

key issues to be addressed
by the Plan...



SECTION 2

Key Issues to be addressed by the Plan

Turning the Vision into reality

“A Hambleton where people and places are safe, healthy and prosperous, where people feel part of their community, participate in decisions that affect them and work together to improve quality of life for all.”

There are a wide range of issues that affect quality of life. In the Community Plan we have grouped them into five Themes, which are addressed by the Thematic Groups. These five themes are:

Theme	Key Issues Covered
People	<i>Older People, Young People, Rural Communities, Community Involvement, Strengthening the Voluntary Sector.</i>
Places	<i>Housing, Environment, Waste, Recycling.</i>
Prosperity	<i>Business Support, Agriculture, Tourism, Market Towns, Transport.</i>
Safety	<i>Fear of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Alcohol and Drugs, Road Safety, Burglary and Auto-crime.</i>
Health	<i>Improving health and healthcare, addressing health inequality, improving access to leisure and recreation.</i>

The following pages provide more detail on the key issues and objectives under each theme and what we intend to do about them as a Partnership. Further details on specific projects are contained in detailed action plans for each Theme Group. We have developed a set of Quality of Life Indicators to measure progress against these objectives. These can be found in *Section 3* of the Plan. The Area Group Action Plans contain information on local level issues.

How do we know what the key issues are?

We have undertaken extensive consultation with the local community across the District, in both the market towns and villages. We have also collated information from partners who themselves have undertaken consultation and from the local community through the Area Group Action Plans and Parish Plans. This has provided a good understanding of the issues that are important. In addition to this we have also collected statistical information on key characteristics of the community and the District to back up this qualitative information. The vision and strategic themes have largely been rolled forward from the first Plan and remain valid, for example: housing, transport, fear of crime and environment. This Plan simply updates the more detailed information of what is going to be done about each. We have however changed the names of two of the Community Plan Themes ‘Vibrant’ is now ‘People’ and ‘Sustainable’ is now ‘Places’. This is in response to feedback that suggested it was not easy for people to understand the nature of the issues covered by those themes.



PEOPLE

AIM:

A stronger and more engaged community in which people participate in decisions that affect them. Where everyone has access to information and services to enable them to lead full and active lives, in particular old people and young people.

Understanding the context

Hambleton is a large rural District with 5 market towns and 130 villages. Just over half of the population live outside the market towns. Of the villages 46 currently have a good range of services, including a village shop, pub, regular bus service. The key characteristics of how the community of Hambleton is made up are outlined below:

- *Hambleton has a total population of 84,100*
- *it has a relatively low population density of 65 people per square kilometre (one of the lowest in the Country)*
- *between 1991 and 2001 the population increased by 6.3% (4,900 people) compared to a 5.1% increase across North Yorkshire*
- *47% of the population live in the five market towns (2003 estimate)*
- *22% of the population live in villages with less than 500 residents*
- *18 % of the population is under 16 compared to 20% nationally*
- *23% of the population is over 60, compared to 21% nationally*
- *0.8% of the population are black & minority ethnic groups*
- *election turnout at the last District elections was 37.54%.*

A brief analysis of this information highlights a number of challenges for the community plan to address. It is clear that there is a need to respond to the needs of an ageing population, ensure that people living in remoter rural parts of the District have access to services, protect existing services in rural villages and find ways to include those sectors of the community who are under-represented or harder to reach.

What the community told us

In addition, in relation to the 'People' Theme, people told us that the following things are important:

"Developing community spirit and encouraging new residents to get involved in community life"

"Encourage parish plans"

"Better communication of community activities"

"Something for young people to do"

"Making better use of school facilities for other activities, e.g. IT training for parents"



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KEY ISSUES: What we will do over the next five years

- 1. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will contribute to the development of a stronger and more engaged community in which people participate in decisions that affect them by:**
 - *increasing community involvement in local decision making*
 - *increasing community cohesion and inclusion*
 - *encouraging residents to get involved in community life*
 - *promoting opportunities for people to volunteer and increase rates of volunteering by the community*
 - *supporting the development of the voluntary sector*
 - *supporting the delivery of services by the voluntary sector*
 - *supporting the development of the North Yorkshire Compact with the voluntary and community sector*
 - *increasing the number of Parishes who have produced their own Parish Plans.*
- 2. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will contribute to the development of a community which is responsive to the needs of an ageing population by:**
 - *working in Partnership to implement the Hambleton Strategic Partnership Strategy for Older People to address the issues identified by older people themselves*
 - *empowering older people to make a positive contribution to their community*
 - *involving older people in decision making*
 - *increasing take up of benefits by older people*
 - *providing easier access for older people to the services and facilities they need to enjoy a good quality of life including leisure, culture and learning opportunities.*
- 3. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will contribute to the development of a community in which the needs of children and young people are being met by:**
 - *working in partnership to implement the Hambleton Strategic Partnership Strategy for Young People*
 - *working with HSP partners to involve young people in decisions that affect them*
 - *supporting the development of town centre facilities specifically for young people*
 - *supporting the provision of facilities for young people in their locality*
 - *supporting the development of extended schools and children's centres across the District.*
- 4. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will contribute to the development of a community where everyone has access to information and services they need by:**
 - *improving accessibility to services through use of IT and by supporting a multi-agency one stop shop approach*
 - *retaining and enhancing service provision in rural areas, particularly in terms of shops, post offices and village halls.*



PLACES

AIM:

A Community that minimises its contribution to climate change and seeks to protect and enhance the environment of the District for future generations to enjoy and where housing meets the needs of the local population.

Understanding the context

- *Hambleton is one of England's largest Districts, covering an area of over 1,310 square kilometres*
- *approximately 10% of the District area falls within the North York Moors National Park*
- *over 40 villages have Conservation Area status in recognition of their contribution to the culture and identity of the District and all 5 market towns have conservation areas at their heart*
- *to the south of the District is the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)*
- *% Recycling of waste – in 2005/06 41% of waste was recycled*
- *between 1999 and 2004 house prices increased by 119%. The average house price is £205,000, the second highest across York & North Yorkshire*
- *there are a total of 34,633 households in the District 25.32% of these are one person households.*

Affordability of housing is a key issue in the District, particularly for young people wanting to stay in the area. In addition Hambleton is a large rural District with historic market towns and a large number of small villages. There are many Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings across the area, a key challenge for the Community Plan is to protect our high quality environment whilst meeting other social and economic needs. In addition we need to consider how we can protect and enhance our natural resources for future generations and meet the challenge of climate change.

What the community told us

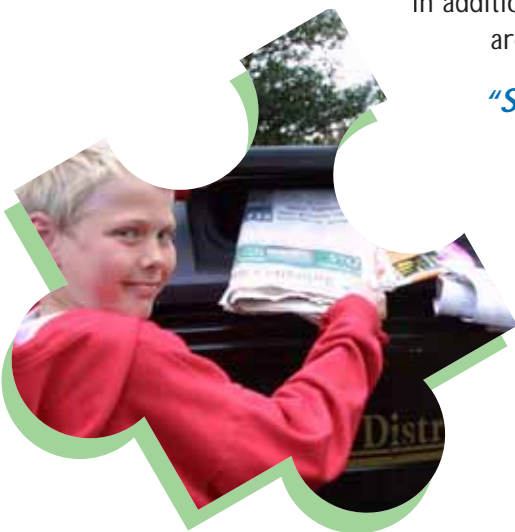
In addition, in relation to places people told us the following things are important:

“Support energy efficiency and renewable energy measures for households”

“Retain green spaces for more wildlife friendly areas, trees and ponds”

“More doorstep recycling and a need to educate people on recycling”

“Retaining local identity in the design of new buildings and developments”



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KEY ISSUES: What we will do over the next five years

1. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will support the provision of housing that is suitable to the needs of the local population by:

- *increasing the numbers of affordable houses built in the District*
- *increasing the provision of housing to support the needs of older people*
- *working to reduce and prevent homelessness.*

2. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will work towards reducing the production of waste in the District by:

- *reducing the amount of waste going to landfill*
- *increasing the level of recycling*
- *improving the extent of home composting.*

3. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will work in partnership to minimise the impact on the local environment by:

- *delivering the actions in the Hambleton Strategic Partnership Climate Change Strategy and reducing the District's contribution to climate change*
- *increasing environmental awareness to encourage people to take action*
- *improving energy efficiency of households across the District*
- *encouraging the use of renewable energy and reducing fuel poverty in vulnerable households*
- *improving the local environment through conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment.*



PROSPERITY

AIM:

**A Community with a sustainable and productive economy, where businesses have the support they need to thrive and which is attractive and welcoming to visitors.
A Community where everyone's need for transport is met.**

Understanding the context

- *only 1.1% of the population are unemployed, this is well below the national average*
- *about 60% of businesses in Hambleton have experienced recruitment difficulties, the second highest figure in North Yorkshire*
- *in 2005 19.9% of employers in Hambleton identified that they had skills gaps*
- *the main sectors of employment in the District are public administration, education and health and distribution, hotels and restaurants*
- *in 2002 almost 50% of employees travel to work outside of the District*
- *15% of employees work at home*
- *business formation and survival rates are high. There is a large stock of small businesses, 87% employ less than 10 people only 3% employ 50 or more people, however these account for 46% of employees*
- *educational attainment is high with 60.7% of pupils in North Yorkshire achieving 5 or more GCSE's grades A-C, compared to the average in England of 53.7%*
- *approximately 13.2% of the population have literacy problems and 12.2% have numeracy problems*
- *the District as a whole ranks as having low levels of deprivation, however some of the wards in the District are among the 10% most deprived nationally*
- *14% of households do not have a car or a van*
- *since May 2001 out of 511 referrals, 187 people (36.6%) have been allocated a moped under the Wheels 2 Work Scheme in Hambleton*
- *of the 119 settlements in Hambleton only 47 (39%) have a bus to town in work hours*
- *travel to work by car or van is 64.5%, on foot 12.4%, bicycle 3.6% and bus 1.9%.*

It is clear that although the District is perceived to be relatively prosperous overall, there are pockets of deprivation within. It is important that these are not overlooked. The affordability of housing is also key issue, particularly for young people who want to stay in the area.

Although unemployment rates are low, a large number of skilled workers travel to work outside of the District and there are a large number of lower skilled jobs within the District which employers find difficult to fill. The rural nature of the District poses a particular challenge for the provision of transport services to meet the needs of the whole community.



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What the community told us

In addition, in relation to prosperity people told us the following things are important:

“Support for new businesses and for businesses to expand”

“Training for specialist trades e.g. plumbers”

“Coach parking for market towns to encourage tourists and visitors”

“Policies to support rural employment and farm diversification”

“Protect and enhance the current retail offer”

“Better car parking enforcement”

“Improve public transport on market days”



KEY ISSUES: What we will do over the next five years

1. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will support the growth and development of local businesses including agriculture by:

- providing new serviced employment land and premises
- promoting and supporting local businesses
- supporting and facilitating business networks, forums and partnership working with the private sector
- increasing the availability of low cost units/office accommodation in the towns
- increasing the provision of high quality and better paid jobs within the District
- supporting the future development of agriculture
- contribute to the SRIP and RES and lobbying regional agencies for funding to support business development in the District.

2. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will maximise the potential of tourism by:

- supporting the growth of sustainable tourism
- working in partnership to promote the District as a tourist destination
- diversify the tourism product and extending the tourism season to bring new markets to Hambleton
- encouraging the development of existing and new tourist attractions
- improving of the quality of skills to enhance the existing tourism product.



3. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will support Market Town Regeneration by:

- *implementing actions from Market Town action plans*
- *enhancing the physical appearance, general environment of market towns to increase their attractiveness for private sector investment.*
- *creating diverse employment opportunities within the centres of market towns*
- *developing their role as service centres and economic and social hubs*
- *promoting the inclusion of Stokesley and Easingwold in the Renaissance Market Towns Programme.*

4. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will improve the skills of the local population by:

- *improving the level of skills in the workforce*
- *encouraging local employers to participate in the Modern Apprenticeship Programme*
- *extending community learning opportunities so that all sectors of the community have access to training and learning to meet their needs and interests*
- *encouraging local training providers to promote ongoing training opportunities and encourage local training providers to liaise with micro-businesses to better develop and target training*
- *improving access to training and employment e.g. by expanding the Wheels 2 Work Scheme.*

5. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will improve provision of transport by:

- *influencing and implementing the Local Transport Plan and the Community Transport Strategy*
- *securing additional funding for alternative solutions to transport problems*
- *supporting the provision of improved transport to access services, training, education and work*
- *achieving a better integration of community transport with conventional public transport*
- *improving access to rail stations for people with disabilities, improve the quality of public transport and information particularly in rural areas.*



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SAFE

AIM:

A Community where everyone can live without crime or fear of crime with good access to support services when needed.

Understanding the context

In a crime 'league table' of the 376 safest local authorities in the country, Hambleton is in the top 30. Hambleton District Council was awarded Beacon Status for 2002/03 in recognition of work in relation to crime reduction in rural areas. Crime trends over the last three years show:

- *domestic burglary is decreasing steadily with a 33% reduction for the year 2005/06 upon the previous year*
- *violent crime has increased slightly 17% for the year 2005/06 this is in line with the national trend*
- *violent crimes committed in connection with licensed premises have increased by 79% with a detection rate of 82%, it should be noted that the actual numbers are low, 0.7 per 1000 population in 2005/06 against 0.4 per 1000 population for 2004/05*
- *vehicle crime is reducing steadily and has reduced by 10% for the year 2005/06*
- *the majority of drug offences in Hambleton in both 2002/03 and 2003/04 were possession of drugs, there were only 6 offences relating to the supply of drugs each year, i.e. 4% of total offences*
- *in 2004/05 there were a total of 385 incidents of domestic violence reported to North Yorkshire Police; this figure had increased to 421 in 2005/06. Extensive multi-agency campaigning contributed to the increase in reported incidents*
- *as a crime, domestic abuse is under reported, in order to rationalise the level of domestic abuse a multi-agency target was set for 2005-2008 to increase the levels of reporting by a minimum of 20%*
- *Hambleton District contains two core trunk roads; the A1 running north-south near Bedale, in the west of the district and the A19/A168 between Teesside and A1 at Dishforth and to the City of York running north-south in the centre of the district*
- *the need to examine safety standards on the A1 was recognised by the Government's Transport White Paper and major issue recognised is the large volume of traffic passing through market towns, along with speeding motorists.*



What the community told us

Consultation on our Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit in 2004 found that maintaining a good quality of life is the major concern for many people and reducing the fear of crime. In relation to community safety the following were identified as important:

“Reducing Anti-social Behaviour and violence in the area”

“Reducing Alcohol and Drug related crime”

“Improving Road Safety in all areas”

“Reducing Burglary and Vehicle Crime in the District”



KEY ISSUES: What we will do over the next five years

1. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will work towards reducing the fear of crime by:

- *building community confidence through effective communication*
- *publicising all interventions, particularly if the intervention mechanisms are not visible to the public*
- *ensuring all partner members share responsibility for reassurance with local stakeholders and community members.*

2. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will reduce offending rates and prevent individuals becoming offenders in the first place by:

- *identifying prolific and priority offenders in Hambleton*
- *implementing multi-agency targeted work with PPOs (prolific and priority offenders) to ensure a reduction in crime rates and the effects in local neighbourhoods*
- *engaging with young people in devising approaches to avoid anti-social behaviour*
- *providing early interventions for young people where anti-social behaviour is evident.*

3. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will reduce anti-social behaviour and violence by:

- *identifying anti-social behaviour 'hotspots' and dealing with the root causes e.g. fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and graffiti*
- *maintaining an ongoing review and monitoring of licensing conditions of 'hotspots' premises i.e. pubs, clubs and takeaways*
- *effectively using fixed and mobile cctv cameras*
- *identifying prolific and persistent repeat violent offenders for targeted multi-agency focussed work to reduce offending.*



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4. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will improve road safety by:

- *profiling road safety hotspots identifying the number of incidents and underlying causes utilising all information across partner agencies*
- *utilising the persistent offender approach to identify and target individuals and locations relating to anti-social speeding, dangerous parking and motor cycle safety*
- *implementing speed matrix signs on both permanent and temporary sites*
- *improving awareness of and reduction in accidents, through information giving and education initiatives.*

5. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will reduce alcohol and drug related crime by:

- *identifying hotspots of alcohol related violence, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and implementing effective multi-agency action plans*
- *identifying locations of persistent under age drinking*
- *increasing the proportion of people seeking and attaining alcohol treatment services in Hambleton*
- *reducing Class A supply and usage and working collaboratively with other crime partnerships to jointly target persistent offenders involved in drug supply and dealing*
- *improving needle exchange facilities and improving rates of returns of used needles.*



HEALTHY

AIM:

A more active and healthy Community, with high quality local health care, integrated where possible with other services. With opportunities for culture, leisure and sport for all sectors of the community.

Understanding the context

- *life expectancy in Hambleton District was 78.4 for males and 82.1 for females in 2002-04, both well above the national averages (NCHOD Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators)*
- *circulatory diseases and Cancer are the main causes of death in Hambleton, accounting for 70% of all deaths between 2001-2004 (ONS / Public Health Mortality extract)*
- *the proportion of residents of Hambleton District who considered their health to be 'good' was 71.8% at the time of the 2001 Census*
- *the proportion of residents of Hambleton District who considered they had a limiting long term illness was 16% at the time of the 2001 Census*
- *in 2002, the rate of teenage conceptions under 18 years in Hambleton District was 31 per 1,000 females aged 15-17, 21.6% below the rate in 1998 and below the national average*
- *Hambleton District had an estimated prevalence of obesity in adults of 23.2% (HSE 00-02 synthetic estimates), higher than the national average*
- *42% of the residents in Hambleton participated in at least 30 minutes of 'moderate intensity' sport and active recreation at least 3 times a week during 2004/05 (Sport England Yorkshire Participation Survey). This is above the average of 40% for North Yorkshire*
- *Hambleton District had an estimated prevalence of binge drinking in adults of 19.3% (HSE 00-02 synthetic estimates), higher than the national average*
- *the prevalence of smoking in Hambleton District between 2000-02 was 19.5% (Axiom/National Shoppers Survey 2000-02), significantly lower than the national average*
- *66% of Hambleton residents are satisfied with the level of sports provision in their local area. This is above the average for North Yorkshire of 58%.*

Overall the health of the population is good. The population has a longer than average life expectancy and lower than average infant mortality, both of which are national health inequalities indicators. However, it is important not to be complacent as often significant overall health improvement can mask a widening health gap between those with the best and worst health. Improvements in technology and service delivery will usually be taken advantage of more effectively by the middle class, advantaged by higher educational attainment and other resources, leaving disadvantaged groups even further behind.

There are also significant local pockets of deprivation in Hambleton, as well as specific vulnerable groups and individuals (such as the prison population, looked after children and isolated older people). Being a rural, affluent and healthy area makes identifying inequalities in health and addressing them particularly challenging as the disadvantaged will usually be the minority and often 'hidden'. Ensuring good access to health services and other public services is also a challenge in a large rural area.



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What the community told us

In addition, in relation to health people told us the following things are important:

"That health promotion should be a priority and encourage young people to be active"

"A better range of services are required at the local surgery"

"Extend GP opening hours to include evening and weekend provision"

"Ensure that market towns have sufficient NHS Dentists"

"Develop walks and cycle routes"

"More provision of sport and leisure amenities in Hambleton"

"Support more cultural events across the District"



KEY ISSUES: What we will do over the next five years

1. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will reduce health inequalities by:

- working in partnership to deliver housing and energy efficiency advice to vulnerable households
- working in partnership to ensure that developments target need, and do not inadvertently worsen inequalities
- targeting initiatives to meet the needs of particular vulnerable groups and deprived communities
- supporting work to improve health outcomes of teenage mothers and their babies.

2. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will reduce the number of people who smoke by:

- working in partnership to support workplaces to go smoke free by Summer 2007
- working in partnership to increase the number of smoke-free homes
- continuing to encourage and support people to stop smoking.

3. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will tackle obesity, promote healthy eating and increase levels of physical activity by:

- working in partnership to develop and implement a strategy to address obesity
- developing new opportunities for sport and recreation



- *continuing to monitor and deliver the Exercise Referral Scheme*
- *promoting cycling and walking*
- *working in partnership to deliver action to promote and encourage healthy eating*
- *raising awareness of existing physical activity opportunities*
- *improving leisure facilities in local communities where the need is identified*
- *improving access to and affordability of leisure and cultural facilities*
- *encouraging partners to develop and implement Green Travel Plans.*

4. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will improve sexual health by:

- *supporting work to address the risk-taking sexual health behaviour of young people*
- *supporting work to reduce the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases*
- *supporting work to reduce teenage pregnancies*
- *supporting work to improve access to contraceptive and sexual health services.*

5. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will improve mental health and well being by:

- *working in partnership to reduce mortality rates from suicide and undetermined injuries.*

6. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will encourage and support sensible drinking by:

- *working with the Safe Theme group to address alcohol-related issues.*

7. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership will encourage the provision of accessible, high quality NHS and other health-related services by:

- *establishing effective two way communication links to the PCT locality commissioning groups in order to ensure that locally identified issues are raised and inform local service planning and commissioning*
- *working in partnership to deliver services and support access to services.*





CROSS CUTTING THEMES

In addition to the five strategic themes of the Plan, there are also a number of issues which are cross cutting in that they apply to the whole Plan and the whole Partnership.

These are:

- Community Engagement
- Sustainable Development
- Diversity
- Partnership Effectiveness

Community Engagement:

Engagement with the local community is central to the development and delivery of the Community Plan, which looks specifically at those issues felt to be important by the community in terms of improving their quality of life. Community engagement can be achieved in a number of different ways with differing end results. The Partnership recognises this and will therefore look to strengthen community engagement in the following ways:

1. **Grassroots Level Involvement** – by promoting involvement by the community in the Partnership at the appropriate level and providing adequate support to those who are involved

What we are doing now?

- *developing a database of members of the Hambleton Strategic Partnership*
- *supporting the Area Groups to strengthen their membership*
- *developing induction packs for new members*
- *providing summary leaflets to explain in simple terms the role and importance of the Area Groups*
- *working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to secure appropriate involvement.*

We will continue to do this and in addition we will . . .

- *promote more Parishes to undertake Parish Plans*
 - *encourage networking between groups.*
2. **Meaningful Consultation** – by working in partnership to ensure that there is better co-ordination between partners who undertake consultation on a regular basis and join this up as much as possible. Improve methods of consultation to ensure that the whole District is covered and all sections of the community are involved.

What we are doing now?

- *established a Hambleton Strategic Partnership Consultation Forum and joint consultations*
- *working with partners such as Hambleton Over Fifties Forum, Youth Service and the Learning Disabilities Partnership to ensure that the views of everyone are heard.*



We will continue to do this and in addition we will . . .

- *improve the effectiveness of the Hambleton Strategic Partnership Consultation Forum*
- *undertake further joint consultations to rationalise number of consultations undertaken and share results*
- *collate examples of good practice with regard to consultation*
- *ensure that effective consultation is undertaken with hard to reach groups identified in the District as remote rural communities, older people, young people, people with disabilities, travellers.*

3. Effective Communication – by promoting the Community Plan and the work of the Hambleton Strategic Partnership to a wide audience to raise awareness and understanding of community planning across the District.

What we are doing now?

- *publishing an Annual Report on progress*
- *providing feedback to the wider community at least once per year in an easy to understand and accessible format*
- *displaying information at community events and roadshows across the District*
- *producing HSP Updates in the voluntary sector newsletter 'Community News'.*

We will continue to do this and in addition we will . . .

- *develop a Communications Plan for the Partnership with clear roles and responsibilities*
- *develop the Community Hambleton website to include a wider range of information*
- *prepare an Executive Summary of the Annual Report that can be circulated widely*
- *include a page in every edition of Hambleton News which is dedicated to the Hambleton Strategic Partnership.*

Sustainable Development:

Government guidance states that we must work to ensure that our Community Plan is a Sustainable Community Plan which supports the development of sustainable communities '**places where people want to live and work, now and in the future**' and contributes to Sustainable Development. To do this we need to:

- *balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental needs of our communities*
- *meet the needs of existing generations and prepare for the needs of future generations*
- *address any areas of deprivation and co-ordinate services better to avoid duplication*
- *promote the involvement of local people, the private sector and voluntary and community groups*
- *link to local level plans.*

How will we do this?

The Community Plan seeks to address a range of social, economic and environmental issues in a balanced way. It is possible to develop different solutions to particular issues, some of which may be more sustainable than others e.g. so that economic growth is not achieved at the expense of the environment. The challenge is to achieve solutions that avoid or minimise such conflicts. The Plan sets out how we will enhance and protect the environment (places) how we will strengthen the economy (prosperity) and how we will support the local community (people, healthy and safe). However it is important that each theme group considers not one but all three aspects of sustainable development and the possible benefits and impacts of each.



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To assist with this we have developed a Sustainability Appraisal for the Community Plan. It is based on a set of sustainable development objectives for Hambleton, reflecting the national and regional sustainable development frameworks and local objectives in the Local Development Framework. It is a simple checklist to highlight the social, economic and environmental implications of the priorities identified in the Community Plan, to assess the contribution being made locally and identify any opportunities to improve this in the future.

Promoting Diversity:

It is important that the Community Plan addresses the needs of the whole community and is accessible to all. This is something that we must do collectively as well as individually. All partners agree that equal opportunities should be placed as the heart of providing services and in implementing this Plan. They are committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity and will take positive action to ensure that services are equally accessible to all, taking account of the 2000 Race Relations Act and the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.

How will we do this?

We will ensure that the members of the Partnership are representative of the needs of the whole community by reviewing representation on the Partnership, identifying gaps in representation and seeking to fill them. In terms of the Community Plan, we will seek to ensure that diversity actions are incorporated into all of the Theme and Area Group Action Plans.

Partnership Effectiveness:

Effective Partnership working is key to the delivery of the Community Plan and making progress towards achieving the Community Plan vision of '*a better quality of life for all*'. The Hambleton Strategic Partnership is now well established with a robust structure and agreed ways of working, but there is still much to do to improve our effectiveness. Making real and lasting improvements to local services and developing new initiatives for an area can take time and it demands new ways of working in all sectors. An important part of this second Community Plan is to build on what we have achieved to date, be clear about how effective the Partnership is being and what actions are needed to build on this effectiveness. The key issues highlighted below have been identified by members of the Partnership. These have formed the basis of a Partnership Effectiveness Improvement Plan for the Strategic Partnership, which will be monitored on an annual basis. It is felt that these issues are key to improving the effectiveness of the Partnership and they will provide the focus for future activity.

- *Become more action focused and make consultation effective.*
- *Improve communication internally and externally.*
- *Secure wider involvement on the Partnership.*
- *Better engagement with a range of groups and influence other strategies.*
- *Identify specific training needs and address cross cutting issues.*
- *Ensure effective linkages to other Partnerships are in place and make effective use of all meetings.*
- *Strengthen the commitment and accountability of partners.*
- *Pooled funding.*





help us achieve our goals for a
better community...