategy has regard to the policies and strategies of all partner agencies and relevant regional strategies. The Local Government White Paper (2006) highlights the importance of community empowerment and a performance management framework. These two areas are central to the work of the LSP, enabling us to be responsive to the needs of our communities, and to evidence our achievements.

Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is made up of development documents that outline how planning will be managed in Cotswold district. The Cotswold District LDF will determine when and how development is delivered, helping to conserve the special environment of Cotswold district and identifying land which will be needed for future development. The policies set out in the plan will influence decisions on planning applications.

The vision and ambitions established by the Cotswold Sustainable Community Strategy will be taken forward in the preparation of the LDF, to provide a joined up approach to community planning, both physical and social. Effectively the LDF should be the spatial expression of this Sustainable Community Strategy. The approach adopted by the LSP and District Council in coordinating the Sustainable Community Strategy and LDF reflects the Government agenda set out in the Local Government White Paper.

How have we consulted?

Consultation is vital to the development of this Sustainable Community Strategy. The success of this strategy relies upon it presenting an accurate picture of our local communities' aspirations, providing a real and achievable direction to the work of the Local Strategic Partnership.

The 2006 Local Strategic Partnership Stakeholder conference identified a number of issues and challenges that face our communities. In March 2007, we sent out a detailed questionnaire to our LSP partners inviting them to consider these issues, and to prioritise actions under wider themes. Key stakeholder agencies have also been asked to provide details of their organisations priorities, to ensure that the strategy takes into account the direction of travel of its members. Consultation on the first draft of this Cotswold Sustainable Community Strategy was launched at the 2007 LSP Stakeholder Conference, and closed at the end of November 2007.

These comments have been incorporated where possible into this document, which has been endorsed by The LSP Board and approved by Cotswold District Council.

The LSP Annual Stakeholder Conference, 2007.



Aim and Vision

The aim of the Local Strategic Partnership is to provide leadership to ensure that organisations work together to improve the quality of life for people in Cotswold district.

By pursuing this aim, we are working to achieve our vision:

'We want healthy, safe and thriving communities in Cotswold District, supported by a strong economy and living in an attractive and sustainable environment.'

The Cotswold LSP recognises the aspirational nature of this vision, and that a broad range of issues and activities need to be considered to achieve this. Furthermore, it recognises that partners within the LSP, residents, the business community and the public sector already contribute towards this vision, through their day-to-day employment, voluntary work and social behaviour. This strategy will focus on the additional activity required to realise this vision, to provide direction to the LSP over the next few years.

The headline themes for Cotswold LSP are:

- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Housing
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Natural and Built Environment
- Economy and Skills

The themes are ranked according to the results of our consultation exercises.

In addition, the LSP recognises the importance of community cohesion and respect for diversity, and has adopted 3 core principles to ensure that its strategy and work is fair and equitable.

1) EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Cotswold LSP embraces the values of diversity, and believes that every individual should have an equal chance to live, work, learn and receive services free from discrimination and prejudice, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and broader equality issues. Demographic and economic trends mean that Cotswold district is increasingly reliant on in-migration for prosperity and service delivery. The vibrancy of Cotswold district will be enhanced if we welcome people of different beliefs and backgrounds, and integrate them into our communities.



2) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We seek to meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, across economic, environmental and social objectives.

3) QUALITY PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND AREA ENGAGEMENT

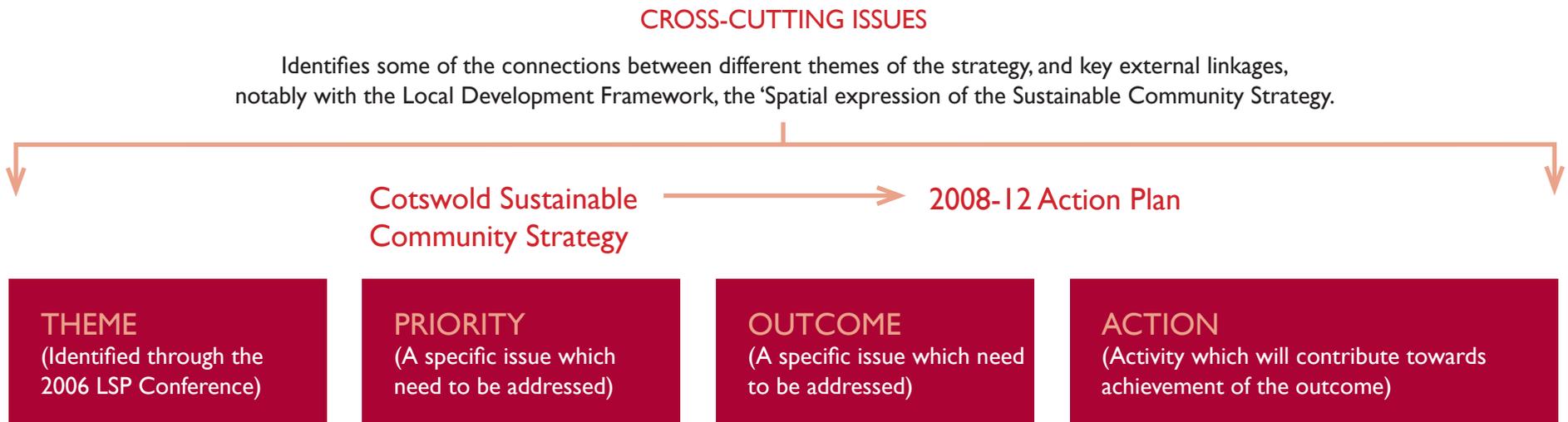
This strategy will be delivered through the Local Strategic Partnership as partners recognise that the well-being of the district can only be assured through collaboration between the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The LSP will, in all its dealings and activities, comply with the law and operate to the highest standards of probity and ethics.

While some challenges facing our communities are best addressed at a district level, the LSP recognises the importance of responding to local views and experience to achieve its overall vision. In particular we need to consider the role of our market towns, as social and commercial hubs. We need to be realistic about the type of services that can be delivered in rural areas. Nevertheless, this strategy should be ambitious and achievable.

The LSP seeks to deliver appropriate interventions, strategically targeted and delivering value for money.

FIGURE 3 METHODOLOGY



Children and Young People

RATIONALE

Cotswold LSP needs to ensure the well-being of its young people to sustain prosperity, public service and social stability. Longer life expectancy, lower birth rates and socio-economic factors, particularly the cost of housing, means that the population of the district is ageing, and will struggle to provide the workforce to ensure its prosperity and well-being unless young people can be encouraged to stay in the district.

Alongside this challenge, this theme is also important in terms of improving quality of life, both for young people and the population as a whole. Children's behaviour, often perceived as a result of parents not assuming responsibility, and a shortage of things to do, can be a key factor in crime and disorder, and anti-social behaviour and crime is often stimulated by drug and alcohol abuse, with consequent health implications. However, children and young people are more likely to be the victims of crime than the perpetrators and positive engagement with them is a critical factor underpinning this strategy's success.

PRIORITIES

We have identified a need to:

- Provide training and job opportunities.
- Improve transport facilities and access to services.
- Involve young people in all our consultation work.
- Provide more things to do locally for young people.

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Provide more things to do and places to go for young people.
- Promote training and employment opportunities for young people.

KEY PARTNERS

- Cotswold District Council.
- Gloucestershire County Council.
- Children and Young People Thematic Group.

KEY FACTS

The 0-15 population is in decline, and is expected to decline by 22% between 2001 and 2026.

The number of young people between 16-19 is expected to fall by 7.6% by 2026.

The proportion of young people in the district gaining 5 or more GCSEs is significantly higher than the national average.

While the number of people who believe that 'parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children' is a big or fairly big problem, it is lower than the national average, and has been identified as the most common problem in the district (Best Value Satisfaction Survey, 2007). Similarly, fewer people believe 'teenagers hanging around on the streets' is a big or fairly big problem than the national average, but it is the third most commonly identified problem in the district.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Cotswold district needs to encourage its young people to stay in the area, to deliver prosperity and public services in the future. This means this theme has a close relationship with the Housing theme, and the LDF in terms of housing provision and business provision. The Youth Housing Partnership Action Plan provides direction and action points and reinforces the crucial link between Housing and Children and Young People. There is also a strong link with the District Play Strategy. Recent data shows that the Cotswold district has the highest percentage of obese children in Gloucestershire. Improved play facilities and health work with children (and parents) are important measures to address this issue.

Transport and access is an important issue for Children and Young People, but is perhaps better addressed more holistically, recognising that it is a shared issue with older people, and critical for some people to access employment opportunities.

This theme closely matches the Children and Young People LAA block.

Cotswold District's Playday, 2007, supported with Second Homes Funding through the LSP.



Healthier Communities and Older People

'We need activity to reduce the level of mistrust/misunderstanding between youth and elderly people. More education to parents in particular about the health and other risks to young people of binge/underage drinking.' (quote from LSP Consultee)

RATIONALE

Cotswold district is experiencing population growth, and particularly an increase in the number of older people. It is essential that we work to maintain their quality of life and independence well into older age, and facilitate a fulfilling and active life for our residents. The rural nature of the district means that our residents face additional barriers to accessing services, and service providers face additional costs, encouraging us to look at alternative and innovative solutions.

While the general health of the district is good, preventative measures will help to maintain and improve this, and reduce the pressure on service delivery across our large and sparsely populated district. It is also vital that we address specific issues, such as pockets of ill-health and deprivation, and substance abuse – especially alcohol – through partnership approaches.

While we will target additional activity against need and age, we appreciate the need to not neglect the middle range.

PRIORITIES

We have identified a need to:

- Increase access to services in rural areas, particularly for older people.
- Improve independence and health and well being for older people.
- Implement the countywide obesity strategy.
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.
- Address carers' needs (this includes employed carers, and those looking after family members or friends).

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Increase independence at home for older people.
- Make it easier to access and find out about health and social services.
- Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs and by alcohol.
- Support the implementation of the County Obesity Strategy with a particular focus on children and young people.

KEY PARTNERS

- Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.
- Gloucestershire County Council.
- Cotswold District Council.
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.
- Cotswold CVS.
- Citizens Advice Bureau.
- The Churn.
- Gloucestershire County Council.
- Homestart.
- Fosseway Housing Association.
- Cirencester College.
- Connexions.

KEY FACTS

Cotswold district enjoys the highest quality of life in Gloucestershire – a higher proportion of residents enjoy good general health than in the county or the country as a whole. The 65+ age group is projected to increase by 29.5% between 2001 and 2026. The 85+ age group has a larger than average population and is projected to increase by 40% over the same period.

Life expectancy in the five least healthy wards is 7.1 years less than in the five healthiest.

49% of people believe that people using or dealing drugs is a significant problem, higher than the regional and national averages (Best Value). Satisfaction Survey, 2007

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

As our population lives longer, and healthier, accommodation and caring needs will change. The LDF has a role to play in this, for example in the development of Extra Care facilities within the district.

Care facilities are increasingly reliant on migrant labour, so that encouraging integration and community cohesion is vital to a stable workforce. This theme will correlate closely with the Healthier Communities and Older People LAA Block. Public and community transport plays a vital role in helping people access services.

People4You, a support service for older residents.



Falls Prevention Class in Tetbury.



Housing

RATIONALE

The population of the district is increasing steadily, with a greater increase in households. Coupled with the demand for second homes and retirement cottages in the district, this is putting increasing pressure on the housing market, and causing average house prices to rise above wage increases. It is vital that action is taken to address affordability of homes to retain and attract residents and workers to ensure social and economic stability.

PRIORITIES

We have identified a need to:

- Address the affordable housing needs of our communities.
- Improve private sector stock condition (meet the Decent Homes standard).
- Meet the needs of the homeless.
- Understand the housing market and needs of our communities.
- Improve marketing of Shared Ownership.
- Promote energy efficient and affordable homes.

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Facilitate appropriate housing to meet the needs of our residents.
- Improve the condition of private sector dwellings.
- Meet the needs of the homeless through appropriate advice and support and permanent accommodation.

KEY PARTNERS

- Fosseway Housing Association.
- Cotswold District Council.
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- Private Sector Landlords.
- Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.
- Cotswolds Staying Put.
- Gloucestershire Housing Association.
- Gloucestershire County Council.

KEY FACTS

The average house price is approximately 13.8 times the average annual wage.

Although the population is predicted to remain fairly stable, current trends predict that the number of households will increase at a greater rate, with an extra 3,500 between 2006-2026.

Since 2001 house prices have risen by 75%.

46% of surveyed residents identified Affordable Decent Housing as one of the top 5 things in making somewhere a good place to live (Cotswold District Council, Best Value General Survey 2006/07). 48% of people surveyed rated this issue as most in need of improvement.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Appropriate housing provision is at the very heart of the Sustainable Community Strategy, underpinning the health of our settlements and sustainability of the population. This theme has the strongest spatial element, and therefore the strongest link across to the LDF.



Safer and Stronger Communities

RATIONALE

Safer and Stronger is concerned with tackling crime, and fear of crime, but also the underlying strength of communities, covering issues as diverse as population maintenance, migration and consultation. While crime figures in the district are relatively low, fear of crime has a debilitating effect on people's quality of life, and needs to be tackled to ensure strong and vibrant communities. Quality of life within the district is very good, but it is dependent on a wide range of factors which should not be taken for granted.

'Visible policing has had a positive effect on the community. Neighbourhood policing should provide the opportunity to hear at a very local level about people's concerns' (Quote from LSP Consultee)

PRIORITIES

We have identified a need to:

- Reduce the fear of crime in our communities.
- To engage with young people (16-25 years old) youth organisations, parish councils and extended services to reduce the impact of crime on their lives and other people's lives.
- Support local communities to keep their local facilities.
- Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision-making and in service delivery and increasing the capacity of communities to take voluntary action in order to create more vibrant and thriving communities.

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Reduce the fear of crime in our communities.
- Reduce overall crime in the district.
- Involve communities in decisions affecting their local area.

KEY PARTNERS

- Gloucestershire Constabulary.
- Cotswold District Council.
- Fosseway Housing Association.
- Town and Parish Councils.
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.
- Cotswold Council for Voluntary Service.
- Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust.
- Gloucestershire County Council.
- Gloucestershire Fire Service.

KEY FACTS

The level of fear of crime is far higher than the actual likelihood of becoming a victim. Similarly the level of offences is lower than local communities perceive – for example drug dealing is widely perceived as a problem but the number of reported offences is very low.

Most Crime and Disorder is concentrated around the larger settlements. Cirencester and the surrounding area accounts for the majority of offences, with lower 'peaks' in Tetbury, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold and Fairford.

Car ownership in Cotswold district is higher than the national average due to a combination of local affluence and the poor availability of public transport.

Some 98.8% of the Cotswold population are classified as 'white', significantly higher than the national figure of 87%.

Cotswold District Council Budget Consultation.



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

While overall levels of crime within the district are reassuringly low, there has been a slight increase in recent years in crime perpetrated by young people. There will be a strong correlation between this theme and the Children and Young People theme. This theme tracks the LAA Safer and Stronger Communities block, and will particularly pick up on the principle of Equality and Diversity.

This theme reflects the need for the strategy to be spatially balanced across the district, and not to neglect the needs of smaller communities, but it also highlights the importance of consultation and responsiveness to community needs.

The Natural and Built Environment

RATIONALE

The quality of our natural and built environment is a key asset of Cotswold district, for residents, tourists and businesses, and must be maintained to realise our vision. At the same time, we need to recognise this is a living environment, shaped by centuries of human activity. We need to respond to the changing demands of our residents, businesses and visitors, with appropriate development, in a manner sympathetic to this environment.

Alongside this, we also need to recognise the contribution we can make at a local level to global issues such as climate change, air quality and finite resources.

'A cleaner, more environmentally friendly, respected environment can have a huge impact upon quality of life. It can improve people's mental and physical well-being'. (Quote from LSP Consultee).

Dealing with our domestic and commercial waste is now recognised as an absolute necessity. The cost and opportunities for landfill are now limited, so that recycling has become both an environmental objective and a fiscal necessity. While domestic waste removal and disposal rests with the District and County authorities respectively, we need to work in broad partnership to reduce waste creation, and to tackle commercial waste outside the statutory responsibility of the local authorities.

PRIORITIES

Our consultation has identified a need to:

Natural and Built Environment:

- Improve our energy efficiency.
- Develop more sustainable buildings and developments.
- Prevent and mitigate against the impact of climate change.

Waste:

- Encourage the reduction, reuse and recycling of domestic and commercial waste.

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Reduce domestic and commercial waste.
- Improve our domestic and commercial energy efficiency.
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment of Cotswold district.

KEY PARTNERS

- Cotswold Conservation Board.
- Cotswold District Council.
- Cotswold Water Park Society.
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
- Environment Agency.
- Gloucestershire County Council.
- Land and Property Owners.

KEY FACTS

The district has 6,000 listed buildings – one of the highest numbers in England.

It has a further 3,850 sites of interest and 266 scheduled ancient monuments – the highest concentration in any district in England and Wales.

The AONB designation is in part based on the characteristics of the farmed landscape of the Cotswolds, but the agricultural sector is changing, bringing new challenges.

The Cotswold Water Park has a greater area of freshwater lakes than the Norfolk Broads.

Household waste in the district recycled and composted was 41% in 2006/07, substantially higher than the County average of 33%, and the highest rate in the County.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

This theme will link in closely with Market Towns and parish council based issues, as these third tier public authorities have substantial influence over this theme.

One of the roles of the LDF is to protect the character of the built and natural environment within the district, while allowing the development necessary to meet our housing and business requirements.



Economy and Skills

Our local economy is in good health, creating the wealth necessary for residents and communities to thrive. We have high employment. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. Earnings within the district are low compared with the cost of living. The high employment rate means that many businesses face skills and labour shortages, and our strong tourism sector is vulnerable to global events beyond our control. In some sectors, particularly hospitality and agriculture, we are heavily reliant on in-migration.

PRIORITIES

Our consultation has identified a need to:

- Encourage people to buy locally.
- Increase access to appropriate skills training.
- Improve the affordability and availability of business premises.
- Improve our understanding of community and business skills needs.
- Develop specific sectors within the economy, including promotion of tourism and arts and crafts.

OUTCOMES

By 2012, we will:

- Increase access to appropriate skills training.
- Support businesses to prosper in Cotswold district.
- Develop the economic potential of our rural environment, while protecting the exceptional quality of the countryside for future generations.

KEY PARTNERS

- Federation of Small Businesses.
- Gloucestershire First.
- Business Link / Gloucestershire Enterprise Business Services.
- Chambers of Commerce.
- The Learning and Skills Council.
- Cirencester College.
- Royal Agricultural College.
- Cotswold District Council.
- Parklife.
- Gloucestershire County Council.

KEY FACTS

The number of VAT business registrations in the district increased by 445 between 2001-2006, taking the total stock to 5,095 in 2006.

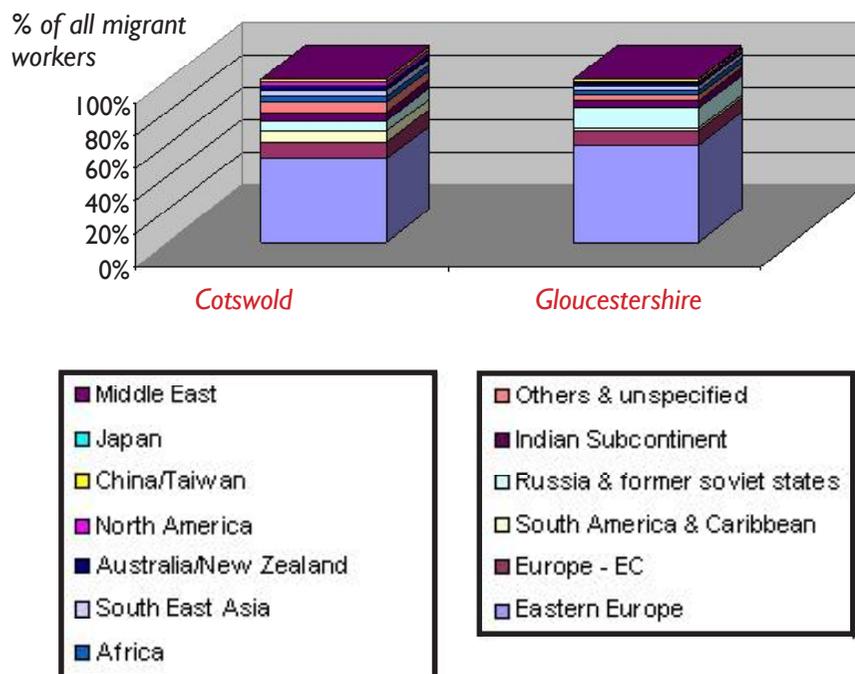
Over 64% of people who work in the district do so for a company that employs fewer than 50 people.

Employment in 'distribution, hotels and restaurants' is particularly significant in Cotswold district (nearly 34%). Overall the service sector accounts for 82% of jobs.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

This theme relates closely to the Children and Young People theme, as it is vital that our young people are equipped to sustain the prosperity of the district. This also relies on a supply of labour to fill vacancies, which needs access to affordable housing. Our market towns and larger villages are the focal point of much of the economic activity of the district.

The economic development of the district relies on the LDF providing a planning framework which will allow appropriate development, without undermining the quality of place in the Cotswolds which is one of our primary economic assets.



All Migrant Workers 2003-2007 by Region of Origin

Cross cutting issues

In addition to the issues raised above in relation to the six headline themes, there are a number of key issues which cut right across the remit of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and which must be considered in order to deliver the Aim and Vision of this Strategy. It will be the task of the Thematic Chairs Group to ensure that these issues are addressed, and to oversee performance against actions planned to address these issues.

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

As a rural district, with a dispersed population, physical access is a critical factor across the breadth of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This issue affects in particular children and young people and older people, two age groups prioritised through the strategy themes, and those without the financial means to afford their own transport. Addressing this barrier is therefore essential in addressing social exclusion.

MIGRATION

In common with many rural areas, Cotswold district is experiencing out-migration of its younger population, which, together with longer life expectancy, is raising the age profile of the district. However, Cotswold district is also experiencing in-migration, attracting significant number of migrant workers particularly from Eastern Europe, but also from further afield. We must take actions to mitigate against potentially negative consequences of these population flows, be it attracting labour into those vacancies unlikely to be filled from within the local labour market, or encouraging social cohesion.

CULTURE

The cultural offer of the district is part of the tourism offer, which contributes so much to the economy of the district. However, it is also a key factor in place-shaping, in giving people a sense of belonging and well-being, and therefore a factor affecting retention of young people in the district, and in active and fulfilling life for residents and our older people. Our cultural offer cannot be viewed in isolation from the quality of our natural and built environment.

Monitoring and Review

This Sustainable Community Strategy aims to deliver things for local people and to address local issues. For this reason it is important that partners know whether or not the Strategy is succeeding.

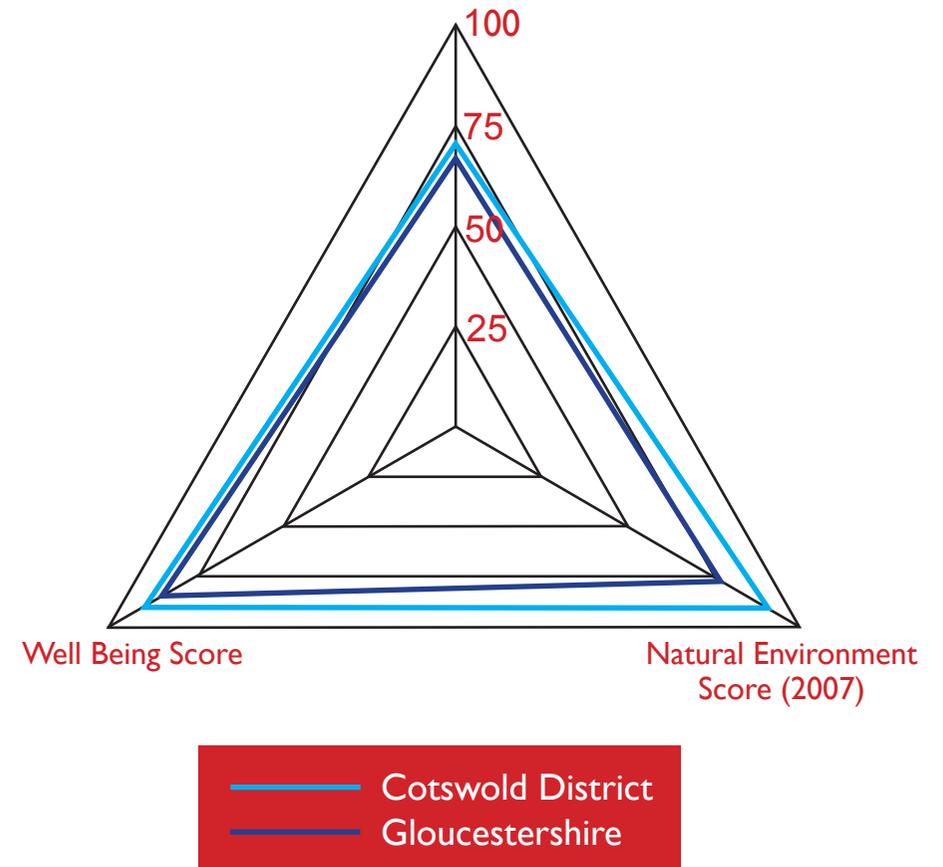
The Local Strategic Partnership Management Board will therefore monitor the progress of this strategy. It will do this in three ways.

OVERALL VIEW

Firstly, the Partnership will monitor to what extent Cotswold district is a sustainable community. The diagram opposite is a graphical representation of how Cotswold district rates as a sustainable community; that is, an area which balances economic, social and environmental issues. The current high scores against each of the axes verifies our positive view of the district and its future, but the partnership is aware that emerging challenges could affect this if appropriate action is not taken.

MAIDeN is undertaking further work on the methodology for producing this diagram in order to be able to benchmark the Gloucestershire and District Sustainable Community Strategies. The aim is to produce a diagram such as this to be updated annually to show whether there is a change in any of the trends. From this the Partnership will be able to see whether the Strategy's view of the district and therefore its overall aim and vision are still appropriate and whether action is required to address new issues.

Economic Competitiveness Score



PLACE SURVEY

The Partnership will also monitor quality of life in the District by the results of the Place Survey. This is a survey which will be carried out every 2 years and it aims to find out people's views and perceptions about their local area. By carrying out the survey every two years changes in how people feel about the area can be tracked and will give an indication of whether the actions taken by partners have resulted in better outcomes. Some of the questions in the Place Survey will be the same throughout the country, but the survey will also be able to contain some which are specific to this area and link to this Strategy's priorities. The questions to be asked in the survey have not yet been determined.

The Place Survey will be designed to give a measure for the national indicators set out on the right. In the first year of the Place Survey, a baseline for these indicators will be established and targets set for the future. Partners will then be able to judge the impact that their actions have had and see the areas which need attention.

ACTION PLANS

The other method which the Partnership intends to use to measure progress is through monitoring the Strategy's Action Plans, set out in Part 2 of this Strategy. The Action Plan sets out the actions required to meet key outcomes for each theme, and relates to additional actions required (as opposed to the normal work which partners will undertake). The Action Plan will be monitored every four months and will be updated annually.

NI 1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood.
NI 3	Civic Participation in the local area.
NI 4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area.
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering.
NI 10	Visits to museums or galleries.
NI 17	Perceptions of anti social behaviour.
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police.
NI 22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area.
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat each other with respect and consideration.
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police.
NI 37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area.
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem.
NI 42	Perception of drug use or drug dealing as a problem.
NI 119	Self reported measure of people's overall health and well-being.
NI 137	Healthy Life Expectancy at age 65.
NI 138	Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood.
NI 139	People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently.
NI 140	Fair treatment by local services.

Part 2 - Action Plan

This Action Plan translates the themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy into key outcomes, and actions which will help to achieve these. This is not intended to be a catalogue of all the work that the LSP partners will undertake, but instead to highlight those key additional actions required to achieve the vision of the Strategy. Accordingly, actions have been identified which will require the involvement of a number of LSP partners, and which will be subject to scrutiny by the relevant thematic groups. The partner who will lead on the actual delivery is identified in bold.

The Strategy itself covers the period 2008-2012. While the Action Plan will cover the same period, it will be subject to review.

Children and Young People

Outcome 1.1: By 2012, we will provide things to do and place to go for young people.				
Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
'Summer off the Streets' is a project designed to provide young people with things to do and places to see, tackling issues of access and helping to reduce anti-social behaviour. This project will specifically undertake activities engaging with young people with disabilities.	Increased involvement in physical activity Improvement in emotional health and well-being of children and young people Reduction in anti-social behaviour.	Children and Young People Thematic Group. Crime and Disorder Thematic Group. Cotswold District Council.	Commenced summer 2007.	As well as providing accessible and inclusive activities for young people, which should improve their health and well-being, this project is also expected to help reduce anti-social behaviour.
Implement the seven standards of the Hear by Right.	Achievement of the Hear by Rights Standard.	Children and Young People Thematic Group.	Ongoing.	Positive engagement with young people is a vital part of community engagement and quality partnership working, and so impacts across the full remit of the LSP.
Implement the Children and Young People Thematic Partnership Action Plan and the Play Strategy Action Plan.	Achievement of the Young People Partnership Action Plan and the Play Strategy Action Plan.	Children and Young People's Partnership.	Ongoing.	

Outcome 1.2: By 2012, we will promote training and employment opportunities for young people.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Continue and extend the Cotswold Work Experience award.	Increased awareness of employment opportunities.	<p>Children and Young People's Partnership.</p> <p>Economy and Skills Thematic Group.</p>	Summer 2008.	It is important for the long term demographic stability of the district to encourage young people to take advantage of the training and employment opportunities within the area.
Explore the opportunities for joint work with the Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	Improved employment opportunities for young people.	<p>Children and Young People. Thematic Group.</p> <p>Economy and Skills Thematic Group.</p>	Spring 2008.	

Healthier Communities and Older People

Outcome 2.1: By 2012, we will increase independence at home for older people.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Implement the Health and Well Being Strategy and Action Plan, to increase independence at home – i.e. falls preventions, support for carers.	Reduction in the number of people aged 75 or over admitted to hospital with fractured femur. Increased range of range of voluntary support services A sitting service for carers.	Cotswold District Council. Gloucestershire PCT. Health and Well-being Partnership.	Ongoing.	This actions aligns with the Local Area Agreement Outcome, HCOP 3, supporting independence, health and well-being for those over 75.
Facilitate the development of at least two extra-care housing schemes.	1 extra care scheme at Kingshill South. 1 extra care scheme in Cirencester. A total of 80 extra care units.	CDC, Hanover HA. CDC, Fosseway HA. Bedfordshire Pilgrims HA. GCC.	Completion by 2012.	Strong alignment with 'Housing'. As extra care schemes are likely to be physical developments, the LDF will have a bearing in this action.

Outcome 2.2: By 2012, we will make it easier to access and find out about health services.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Improve understanding of health inequalities within the district through the LAA and MAIDeN.	Robust analysis of health inequalities within Cotswold district.	Health and Well-being Partnership.	Ongoing.	Equality and community engagement are important cross-cutting themes of this Strategy.

Outcome 2.3: By 2012, we will reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs and by alcohol.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
<p>'Cotswold District Drug and Alcohol Project'.</p> <p>To reduce alcohol and drug related harm, meeting unmet need in the Cotswolds, engaging with young people.</p>	<p>A reduction in alcohol related episodes and alcohol related hospital admission.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of people who believe drugs and alcohol are a problem in their area.</p>	<p>Crime and Disorder Partnership.</p> <p>Health and Well-Being Partnership.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Drug and Alcohol Service.</p>	<p>Commenced autumn 2007, and ending autumn 2008.</p>	<p>This project will also help to address crime and disorder issues in the district, and address some of the issues raised under Children and Young People.</p>

Outcome 2.4: Implement the Countywide Obesity Strategy.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
<p>Take forward actions arising from the emerging countywide obesity strategy.</p>	<p>Reduced incidence of obesity in the district.</p>	<p>Health and Well-being Partnership.</p> <p>Cotswold District Council.</p> <p>Gloucestershire PCT.</p>	<p>Commencing 2008/09.</p>	<p>This action will be complemented by activities for young people, such as 'Summer of the Streets' which encourages physical activity for young people.</p>

Housing

Outcome 3.1: By 2012, we will facilitate appropriate housing to meet the needs of our residents.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Continue close liaison with developers and Registered Social Landlords to provide up to 50% affordable housing on new development sites.	1430 affordable properties by 2012.	Cotswold District Council. Fosseway HA, other Registered Social Landlords.	Ongoing.	The Regional Spatial Strategy provides guidance in this area.
Facilitate access to shared ownership by partnership working with developers, Registered Social Landlords and HomeBuy agents.	A minimum of 100 people benefiting from shared ownership schemes.	HomeView, CDC, Fosseway HA, other Registered Social Landlords.	Ongoing.	The Housing Strategy 2005-2008 details the requirements for Housing delivery within Cotswold district.
Update the Cotswold District Housing Strategy, informed by the Gloucestershire Housing Market Assessment The updated CDC Housing Strategy will apply from 2008-2010, after which a county-wide Housing Strategy will be in place.	An updated Housing Strategy for Cotswold district, informed by up to date research.	Cotswold District Council, in partnership with other Local Authorities and the Registered Social Landlords. New county-wide Strategy will involve partnership with the other Gloucestershire LAs.	To be completed in 2008. County-wide strategy to be completed 2010.	This document will need to pay close attention to Local Development Framework and the implications of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Outcome 3.2: By 2012, we will improve the condition of private sector dwellings.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Increase the number of dwellings occupied by vulnerable people which meet the decent homes standard.	45 Homes per annum meeting the decent homes standard.	Cotswold District Council.	2007/08 – 2009/10.	This action forms part of the Local Area Agreement NBE 1.

Outcome 3.3: By 2012, we will improve the condition of private sector dwellings.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Work closely with HomeView to implement homelessness prevention strategy.	<p>A 50% reduction in the number of households applying under the Homelessness legislation and a commensurate fall in the number of acceptances under that legislation.</p> <p>A Private Sector Leasing scheme to allow homeless applicants, and households threatened with homelessness, to move into privately rented accommodation.</p>	<p>HomeView, CDC, Fosseway HA, other Registered Social Landlords.</p> <p>CDC in partnership with Gloucestershire Housing Association.</p>	<p>This action will be implemented via the Homelessness Strategy 2006-2008.</p> <p>The scheme commenced in 2007, with growing numbers thereafter.</p>	

Safer and Stronger Communities

Outcome 4.1: By 2012, we will reduce the fear of crime in our communities.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Deliver the CDRP Plan, focusing on communication and Neighbourhood Management Areas, to reduce the gap between perceptions of crime and the reality.	Reduced fear of crime NI 17 Perceptions of anti social behaviour NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and police.	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.	March 2009.	
Engage with the Vision for Cirencester to 'design out crime'.	A forward plan for town centre development which should make Cirencester safer and increase perceptions of safety.	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Cotswold District Council.	Underway.	The Vision for Cirencester will need to take into account many of the priorities of the LSP, and as a spatial planning document, will be closely aligned with the Local Development Framework.

Outcome 4.2: By 2012, we will reduce overall crime in the district.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Work through the Hate Crime Reduction Partnership with Stroud to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour against minorities and to encourage positive integration.	Annual Event.	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.	First event took place in autumn 2007 and will continue per annum following.	While the number of ethnic minorities within the district are low, and there is a low incidence of hate crime, increased in-migration could affect this.

(Continued) **Outcome 4.2: By 2012, we will reduce overall crime in the district.**

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Engage with businesses to develop 'Factory Watch' and other schemes to protect commercial property.	Lower rates of theft and criminal damage against business premises.	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Parklife.	Spring 2008.	A reduction in the instances of crime against businesses should complement activity to help businesses develop addressed through Economy and Skills.

Outcome 4.3: By 2012, we will involve communities in decisions affecting their local area.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Develop a multi-agency approach to area based work through Neighbourhood Policing, to increase responsiveness to local needs while minimising duplication.	A coordinated approach to consultation and service delivery.	Cotswold Local Strategic Partnership. Gloucestershire Police. Cotswold District Council.	Ongoing.	Many aspects of the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and its constituent organisations need to be considered within a local context and therefore this approach will affect work across the full remit of the LSP.
Continue to deliver an annual LSP conference, inviting all parish and town councils and agencies operating in the district.	Increased community engagement with the work of the LSP.	Cotswold Local Strategic Partnership.	Per annum.	The annual conference provides an opportunity for residents to engage with the Local Strategic Partnership across the full breadth of its work.

Natural and Built Environment

Outcome 5.1: By 2012, we will reduce domestic and commercial waste.				
Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Support the 'Y Waste' initiative to reduce commercial waste within Cotswold district.	Reduction in the level of commercial waste created by the districts businesses.	Y Waste. Environment Thematic Group Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	Commenced autumn 2007, with a view to establishing sustainable activity within Cotswold district.	Waste reduction is increasingly a factor in business competitiveness, and so also affects the Economy and Skills agenda.
Lead by example by encouraging organisations within the LSP (and their employees/members) to take responsibility for reducing their own waste and increasing recycling.	Reduction in waste and increased levels of recycling.	LSP Membership.	Commencing winter/spring 2008.	While Cotswold District Council has a statutory obligation to collect domestic waste and recycling, it is the responsibility of every organisation and individual to consider how they can reduce their own waste.
Implementation of Cotswold District Council's Waste Redesign.	NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted. 2006/07 baseline 41%. 08/09 Target 52%.	Cotswold District Council.	Publicity autumn 2007, with a rollout in February 2008.	As above – this will help manage waste, and reduce its environmental impact.

Outcome 5.2: By 2012, we will improve our domestic and commercial energy efficiency.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Raising Awareness of Renewable Energy in the Cotswolds (Severn Wye Energy Agency).	<p>Installation of renewable energy systems.</p> <p>Schools engaged in climate change related activities.</p>	Severn Wye Energy Agency.	Commenced late summer 2007, and running until September 2008.	<p>The project aims to work with at least two schools, engaging young people with a topical issue, helping to contribute to the aims of the 'Children and Young People' theme.</p> <p>The Local Development Framework will need to take into account issues around renewable energy installations.</p>
Implementation of Gloucestershire's Warm and Well Scheme within Cotswold District.	Reduction in domestic CO ₂ .	Gloucestershire Warm and Well.	Ongoing since 2001.	

Outcome 5.3: By 2012, we will improve and maintain the environmental quality of Cotswold district.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Work with West Oxfordshire and other partners to develop a LEADER Programme through the Rural Development Programme –England (RDPE) to cover much of Cotswold district, which will reflect environmental considerations.	A Leader programme, which will reflect the high environmental quality of Cotswold District, and encourage economic and social development sympathetic to our natural environment.	Cotswold District Council. LSP Board. Cotswold Conservation Board. Cotswold Interregional Partnership Local Action Group.	Programme application – January 2008. Programme implementation – summer 2008-2013.	The LEADER programme is primarily socio-economic, but has a strong environmental strand. As such it may also present opportunities under Economy and Skills and Children and Young People.
Progress Strategic Nature Area work via the LSP Environment Thematic group.	Landscape designed to help wildlife adapt to climate change.	LSP Membership.	Ongoing.	This work item aligns with the Local Area Agreement NBE 3.
Work in partnership to reduce the Carbon Footprint of Cotswold District.	Reduction in CO2 output of the district.	Cotswold District Council.	While some work is underway, additional actions will be developed throughout the lifetime of the strategy.	

Economy and Skills

Outcome 6.1: By 2012, we will increase access to appropriate skills for business.				
Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Able2 – a venue in Moreton in Marsh that will provide access to learning opportunities both to the whole community and to special interest groups within it i.e. learning difficulties, physical disabilities, people in search of up-skilling opportunities.	Two young people 16-18 per annum in employment, education or training. Two 19 year olds achieving level 2 qualification per annum, Five adults achieving level 2 qualification.	Able 2. Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	The project is expected to start in early 2008, and will deliver skills training in the years following.	This project is expected to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training, a key output for the Children and Young People LAA block. It will also help to address the difficulties facing residents in accessing services by providing a training facility within the North Cotswolds.
Rural and Heritage Skills Centre (Royal Agricultural College) to deliver skills and training necessary to maintain both the built and the natural environment within the Cotswolds area.	25 Business pre-starts. 20 businesses surviving 24 months and showing an increase in staff numbers. 30 adults achieving NVQ 2. 6 adults achieving NVQ 3.	Royal Agricultural College. Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	Refurbishment commenced in late summer 2007, and will be completed winter/spring 2008.	This project will also contribute to the Build and Natural Environment by providing individuals and businesses with the skills to maintain the Cotswolds' sense of place.
Support mainstream education to deliver training appropriate to the needs of businesses within the district.	A wide range of training courses, including courses aimed at businesses, such as Train to Gain and Hospitality and Tourism.	Cirencester College. Royal Agricultural College. Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	Ongoing.	NVQ or equivalent qualifications are a key target of the Local Area Agreement EDE2. This action will have a focus.

(Continued) **Outcome 6.1: By 2012, we will increase access to appropriate skills for business.**

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
	Cirencester College also hosts a Centre of Vocational Excellence for Finance.			on young people, and thereby supports priority 1, Children and Young People.

Outcome 6.2: By 2012, we will support businesses to prosper in Cotswold district.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Gloucestershire First will continue to deliver its Investor Support Programme.	Increased information flow between large companies and Local Strategic Partnerships, via Gloucestershire First.	Gloucestershire First.	Ongoing.	Ongoing liaison with larger companies is vital as any changes can have a heavy impact on their immediate locality. Please note that this activity also forms part of the EDE Block of the Local Area Agreement and should not be considered as additional activity to this.
Gloucestershire First will continue to deliver its Land and Property Service. Cotswold District has a limited amount of land and premises available to business. Gloucestershire First will work to attract businesses into, and maintain businesses within, the most appropriate locations within Gloucestershire.	Businesses encouraged to locate or relocate within the area.	Gloucestershire First.	Ongoing.	The Regional Spatial Strategy and consequently the Local Development Framework allow for little additional development of business land and premises in the district, so use of the existing capacity needs to be well-managed.

(Continued) **Outcome 6.2: By 2012, we will support businesses to prosper in Cotswold district.**

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Support to Gloucestershire Enterprise Business Services to deliver subsidised business support to Small and Medium sized businesses in the district.	150 Small and Medium sized Enterprises accessing subsidised business support by April 2008. 150 per annum thereafter, subject to continuance of existing arrangements.	Gloucestershire Enterprise Business Service. Cotswold District Council. Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	First year of this arrangement was 07/08, with similar provision anticipated for 08/09.	
Support businesses to inform and influence specific issues; LDF, criminal damage, MCTI.	Improved communication with business clusters in the district.	Economy and Skills Thematic Group.	Ongoing.	

Outcome 6.3: By 2012, we will develop the economic potential of our rural environment, while protecting the exceptional quality of the countryside for future generations.

Priority Action	Deliverables	Who will deliver	When	Cross-cutting issues
Work with West Oxfordshire and other partners to develop a Rural Development Programme – England 'LEADER' Programme to cover much of Cotswold district.	A RDPE Programme, running through till 2013 and delivering a basket of outputs.	Cotswold Local Strategic Partnership. Cotswold District Council.	2008-2013.	LEADER is formed part of the Rural Development Programme for England, financed by DEFRA and the European Union. While the programme is economic in focus, it should also pick up on other issues important to this strategy, such as access to services and children and young people.

This document can be produced in Braille, large print, audio tape and in other languages.

If you would like a copy in one of these formats, please contact:

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