

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

31st January 2006**RICHMONDSHIRE 2021 – DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY****Purpose of report**

To consider and comment on the draft reviewed community strategy for Richmondshire.

Strategic Planning Framework

The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

- ***National Park Management Plan***

Community and Culture Aim - "Thriving communities in the Yorkshire Dales will continue to develop their strong cultural heritage. Services for Yorkshire Dales National Park communities will be available and accessible. These communities will take an active role in shaping their own sustainable and prosperous future and will recognise and take responsibility for the impact they have."

- ***Best Value Performance Plan***

"Promote sustainable development within the National Park as the basis for the long-term social and economic well-being of local communities ...".

Background

The Local Government Act 2000 places a duty on principal local authorities (county and district councils) to prepare community strategies. The aim of these is to enhance the quality of life of local communities and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development nationally through action to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area and its inhabitants.

The community strategy for Richmondshire was first published in 2003 and covered the 15 year period to 2018. This has now been updated and the period rolled forward to 2006 - 2021. The draft document, attached as Appendix 1, has been circulated for comment, the consultation period extending until 20th February 2006.

Since the first strategy was prepared the context within which the strategy sits has changed, which has influenced the priorities in this revised document. Firstly, central government's Shared Priorities for Public Services have come increasingly to the fore. These are listed on page 4 of the draft strategy. Secondly, North Yorkshire County Council is developing the county-wide Local Area Agreement, which will take effect from April 2007. The four themes around which the agreement will be structured are also set out on page 4.

Conclusions

Proposed comments on the draft document are listed in Appendix 2. Whilst it's hoped the Partnership will have regard to these comments, the reviewed strategy is judged nevertheless to be a well-balanced document that deserves the authority's support. The Partnership should also be informed of our support for the proposed monitoring, review and strategy development processes. The authority has already committed to these through current membership of the Partnership Steering Group and Forum. Its proposed representation also on three of the Theme Partnerships and Task Group – Strong Neighbourhoods, Prosperous Communities and Green Living – would further enhance its involvement and assist in developing the strategy's relationship with the National Park Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership be thanked for the opportunity to comment on the draft reviewed strategy: and
2. the comments in this report be agreed and submitted to the Partnership.

PHILIP J. BROWN
POLICY AND LIAISON OFFICER

Background documents: None

16th January 2006

Richmondshire 2021

Draft Community Strategy

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The Community Strategy can be made available in large print, braille and other languages. If you would like a copy please get in touch.

Introduction

Welcome to Richmondshire 2021, the second Community Strategy for Richmondshire. This strategy has been developed by the Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), that brings together key local agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors. A list of all of the partners in the LSP can be found on page 24.

Why do we need a Community Strategy?

Local authorities have a duty to prepare Community Strategies, which they develop with other public, private and community sector organisations (the LSP). The Community Strategy is a blueprint for activities that will promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area, to improve the quality of life for everyone in the district.

The Community Strategy brings together in a single document our vision and key priorities for Richmondshire. These priorities that have been identified by you through consultation; such as questionnaires, workshops, focus groups etc; and by undertaking a needs analysis of the district.

Why do we need a Local Strategic Partnership?

This Community Strategy recognises that most issues need to be tackled on several fronts, and that no one organisation or agency has all the answers. LSPs bring together all the relevant stakeholders, including those that deliver services in an area, to plan and deliver services more effectively and in a way that meets the needs and priorities that you have identified.

A sustainable Community Strategy

The Government has provided a definition of Sustainable Communities as: *'places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.'*

We have incorporated within this Community Strategy a Framework for The Future that sets out how we see the district can support and deliver a sustainable approach to growth and the future of its communities.

In short, this strategy is our commitment to you, to make Richmondshire an even better place to live, work or visit. We will do this by working together to tackle local issues, developing lasting solutions and by ensuring that our actions today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The bigger picture

Whilst this Strategy has been written following extensive consultation with you and the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to identify the priorities for the district. It is important to recognise the context within which this strategy sits. This strategy feeds into and supports at a local level:

• **Central Government**

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a Community Strategy. It also introduced the 'power of wellbeing' in relation to economic, environment and social issues.

Central Government developed a set of Shared Priorities for Public Services through the Central-Local Partnership in 2002. They are:

- Raising standards across our schools
- Promoting healthier communities and narrowing health inequalities
- Creating safer and stronger communities
- Transforming our local environment
- Meeting Local transport needs more effectively
- Promoting the economic vitality of localities
- Improving the quality of life of older people, children, young people and families at risk.

All public services are expected to show how they are working to achieve these priorities.

For more information about these Shared Priorities please see www.lga.gov.uk.

• **Yorkshire & Humber Region**

Central Government has established a regional framework for England. In our region there is a:

Regional Assembly – which is made up of elected members nominated by local authorities across the region. They act as the voice of the region and produce regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy. For more information see www.yhassembly.co.uk.

Government Office Yorkshire & Humber – is staffed by civil servants and acts as the local representatives for Central Government. For more information see www.goyh.gov.uk.

Yorkshire Forward – is the Regional Development Agency which was established to co-ordinate strategic economic regeneration strategies for each region. For more information see www.yorkshire-forward.com.

• **County of North Yorkshire**

At a Countywide level (led by North Yorkshire County Council as the responsible authority and the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership) a Local Area Agreement is currently being developed (to be in place by April 2007). Local Area Agreements are agreements between local authorities and their delivery partners with Central Government. They set out how public services will be improved and bring together in one agreement lots of the different funding streams that currently come down into the County from Central Government will be spent. The agreements will be structured around four key themes:

- Children and young people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people

➤ Economic Development.

For more information on Local Area Agreements see www.odpm.gov.uk.

Our District

Richmondshire is one of the largest districts in England; in fact it is larger than four English Counties! It covers an area of just over 500 square miles and has a population of 50,700 (mid year estimate, 2004). It extends from the lowlands of the A1 corridor to the sparsely populated uplands of the Yorkshire Dales. Around two thirds of the district is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Richmond is the main administrative centre of the district followed by Catterick Garrison, Leyburn, Hawes and Reeth.

Richmondshire is seen as a relatively prosperous district. Unemployment levels are currently 1.1% (2005) and we have high levels of educational attainment with 60.7% of pupils in North Yorkshire achieving 5 or more GCSEs (grades A-C) compared to the average in England of 53.7%.

Yet, despite this relative prosperity, we have diverse communities with a range of needs. Some of our rural communities are among the 10% most deprived for accessibility to services; for education, six of our wards are in the most deprived 30% with four in the worst 10%. Colburn, Richmond West and Hawes and High Abbotside are in the top 50% of most deprived wards in the country.

Our Communities

A few facts:

- Richmondshire is one of the most sparsely populated districts in the country with 0.36 persons per hectare in a total area of 131,867 hectares.
- Catterick Garrison is the largest British army base in the world.
- The average age of the district's population is 38.3.
- 20.4% of the district's population is over 60, whilst 38.7% is under 30.
- 98.1% of the district's population belong to a white ethnic group, 1.8% belong to other ethnic groups.
- 51.62% of our population are male and 48.3% are female.
- 26% of the district's population work in public administration and defence whilst only 6.3% work in agriculture, hunting and forestry.
- 30.53% of households have 1 or more persons with a limiting long-term illness.
- 14.6% of households do not have a car or van, 49.2% of households have at least 1 car and 36.1% of households have 2 or more cars.

- 81.9% of the district's population describe themselves as Christian, 0.66% as Hindu, 0.27% as Buddhist, 0.07 as Jewish, 0.05 as Muslim, 0.01 as Sikh, 10.44% as having no religion, 6.38% not stated and 0.14 as other.

Our pyramid of plans

The Community Strategy provides the 'blueprint' for the district and will guide our future planning and policy process.

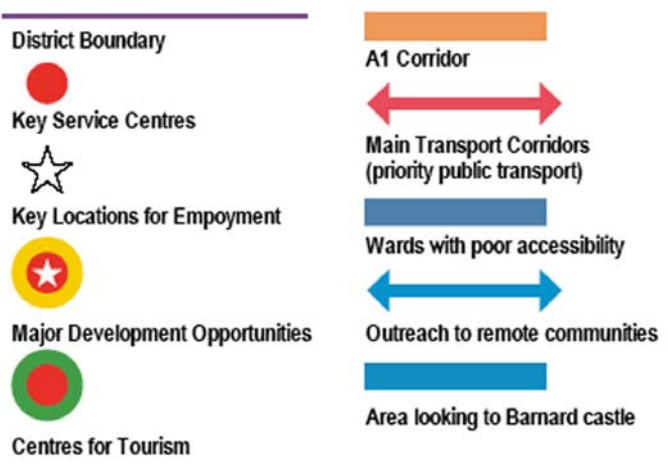
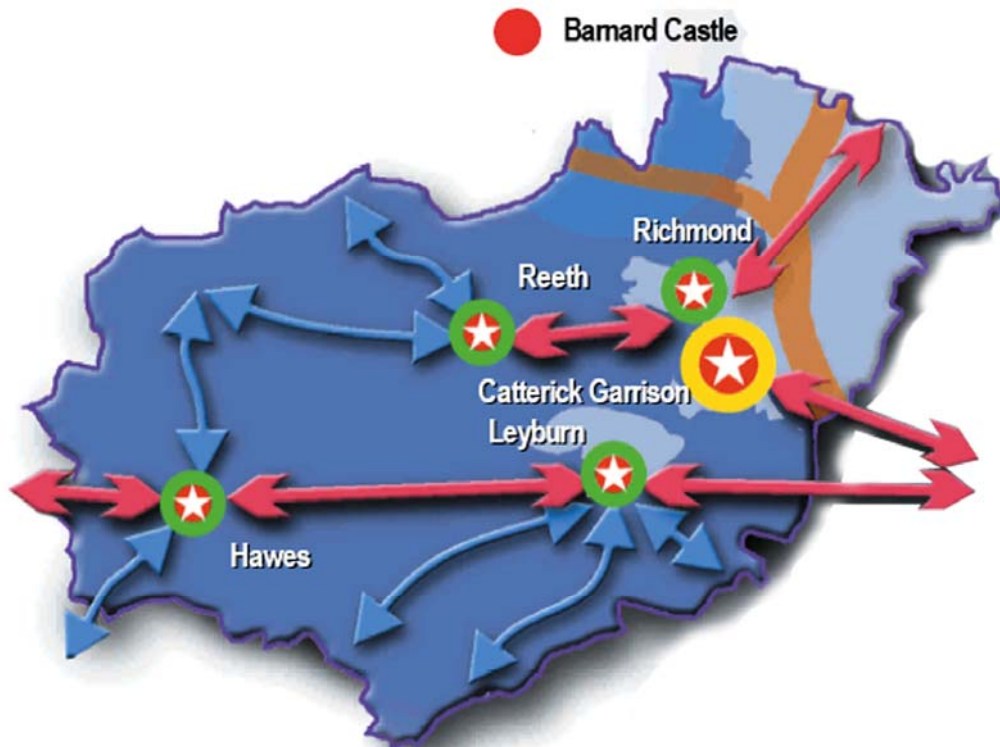
Richmondshire's Community Strategy is based around five themes:

- Safe Places
- Strong Neighbourhoods
- Healthy Lives
- Prosperous Communities
- Green Living

This diagram shows how our plans and strategies fit together. (to be updated)

- By adopting a sustainable approach to future growth that balances the economic, social and environmental needs of the District
- By maintaining a strong commitment to Richmondshire's economic and employment needs
- By channelling most future investment and growth towards a balanced programme of expansion at Catterick Garrison, including responding to its enhanced status as a 'super garrison'. This programme will make the Garrison a focal point for the district, with new homes, updated services, better leisure facilities and a new town centre to support both military and civilian growth, whilst ensuring this compliments rather than competes with Richmond's role as a district service centre.
- By continuing to encourage investment to support the roles of Richmond, Leyburn, Hawes and Reeth as District service centres, safeguarding the level of services they offer and maintaining growth in ways that do not harm their important heritage, landscape and environmental value
- By striving to support the sparsely populated parts of the District to secure, and where appropriate enhance, the vitality and viability of rural communities in sustainable ways through low level growth, diversification and enterprise to meet local needs
- By investing in better transport within key road corridors
- By using in a positive and sustainable way, the environmental assets of the District to underpin the rural economy, maintain the quality of life for residents, and enhance Richmondshire's advantage over competing areas

Framework for the future



Our vision

Richmondshire will be a place where people want to live, work and visit; where people enjoy a high quality of life and environment, feel safe, healthy and prosperous and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our values

Partnership

We are committed to working in partnership to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit Richmondshire. We will add value by changing the way we plan and deliver services to make the best use of our collective resources. We will take a co-ordinated and fresh approach to service planning and delivery, effecting real change in ways that do not prejudice opportunities or potential in the future.

Involvement & engagement

We will be open, inclusive and accountable. We will work to improve the ways we consult and communicate. We will look to develop new ways of encouraging individuals and groups to become involved in shaping the decisions that affect them.

Sustainability

We will work to ensure that our actions:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of our communities
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations
- Respect the needs of other communities, both within the region and further afield to make their communities sustainable.

Equalities and Diversity

We are actively committed to ensuring that there is no discrimination, injustice or inequality against individuals or groups on the grounds of disability, race, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, social and economic status, religion or political beliefs in either the way services are delivered or the ways in which we engage and involve you in our work. We will engage you effectively in the planning and delivery of services to ensure that you receive high quality, fair and equitable services that meet your needs.

Safe Places

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where everyone feels and is safe.”

Richmondshire is an area that enjoys low levels of crime, indeed in 2003/4 Richmondshire was ranked as the 4th safest area in the country based on rate and volume of recorded crime.

In 2003/4 there were a total of 121 domestic burglaries in the district, 6.7 per 1000 households compared to 15.7 per 1000 households across North Yorkshire. In the same year there were 103 motor vehicles stolen, 1.9 offences per 1000 population as compared with 3.5 offences per 1000 population across North Yorkshire.

Total crime levels in this year stood at 2589 offences across the district, 48.3 offences per 1000 population as compared with 95.4 offences per 1000 population during the same period in North Yorkshire.

However, we must not be complacent, crime and community safety remains one of your top concerns.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to be free from domestic abuse**
- **Long lasting solutions to anti-social behaviour**

We will work to ensure that everyone is free from domestic abuse by:

- Encouraging increased reporting of domestic incidents reported to North Yorkshire Police.
- Reducing the number of repeat victims by 20% by 2008.
- Mapping a baseline number of domestic abuse incidents and repeat victim incidents reported to other agencies in 2005/6.
- Increasing the number of refuge/supported accommodation places.
- Providing effective services and a network of support for multi agency high-risk cases, adult victims and survivors, children and young people.
- Providing interventions to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Providing training to frontline staff in partner agencies to deal quickly and effectively with reports or cases of domestic abuse.

We will work to ensure long lasting solutions to anti-social behaviour by:

- Reducing the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents by 15% by 2008.
- Providing training and awareness raising for front line staff, elected Members and communities within Richmondshire.
- Identifying at an early stage problem areas and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour to reduce repeat incidents.

- Improving data collection and co-ordination of information with regard to anti-social behaviour within the district.
- Developing effective diversionary activities in conjunction with youth and education providers in Richmondshire.
- Promoting the reporting of anti-social behaviour to reduce the fear of actual incidents or further negative behaviour.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

The Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership.

The Community Safety Partnership was formed as a result of the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 with the remit of tackling crime and disorder across the district. The Community Safety Partnership is the delivery arm of the Local Strategic Partnership and their Crime Reduction family of strategies, including a Domestic Abuse Forum Strategy 2005-2008 and an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2005-2008, support the overall Community Strategy, vision, outcomes and priorities.

Agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Police, Fire Service, Primary Care Trust and many community and voluntary organisations.

The Community Safety Partnership will develop detailed annual action plans showing how we will tackle your top priorities. These will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

For more information on the Community Safety Partnership or associated strategies please contact:

Community Safety Co-ordinator
Swale House
Frenchgate
Richmond
DL10 4JE
01748 829118

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Strong Neighbourhoods

Richmondshire 2021

“a place with vibrant, sustainable communities, where people want to live and work and feel able to take part in decisions that affect them.”

Richmondshire is a large and in some areas sparsely populated district. It is seen as a highly desirable area to live and is attractive to people commuting to work in nearby towns and cities, the wealthy and those seeking retirement or holiday accommodation.

Richmondshire is also home to the largest British army garrison in the world, whose personnel are relatively young, highly mobile and subject to changes in national defence policy.

Did you know:

- The average house price has risen from £81,819 in 1999 to £191,158 in 2005.
- The affordability ratio (average house price to income) ranges from 3.6 in Hipswell ward to 10.5 in Addleborough ward.
- That the number of Council homes has nearly halved since the introduction of Right to Buy in 1980.
- Some of our rural communities are among the 10% most deprived for accessibility to services.
- During the last elections (2003) only 37.69% of those who were eligible to vote did so, compared with 40.22% in 1999, 49.47% in 1997 and 69.58% in 1979.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to have access to good quality services, where, when and how they want them.**
- **Everyone has the opportunity of a decent home, including local needs affordable housing.**
- **Everyone to have the opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect them and to see real change occur.**

We will work to ensure that everyone has access to good quality services, where, when and how they want them by:

- Conducting an audit of the services currently being provided through the district's one-stop shops and working to expand those services and provide further outreach surgeries.
- Introducing new electronic systems for people to access services, make payments or find out about services.
- Ensuring that service providers work together to deliver 'joined up' services, avoid duplication and increase efficiency of resource use.
- Supporting the development of services by voluntary and community groups.

We will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent home, including local needs affordable housing by:

- Providing at least 175 additional local needs affordable homes by 2010.
- Conducting an audit of publicly owned land to identify potential sites for affordable housing.
- Carrying out District-wide assessments of housing need every 5 years.
- Developing a register of homes which are adapted or are capable of being adapted by 2007.
- Supporting the delivery of the Half a House pilot project (using private sector money to enable/assist people to buy homes that would otherwise be unaffordable in the Dales).
- Exploring the better use of second homes and empty properties to help increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Ensure that all public housing meets the Government's decent homes standard by 2010 and 70% of homes with vulnerable occupants in the private sector.
- Working together to tackle and prevent homelessness.
- Meeting the housing and support needs of vulnerable people.

We will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect them and to see real change occur by:

- Ensuring that the Local Strategic Partnership is representative.
- Developing a forum through which the voluntary and community sector can feed into the LSP.
- Assisting and supporting Community Investment Prospectus Groups (CIPs) to develop a wider role in their communities.
- Continuing to work together through the LSP Joint Consultation group to provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to public involvement and consultation.
- Increasing opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation by providing support to remove barriers to access such as transport, childcare and meeting times and increasing the number of people who vote in local elections.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Strong Neighbourhoods Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Strong Neighbourhoods Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Housing Associations, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Connexions, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services, Police, Police Authority, Primary Care Trust and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:

Policy Officer (Housing)
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Richmond
DL10 4JE
01748 829100
or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Healthy Lives

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where people are as healthy as possible”

Good health is as much a result of the environment people live in as it is a function of health and care services. Housing, employment, income, education, recreation, environment and transport all provide the basis for good health, and enable health services to help people maintain their independence.

Overall, Richmondshire has a healthier than average population. Life expectancy in Richmondshire exceeded England by an average of 1.4 years for men and 1.35 years for women in 2001-2003. Our infant mortality rates and teenage conception rates remain substantially lower than the national averages and figures from the 2001 census show that 73% of Richmondshire's population stated that their health was good whilst only 6.7% felt that their health was not good.

Access is an important issue for the district with many of our communities among the 10% most deprived for access to services. Ensuring that everyone has adequate access to health care, good quality housing, cultural, leisure and sporting facilities is essential for ensuring the health and well being of the population.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible, by accessing excellent healthcare and being supported in making healthy lifestyle choices.**

We will work to ensure that everyone is as healthy as possible by:

- Encouraging the adoption of active and healthy lifestyles.
- Encouraging and supporting people to stop smoking.
- Reducing teenage pregnancy and supporting teenage parents.
- Supporting existing initiatives including Sure Start and the Healthy Schools scheme.
- Encouraging more nutritional diets and healthier eating habits.
- Improving the range of cultural, leisure and sporting facilities.
- Increasing participation in physical activity.
- Supporting the development and delivery of an obesity strategy and action plan.
- Supporting the development and delivery of a local breastfeeding strategy.
- Supporting a local fuel poverty initiative.
- Supporting the delivery of a falls prevention programme.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

The Hambleton & Richmondshire Improving Health Group.

The Improving Health Group was formed as a theme partnership of both the Hambleton and Richmondshire LSPs with the remit of improving community health and well being across the two districts. The Improving Health Group has identified a number of objectives, actions and shared targets which are set out in the Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan and the Health Action Plan for this Community Strategy. These show how we will tackle your top priorities. They will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership include the District Councils, County Council, Primary Care Trust, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services and other community and voluntary organisations.

For more information on the Improving Health Group or associated action plans please contact:

Policy Officer (Partnerships)

Swale House

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DL10 4JE

01748 829100

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Prosperous Communities

Richmondshire 2021

“a place which enjoys economic vitality and where everyone has access to lifelong learning.”

Richmondshire is seen as a relatively prosperous area with higher than average educational achievement and low unemployment levels (1.1% 2005 compared to 2.4% - Great Britain and 2.5% -Yorkshire & Humber region). However, Richmondshire's economy is still largely reliant upon farming and tourism which is often low paid and seasonal and the majority of businesses in the area are small and medium sized enterprises that employ less than 250 people. In contrast, Richmondshire is also home to the largest British army garrison in the world, based at Catterick which has recently had its status enhanced to that of 'super garrison'. It is estimated that right now the total military related population is around 17.5 thousand people.

Did you know :

- Most employment is in the professional/management occupations (34.4%) and administrative and skilled trades (28.4%).
- There is 0.9 jobs for every resident of working age in the district.
- We have above regional and national averages for part-time jobs (37.4%) and those working in the service industry (82.7%).
- We have very low levels of people working in manufacturing (approx 6%), which is a third of the regional average.
- More than 14% of employees work in the tourism-related industry, double the regional average and exceeding the national average.
- In 2003, we had 7.6% registration of VAT businesses, less than the regional and national average.
- 22.3% of our residents have issues with literacy as compared to 23.3% in North Yorkshire and 19.4% have issues with numeracy compared with 22.1% in North Yorkshire.
- 35% of our residents aged 18 or above have taken no form of learning in the past 3 years, which is below the average for York and North Yorkshire as a whole.
- The proportion of residents aged 16-74 who have no qualification is 24.6%, compared to 26% for York and North Yorkshire.
- The proportion of residents aged 16-74 who are qualified to NVQ Level 4 is 19.1%, which is lower than for York and North Yorkshire.

You have told us that you want:

- **Richmondshire to be a place of economic growth and enterprise, with a range of employment opportunities that meet people's needs.**
- **Everyone to have access to good quality lifelong learning.**

We will work to ensure Richmondshire is a place of economic growth and enterprise, with a range employment opportunities that meet people's needs by:

- Promoting Richmondshire as an attractive area to locate businesses.
- Developing workspace and managed workspace units to encourage the types of employment the district wants.
- Attracting beneficial inward investment.
- Improving the quality of the tourism product, building on the area's assets and strengths, and promoting 'green tourism'.
- Enabling the development of businesses by ensuring the provision of high quality business support/advice services.
- Maximising funding opportunities and delivering regeneration projects throughout the district; strengthening links with the Regional Economic Strategy and Sub-Regional Investment Plan.

We will work to ensure everyone has access to good quality lifelong learning by:

- Reducing the number of young people out of school.
- Improving multi-agency working to ensure that all young people reach their full potential.
- Ensure all young people have access to a Connexions Personal Adviser to help them make informed choices about their future.
- Supporting an audit of adult learning provision across the district and subsequent action planning.
- Retaining successful village primary schools.
- Supporting the production of a booklet promoting local vocational learning.
- Increasing the provision of e-learning within the district.
- Supporting Skills for Life delivery within the district.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Prosperous Communities Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Prosperous Communities Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Connexions, Schools & Colleges, Businesses, CIP groups, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:

Policy Officer (Partnerships)
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Richmond
DL10 4JE
01748 829100

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Green Living

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where people value, understand, enjoy, respect and have pride in their environment, where needs are met whilst preserving and enhancing our built and natural environment.”

Richmondshire is an area of great natural beauty with a superb natural and built environment. The district covers just over 500 square miles and has a population of 50,700. It extends from the lowlands of the A1 corridor to the sparsely populated upland of the Yorkshire Dales. Over two thirds of the district is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Did you know:

- There are 53 conservation areas in Richmondshire.
- 51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including 9 areas of international designation and 126 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- In 2004/5 88% of household waste was landfilled in Richmondshire, with 10.36% being recycled, 1.63% was sent for composting.
- Richmondshire is home to many nationally important species. There are 17 recorded species of nationally scarce plants, 22 species of Britain's most threatened birds breed in the area and there are 8 species of protected bat.
- There is approximately 17km of cycleway around Catterick Garrison.
- Prior to 1959 there were a number of rare bumblebees recorded in the district but since that time numbers have declined.
- Total visitor spending in the district amounted to nearly £85million in 2000, which supported 2,610 jobs.
- There are 23,712 cars or vans in the district. 2650 households do not have access to a car or van.
- 4,405 people usually walk to work.
- Atlantic salmon spawn in the River Ure.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to minimise their impact on the environment through effective waste management (recycling, waste minimisation etc) and by looking after our natural environment (biodiversity).**
- **To preserve and enhance our built heritage.**

We will work to ensure everyone has the opportunity to minimise their impact on the environment by:

- Increasing levels of recycling and waste minimisation within the district.
- Actively minimising the use of energy, water and natural resources by ensuring they are used efficiently and achieving a 20% reduction in CO2 by 2010 and for 10% of electricity to be generated from renewables by 2010.

- Supporting the delivery of the two Biodiversity Action Plans for the district (1 covers the area within the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and 1 covers the area outside of the Park).
- Encouraging the use of alternative means of transport for visitors and local residents.
- Encouraging people to 'do their bit' by promoting and informing residents of practical things we can all do to improve our environmental impact.
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction.

We will work to ensure we preserve and enhance our built heritage by:

- Supporting measures to safeguard and protect the character and appearance of our historic towns, villages and places.
- Promoting sensitive and innovative ways of using heritage assets to underpin the district economy.
- Encouraging the reuse and restoration of historic buildings, particularly in support of rural regeneration and diversification.
- Actively encouraging community involvement in caring for our heritage.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Environmental Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Environmental Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, CPRE, Schools & Colleges, Businesses, CIP groups, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services, English Nature, Civic Society, Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve, Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Biodiversity Action Group and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:
 Policy Officer (Sustainable Development)
 Richmondshire District Council
 Swale House
 Richmond
 DL10 4JE
 01748 829100
 or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Working together to make it happen

The Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for developing, overseeing, co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of this Community Strategy.

Our LSP brings together a wide range of key local organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. A full list of those involved in the LSP can be found on page 24.

The partnership recognises that by working together we can:

- Improve the economic, social and environmental well-being for everybody in Richmondshire, now and in the future.
- Reduce inequalities that exist in the district.
- Ensure that services work better and more efficiently and are delivered in ways that meet demand.

We will work together to tackle the priorities through the LSP structure as set out in the diagram opposite.

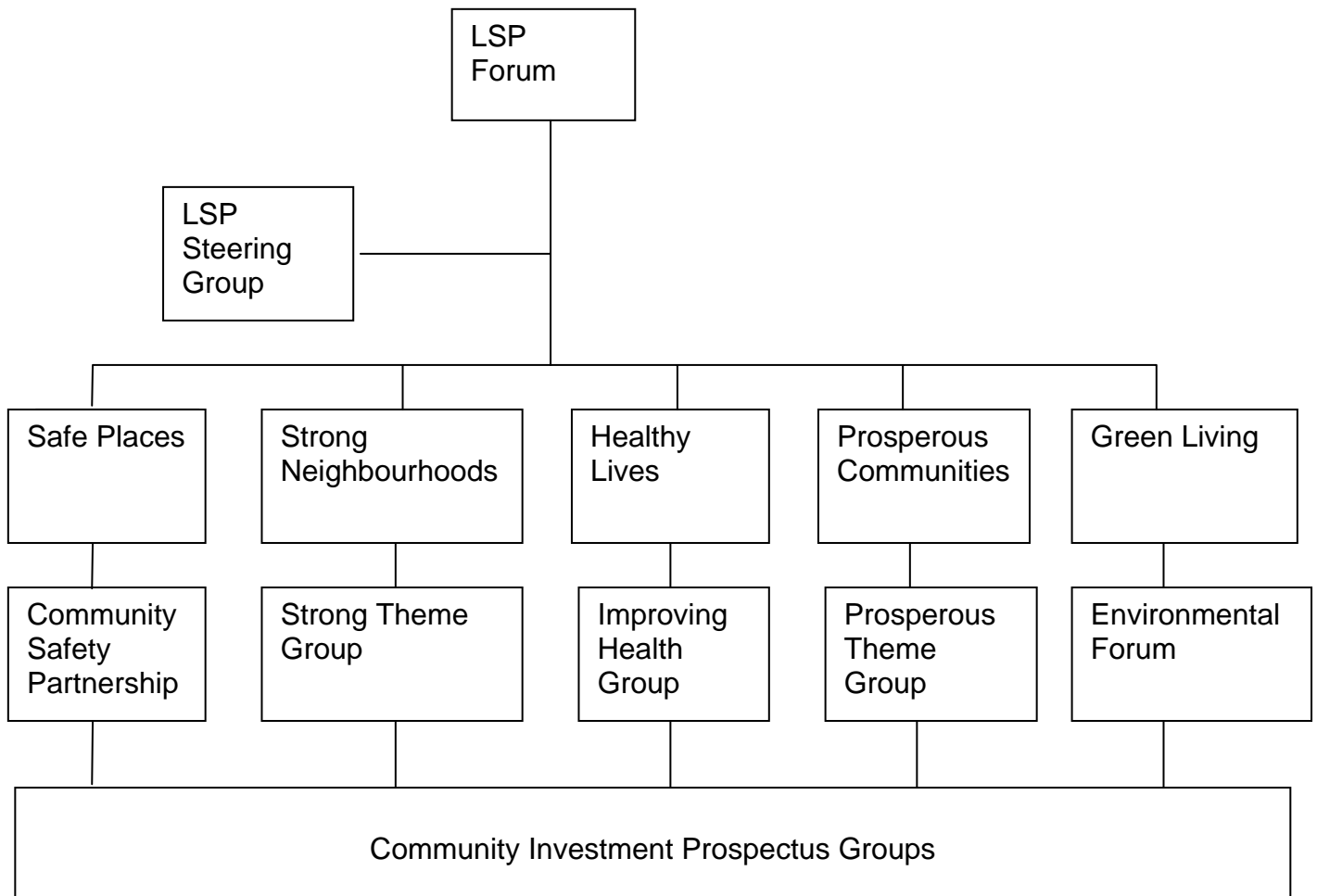
The **Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group** is a small group that meets every two months. Its role is to steer, drive and facilitate the development and implementation of the Community Strategy, to co-ordinate work and make sure it happens.

The LSP Forum is a larger partnership, whose role is that of the decision-maker. They will meet twice a year to monitor progress against priorities and highlight areas of difficulty.

The **Theme Partnerships and Task Groups** draw together the action plans for each of the five themes and priorities. They are the means by which actions are delivered. Each of the five theme partnerships' Chairs will sit on LSP Steering Group.

Together, the family of partnerships make up our **Local Strategic Partnership**.

Our structure



Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership

Monitoring and reviewing progress

Fundamental to the achievement of this strategy will be the involvement of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Richmondshire. We need you to work with us, to tell us whether or not we are succeeding and what we can improve to make Richmondshire a better place for everyone. This will form part of our monitoring process and we will hold an annual roadshow each year to let people know what we have been doing and find out what they think. We will publish regular press releases and use community newsletters and other communication channels.

The LSP will monitor progress of the Community Strategy both through the annual action plans but also by monitoring overall performance against 18 'Quality of Life' indicators. The indicators have been developed by the Audit Commission, the ODPM and DEFRA to help 'paint a picture' of the quality of life in a local area. A list of the 'Quality of Life' indicators that we will monitor can be found on page 24.

Each of the theme partnerships will develop detailed annual action plans which will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy. These action plans will be:

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Realistic

Timed.

The action plans will be published annually and will set out our progress, identify new targets and actions and identify any changes to the priorities as set out in this document.

The action plans will be publicised on Richmondshire District Council's website: www.richmondshire.gov.uk or by ringing 01748 829100.

How to contact us

If you would like any more information or would like to know how to get more involved please contact us either in writing to:

Rachel Bowles
Policy Officer
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Frenchgate
Richmond
DL10 4JE

By email to: r.bowles@richmondshire.gov.uk
Or telephone: 01748 829100

Further information is available on our website: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

The Community Strategy can be made available in large print, braille and other languages. If you would like a copy please get in touch.

Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership

List of partners

Age Concern
Army Welfare
Arts in Richmondshire (AiR)
Brymor
Business Representatives
Business Solutions Bedale
Campaign to Protect Rural England
Citizens Advice Bureau
Civic Society
Community Investment Prospectus groups
Connexions
Countryside Agency
Craven College
Defence Estates
DEFRA
Disability Action in Richmondshire
Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
English Heritage
English Nature
Environment Agency
Foxglove Covert Nature Reserve
Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber
Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Addiction Service
Hambleton and Richmondshire Primary Care Trust
Hawes Auction Mart
Job Centre Plus
Ken Warne Ltd
MESMAC Sexual Health Project
National Farmers union
NDFM Hill Farming Initiative
North Yorkshire County Council
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
North Yorkshire Police
North Yorkshire Police Authority
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
Parish Council's
Richmondshire Area Learning Partnership
Richmondshire District Council
Richmondshire and Hambleton Rural Transport Partnership
Richmondshire Museums
Richmond Town Manager
Richmondshire Centre for Voluntary Services
Soroptomists
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Yorkshire Forward
Young Mens Christian Association

Quality of Life Indicators

The LSP will monitor progress of the Community Strategy both through the annual action plans but also by monitoring overall performance against 18 'Quality of Life' indicators. The indicators have been developed by the Audit Commission, the ODPM and DEFRA to help 'paint a picture' of the quality of life in a local area. We will monitor these indicators annually and publish them on our website. Alternatively contact us and we will provide you with the information.

Community Safety

1. Domestic burglaries per 1000 households.
2. Vehicle crimes per 1000 population.
3. Violent crimes per 1000 population.

Economic well-being

1. The percentage of people of working-age population that is in employment.
2. The total number of VAT registered businesses in the area at the end of the year.
3. The percentage change in the number of VAT registered businesses.
4. The percentage of a) children and; b) population over 60 that live in households that are income deprived.

Education and Lifelong Learning

1. The proportion of young people (16-24 year olds) in full time education or employment.
2. The percentage of 15 year old-pupils in schools maintained by the local authority achieving five or more GCSE grades at grades A*-C or equivalent.

Environment

1. The percentage of river length assessed as (a) good biological quality; and (b) good chemical quality.
2. The volume of household waste collected and the proportion recycled.

Health and social well-being

1. Age standardised mortality rates for a) all cancers b) circulatory diseases; and c) respiratory diseases.
2. Teenage pregnancy, conceptions under 18 years, per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Housing

1. The total number of new housing completions.
2. Affordable dwellings completed as a percentage of all new housing completions.
3. House price to income ratio.

Other

1. The percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area.
2. Percentage of people surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

General

A change in the updated document are the increased references to sustainability considerations. As community strategies are intended to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development this change is appropriate and welcomed. It should be noted that the Sustainable Development Action Plan for Richmondshire, being prepared by the District Council and currently in draft, adopts the community strategy themes and will contribute to aspects of the strategy's delivery.

With regard to context, the new National Park Management Plan Guidance makes clear that Management Plans should be an exerting influence on community strategies. The strategy, therefore, needs to make reference to the Yorkshire Dales Management Plan, either in its description of 'The bigger picture' or in its mention of 'Our pyramid of plans'.

Location, location, location

'Building on the area's inherent strengths and character' should be added to the fourth bullet.

The final bullet should include reference to respecting and conserving and enhancing environment assets, as well as using them.

Vision and Values

Under the 'sustainability' value, by condensing the second bullet the statement has lost some of its meaning. Reversion to a fuller statement is recommended, along the lines of 'meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs'.

Safe Places

The penultimate bullet, under proposals to tackle anti-social behaviour, suggest diversionary activities for young people. This could include organising work parties on local environmental projects, that would have the potential to help develop ownership, social responsibility and belonging, as well as offering experience in practical skills and healthy exercise, (thereby contributing to the 'healthy lives' agenda).

Strong Neighbourhoods

Proposals under access to services should include improving knowledge of where there are service deficiencies, because they are inconvenient, of poor quality or absent altogether.

The points under proposals for affordable housing should acknowledge more openly that ensuring everyone has a decent home requires action to improve the availability of accommodation in the long-term rental market as well as property to buy.

Opportunities for providing accommodation in unused or underused space above or behind shops and other business premises should be investigated. Besides helping to provide much needed residential accommodation, such developments could also be a way of breathing life into areas in decline and of helping to conserve historic buildings and areas.

Proposals for ensuring involvement in decisions should include collaboration between bodies so that consultations are co-ordinated, avoid overlap and maximise the effectiveness of resources. This would respond to a comment made by the Peer Review Team in their Performance Assessment Report, that the authority could do more with local strategic partnerships to co-ordinate consultations on their respective visions.

Healthy Lives

Consideration of this topic seems to ignore the fact that residents of Richmondshire have on their doorstep the opportunities offered by the countryside, the National Park in particular, for healthy outdoor activity available to people of all ages and capabilities. Perhaps there is an increased role here for this authority in targeting groups of non-users within and peripheral to the Park, as well as those further afield.

Prosperous communities

The introduction to this topic refers to the continuing reliance of Richmondshire's economy on farming and tourism. Whereas tourism receives further mention, surprisingly farming doesn't. Sympathetic land management is critical to the district retaining its scenic quality, character and interest so there are a number of reasons, including economic factors, why farming needs to survive. Even though some of the measures proposed may assist farming there should, nevertheless, be specific reference to supporting sustainable land management and suitable diversification to assist the viability of smaller farm businesses.

Proposals under access to lifelong learning should encourage collaboration between providers to avoid counter-productive competition and to ensure maximum value is gained from their investment in the district.

Green Living

With regard to the penultimate bullet, some re-wording is suggested. People should be encouraged to get involved in practical activities to conserve and care for wildlife and their natural assets, as well as reducing their environmental impact.

The document's references to 'built heritage' should be changed to 'historic environment', which is a more accurate and inclusive term to cover buildings, spaces and archaeology.

The first bullet under this heading should include reference to historic landscapes.

With regard to the second bullet, the strategy should be promoting an enlightened and innovative attitude amongst businesses so that the district economy is contributing to the area's heritage assets as well as, and in return for, using them.

Rural regeneration and diversification should include enhancement of public spaces and requiring high standards of design for buildings and works in historic environments.

Supplies and use of local materials and ensuring there are sufficient people qualified in traditional construction or countryside skills are essential to conservation of natural and historic environmental assets. The strategy should recognise this.

Quality of Life Indicators

It is suggested that condition of SSSIs and listed buildings at risk should be added to the 'environment' indicators.

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

31st January 2006**RICHMONDSHIRE 2021 – DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY****Purpose of report**

To consider and comment on the draft reviewed community strategy for Richmondshire.

Strategic Planning Framework

The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

- ***National Park Management Plan***

Community and Culture Aim - "Thriving communities in the Yorkshire Dales will continue to develop their strong cultural heritage. Services for Yorkshire Dales National Park communities will be available and accessible. These communities will take an active role in shaping their own sustainable and prosperous future and will recognise and take responsibility for the impact they have."

- ***Best Value Performance Plan***

"Promote sustainable development within the National Park as the basis for the long-term social and economic well-being of local communities ...".

Background

The Local Government Act 2000 places a duty on principal local authorities (county and district councils) to prepare community strategies. The aim of these is to enhance the quality of life of local communities and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development nationally through action to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area and its inhabitants.

The community strategy for Richmondshire was first published in 2003 and covered the 15 year period to 2018. This has now been updated and the period rolled forward to 2006 - 2021. The draft document, attached as Appendix 1, has been circulated for comment, the consultation period extending until 20th February 2006.

Since the first strategy was prepared the context within which the strategy sits has changed, which has influenced the priorities in this revised document. Firstly, central government's Shared Priorities for Public Services have come increasingly to the fore. These are listed on page 4 of the draft strategy. Secondly, North Yorkshire County Council is developing the county-wide Local Area Agreement, which will take effect from April 2007. The four themes around which the agreement will be structured are also set out on page 4.

Conclusions

Proposed comments on the draft document are listed in Appendix 2. Whilst it's hoped the Partnership will have regard to these comments, the reviewed strategy is judged

nevertheless to be a well-balanced document that deserves the authority's support. The Partnership should also be informed of our support for the proposed monitoring, review and strategy development processes. The authority has already committed to these through current membership of the Partnership Steering Group and Forum. Its proposed representation also on three of the Theme Partnerships and Task Group – Strong Neighbourhoods, Prosperous Communities and Green Living – would further enhance its involvement and assist in developing the strategy's relationship with the National Park Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership be thanked for the opportunity to comment on the draft reviewed strategy: and
2. the comments in this report be agreed and submitted to the Partnership.

PHILIP J. BROWN
POLICY AND LIAISON OFFICER

Background documents: None

16th January 2006

APPENDIX 2

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

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Richmondshire 2021

Draft Community Strategy

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The Community Strategy can be made available in large print, braille and other languages. If you would like a copy please get in touch.

Introduction

Welcome to Richmondshire 2021, the second Community Strategy for Richmondshire. This strategy has been developed by the Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), that brings together key local agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors. A list of all of the partners in the LSP can be found on page 24.

Why do we need a Community Strategy?

Local authorities have a duty to prepare Community Strategies, which they develop with other public, private and community sector organisations (the LSP). The Community Strategy is a blueprint for activities that will promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area, to improve the quality of life for everyone in the district.

The Community Strategy brings together in a single document our vision and key priorities for Richmondshire. These priorities that have been identified by you through consultation; such as questionnaires, workshops, focus groups etc; and by undertaking a needs analysis of the district.

Why do we need a Local Strategic Partnership?

This Community Strategy recognises that most issues need to be tackled on several fronts, and that no one organisation or agency has all the answers. LSPs bring together all the relevant stakeholders, including those that deliver services in an area, to plan and deliver services more effectively and in a way that meets the needs and priorities that you have identified.

A sustainable Community Strategy

The Government has provided a definition of Sustainable Communities as: *'places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.'*

We have incorporated within this Community Strategy a Framework for The Future that sets out how we see the district can support and deliver a sustainable approach to growth and the future of its communities.

In short, this strategy is our commitment to you, to make Richmondshire an even better place to live, work or visit. We will do this by working together to tackle local issues, developing lasting solutions and by ensuring that our actions today do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The bigger picture

Whilst this Strategy has been written following extensive consultation with you and the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to identify the priorities for the district. It is important to recognise the context within which this strategy sits. This strategy feeds into and supports at a local level:

• **Central Government**

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a Community Strategy. It also introduced the 'power of wellbeing' in relation to economic, environment and social issues.

Central Government developed a set of Shared Priorities for Public Services through the Central-Local Partnership in 2002. They are:

- Raising standards across our schools
- Promoting healthier communities and narrowing health inequalities
- Creating safer and stronger communities
- Transforming our local environment
- Meeting Local transport needs more effectively
- Promoting the economic vitality of localities
- Improving the quality of life of older people, children, young people and families at risk.

All public services are expected to show how they are working to achieve these priorities.

For more information about these Shared Priorities please see www.lga.gov.uk.

• **Yorkshire & Humber Region**

Central Government has established a regional framework for England. In our region there is a:

Regional Assembly – which is made up of elected members nominated by local authorities across the region. They act as the voice of the region and produce regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy. For more information see www.yhassembly.co.uk.

Government Office Yorkshire & Humber – is staffed by civil servants and acts as the local representatives for Central Government. For more information see www.goyh.gov.uk.

Yorkshire Forward – is the Regional Development Agency which was established to co-ordinate strategic economic regeneration strategies for each region. For more information see www.yorkshire-forward.com.

• **County of North Yorkshire**

At a Countywide level (led by North Yorkshire County Council as the responsible authority and the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership) a Local Area Agreement is currently being developed (to be in place by April 2007). Local Area Agreements are agreements between local authorities and their delivery partners with Central Government. They set out how public services will be improved and bring together in one agreement lots of the different funding streams that currently come down into the County from Central Government will be spent. The agreements will be structured around four key themes:

- Children and young people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people
- Economic Development.

For more information on Local Area Agreements see www.odpm.gov.uk.

Our District

Richmondshire is one of the largest districts in England; in fact it is larger than four English Counties! It covers an area of just over 500 square miles and has a population of 50,700 (mid year estimate, 2004). It extends from the lowlands of the A1 corridor to the sparsely populated uplands of the Yorkshire Dales. Around two thirds of the district is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Richmond is the main administrative centre of the district followed by Catterick Garrison, Leyburn, Hawes and Reeth.

Richmondshire is seen as a relatively prosperous district. Unemployment levels are currently 1.1% (2005) and we have high levels of educational attainment with 60.7% of pupils in North Yorkshire achieving 5 or more GCSEs (grades A-C) compared to the average in England of 53.7%.

Yet, despite this relative prosperity, we have diverse communities with a range of needs. Some of our rural communities are among the 10% most deprived for accessibility to services; for education, six of our wards are in the most deprived 30% with four in the worst 10%. Colburn, Richmond West and Hawes and High Abbotside are in the top 50% of most deprived wards in the country.

Our Communities

A few facts:

- Richmondshire is one of the most sparsely populated districts in the country with 0.36 persons per hectare in a total area of 131,867 hectares.
- Catterick Garrison is the largest British army base in the world.
- The average age of the district's population is 38.3.
- 20.4% of the district's population is over 60, whilst 38.7% is under 30.
- 98.1% of the district's population belong to a white ethnic group, 1.8% belong to other ethnic groups.
- 51.62% of our population are male and 48.3% are female.
- 26% of the district's population work in public administration and defence whilst only 6.3% work in agriculture, hunting and forestry.
- 30.53% of households have 1 or more persons with a limiting long-term illness.
- 14.6% of households do not have a car or van, 49.2% of households have at least 1 car and 36.1% of households have 2 or more cars.
- 81.9% of the district's population describe themselves as Christian, 0.66% as Hindu, 0.27% as Buddhist, 0.07 as Jewish, 0.05 as Muslim, 0.01 as Sikh, 10.44% as having no religion, 6.38% not stated and 0.14 as other.

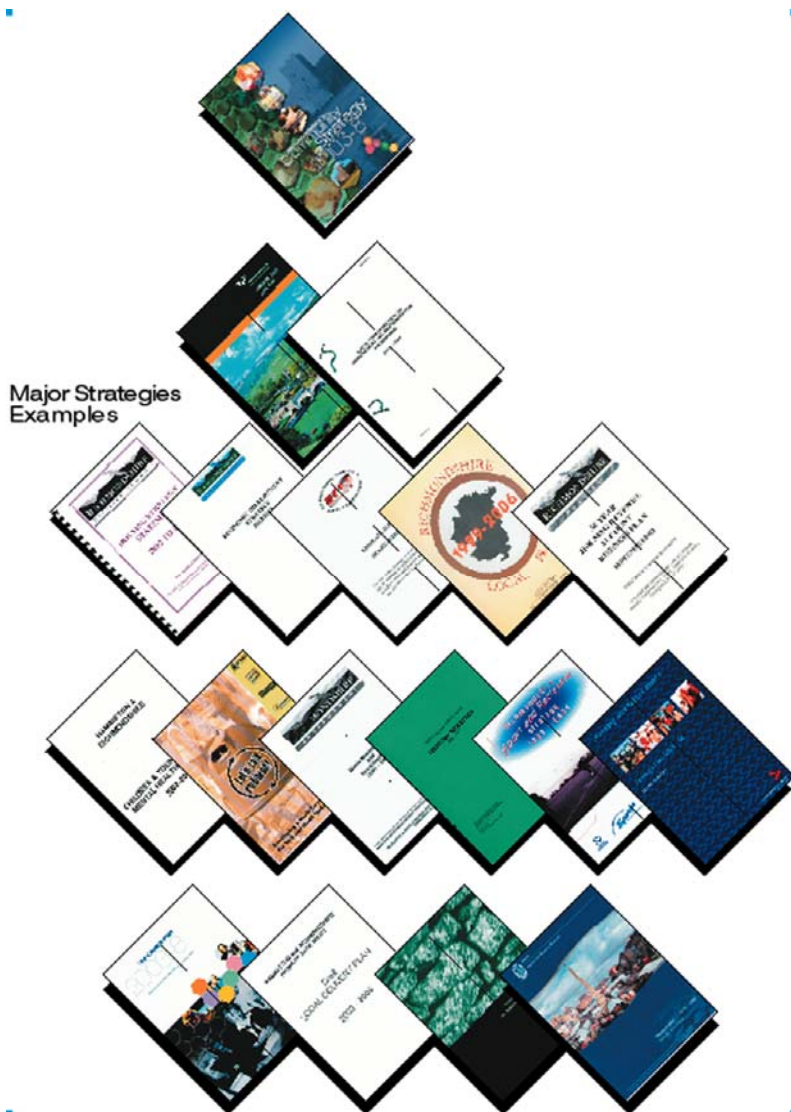
Our pyramid of plans

The Community Strategy provides the 'blueprint' for the district and will guide our future planning and policy process.

Richmondshire's Community Strategy is based around five themes:

- Safe Places
- Strong Neighbourhoods
- Healthy Lives
- Prosperous Communities
- Green Living

This diagram shows how our plans and strategies fit together. (to be updated)



Location, location, location

How do we maintain and improve the quality of life people enjoy in Richmondshire? How can we harness the benefits of private investment to help deliver our aspirations for the community? Can we deliver growth in a sustainable way, ensuring that the pattern of investment enhances the well being of the community without harming the inherent environmental qualities of the district both for this and future generations?

Our Framework for the Future deals with these questions and provides a clear community steer for the emerging Local Development Frameworks (produced by Richmondshire District Council -covering the area outside of the National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – covering the area within the National Park). It envisages a balanced approach by focusing significant investment in Catterick Garrison, safeguarding the roles of other key service centres, whilst acknowledging a more limited potential in rural areas, chiefly to ensure sustainable communities.

A pattern of investment made in line with this framework can add to the well being of the community in the following ways:

- By adopting a sustainable approach to future growth that balances the economic, social and environmental needs of the District
- By maintaining a strong commitment to Richmondshire's economic and employment needs
- By channelling most future investment and growth towards a balanced programme of expansion at Catterick Garrison, including responding to its enhanced status as a 'super garrison'. This programme will make the Garrison a focal point for the district, with new homes, updated services, better leisure facilities and a new town centre to support both military and civilian growth, whilst ensuring this compliments rather than competes with Richmond's role as a district service centre.
- By continuing to encourage investment to support the roles of Richmond, Leyburn, Hawes and Reeth as District service centres, safeguarding the level of services they offer and maintaining growth in ways that do not harm their important heritage, landscape and environmental value
- By striving to support the sparsely populated parts of the District to secure, and where appropriate enhance, the vitality and viability of rural communities in sustainable ways through low level growth, diversification and enterprise to meet local needs
- By investing in better transport within key road corridors
- By using in a positive and sustainable way, the environmental assets of the District to underpin the rural economy, maintain the quality of life for residents, and enhance Richmondshire's advantage over competing areas

Framework for the future



Our vision

Richmondshire will be a place where people want to live, work and visit; where people enjoy a high quality of life and environment, feel safe, healthy and prosperous and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our values

Partnership

We are committed to working in partnership to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit Richmondshire. We will add value by changing the way we plan and deliver services to make the best use of our collective resources. We will take a co-ordinated and fresh approach to service planning and delivery, effecting real change in ways that do not prejudice opportunities or potential in the future.

Involvement & engagement

We will be open, inclusive and accountable. We will work to improve the ways we consult and communicate. We will look to develop new ways of encouraging individuals and groups to become involved in shaping the decisions that affect them.

Sustainability

We will work to ensure that our actions:

- Balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of our communities
- Meet the needs of existing and future generations
- Respect the needs of other communities, both within the region and further afield to make their communities sustainable.

Equalities and Diversity

We are actively committed to ensuring that there is no discrimination, injustice or inequality against individuals or groups on the grounds of disability, race, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, social and economic status, religion or political beliefs in either the way services are delivered or the ways in which we engage and involve you in our work. We will engage you effectively in the planning and delivery of services to ensure that you receive high quality, fair and equitable services that meet your needs.

Safe Places

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where everyone feels and is safe.”

Richmondshire is an area that enjoys low levels of crime, indeed in 2003/4 Richmondshire was ranked as the 4th safest area in the country based on rate and volume of recorded crime.

In 2003/4 there were a total of 121 domestic burglaries in the district, 6.7 per 1000 households compared to 15.7 per 1000 households across North Yorkshire. In the same year there were 103 motor vehicles stolen, 1.9 offences per 1000 population as compared with 3.5 offences per 1000 population across North Yorkshire.

Total crime levels in this year stood at 2589 offences across the district, 48.3 offences per 1000 population as compared with 95.4 offences per 1000 population during the same period in North Yorkshire.

However, we must not be complacent, crime and community safety remains one of your top concerns.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to be free from domestic abuse**
- **Long lasting solutions to anti-social behaviour**

We will work to ensure that everyone is free from domestic abuse by:

- Encouraging increased reporting of domestic incidents reported to North Yorkshire Police.
- Reducing the number of repeat victims by 20% by 2008.
- Mapping a baseline number of domestic abuse incidents and repeat victim incidents reported to other agencies in 2005/6.
- Increasing the number of refuge/supported accommodation places.
- Providing effective services and a network of support for multi agency high-risk cases, adult victims and survivors, children and young people.
- Providing interventions to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Providing training to frontline staff in partner agencies to deal quickly and effectively with reports or cases of domestic abuse.

We will work to ensure long lasting solutions to anti-social behaviour by:

- Reducing the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents by 15% by 2008.
- Providing training and awareness raising for front line staff, elected Members and communities within Richmondshire.
- Identifying at an early stage problem areas and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour to reduce repeat incidents.
- Improving data collection and co-ordination of information with regard to anti-social behaviour within the district.

- Developing effective diversionary activities in conjunction with youth and education providers in Richmondshire.
- Promoting the reporting of anti-social behaviour to reduce the fear of actual incidents or further negative behaviour.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

The Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership.

The Community Safety Partnership was formed as a result of the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 with the remit of tackling crime and disorder across the district. The Community Safety Partnership is the delivery arm of the Local Strategic Partnership and their Crime Reduction family of strategies, including a Domestic Abuse Forum Strategy 2005-2008 and an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2005-2008, support the overall Community Strategy, vision, outcomes and priorities.

Agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Police, Fire Service, Primary Care Trust and many community and voluntary organisations.

The Community Safety Partnership will develop detailed annual action plans showing how we will tackle your top priorities. These will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

For more information on the Community Safety Partnership or associated strategies please contact:

Community Safety Co-ordinator

Swale House

Frenchgate

Richmond

DL10 4JE

01748 829118

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Strong Neighbourhoods

Richmondshire 2021

“a place with vibrant, sustainable communities, where people want to live and work and feel able to take part in decisions that affect them.”

Richmondshire is a large and in some areas sparsely populated district. It is seen as a highly desirable area to live and is attractive to people commuting to work in nearby towns and cities, the wealthy and those seeking retirement or holiday accommodation.

Richmondshire is also home to the largest British army garrison in the world, whose personnel are relatively young, highly mobile and subject to changes in national defence policy.

Did you know:

- The average house price has risen from £81,819 in 1999 to £191,158 in 2005.
- The affordability ratio (average house price to income) ranges from 3.6 in Hipswell ward to 10.5 in Addleborough ward.
- That the number of Council homes has nearly halved since the introduction of Right to Buy in 1980.
- Some of our rural communities are among the 10% most deprived for accessibility to services.
- During the last elections (2003) only 37.69% of those who were eligible to vote did so, compared with 40.22% in 1999, 49.47% in 1997 and 69.58% in 1979.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to have access to good quality services, where, when and how they want them.**
- **Everyone has the opportunity of a decent home, including local needs affordable housing.**
- **Everyone to have the opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect them and to see real change occur.**

We will work to ensure that everyone has access to good quality services, where, when and how they want them by:

- Conducting an audit of the services currently being provided through the district's one-stop shops and working to expand those services and provide further outreach surgeries.
- Introducing new electronic systems for people to access services, make payments or find out about services.
- Ensuring that service providers work together to deliver 'joined up' services, avoid duplication and increase efficiency of resource use.
- Supporting the development of services by voluntary and community groups.

We will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent home, including local needs affordable housing by:

- Providing at least 175 additional local needs affordable homes by 2010.
- Conducting an audit of publicly owned land to identify potential sites for affordable housing.
- Carrying out District-wide assessments of housing need every 5 years.
- Developing a register of homes which are adapted or are capable of being adapted by 2007.
- Supporting the delivery of the Half a House pilot project (using private sector money to enable/assist people to buy homes that would otherwise be unaffordable in the Dales).
- Exploring the better use of second homes and empty properties to help increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Ensure that all public housing meets the Government's decent homes standard by 2010 and 70% of homes with vulnerable occupants in the private sector.
- Working together to tackle and prevent homelessness.
- Meeting the housing and support needs of vulnerable people.

We will work to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be involved in decisions that affect them and to see real change occur by:

- Ensuring that the Local Strategic Partnership is representative.
- Developing a forum through which the voluntary and community sector can feed into the LSP.
- Assisting and supporting Community Investment Prospectus Groups (CIPs) to develop a wider role in their communities.
- Continuing to work together through the LSP Joint Consultation group to provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to public involvement and consultation.
- Increasing opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation by providing support to remove barriers to access such as transport, childcare and meeting times and increasing the number of people who vote in local elections.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Strong Neighbourhoods Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Strong Neighbourhoods Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Housing Associations, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Connexions, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services, Police, Police Authority, Primary Care Trust and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:

Policy Officer (Housing)
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Richmond
DL10 4JE
01748 829100
or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Healthy Lives

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where people are as healthy as possible”

Good health is as much a result of the environment people live in as it is a function of health and care services. Housing, employment, income, education, recreation, environment and transport all provide the basis for good health, and enable health services to help people maintain their independence.

Overall, Richmondshire has a healthier than average population. Life expectancy in Richmondshire exceeded England by an average of 1.4 years for men and 1.35 years for women in 2001-2003. Our infant mortality rates and teenage conception rates remain substantially lower than the national averages and figures from the 2001 census show that 73% of Richmondshire's population stated that their health was good whilst only 6.7% felt that their health was not good.

Access is an important issue for the district with many of our communities among the 10% most deprived for access to services. Ensuring that everyone has adequate access to health care, good quality housing, cultural, leisure and sporting facilities is essential for ensuring the health and well being of the population.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible, by accessing excellent healthcare and being supported in making healthy lifestyle choices.**

We will work to ensure that everyone is as healthy as possible by:

- Encouraging the adoption of active and healthy lifestyles.
- Encouraging and supporting people to stop smoking.
- Reducing teenage pregnancy and supporting teenage parents.
- Supporting existing initiatives including Sure Start and the Healthy Schools scheme.
- Encouraging more nutritional diets and healthier eating habits.
- Improving the range of cultural, leisure and sporting facilities.
- Increasing participation in physical activity.
- Supporting the development and delivery of an obesity strategy and action plan.
- Supporting the development and delivery of a local breastfeeding strategy.
- Supporting a local fuel poverty initiative.
- Supporting the delivery of a falls prevention programme.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

The Hambleton & Richmondshire Improving Health Group.

The Improving Health Group was formed as a theme partnership of both the Hambleton and Richmondshire LSPs with the remit of improving community health and well being across the two districts. The Improving Health Group has identified a number of objectives, actions and shared targets which are set out in the Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan and the Health Action Plan for this Community Strategy. These show how we will tackle your top priorities. They will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership include the District Councils, County Council, Primary Care Trust, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services and other community and voluntary organisations.

For more information on the Improving Health Group or associated action plans please contact:

Policy Officer (Partnerships)

Swale House

Frenchgate

Richmond

DL10 4JE

01748 829100

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Prosperous Communities

Richmondshire 2021

“a place which enjoys economic vitality and where everyone has access to lifelong learning.”

Richmondshire is seen as a relatively prosperous area with higher than average educational achievement and low unemployment levels (1.1% 2005 compared to 2.4% - Great Britain and 2.5% -Yorkshire & Humber region). However, Richmondshire's economy is still largely reliant upon farming and tourism which is often low paid and seasonal and the majority of businesses in the area are small and medium sized enterprises that employ less than 250 people. In contrast, Richmondshire is also home to the largest British army garrison in the world, based at Catterick which has recently had its status enhanced to that of 'super garrison'. It is estimated that right now the total military related population is around 17.5 thousand people.

Did you know :

- Most employment is in the professional/management occupations (34.4%) and administrative and skilled trades (28.4%).
- There is 0.9 jobs for every resident of working age in the district.
- We have above regional and national averages for part-time jobs (37.4%) and those working in the service industry (82.7%).
- We have very low levels of people working in manufacturing (approx 6%), which is a third of the regional average.
- More than 14% of employees work in the tourism-related industry, double the regional average and exceeding the national average.
- In 2003, we had 7.6% registration of VAT businesses, less than the regional and national average.
- 22.3% of our residents have issues with literacy as compared to 23.3% in North Yorkshire and 19.4% have issues with numeracy compared with 22.1% in North Yorkshire.
- 35% of our residents aged 18 or above have taken no form of learning in the past 3 years, which is below the average for York and North Yorkshire as a whole.
- The proportion of residents aged 16-74 who have no qualification is 24.6%, compared to 26% for York and North Yorkshire.
- The proportion of residents aged 16-74 who are qualified to NVQ Level 4 is 19.1%, which is lower than for York and North Yorkshire.

You have told us that you want:

- **Richmondshire to be a place of economic growth and enterprise, with a range of employment opportunities that meet people's needs.**
- **Everyone to have access to good quality lifelong learning.**

We will work to ensure Richmondshire is a place of economic growth and enterprise, with a range employment opportunities that meet people's needs by:

- Promoting Richmondshire as an attractive area to locate businesses.
- Developing workspace and managed workspace units to encourage the types of employment the district wants.
- Attracting beneficial inward investment.
- Improving the quality of the tourism product, building on the area's assets and strengths, and promoting 'green tourism'.
- Enabling the development of businesses by ensuring the provision of high quality business support/advice services.
- Maximising funding opportunities and delivering regeneration projects throughout the district; strengthening links with the Regional Economic Strategy and Sub-Regional Investment Plan.

We will work to ensure everyone has access to good quality lifelong learning by:

- Reducing the number of young people out of school.
- Improving multi-agency working to ensure that all young people reach their full potential.
- Ensure all young people have access to a Connexions Personal Adviser to help them make informed choices about their future.
- Supporting an audit of adult learning provision across the district and subsequent action planning.
- Retaining successful village primary schools.
- Supporting the production of a booklet promoting local vocational learning.
- Increasing the provision of e-learning within the district.
- Supporting Skills for Life delivery within the district.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Prosperous Communities Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Prosperous Communities Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Connexions, Schools & Colleges, Businesses, CIP groups, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:

Policy Officer (Partnerships)

Richmondshire District Council

Swale House

Richmond

DL10 4JE

01748 829100

or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Green Living

Richmondshire 2021

“a place where people value, understand, enjoy, respect and have pride in their environment, where needs are met whilst preserving and enhancing our built and natural environment.”

Richmondshire is an area of great natural beauty with a superb natural and built environment. The district covers just over 500 square miles and has a population of 50,700. It extends from the lowlands of the A1 corridor to the sparsely populated upland of the Yorkshire Dales. Over two thirds of the district is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Did you know:

- There are 53 conservation areas in Richmondshire.
- 51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including 9 areas of international designation and 126 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- In 2004/5 88% of household waste was landfilled in Richmondshire, with 10.36% being recycled, 1.63% was sent for composting.
- Richmondshire is home to many nationally important species. There are 17 recorded species of nationally scarce plants, 22 species of Britain's most threatened birds breed in the area and there are 8 species of protected bat.
- There is approximately 17km of cycleway around Catterick Garrison.
- Prior to 1959 there were a number of rare bumblebees recorded in the district but since that time numbers have declined.
- Total visitor spending in the district amounted to nearly £85million in 2000, which supported 2,610 jobs.
- There are 23,712 cars or vans in the district. 2650 households do not have access to a car or van.
- 4,405 people usually walk to work.
- Atlantic salmon spawn in the River Ure.

You have told us that you want:

- **Everyone to minimise their impact on the environment through effective waste management (recycling, waste minimisation etc) and by looking after our natural environment (biodiversity).**
- **To preserve and enhance our built heritage.**

We will work to ensure everyone has the opportunity to minimise their impact on the environment by:

- Increasing levels of recycling and waste minimisation within the district.
- Actively minimising the use of energy, water and natural resources by ensuring they are used efficiently and achieving a 20% reduction in CO2 by 2010 and for 10% of electricity to be generated from renewables by 2010.

- Supporting the delivery of the two Biodiversity Action Plans for the district (1 covers the area within the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and 1 covers the area outside of the Park).
- Encouraging the use of alternative means of transport for visitors and local residents.
- Encouraging people to 'do their bit' by promoting and informing residents of practical things we can all do to improve our environmental impact.
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction.

We will work to ensure we preserve and enhance our built heritage by:

- Supporting measures to safeguard and protect the character and appearance of our historic towns, villages and places.
- Promoting sensitive and innovative ways of using heritage assets to underpin the district economy.
- Encouraging the reuse and restoration of historic buildings, particularly in support of rural regeneration and diversification.
- Actively encouraging community involvement in caring for our heritage.

We will deliver your priorities through our theme partnership:

Richmondshire Environmental Partnership.

This partnership will develop a detailed annual action plan showing how we will tackle your top priorities. This will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy.

Agencies involved in the Environmental Partnership include the District Council, Parish and County Councils, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, CPRE, Schools & Colleges, Businesses, CIP groups, Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Services, English Nature, Civic Society, Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve, Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Biodiversity Action Group and many community and voluntary organisations.

For more information please contact:
 Policy Officer (Sustainable Development)
 Richmondshire District Council
 Swale House
 Richmond
 DL10 4JE
 01748 829100
 or visit our website on: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

Working together to make it happen

The Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership is responsible for developing, overseeing, co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of this Community Strategy.

Our LSP brings together a wide range of key local organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. A full list of those involved in the LSP can be found on page 24.

The partnership recognises that by working together we can:

- Improve the economic, social and environmental well-being for everybody in Richmondshire, now and in the future.
- Reduce inequalities that exist in the district.
- Ensure that services work better and more efficiently and are delivered in ways that meet demand.

We will work together to tackle the priorities through the LSP structure as set out in the diagram opposite.

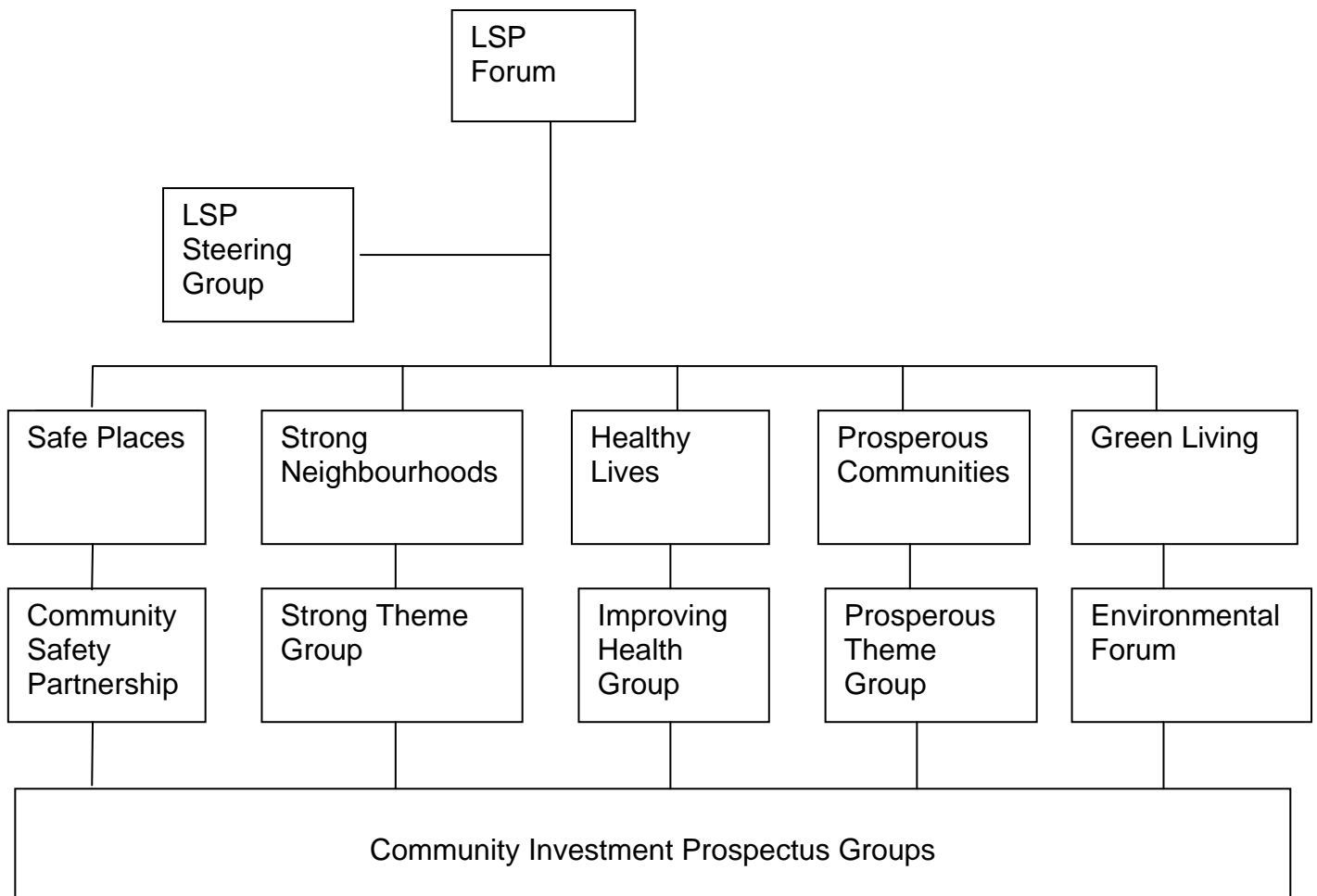
The **Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group** is a small group that meets every two months. Its role is to steer, drive and facilitate the development and implementation of the Community Strategy, to co-ordinate work and make sure it happens.

The LSP Forum is a larger partnership, whose role is that of the decision-maker. They will meet twice a year to monitor progress against priorities and highlight areas of difficulty.

The **Theme Partnerships and Task Groups** draw together the action plans for each of the five themes and priorities. They are the means by which actions are delivered. Each of the five theme partnerships' Chairs will sit on LSP Steering Group.

Together, the family of partnerships make up our **Local Strategic Partnership**.

Our structure



Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership

Monitoring and reviewing progress

Fundamental to the achievement of this strategy will be the involvement of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Richmondshire. We need you to work with us, to tell us whether or not we are succeeding and what we can improve to make Richmondshire a better place for everyone. This will form part of our monitoring process and we will hold an annual roadshow each year to let people know what we have been doing and find out what they think. We will publish regular press releases and use community newsletters and other communication channels.

The LSP will monitor progress of the Community Strategy both through the annual action plans but also by monitoring overall performance against 18 'Quality of Life' indicators. The indicators have been developed by the Audit Commission, the ODPM and DEFRA to help 'paint a picture' of the quality of life in a local area. A list of the 'Quality of Life' indicators that we will monitor can be found on page 24.

Each of the theme partnerships will develop detailed annual action plans which will help us to monitor progress, to see what works and what doesn't and to build upon what we have set out in this Community Strategy. These action plans will be:

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Realistic
Timed.

The action plans will be published annually and will set out our progress, identify new targets and actions and identify any changes to the priorities as set out in this document.

The action plans will be publicised on Richmondshire District Council's website: www.richmondshire.gov.uk or by ringing 01748 829100.

How to contact us

If you would like any more information or would like to know how to get more involved please contact us either in writing to:

Rachel Bowles
Policy Officer
Richmondshire District Council
Swale House
Frenchgate
Richmond
DL10 4JE

By email to: r.bowles@richmondshire.gov.uk

Or telephone: 01748 829100

Further information is available on our website: www.richmondshire.gov.uk

The Community Strategy can be made available in large print, braille and other languages. If you would like a copy please get in touch.

Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnership

List of partners

Age Concern
Army Welfare
Arts in Richmondshire (AiR)
Brymor
Business Representatives
Business Solutions Bedale
Campaign to Protect Rural England
Citizens Advice Bureau
Civic Society
Community Investment Prospectus groups
Connexions
Countryside Agency
Craven College
Defence Estates
DEFRA
Disability Action in Richmondshire
Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
English Heritage
English Nature
Environment Agency
Foxglove Covert Nature Reserve
Government Office Yorkshire and the Humber
Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Addiction Service
Hambleton and Richmondshire Primary Care Trust
Hawes Auction Mart
Job Centre Plus
Ken Warne Ltd
MESMAC Sexual Health Project
National Farmers union
NDFM Hill Farming Initiative
North Yorkshire County Council
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
North Yorkshire Police
North Yorkshire Police Authority
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
Parish Council's
Richmondshire Area Learning Partnership
Richmondshire District Council
Richmondshire and Hambleton Rural Transport Partnership
Richmondshire Museums
Richmond Town Manager
Richmondshire Centre for Voluntary Services
Soroptomists
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Yorkshire Forward
Young Mens Christian Association
Yorkshire Rural Community Council

Quality of Life Indicators

The LSP will monitor progress of the Community Strategy both through the annual action plans but also by monitoring overall performance against 18 'Quality of Life' indicators. The indicators have been developed by the Audit Commission, the ODPM and DEFRA to help 'paint a picture' of the quality of life in a local area. We will monitor these indicators annually and publish them on our website. Alternatively contact us and we will provide you with the information.

Community Safety

1. Domestic burglaries per 1000 households.
2. Vehicle crimes per 1000 population.
3. Violent crimes per 1000 population.

Economic well-being

1. The percentage of people of working-age population that is in employment.
2. The total number of VAT registered businesses in the area at the end of the year.
3. The percentage change in the number of VAT registered businesses.
4. The percentage of a) children and; b) population over 60 that live in households that are income deprived.

Education and Lifelong Learning

1. The proportion of young people (16-24 year olds) in full time education or employment.
2. The percentage of 15 year old-pupils in schools maintained by the local authority achieving five or more GCSE grades at grades A*-C or equivalent.

Environment

1. The percentage of river length assessed as (a) good biological quality; and (b) good chemical quality.
2. The volume of household waste collected and the proportion recycled.

Health and social well-being

1. Age standardised mortality rates for a) all cancers b) circulatory diseases; and c) respiratory diseases.
2. Teenage pregnancy, conceptions under 18 years, per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Housing

1. The total number of new housing completions.
2. Affordable dwellings completed as a percentage of all new housing completions.
3. House price to income ratio.

Other

1. The percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area.
2. Percentage of people surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.