

West Cheshire Together

Working in partnership for local people

Report title	West Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy Delivery Planning: Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership
Description	The West Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out the 15 year vision for improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough. Work is now beginning on a delivery plan to follow the completion of the current Local Area Agreement (LAA) which comes to an end on 31 st March 2011. This required in order to prepare for the next round of LAA, or whatever replaces it.
Document purpose	This report set out the changing context for consideration of what the focus of partnership working through the LSP should be. Following consideration of the priorities of the Coalition Government around partnership working, key activities locally are identified. Partners are then asked to suggest what should be the priority issues for joint working through the LSP over the period 2011-14.
Circulation list	West Cheshire Together Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership
Decision/Action required	In order to contribute to the development of Partners on the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give consideration to which aspects of the Sustainable Community Strategy they would prioritise for attention over the short term (the next 0-3 years) and in particular <i>what their top priority would be</i> b. Give consideration to which performance measures they would wish the LSP to retain, given the uncertainty around the future of the national indicator set.
Author	Andrea Mageean
Contact details	01244 977561 andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Publication date	6 September 2010

1.0 Context

1.1 At its meeting on 25 February 2010, West Cheshire Together approved the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Together we Can Aim High' as the vision we will work together to achieve over the next 15 years. The Strategy was also adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council on the same day.

1.2 Current government guidance is that whilst the SCS sets out the overarching vision statement for the future of the area, the 3 year local area agreement (LAA) is the delivery plan for this vision. The current LAA comes to an end on 31 March 2011. At present it is not clear whether the LAAs or the National Indicator set will continue. Current intelligence suggests that if they do they will be streamlined and National Indicators are likely to be supported by more locally determined performance measures. They would be likely to be negotiated outwards with citizens rather than upwards with Government.

1.3 No specific Government statements have been made about the future of LSPs in terms of their roles and responsibilities. On the one hand the trend towards localism, greater autonomy, more freedoms, and the need to make greater savings through joint working with partners, shared asset management etc. should strengthen the role of LSPs. On the other, the uncertainty about the future of LAAs and the abolition of CAA means that the former workload of LSPs and their thematic sub-partnerships has changed over a short period of time.

1.4 In West Cheshire, partners are working together to support the emerging agenda through initiatives such as the proposal to establish Locally Integrated Services in Ellesmere Port, which aims to both improve public service outcomes for local people and reduce public sector resources through the establishment of a single resource plan. The intention is that this approach will be rolled out across other APB areas. Also the Local Enterprise Partnership proposals alongside the strengthening sub-regional partnership architecture add another dimension to partnership opportunities emerging over the next few years.

1.5 The LSP now needs to develop a way forward for the delivery of SCS commitments for the short term which recognises and complements this evolving role for partnership activity locally. This will focus on immediate issues around how the current performance management framework should evolve, and what priority issues should be focused on.

2.0 The Process

2.1 Initial work with the Thematic Partnerships has identified the overarching delivery responsibilities for each of the 15 commitments set out in the SCS. This is presented in Appendix 1. This is a sixteen year strategy with actions which are relevant at the local, borough wide and sub-regional level. Work is being undertaken at the Area Partnership Board level to identify where local delivery plans will contribute to these objectives.

Given current resource constraints, and the focus of attention at local (APB) and sub-regional levels, it is important to consider which objectives should have priority focus for activity at West Cheshire level over the short term (0-3year) period.

2.2 As a contribution to this discussion, this thematic partnership is asked to identify which objective you would prioritise **above all others**. This will be considered in the development of a targeted SCS delivery plan for the short term.

2.3 Bearing in mind the need to continue to monitor and management progress against our priorities, each thematic partnership is also asked to review the validity of current performance measures, both national indicators and local indicators, and also to consider what additional measures might be required. This work will be coordinated through the LSP Performance and Risk Management Group so that we can prepare for whatever succeeds the LAA.

2.4 Again, a parallel exercise is being undertaken with the Area Partnership Boards with a focus on identifying locally determined and locally relevant indicators relating to the local delivery plans.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 This report has requested initial input from the LSP thematic partnerships in to contribute to the development of a focused SCS Delivery Plan 2011-14. Whilst the further development of this work will be led by the LSP Performance and Risk Group, support and involvement from right across the LSP will be required if it is to have collective ownership.

LSP Thematic Partnership Involvement in Sustainable Community Strategy Delivery

Appendix 1

The 15 Sustainable Community Strategy Commitments	Safer Communities	Stronger Communities	Health and Wellbeing	Business Enterprise and Culture	Childrens Trust	Environment and Sustainability
1. Recognising, celebrating and engaging with our diverse communities		LEAD ROLE	Contributing role	Contributing role	Contributing role	Contributing role
2. Building and developing the role of the third sector (i.e. voluntary, community, faith and other not for profit groups and organisations)		LEAD ROLE	Contributing role		Contributing role	Contributing role
3. Increasing confidence in the public services, enabling people feel safe in their communities	LEAD ROLE			Contributing role	Contributing role	
4. Working with our communities to address local issues particularly around crime and disorder	LEAD ROLE		Contributing role		Contributing role	
5. Engaging with and supporting our communities to take positive action on climate change and sustainable living.		Contributing role	Contributing role	Contributing role	Contributing role	LEAD ROLE
6. Developing and promoting appropriate and accessible ways to increase people's ability to influence decision-making		LEAD ROLE	Contributing role		Contributing role	Contributing role
7. Reducing health inequalities and encouraging people to live longer, healthier and active lives	Contributing role		LEAD ROLE	Contributing role	Contributing role	Contributing role
8. Aiming to eliminate the impact of poverty and deprivation within our communities	Contributing role		Contributing role	Contributing role	LEAD ROLE	Contributing role
9. Anticipating and supporting the needs and aspirations of our ageing population			LEAD ROLE	Contributing role		Contributing role
10. Improving access to good quality and affordable homes.			Contributing role		Contributing role	LEAD ROLE
11. Supporting the development of a sustainable and resilient economy, with thriving businesses				LEAD ROLE	Contributing role	Contributing role
12. Providing our workforce with access to locally relevant skills and training to achieve better paid employment	Contributing role		Contributing role	LEAD ROLE	Contributing role	Contributing role
13. Valuing and promoting West Cheshire's unique and diverse natural and built environments, and supporting the development of rich cultural opportunities			Contributing role	LEAD ROLE	Contributing role	Contributing role
14. Recognising and releasing the potential of young people to play a full and active part in the future of West Cheshire.	Contributing role			Contributing role	LEAD ROLE	
15. Adapting built and natural environments to be resilient to climate change.			Contributing role			LEAD ROLE

SCS Commitment	Objectives	Level to be addressed at	Priority (short term 0-3years; medium term 3+ years; long term 10+ years+)
1. Recognising, celebrating and engaging with our diverse communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will work together to overcome the challenges faced by traditionally disadvantaged areas which have been exacerbated by the economic downturn • we will continue to consider the impact that race, gender and transgender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief may have on the life chances of our communities • we will work together to improve equality outcomes for all of these groups • we will actively engage and involve all of you in our communities and neighbourhoods beyond simple consultation exercises • we will seek to raise awareness of the means to address hate crime and reduce the potential for people, who are perceived to be different, becoming the victim of hate crime or anti-social behaviour • we will support and develop local events, festivals and celebrations. 		
2. Building and developing the role of the third sector (i.e. voluntary, community, faith and other not for profit groups and organisations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will continue to provide support and encouragement for local voluntary and community activities • we will provide strategic grants and support to local infrastructure bodies and other relevant groups to help them deliver services to new and developing small groups in the area • through the Third Sector Assembly we will support large and small organisations to engage in the new service commissioning culture. 		

<p>4. Increasing public confidence in the public services, enabling them to feel safe in their communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will work with you across our communities to increase your confidence, closing the gap between perceptions and reality, particularly by working with the local media • we will work together to improve the coordination and consistency of response to community safety issues as they arise - this will include an inter-agency protocol clarifying areas of responsibility • we will ensure that new development and infrastructure address public safety as a key requirement, with 'safer by design' initiatives improving personal safety and reducing the fear of crime. 		
<p>4. Working with our communities to address local issues particularly around crime and disorder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will increase your confidence in the ability of local communities to influence community safety issues through events such as Community Forums, 'Confidence Weeks' and through the delivery of the Policing Pledge • we will engage with you and local service providers to ensure that they understand the problems, issues and challenges facing communities if they are to address alcohol and substance misuse related harm • we will develop a new West Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategic Management Group which will take the lead on implementing a new multi-agency strategy for West Cheshire. • we will target support to those offenders who are most at risk of reoffending • we will aim to reduce the occurrence of those being killed and seriously injured on roads within West Cheshire • we will reduce the potential of arson and thereby minimise the risk to our world class heritage from fire. 		
<p>5. Engaging with and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will use high-level awareness campaigns and support activity 		

<p>supporting our communities to take positive action on climate change and sustainable living</p>	<p>to embed sustainable behaviour in our activities: this includes encouraging everyone to minimise waste and recycle both household and non-household waste; promoting the importance of sourcing and recycling locally, and taking action to a reduce the use of non-recyclable products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will actively encourage and facilitate the use of no and low carbon forms of transport: walking, cycling and public transport - this includes the promotion of workplace, school and residential travel plans to minimise the impact of essential journeys • we will support and encourage our communities to grow their own food and also support local farmers' markets • we will support local renewable energy schemes, improve the energy efficiency of existing housing stock and increase energy education and control into homes and schools. 		
<p>6. Developing and promoting appropriate and accessible ways to increase people's ability to influence decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will undertake more work to find out how you want to be engaged with, focusing particularly on children and young people • we will improve our channels of communication so that you are clear about how your involvement has made a difference. 		
<p>7. Reducing health inequalities and encouraging people to live longer healthier and active lives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will use the Cheshire West and Chester Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (www.wcheshirepct.nhs.uk/jsna) to access the latest data and information on health inequalities to ensure that interventions are targeted at the identified priority areas • we will tackle the underlying causes of ill health, through improving educational attainment, housing, getting local people into jobs and creating a safe and healthy environment • we will develop a range of actions to promote healthier lifestyles focusing on reducing smoking, obesity and harmful or hazardous 		

	<p>drinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will focus on the health of older women and ensure access to good preventative and treatment services such as flu immunisations and stroke services • we will use health education and access to services and facilities to support earlier intervention and promote good health. 		
8. Aiming to eliminate the impact of poverty and deprivation within our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will support a wide range of community self-help and empowerment activities • we will support measures to address low self esteem and low aspiration issues, particularly around the long term unemployed • we will work to narrow the gap in attainment outcomes for young people across our area • we will work to improve access to health care and other key services, jobs and training across the borough, focusing particularly on rural areas. 		
9. Anticipating and supporting the needs and aspirations of our ageing population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we need to ensure that the proportion of public service spend reflects this demographic and that there is a joined up approach to service delivery across all sectors and within all our policy planning • we must know our communities and plan for their accommodation, service and market needs • we must develop a diverse range of services that meet the individual needs and aspirations of older people and which challenge discrimination • we should adopt a preventative approach, with a focus on providing a 'little bit of help' to enable older people to remain in the accommodation of their choice and able to make a contribution across all generations 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will develop a ‘whole person’ approach, going beyond adult social care and health to promote wellbeing and independence and reflecting the diversity of the area and of the older population • we should involve older people in the design, development and - wherever possible - the delivery of services • we will support intergenerational work aiming to make a shift in the perception of ageing from one of dependency and decline into one of active citizenship, participation and independence. 		
<p>10. Improving access to good quality and affordable homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new housing development will support planned economic growth and wider regeneration initiatives • new housing will be sustainable both in terms of its location (to reduce travel and transport usage) and its design, built to have a minimal carbon footprint, be resilient to the impacts of climate change and have affordable running costs for the occupants • the role of existing housing to provide affordable homes will be better recognised and utilised to meet housing needs • we will support social housing providers in leading the way by providing high quality, well managed and maintained housing • we will promote the private rented housing stock as a tenure of choice for residents - it should provide choice and quality to residents to meet their housing needs and demands • we will explore all options available to ensure an ongoing supply of affordable housing, including significant dialogue with the Homes and Communities Agency about future investment opportunities and working flexibly with a range of other investors and providers • we will develop the range of home ownership products available to West Cheshire residents • we will ensure that the most suitable land is identified for housing 		

	<p>through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will work to ensure that new housing developments contain the right mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of the community, making sure that, whilst affordable housing is provided, a plentiful supply of market housing is achieved to meet high demand and the requirement for high quality design standards are achieved • we will improve information, support and advice to help residents select the most appropriate housing option to meet their needs and aspirations • we will ensure that the housing support and accommodation needs of vulnerable people are met by providing appropriate services and developing new accommodation as required. 		
<p>11. Supporting the development of a sustainable and resilient economy, with thriving businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will focus on developing an integrated transport network locally, but also including wider connectivity to the sub-region and beyond • we will stimulate new business, innovation and entrepreneurship by looking at measures to support small business growth • we will look at the support requirements of existing businesses enabling them to grow and increase their productivity • we will focus new business development in the most accessible locations and support the development of energy efficient buildings • we will support the provision of new communication technologies • we will promote the local procurement of good and services, prioritising the purchase of materials with low carbon footprints • we will encourage businesses to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable resource practices • we will support new business development in the low carbon 		

	<p>technology field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will encourage and support existing and new businesses to both prepare for, and where possible exploit, the impacts of climate change • we will support our businesses and commerce to make a safe working environment through a risk assessed approach 		
12. Providing our workforce with access to locally relevant skills and training to achieve better paid employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will raise aspirations and participation in skills and training throughout West Cheshire with a particular focus on priority areas and target groups. • we will support individuals from target groups and priority areas to develop skills which match growth sector employment opportunities • we will support training and education in low carbon manufacturing and services such as energy efficient and climate resilient building, installation of renewables and waste reduction and recycling. 		
13. Valuing and promoting West Cheshire's unique and diverse natural and built environments, and supporting the development of rich cultural opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will review cultural assets, including our historic environment sport/recreation, libraries and museums to ensure fitness for purpose, sustainability and equality of access • we will look at all aspects of the customer journey from the visual presentation of information to the welcome visitors receive when they arrive in the area, with the aim of creating a positive image of the area and its high quality places, promoting further investment in our visitor economy. • we will seek to widen the benefits and impact of cultural and recreation activity by targeting activity on areas and communities with specific needs, and working with these communities to address their specific challenges 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will work together to deliver our regeneration programmes including Chester Renaissance, Ellesmere Port, Weaver Valley and Rural Resurgence to realise the benefit of culture as a catalyst • we will work together towards Chester receiving European Capital of Culture status in 2017. • we will develop an approach to green infrastructure to ensure that maintain and enhance the biodiversity of our natural environment, improving its connectivity across our Borough 		
14. Recognising and releasing the potential of young people to play a full and active part in the future of West Cheshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our children, families and carers will be able to access services close to their homes delivered in an integrated manner that makes sense to them, meaning that families only have to tell their stories once to get the support or guidance they need • we will offer a proactive, personal and listening approach, shaping the service as appropriate to need • we will ensure that all settings delivering services to children will be of the highest quality and will build the capacity of families and children in their local area - they will know how to keep children safe • we will ensure that children who need many services will be able to access high quality, appropriate specialist help. 		
15. Adapting our environments to respond to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we will work together to ensure that our built environment and infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change particularly by ensuring that new development is located away from flood risk areas and incorporates appropriate innovations in construction and drainage and landscape design • we will manage our green infrastructure and water resources so that we are better prepared for periods of draught and periodic 		

	<p>flooding by capitalising on the natural capacity of our ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• we will work together to ensure that the most vulnerable sections of our communities are protected from the impact of extreme weather situations• we will ensure that all services remain efficient, effective, are delivered successfully and are available to all those who needs them in the context of our changing climate.		
--	---	--	--