

Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy

Tony Stott
ABC Meeting
6th May 2008



Introduction

- Focus – Charnwood Sustainable Strategy
- Background
 - Development of Sustainable Community Strategies
- Area Forums (Neil)
- Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy

Sustainable Communities

- Government promoting Sustainable Communities
- Sustainable Community – What is it?
- Components
 - Active, inclusive and safe – sense of belonging
 - Well run – effective participation and leadership
 - Environmentally sensitive
 - Well designed and built – create sense of place
 - Well connected – good transport
 - Thriving – flourishing and diverse local economy
 - Well served – services that meet people's needs
 - Fair for everyone – including future generations

Organisational Structures

- Department for Communities and Local Government
 - sets
 - Framework for policies – Sustainable Communities
 - Structures and Processes – Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements
 - Performance and Audit Regime – indicators and reviews
- Local Strategic Partnerships
 - Partnerships across public, private and voluntary sectors
 - Task to create shared vision for embedding sustainability into local community through Sustainable Community Strategy
 - Establish strategy and deliver in accordance with government and local targets through local area agreements (LAAs)
 - Strategic Partnerships

Key terms

- **Local Strategic Partnership**
 - “brings together the views of the local private, voluntary and community sectors with the sustainable community strategy in an area, to turn the vision of a sustainable community into a reality.”
- **Sustainable Community Strategy**
 - “creates a long-term, sustainable vision in an area and sets the agenda for priorities in the local area agreement.”
- **Local Area Agreement (LAA)**
 - “A three year ‘contract’ between a local area (represented by the local authority and other partners through the local strategic partnership) and central Government to deliver particular priorities as set out in its sustainable community strategy.”

Source:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/advice/local/localleadership.htm>

Performance Focus

- Place shaping agenda
 - Focus on priorities that will make town, village or community better place to live
 - Emphasis on area based service delivery through partnership working
- LAA Targets
 - 35 negotiated targets (alongside 18 statutory and early years targets)
- Performance Framework
 - Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
 - Focus on delivery of outcomes for the area rather than performance of individual institutions

Leicestershire and Charnwood

- **Two LSPs - Leicestershire Together and Charnwood Together**
 - Interconnected but not in hierarchical relationship
 - Two Sustainable Community Strategies – linked with Charnwood needing to fit within broad vision of County Strategy
 - Delivered through County LAA in which Charnwood Together is a participant
 - Local Authorities major players in each partnership
- **Sustainable Community Strategies – where are we?**
 - Leicestershire Together
 - new strategy has been approved
 - Working up the new LAA agreement (due to be signed off in June)
 - Charnwood Together
 - Draft to Board 7 May followed by consultation
- **Area Forums - over to Neil**

Current Charnwood Community Strategy

- Vision – “An improved quality of life for everyone living and working in Charnwood”
- Based on 4 supporting themes:
 - People Matter – nurture healthy and strong and accessible communities
 - Places Matter – creating safe and liveable areas
 - Prosperity Matters – maximising opportunities for a dynamic Charnwood economy
 - Partnership Matters – supporting and developing joined up thinking and action

Current Strategy Action Areas

- Cross Borough perspective with focus on particular priority areas or locations
- Some of the action areas:
 - Deprivation and inequalities in most deprived communities
 - Community Cohesion and creating stronger communities
 - Promotion of local achievement and sense of pride
 - Climate Change – leading by example
 - Competitiveness, growth and learning

Developing the New Strategy

- Responding to changing demands of Government
 - Emphasis on delivery and local communities (place)
 - Pressures of LAA and CAA
- Working in partnership with County
- Evidence base
 - Views of Area Forums (local information)
- Interconnection with the Local Development Framework
- Shaped by Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- Strategy important as ‘strategic vision’ or framework range of delivery / action plans
- Focus on ‘place’ – sets out priorities for different communities within Charnwood

Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 to 2013/14

- Key Themes remain
- Issues about
 - People – social inclusion inequalities and deprivation, healthy living, effective combination of local services, crime and accessibility
 - Places – cleaner, greener and safer living environments, transport, protection of local identities, landscapes and environment, and climate change
 - Prosperity – investing in future jobs, buildings and services, especially sustainability of towns and villages
 - Partnership – working together across all sectors
- Community Focus
 - Difference with previous strategy: identifiable priorities for each community
 - Different priorities to be pursued in each community
 - Links with Area Forums

Delivering the Strategy

- Delivery of parts of the strategy contributes to achievement of the LAA targets for Leicestershire
 - e.g. addressing social exclusion, increasing educational attainment contributes to LAA target of “improved life chances for vulnerable individuals and families”
 - e.g. reducing contributions to climate change through transport measures contributes to LAA target “Growth of road congestion is reduced”
- Delivery Groups
 - Previous strategy had series of delivery groups involving Charnwood Together Board Members and others partners
 - Stronger Communities Group
 - Climate Change Strategy Group,
 - New or reconstituted groups will be established to create delivery action plans and targets
 - Delivery will involve borough wide actions but there will be much stronger emphasis upon delivery at community level

Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework

- Strategy sets vision about the future of Charnwood
- Has spatial dimension underlying it
 - Transport networks
 - Location of housing, green spaces, employment, shopping and other facilities
- LDF provides the spatial and physical dimension
 - Many aspects need to be delivered through the planning system

Implications for ABC

- How to respond to Strategy consultation?
- Are Area Forums useful channels for expressing our views?
- How do we examine the LDF?
- Will the Sustainable Communities Act help?