

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 22 JULY 2003

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR JOANNA LEWIN-HARRIS

COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR TAUNTON DEANE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To recommend that Council adopts the Community Strategy for Taunton Deane (attached).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on councils to prepare a 'community strategy', establishing a long term vision and action plan to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. Although the duty for preparing the strategy rests with local authorities, progress on important issues like reducing crime, improving people's health and developing a strong local economy, depends on forging links with partner agencies - pooling resources, knowledge and expertise. Government guidance therefore specified that community strategies should be developed and implemented by a 'local strategic partnership', comprising representatives of key public, private and voluntary sector bodies operating in the area.
- 2.2 As part of its response to the new duty placed upon it, the Council played a lead role in establishing the Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in June 2001. Responsibility for approving community strategies rests with LSPs, but Government Guidance on their preparation also requires that, following approval by an LSP, they are adopted by the local authorities in the area.

3. The Community Strategy for Taunton Deane

- 3.1 The Community Strategy for Taunton Deane ("Our Place, Our Future) has been prepared and is attached as Appendix 'A'. This is a key document, establishing shared aspirations and priorities to improve people's quality of life in Taunton Deane, now and into the future.
- 3.2 It is important to emphasise that the Community Strategy is not a 'Council' strategy, but is a product the Taunton Deane LSP. However, as a key partner on the LSP with lead responsibility for delivering many of the commitments made in the Community Strategy, it is vital that the Council makes a full contribution and is adopts of the final document. A full list of all agencies represented on the LSP can be found in the attached document.
- 3.3 Over recent months, the draft strategy has been subject to extensive consultation with colleagues within the Council as well as partner organisations. Council is

also reminded that the draft Strategy has received the close scrutiny of members at the following key stages:

- **3 June 2003** – The Community Leadership Review Panel provided comments on the draft Community Strategy. The report to the Panel outlined the resource implications and impact on the Council’s priorities of adopting the Strategy.
- **26 June 2003** – The draft Community Strategy was approved by the Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership, subject to a small number of amendments.
- **10 July 2003** (see *Weekly Bulletin*) – Executive Councillor Joanna Lewin-Harris decided to approve the conclusions reached by the Community Leadership Panel and Local Strategic Partnership, in respect of the Community Strategy. Further decided to recommend the Strategy to Full Council for adoption on 22 July 2003.

3.4 Council is advised that the attached document is being produced by the Graphics Team at Deane House and the final public version will incorporate photographs and a higher level of design than currently shown.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Council is **recommended** to adopt the Community Strategy for Taunton Deane, attached as Appendix ‘A’

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'Our Place, Our Future'
A Draft
Community Strategy for Taunton Deane
2003 - 2005

Produced by Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership

Updated 08.07.03 v.1

Our Place, Our Future – A Community Strategy for Taunton Deane - 2003-2005

Why a Community Strategy?

This is the first Community Strategy for Taunton Deane. It aims to show how people, communities and organisations will work together to improve quality of life for all living, working and visiting the area, now and in the future. The focus of this Strategy is not on any particular organisation but on the needs and priorities of the people and communities of Taunton Deane.

This Strategy has been developed by working with local people and communities and has been produced by a partnership of organisations called the **Taunton Deane Local Strategic Partnership** (LSP). The Partnership includes representatives from the following public, private and voluntary organisations:

Avon and Somerset Constabulary	(ASC)	Community Council for Somerset	(CCS)
Connexions	(Cxls)	Environment Agency	(EA)
Government Office for the South West	(GOSW)	Probation Service (Avon and Somerset)	(PS)
Somerset Association of Local Councils	(SALC)	Somerset College of Arts and Technology	(SCAT)
Somerset County Council	(SCC)	South West England Regional Development Agency	(SWERDA)
Taunton Chamber of Commerce	(TCC)	Taunton Deane Borough Council	(TDBC)
Taunton Deane Council for Voluntary Service	(TDCVS)	Taunton Deane Primary Care Trust	(TDPCT)
Taunton Deane Tenants' Forum	(TDTF)	Wellington Chamber of Commerce	(WCC)
Wiveliscombe Area Partnership	(WAP)	Somerset Learning and Skills Council	(LSC)

For further information about this Strategy or the Local Strategic Partnership please contact:

Community Initiatives Unit, Taunton Deane Borough Council, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE ☎: 01823 356481 or visit www.tauntondeane.lsp.gov.uk. **We would welcome your views or comments about this Strategy and our work in general.**

Our Place, Our Future – A Community Strategy for Taunton Deane 2003-2005

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Key Partnerships

Key Strategies and Plans

Glossary of Terms

Introduction - A Vision for Taunton Deane

This first Community Strategy establishes our ambitions, priorities and actions to improve quality of life in Taunton Deane.

The Strategy has been prepared by:

- Bringing together the priorities of organisations providing services in Taunton Deane
- Consulting local residents and service users on a range of different topics and issues. Examples include: local authority budget setting, developing a 'Vision for Taunton', young people's stakeholders event and a range of service or issue based community consultations.
- Taking account of data about key environmental, social and economic trends in Taunton Deane. This information has been compiled as a series of fact sheets, available on our website www.tauntondeane.lsp.gov.uk.

The overall aim of this Strategy is to improve the quality of life for people and communities in Taunton Deane, now and into the future.

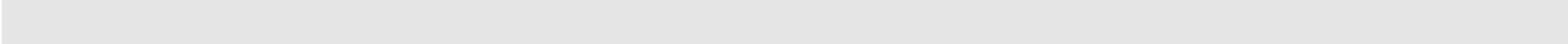
In working towards this aim we have established six priorities:

- **Economy** – Improving people's livelihoods and job opportunities
- **Transport and Access** – Delivering more accessible services and a better transport system
- **Crime** – Developing safer communities
- **Health** – Encouraging healthier lifestyles
- **Environment** – Protecting and enhancing our environment
- **Delivery** – Making this Strategy happen and keeping it under review

Key Partnerships, with a crucial role making progress on each of the above priorities, are highlighted throughout the document. The links between these partnerships and the LSP are also represented in the diagram towards the back of the document.

A series of objectives and targets have been set under each of these priorities, with supporting actions to show how these will be achieved in the years ahead. A **lead agency** from our Partnership has been assigned to each action, highlighted in brackets

throughout the document. The role of the lead agency will not be to 'do all of the work', but to co-ordinate progress among key partners and report achievements back to our Partnership.



Working with Communities

To complement the approach taken to develop this Taunton Deane Community Strategy, we are also working with local parishes and interest groups to form six area based community plans. These will be used to further enrich this Strategy over a three year rolling programme of community planning activity. This has been established as follows:

West Deane and Brendons	2002/2003	A Vision For Taunton	2002/2003
Wellington and Area	2003/2004	Blackdown Hills	2003/2004
Quantocks	2004/2005	The Levels	2004/2005

The West Deane and Brendons Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTI) community planning process has had the active involvement of 700 people, many of whom have been working together to see how best to tackle key issues affecting their communities. The Wiveliscombe Area Partnership and a Community Planning Steering Group oversee the process. A community strategy for the area has been endorsed by the LSP and local implementation plans are being established through a 'brokering' process.

A 'Vision for Taunton' was developed in 2002 by a special commission comprising of members of Taunton Deane and Somerset County Councils. The 'Vision Commission' took evidence from hundreds of local people and groups with an interest in Taunton's future role as the County Town of Somerset and one of eleven 'Principal Urban Areas' (PUAs) in the South West region. The Vision acts as a blueprint for the development of the Town over the next 25 years, heralding a series of exciting new developments and projects, which will ensure Taunton's success as a thriving sub-regional centre. A special 'Reference Group' has been established, reporting direct to the LSP, to oversee delivery of the Vision for Taunton and engage the wider community in its many projects.

Local issues and actions need to be considered within the context of the role Taunton Deane plays as part of Somerset and the South West Region. The actions contained within this Strategy and the local community plans have been developed with sensitivity to their impact on the wider geographical area.

As this Community Strategy evolves, we will ensure that we make a real difference to Taunton Deane's communities by influencing how partners work together and respond to local needs. We will let you know of our progress by reporting back on our website and in future publications.

If you would like to comment on any of the work outlined within this Strategy, or get involved with local community planning exercises, please register your views or interest on our web site, return the tear-off slip at the back of this document or contact us on the telephone number shown on the inside cover.

We welcome your views and input and look forward to continuing to working with you to improve the quality of life for all in Taunton Deane.

How you can get involved in community planning and community development

- For general information about what is happening in your local area please call the Community Initiatives Unit, Taunton Deane Borough Council ☎: 01823 356596 or visit www.tauntondeane.lsp.gov.uk
- In the West Deane or Brendons please contact the Community Agent, Wiveliscombe Area Partnership, Wiveliscombe House ☎: 01984 624777
- In the Blackdown Hills please phone the Community Planning Officer ☎: 01823 680681 where you can find out about forthcoming consultation events
- Find out if your community is carrying out a Village/Parish/Town appraisal. For further information contact Community Council for Somerset ☎: 01823 331222
- Contact Taunton Deane Council for Voluntary Service ☎: 01823 284470 to get information about volunteering opportunities and voluntary groups in your area – including practical support and advice on how to set up a local group or help developing an existing voluntary service
- Contact your local parish, town or borough Councillor to express your views or find out about ways to get involved in your area for more information call Deane House ☎ 01823 356555
- Make your views heard by getting involved in: Somerset Influence Panel, Somerset Diversity Panel, Your Shout, Taunton Deane Tenants Forum, Area Youth Forums or the Youth Parliament; contact Taunton Deane Borough Council ☎ 01823 356596
- Apply for a community chest grant for your local project ☎ 01823 702786
- Get advice about developing a Social Enterprise ☎ 01823 355611

Economy – Improving people’s livelihoods and job opportunities

Key Partnership: Taunton Deane Economic Partnership

Taunton Deane has a population of 102,300 residents, based in an area of 178 square miles. The main centres of population are Taunton, Wellington, Wiveliscombe and Bishops Lydeard, with many smaller villages and hamlets throughout the Borough.

Taunton Deane is generally prosperous, with relatively low levels of unemployment. However, the area does suffer from lower rates of pay and relatively high house prices. Social deprivation is not widespread within the Borough, although there are significant pockets of greater need in parts of Taunton itself. There are also issues of need arising from rural isolation across Taunton Deane.

The local economy is dominated by service industries, light industry, distribution and tourism. Large companies are under-represented and rates of new business start-up are below regional and national averages. One of the main pressures in the economy is the lack of strategic sites for new development and serviced employment sites.

The economy benefits from Taunton Deane’s excellent strategic location. The M5 passes through the Borough, providing swift links to London, the Midlands, South Wales and further into the South West. The Borough also has good rail links to these areas.

Objectives and Actions

Improving the vitality of Taunton Deane’s towns and rural communities

- Ensure the delivery of the “Vision for Taunton” - developing Taunton as a thriving sub-regional centre in the South West (TDBC)
- Develop the use of Taunton’s Castle Green area to reflect a landmark public square, with regular markets and special events (TDBC)
- Promote Taunton as a natural centre for Regional Governance (TDBC)
- Widen the range of job opportunities to reflect growing areas of the local economy (TDBC)
- Identify options and the benefits of locating an Agricultural Business Centre near the M5 in Taunton Deane (TDBC)

- Redevelop key sites in Wellington and Wiveliscombe for housing and employment as detailed within the Local Plan (TDBC)
- Invest in community, leisure, and cultural facilities and in public open spaces to benefit local communities and attract businesses to relocate here (TDBC)
- Make better use of the river and canal network in Taunton (TDBC)
- Promote a more diverse economy, better able to withstand any economic downturns (TDBC)
- Support the development of Taunton Deane's Industrial Sector (TDBC)

Increase tourist visitor expenditure in Taunton Deane (per annum) by:

- Further developing the Welcome Host Awards and Green Tourism Award for tourist providers across the area (TDBC)
- Improving the availability of an out of hours information service for visitors to the area (SCC)
- Improving the range and quality of visitor and local attractions (TDBC)
- Establishing a main-line link to West Somerset heritage railway (SCC)
- Promote Taunton's unique, distinctive identity and heritage (TDBC)

Increase new business start-ups and enable the retention and expansion of existing businesses by:

- Supporting farming and land based industries through the Somerset Agricultural Advisory Service (TDBC)
- Providing sites and infrastructure to encourage continued growth of the Taunton Deane economy (TDBC)
- Developing a strategic employment site close to the M5, promoting Taunton Deane as a key centre for regional development (TDBC)
- Promoting the purchase of local produce through Somerset Foodlinks projects (SCC)
- Expanding availability of Broadband, helping businesses to remain competitive by taking advantage of information technology (SCC)
- Maintaining and developing business support through the Somerset Business start up programme and the Business Chest grant programme (SCC)

Promote and support opportunities to improve people's livelihoods

Increasing the proportion of working age people in employment by:

- Encouraging employers to recruit local people and to commit themselves to workforce development (LSC)
- Maintaining and expanding provision of good quality play schemes, after school clubs and childcare that supports parents' working patterns (SCC)

Promote opportunities for raising skills and improve educational attainment by:

- Improving access to learning at all levels and for every stage of life (LSC)
- Improve access to university courses through local providers (LSC)
- Promoting the benefits of learning LSC)

Tackling disadvantage

Increase support and investment for areas of greatest need within Taunton Deane by:

- Supporting Taunton East Development Trust (SCC)
- Supporting North Taunton Partnership to implement the regeneration programme for the area (TDBC)
- Ensuring that local areas of need within Taunton have the capacity to shape their own future and benefit from the wider implementation of the 'Vision' for the Town (TDBC)

Overcome barriers to employment caused through rural isolation by:

- Working with rural communities to identify issues and relevant local solutions through Communities First in Rural Somerset, Rural Renaissance and Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (TDBC)

Improve access to learning, particularly for those disadvantaged geographically or socially by:

- Implementing the pilot North Taunton Community Participation Project to overcome barriers to informal and formal learning opportunities (TDBC)
- Supporting families with children under four to access learning opportunities through the Taunton Sure Start Programme (SCC)
- Ensuring that key learning providers use venues that meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (Public authorities, LSC)
- Supporting holiday activity schemes for young people (TDBC)

Reduce the number of school days where children and young people are excluded by 10% by:

- Developing individual learning plans and pastoral support programmes (SCC)
- Introducing mentoring schemes for young people at risk of being excluded from school (SCC)

Reduce the Percentage of young people aged 16-18 years who are not in education or training by 10% by 2006

(Cxns)

How you can get involved

- Buy products from local businesses, producers and use local contractors through using the local and District Wide Business Directories – available from Taunton Deane Borough Council ☎: 01823 356485
- If you are starting your own business, consider accessing a Rural Somerset Business Chest Grant. Contact Business Link ☎: 08457 211112
- If you are a business looking to relocate to Taunton Deane, pick up an Inward Investment CD Rom Presentation from Taunton Deane Borough Council
- If you are a young person seeking employment or training but have travel problems, see if the Somerset Rural Youth Project Moped scheme can help get you on the road ☎: 01278 722100 or Email: moped@sryp.org.uk
- If you are a local food producer get in touch with Somerset Food Links for advice and support ☎: 01458 274485
- Enrol on a course at your local college or outreach centre
- Volunteer to become a school governor
- Become a Student Mentor and motivate a young learner to achieve their potential. Contact Education Business Partnership ☎: (01823) 320 331
- Visit the museum or library and take advantage of the opportunities they offer for learning
- If you are a young person seeking career and training advice contact Connexions service ☎: 01823 321212
- Contact the Volunteer Bureau at Taunton Deane C.V.S to explore how you can gain new skills and experience through a range of volunteering opportunities

Transport and Access – Delivering more accessible services and a better transport system

Key Partnerships:

**Accident Prevention Forum
Rural Transport Partnership
SomersetOnline
Transport Planning Conference**

Ensuring that services and facilities are accessible to all people is a challenge for all service providers. In Taunton Deane we are aware that there are a number of factors that can have an impact on the convenience of the services and facilities that are on offer – factors such as where you live, your work patterns or your individual requirements, such as a disability, family commitments or if English is not your first language. To meet these challenges we need to find better ways to meet the range of needs.

A better transport system, offering a variety of transport choices, will improve quality of life in a number of ways. These include improved health and fitness, greater road safety; less congestion and traffic related pollution, greater independence and improved access to services.

Objectives and Actions

[Develop more accessible services and facilities](#)

Increase the ways that people can access information, services and facilities by:

- Promoting the 'SomersetOnline' Project in accordance with the National e-government strategy, enabling electronic access to information and services (SCC)

- Promoting the delivery of services via the telephone through Somerset Direct, Care Direct, NHS Direct and Job Centre Plus (Public Authorities/Agencies)
- Ensuring that public facilities are accessible for disabled people (Public Authorities/Agencies)
- Ensuring that information and services are appropriate and suitable for individual requirements and offered in alternative formats (Public Authorities/Agencies)
- Promoting equality of opportunity for all through the development and implementation of Equality Plans and Race Equality Schemes (Public Authorities/Agencies)

Improve road safety

Reduce the death rate in road accidents involving children and young people by:

- Supporting the 'Roadrunners' programme to reduce road accidents in young people (ASC)
- Promoting and supporting the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative (SCC)

Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads of Taunton Deane by:

- Supporting the Safety Camera partnership to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limit (ASC)
- Encouraging people returning to motorcycling to participate in the motorcycle training programmes (ASC)
- Promoting the use of cycle routes (SCC)

Addressing local traffic problems

- Explore opportunities to improve motorway capacity and connections (SCC)
- Working towards upgrading regional connections (A358) and linkages to M5 (SCC)
- Implement a package of measures to improve Taunton's transport infrastructure, including an inner relief road, Park and Ride sites and a new bridge over the railway line at Silk Mills, Taunton (SCC)
- Implement the Wellington Transport Strategy, including building of a new relief road as part of the Longforth Farm development (SCC)
- Introduce effective bus, coach and rail interchange at Taunton Station site connecting to the town centre, with similar provision across Taunton Deane as set out in the Local Transport Plan(SCC)
- Explore options to improve rail links to London (SCC)

- Improve information on parking facilities (TDBC)
- Improving the condition of roads and footpaths in Taunton Deane (SCC/TDBC)
- Encourage all large employers to have Employee Travel Plans (SCC)
- Increase the levels of walking and cycling to work (SCC)
- Support the development of the local cycle route network (SCC)

Tackling disadvantage

- Supporting the development of community car/transport schemes in rural communities (SCC)
- Encouraging take up of concessionary travel passes (TDBC)
- Promoting and supporting the Rural Youth Project moped loan scheme for young people (SCC)

How you can get involved:

- Support your local shops and facilities
- Develop a workplace Car Share Scheme. Contact the Somerset County Council for advice or support ☎: 01823 355598
- Set up an Employee Travel Plan at your workplace
- Use public transport whenever possible
- Walk or cycle to work or school to improve your health and reduce traffic congestion (The majority of road trips are less than two miles)
- If you are a young person seeking employment or training but have travel problems see if Somerset Rural Youth Project Moped Scheme can help get you on the road ☎: 01278 722100 or Email: mopeds@sryp.org.uk
- Support Taunton Deane Community Transport Scheme
- If you have a particular problem accessing a service or facility contact the agency concerned so we can see how we can help

Crime – Developing Safer Communities

Key Partnership: Taunton Deane Crime and Disorder Partnership

Taunton Deane is a safe place to live, but to ensure that we all feel secure from the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour we need to work together across organisations and communities. The Taunton Deane Crime and Disorder Partnership works to make sure that we can all make a real contribution towards helping to combat crime and tackle the causes. Work across Taunton Deane is informed by both National and local priorities and targets as well as by public opinion and concerns. The work programme includes tackling issues such as drugs, alcohol and disorder, domestic and public violence, anti-social behaviour, burglary and retail crime, vehicle crime and hate crime.

Targets and Actions

Reduce crime and disorder

Reduce the number of youth offenders by 7% by 2006 by:

- Working with young people so that they take responsibility and make reparations for offences (SCC)
- Training partnership agencies working with young people to deliver restorative justice (SCC)

Increase the participation of problem drug mis-users (including prisoners) in drug treatment programmes by 66% by 2005 by:

- Expanding Drugs Treatment Testing Orders to target prolific offenders (Drug Action Team – reported by SCC)
- Continue to deliver drug rehabilitation programmes (Drug Action Team – reported by SCC)

Reduce the number of assault victims receiving hospital treatment by 10% by 2005 by:

- Banning those responsible for repeated drug and alcohol related offences from Taunton Town Centre (ASC)

Reduce the number of victims experiencing repeat domestic violence 4 or more times by 10% by 2005 by:

- Securing funding to pilot a unified county wide resource centre for Domestic Abuse (SCC)

Reduce domestic burglary by 14% each year per 1,000 households by 2005 by:

- Promoting the Safe and Secure and Bobby Van schemes to eligible residents (TDBC/ASC)

Increase the number of shop theft detections by 5% by 2005 by:

- Maintaining and introducing CCTV coverage in areas of most need (TDBC)

Reduce incidents of vehicle crime by 5% by 2005 by:

- Implementing the Vulnerable Vehicle scheme across Taunton Deane (ASC)

Reducing the fear of crime

- Installing door entry systems on Council property designed for the elderly (TDBC)
- Seeking to secure a future for parish and neighbourhood warden schemes in Taunton Deane (TDBC)
- Working to 'design out' crime in all new developments through appropriate planning (TDBC)

Improve people's confidence about going out at night by 10% by:

- Increasing the number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (ASC)
- Investigate expansion of CCTV across Taunton Deane (TDBC)

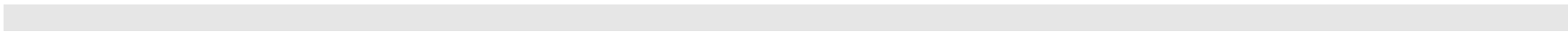
- Introduction of 'Clubsafe' initiative across the area to improve the safety of club-goers (ASC)

Tackling disadvantage

- Identifying neighbourhoods where crime levels are high and working with residents to reduce crime (ASC)
- Assisting drug users who are undertaking treatment to access leisure facilities (PCT)
- Providing targeted programmes of sporting activities for young people at risk of offending (TDBC)
- Supporting learning opportunities for sufferers of violence or abuse (SCC)

How you can get involved:

- If you see a crime in progress dial 999 and ask for the Police
- Report crime and suspicious incidents confidentially: Crimestoppers ☎: 0800 555 111
- If you have any concerns or ideas about tackling crime and disorder in your community, contact your Parish Wardens ☎: 01823 430858 **or** contact your Neighbourhood Wardens ☎: 01823 324081
- If you are experiencing domestic abuse contact Domestic Abuse free phone service for free confidential support and advice ☎: 0800 69 49 999 (this number won't appear on your phone bill)
- For information on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes contact your local Police Station
- Visit the Avon & Somerset Constabulary website at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk for information on crime reduction, or details on how to become a special constable
- For ideas on crime prevention visit the website at www.crimereduction.gov.uk
- For copies of the Crime and Disorder Strategy detailing a full range of actions for the area please contact the Community Safety Officer, Taunton Deane Borough Council ☎: 01823 356411)



Health – Encouraging Healthier Lifestyles

Key Partnerships: Taunton Deane Public Health Network Voluntary Sector Network

In general, people in Taunton Deane experience relatively good health. However, there are key areas of improvement - where greater effort is required to ensure that opportunities to enjoy good health are enjoyed by everyone, particularly those who suffer disadvantages arising from low income, rural isolation or other individual needs.

Many factors influence people's health and well-being. These include lifestyle factors such as diet, access to social and community facilities, income, living and working conditions, housing conditions, access to health care, education, leisure or cultural activities and the local environment. In Taunton Deane we are particularly keen to tackle those issues that cause poorer health among certain groups in our area.

Targets and Actions:

Improving health

Reduce deaths from heart disease by two fifths and deaths from cancer by one fifth by 2010

- Helping people to stop smoking through the Smoking Advice Service (PCT)
- Encouraging people to have a healthy diet through the 'Five-A-Day' initiative (PCT)
- Ensuring that anyone suspected of having cancer is seen by a specialist within two weeks (PCT)

Reduce mental illness and suicide by one fifth by 2010

- Improving access to community mental health and social care services (PCT/SCC)

Improve the health of older people by:

- Developing a PROGRESS project, to encourage older people's participation in physical exercise and reduce falls (PCT)
- Supporting the Age Concern Somerset Safe and Secure scheme to reduce accidents in the home (Public Authorities/Voluntary Agencies)

Promote independence by helping older people to live in their own home and receive appropriate support by:

- Providing intermediate care when leaving hospital (PCT) and appropriate home support (SCC)
- Supporting carers who are elderly to have a break (SCC)
- Expanding Extra Care Housing as a replacement for some residential care (SCC)
- Introducing a 'Care and Repair Agency' for Taunton Deane, offering practical help and advice to older and disabled people (TDBC)

Reduce the teenage pregnancy rate amongst women under 18 by 50% by 2010 by:

- Implementing the actions contained within the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy (PCT)

Promoting healthy lifestyles

- Developing a Taunton Deane Public Health Strategy and Network by 2004 (PCT)

Reduce the number of accidental deaths and injuries as a result of fire in dwellings by:

- Promoting the installation of smoke detectors and the regular changing of batteries in domestic premises (TDBC)
- Encouraging the installation of domestic sprinklers in new housing developments and existing houses of multiple occupation (TDBC)

Encourage involvement in culture, leisure and the arts by:

- Ensuring there is adequate provision of and accessibility to recreational facilities, including local parks, children's play areas, sports facilities and playing fields, to meet people's needs (TDBC)
- Exploring the options within Taunton to provide a conference centre, auditorium, hotel and new museum and heritage facility (TDBC)
- Encouraging involvement in physical activity and use of leisure services through a range of initiatives such as 'Proactive' Physical Activity Referral scheme, Cardiac Rehabilitation programmes, 'Flexercise' Scheme, Active Retirement programmes (TDBC)
- Completing the new Wellsprings Leisure Centre project during 2003 (TDBC)
- Encouraging the development of Somerset County Cricket Club to become a Test Match venue and centre for training (TDBC)

- Encouraging enjoyment of and participation in the arts through a range of organisations such as The Brewhouse, Take Art!, Somerset Film and Video and Action Track (TDBC)
- Implementing the Arts and Disability Action Plan (TDBC)
- Developing a public arts strategy (TDBC)

Encourage voluntary sector development and volunteering opportunities

- Develop a voluntary and public agency 'Compact' to support collaborative working (SCC/Voluntary Sector Network)
- Promote the value of volunteering within Taunton Deane communities (TDCVS)
- Support the development of volunteering opportunities (TDCVS)

Tackling disadvantage

Reduce Child Poverty by 5% by March 2005 in areas of greatest need by:

- Contributing to the implementation of the Sure Start Taunton programme of services and facilities for 0-4 year olds and their families (SCC)

Reduce the level of homelessness by:

- Implementing the 'Planning out Homelessness' strategy to alleviate homelessness and significantly reduce the need to resort to Bed and Breakfast accommodation particularly for families (TDBC)

Increase the provision of affordable housing by:

- Developing a range of new build affordable accommodation through the Quantocks Housing Partnership (TDBC)
- Seeking provision of an element of affordable housing within appropriate new housing development, as proposed in the Taunton Deane Local Plan (TDBC)

Ensure that people with disabilities that need adaptations in their homes have access to assistance as appropriate by:

- Continuing to provide grants for adapting homes (TDBC)

Improve the quality of care and support for vulnerable people in the community by:

- Developing the Supporting People Programme, which promotes housing related support services (SCC)

Reduce Fuel Poverty in vulnerable households in Taunton Deane by 2010 by:

- Targeting energy efficiency improvement grants to those living in fuel poverty (TDBC)

Enhancing access to leisure facilities and activities by:

- Increasing sports and leisure provision for people with disabilities (TDBC)
- Promoting take up of leisure concessionary schemes for people on low incomes (TDBC)

How you can get involved:

- Take regular exercise or try something new by calling in at your local leisure centre
- Ensure that you are eating a balanced diet including five portions of fruit and vegetables per day
- If you are trying to give up smoking contact your GP or the Smoking Advice service ☎: 01823 323808 for help and support
- If you are a parent or carer of children under the age of 4 years and live in the Taunton Sure Start Area, see how you can get involved by contacting Sure Start Taunton ☎:01823 322124
- If you are a carer contact Somerset Carers Project for help and support ☎: 01278 437200
- Contact Taunton Deane C.V.S ☎ 01823 284470 for information on health focused voluntary organisations and self help groups or opportunities to volunteer within your community
- Checking your smoke alarm battery every week will ensure your safety
- Support and get involved your local arts events
- For more information about the Disability Facilities Grant for household adaptations ☎ 01823 356443 or Social Services ☎ 01823 338781
- To find out if a energy efficiency improvement grant could help you please contact ☎ 01823 356383
- To check if you qualify for a concessionary leisure pass pick up a form from your local leisure centre

Environment – Protecting and Enhancing our Environment

Taunton Deane is situated in an attractive part of rural Somerset, surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty – the Quantock Hills to the north, Blackdown Hills to the south, Somerset Levels to the east and Exmoor and the Brendon Hills to the west.

We recognise that protecting and enhancing our unique natural and built environment is central to maintaining the quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Promoting lifestyles and forms of development which minimise environmental damage, both locally and further afield, will ensure that Taunton Deane continues to prosper for generations to come.

Key Partnerships: **Somerset Waste Partnership**
 Sustainable Somerset Forum

Protecting and enhancing our environment

- Supporting the development and delivery of Areas of Outstanding Beauty management plans (SCC)
- Developing and delivering a Green Spaces Strategy for the Borough (TDBC)
- Protecting the countryside from inappropriate development through the planning process (TDBC)
- Promoting the highest standards of design, including landscaping, in new development, public spaces and buildings (TDBC)
- Promoting the inclusion of public art in environmentally sensitive public space designs (TDBC)
- Implementing the Bio-diversity Action Plan – conserving Taunton Deane’s natural habitats, wildlife and plant species (TDBC)
- Promoting the planting of a wide variety of both native and exotic tree species, incorporating the concept of Taunton as the ‘Tree Town of the South West’ (TDBC)
- Monitoring delivery of the Nature Conservation Strategy for Taunton Deane (TDBC)
- Maintaining street cleanliness throughout Taunton Deane (TDBC)
- Using robust enforcement together with information from the public to deter polluters in order to keep compliance with river quality objectives to 92% or better. (E A)

- Campaigning to improve care of the environment in order to achieve a 12% reduction in pollution incidents based on figures for 2003 (EA)

Reduce levels of fly-tipping to 60% of 2003 levels by 2007 (EA).

Ensure that national air quality objectives are achieved by:

- Working in partnership to maintain and improve local air quality in relation to traffic based pollution (TDBC)

Reduce the impact of flooding by:

- Monitoring flood alleviation measures for Norton Fitzwarren and other areas at risk of flooding in Taunton Deane (EA)
- Providing grant support for households to undertake small-scale flood alleviation measures (TDBC)
- Implementing the River Parrett Catchment Plan (EA)

Improve Parks and countryside management by:

- Protecting public open spaces and investing in their quality and accessibility (TDBC)
- Seeking to create new areas of public open space and to designate local nature reserves (TDBC)
- Promote the Parish Tree Planting Scheme (TDBC)

Promoting sustainable lifestyles

Increase the household waste recycling rate to 30% by 2005/06 by:

- Encouraging 38,500 households to use the kerbside recycling collection and organic waste collection service (TDBC)
- Encouraging households where kerbside collections are not possible to access drop-in sites across the area (TDBC)
- Promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling within households (TDBC)

Promote the use of renewable energy by:

- Encouraging take up of the national Clear Skies Initiative grant scheme, which support homeowners and community/public organisations to install renewable energy technology (TDBC)
- Supporting the design and construction of buildings to be energy efficient, and the use of sustainable construction techniques and materials (TDBC)

- Supporting exploration of renewable energy sources and the setting and attainment of realistic targets for use of renewable energy (SCC)

Tackling disadvantage:

To improve access to public open spaces and local nature reserves for disabled people (TDBC)

How you can get involved:

- Volunteer locally to improve the quality of your local environment for further information contact Taunton Deane C.V.S ☎ 01823 284470 or Somerset Wildlife Trust ☎ 01823 451587
- Apply for a small Environmental Scheme grant to start a project in your area ☎ 01823 356596
- To purchase a compost bin or water butt for your home contact Original Organics ☎ 01884 841515
- If you are at risk from flooding, find out what action you should take from the Environment Agency ☎ 0845 9 881188 For further information about the Clear Skies initiative visit www.clear-skies.org

Delivery – Making the Strategy Happen

2003 and Beyond

This first Community Strategy for Taunton Deane is an 'umbrella' document. It aims to establish the priorities facing Taunton Deane in the years ahead and give a common sense of direction for the many detailed plans and activities to improve local quality of life throughout the area.

Making such an ambitious and wide-ranging Strategy happen will be challenging. Our approach is based on the following critical ingredients:

Assigning Responsibilities

- To avoid any confusion over who is responsible for delivery, a lead agency from our Partnership has been assigned to each action throughout the document. Their role will be to co-ordinate action among the many others involved and report progress back to the Partnership.

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

- A brief 'overview' of the whole Strategy will be held at each meeting of the Partnership, where partners identify particular problem issues and actions required to put things back on track are agreed.
- In addition, a more focused discussion will take place at each meeting, concentrating on one of our priorities (e.g. Economy, Crime). This will involve presentations from identified lead agencies, key partners and partnerships, (see 'map' overleaf outlining how the priority is being delivered. The discussion will identify any support required from the Partnership to ensure

the successful delivery of the Community Strategy. During the discussion, each agency on Partnership will be invited to report on what they are doing to deliver the priority.

- The Partnership will prepare an annual report for widespread circulation. This will set out our achievements and future targets. Regular progress reports will also be posted on our website and in the local media.

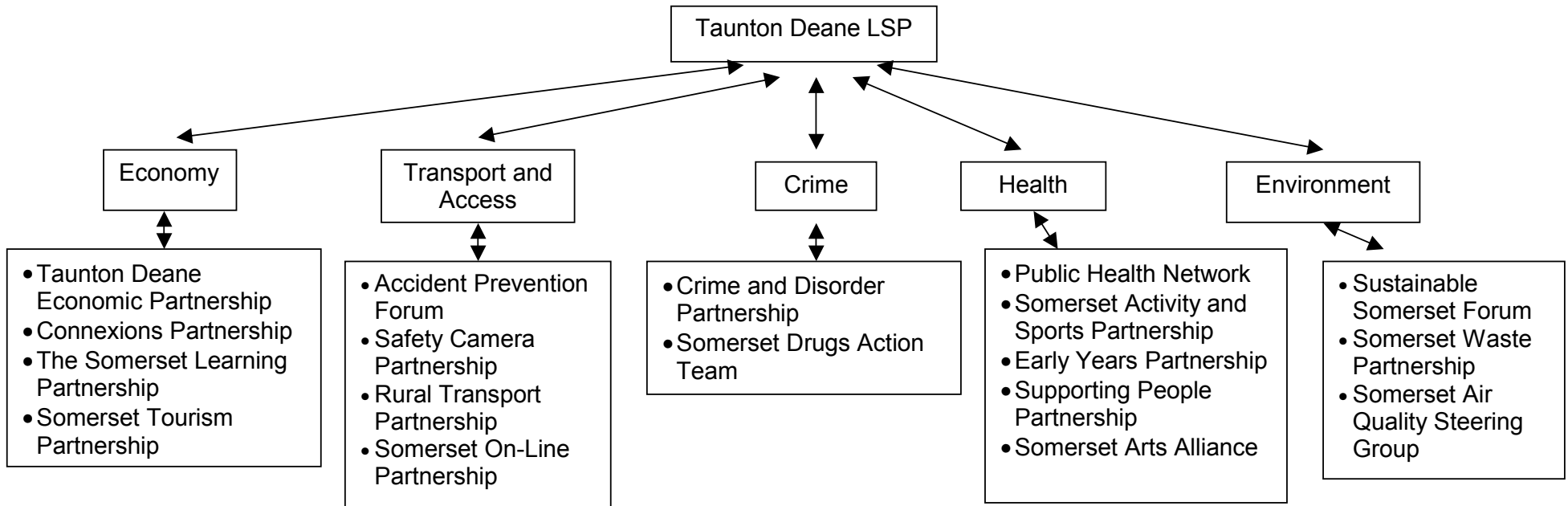
Ensuring evidence is up to date

- We have produced a series of fact sheets on each of our priorities, also available on our website. These provide the evidence and trends upon which the objectives and targets within our Community Strategy are set. We will ensure that these fact sheets are kept up to date, in line with the latest available information.

Consultation and Regular Strategy Updates

- This is our first Community Strategy and will act as a platform for further consultation on local needs and actions required to local quality of life.
- The Taunton Deane Community Strategy will be updated in 2005 and every three years thereafter. This will enable information from local area based work (e.g. Vision for Taunton) to feed into the wider Strategy for the area. It will also provide an opportunity to generate more specific and quantifiable targets to improve local quality of life where these do not exist at present.

Working In Partnership to Improve Quality Of Life



EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY/AREA-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington Economic Partnership • Taunton Town Centre Partnership • Wiveliscombe Area Partnership • North Taunton Partnership • Taunton East Development Trust • Neighbourhood Watch Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellington Health and Well-Being Group • Levels and Moors Partnership • Blackdown Hills Rural Partnership • Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee • Taunton Deane Tenants Forum |
|--|---|

Key Strategies and Plans

There are many other key strategies and plans which influence quality of life in Taunton Deane. This page indicates a selection of key strategies in the area, organised under each of our priorities. It is not an exhaustive list.

Economy

Connexions Strategy
Taunton Town Centre Strategy
Learning and Skills Council Strategy
TDBC Tourism Strategy
TDBC Economic Development Strategy
Taunton Deane Local Plan
South West Regional Economic Development Strategy
A Vision for Taunton
Local Public Service Agreement

Environment

Somerset Household Waste Management Strategy
Bio-Diversity Action Plan for Taunton Deane
Home Energy Conservation Strategy
Local Air Quality Strategy
River Parrett Catchment Plan
Local Public Service Agreement

Crime

Crime & Disorder Strategy for Taunton Deane
Somerset Drugs Action Team Strategy
Avon & Somerset Constabulary Policing Plan
Youth Justice Plan
Local Public Service Agreement

These strategies are available either on our website or by telephoning (01823) 356 481.

Health

Cultural Strategy
Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
Local Health Delivery Plan
Accident Prevention Strategy
Housing Strategy
Homelessness Strategy
Local Public Service Agreement

Transport & Access

Somerset Local Transport Plan
Parking Plan for Taunton
Somerset Accident Prevention Strategy
e-government strategies (SCC & TDBC)
Race Equality Schemes (public authorities)
Local Public Service Agreement

Glossary of Terms

The following list explains some of some of the terms used in this document

(To be completed)

Affordable Housing
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Bio-diversity
Bobby Van Scheme
Broadband
Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
Clubsafe
Communities First in Rural Somerset (CFIRS)
Compact
Community Planning
Community Strategy
Concessionary Travel
Connexions
Disability Discrimination
Domestic Violence & Abuse
e-government
Employee Travel Plan
Fuel Poverty
Local Strategic Partnership
Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTI)
Neighbourhood Wardens
Parish Tree Planting Scheme
Parish Wardens
Principal Urban Area
Recycling

Regeneration
Renewable Energy
Rural Isolation
Rural Renaissance
Safe and Secure Scheme
Social Enterprise
Somerset Direct
SomersetOnline
Somerset Food Links
Supporting People
Sure Start
Sustainable Lifestyles/Development
Transport Infrastructure
Village Appraisal
Vision for Taunton
Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme

COUNCIL MEETING 22 JULY 2003

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR MRS. LEWIN-HARRIS – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Community Planning

The draft Taunton Deane Community Strategy “our Place our Future” was agreed at the meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership in June and is before you as a separate agenda item with a recommendation that it be adopted by this Council.

The Community Strategy and Action Plan for West Deane and the Brendons was also presented to the same meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership. This Strategy was widely commended and endorsed by the Partnership. The wide ranging consultation process that has led to the production of this Strategy has been led by a community partnership with active support from officers of local agencies, with a locally appointed community agent to co-ordinate the process. The Strategy has been developed under six themes: Housing Health and Community, Economy, Sports Arts and Recreation, Children and Young People, Environment and Coordination and Communication and the action plan, which is divided into actions for “now” “soon (2004-05) and later (2006+) details the way forward.

Work is now underway on developing a Community Strategy for the Wellington Area and a stakeholders’ meeting is scheduled to take place on 22nd July.

Crime and Disorder Strategy

The first Update to the Taunton Deane Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002 – 2005 is just about complete now. The action sheets have been updated and statistics to show whether we are on course to meet our targets have now been collated. The Update and introductory overall summary should be launched and ready for distribution by the middle of July.

Neighbourhood and Parish Wardens

I have been impressed by the value that both the local communities and the police now put on the work done by the Parish and Neighbourhood Wardens. Their uniformed presence on the streets reassures the local community and they have the time to build up relationships in that community and develop a fund of local knowledge which is most valuable. They are the eyes and ears, not only of the police but also of the local authority and I am convinced that they have a important role to play in helping to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve as well as reducing crime and fear of crime.

Future funding for these schemes is still under consideration, and we are working closely with partners in the Crime and Disorder Partnership to find the best way forward.

Local Democracy Week

Local Democracy Week this year is from 13 to 19 October and the theme is “Listening to Tomorrow’s Voters”. The idea is to focus on young people aged 13 – 19 with a view to holding events to attract their interest in local government. We have, in Taunton Deane, one of the youngest Councillors in the country and this gives us an ideal opportunity to engage with new

voters, and those who will soon be new voters, to explain to them what local government is about, why it is relevant to them and what difference they can make.

JOANNA LEWIN-HARRIS