

Horsham District
Community Partnership

c/o Strategic & Community Planning
Horsham District Council
Park North, North Street, Horsham RH12 1RL
Tel: (01403) 215184
Email: julian.carrington@horsham.gov.uk

ALL OUR FUTURES

Workshop towards agreeing the Horsham District Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-26

***Thursday 25th June 2009, 6.00 – 8.30 / 9.00 pm
Forest School Business and Enterprise Centre
Comptons Lane, Horsham***

WORKSHOP REPORT

- 1. Agenda***
- 2. Purpose of the meeting***
- 3. Information for taking part in the Break Out Groups***
 - 4. Feedback from the Break Out Groups***
 - (i) Task 1: Agreeing the Vision (discussion)***
 - (ii) Task 2: Developing the objectives (star rating)***
 - 5. Potential Priorities(13> Gold Stars)***

1. AGENDA

5.15 Registration and Buffet

6.00 Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting

Gary Shipton, Chairman of HDCP

6.05 One framework for improving the District

*Julian Carrington, Community Planning Manager,
Horsham District Council*

*Barbara Childs, LDF Project Manager, Horsham District
Council*

6.25 Break Out Groups: Agreeing the Vision and Developing the Objectives

Introduction

Julian Carrington

7.30 Refreshments

7.45 Feedback

8.15 How can the Sustainable Communities Act help us to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy?

Introduction

Julian Carrington

Plenary

8.25 Next steps

8.30 Close

Gary Shipton

Viewing Feedback sheets till 9.00 pm

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

'All Our Futures' is our Sustainable Community Strategy, or SCS, to 2026.

It is deliberately broad-brush in its approach as economic and social changes over the life of the plan will require the utmost flexibility.

However, we will be setting specific objectives within the plan to drive us forward, from which annual action plans will be developed. The Strategy will be formally reviewed every four years.

Tonight, we want to identify what you consider to be the priorities for the first four year cycle. We will be achieving this through workshops where you will be asked to evaluate each of the proposed objectives in the document and grade them through a star rating system.

We are not signing off the SCS tonight – in order to accommodate the need of some partners to consult colleagues on the draft, it has been agreed that Friday 10th July will be the deadline for final comments. But we will make as much progress tonight as possible towards agreeing the document.

After the 10th July, the document will be finalised. There will be a brief opportunity for partners to review the final draft, before it is taken to the HDCP Board on 28 July for approval and sign off on behalf of the full Partnership.

The Sustainable Community Strategy has been sub-divided into four key goals for action -

Goal 1: A Better Place to Live, comprises Planning, Housing, Services and Facilities, Transport, Environment, and Community Issues

Goal 2: Opportunity for All, comprises Economic Development, Education, Skills, Tourism, and Employment

Goal 3: Better Health for All, comprises Health & Wellbeing

Goal 4: Staying and Feeling Safe, comprises Crime & Disorder, Respect, and Road safety

There are already 2 very active partnerships working in Horsham District to address the issues in Goals 3 and 4: the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Partnership Board is considering establishing two more to deal with Goals 1 and 2. That will be four district-wide, cross-cutting theme groups, compared to the current ten, to focus on each of the 4 goal areas. The Board has commissioned independent research to test the soundness of our approach and the early feedback from our consultant supports this model.

The theme groups will agree and undertake their annual action plans and report directly to the HDCP Board.

It should be entirely within the theme groups' prerogative to establish any sub-groups, or task/finish groups they see fit at any time in order to address specific issues or to allow for more consultative or collaborative working involving wider participation.

After 4 years, the SCS will be formally reviewed and the next set of objectives identified for action annually over the following review period.

Gary Shipton, Chairman of HDCP

3. INFORMATION FOR TAKING PART IN THE BREAK OUT GROUPS

There will be 5 workshop groups -

Each attendee will have a number against their name on the attendance list.

Workshop (6.30 – 7.30pm)

Purpose of the workshop is two-fold:-

- Agreeing the vision
- Developing the short term objectives

Outcomes for each workshop group:-

- For group members to agree the vision for the District as drafted or agree any significant changes (the vision is made up of: key challenges, commitments, goals and aims)
- For group members to indicate their top priorities from the short term objectives contained in the Strategy

Task 1 (15 minutes)

Materials needed: Group members will need their summary SCS information from their packs.

Task 1 will start with a general discussion about the 'pitch' of the document. It's meant for a general audience, not a group of experts. It's also meant to be punchy (short and to the point). The action plans will be more detailed.

Your group leader will then take you through the component parts of the vision: 9 key challenges, HDCP commitments (especially the commitment to promoting social inclusion which underpins everything), the goals and aims. Is everyone happy? Is anything 'big' missing? We're looking for consensus.

The group scribe will record the general agreement (including where members agree they want to add or change something) and any other important information that should be fed back.

After 15 minutes, you will move to Task 2: developing the short term objectives. These will be displayed in your room on A2 sheets. You will also have them in your packs.

Task 2 (45 minutes)

Materials needed: Group members will need their summary SCS information and their coloured stars/dots. PLEASE NOTE: WHILE EACH PERSON HAS

AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF SILVER, GREEN AND RED STARS/DOTS, YOU HAVE ONLY 8 GOLD ONES TO USE ACROSS ALL OBJECTIVES.

Your group leader will give you a couple of minutes to read through each grid of objectives, rating each objective as you go according to the following key:

Gold - Top Priority

Silver - Nice to do but not a priority

Green - just get on with it (ie should be ongoing, doesn't need prioritising for new/additional action)

Red - Stop don't do this

You must record your comment in writing on your own paperwork at this stage.

Your group leader will ask if anything urgent is missing that needs to be identified as a gap. This should be written down on the appropriate A2 sheet in the space provided.

Once all objectives have been considered, you will be asked to place a real star or dot against each objective on the A2 sheets - one star or dot per person, per objective. You will also be encouraged to place stars/dots against the perceived gaps as well.

It is important that as many stars/dots as possible are used so we can quickly see what people think in the feedback session.

The object is to get a feel for what are the most important short term objectives (to be achieved within 4 years) in pursuit of the Strategy's aims, to help HDCP Board decide what to include in the first 4-year cycle.

Feedback session (7.45 – 8.15pm)

In the feedback session, we will try to reach consensus on the vision across all 5 workshop groups, and get a feeling for the top priorities over the short term to tell HDCP Board.

Each group leader or scribe will feed back the feeling of their group on the vision.

Each group leader will speak to their A2 sheet – what appear to be the top priorities for their group.

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE BREAK OUT GROUPS

Task 1: Agreeing the Vision

Feedback from Workshop Group 1

Key Challenges

- Nothing specific about housing, especially affordable housing - although this might be partly addressed through other challenges, eg 'uprooted youth'. Agreed that this should be a stand alone key challenge.
- Need to ensure that the definition of 'affordable' housing is known:
 - Does it include market housing?
 - Family housing?
 - Range of sizes?
 - Smaller houses to meet needs of first time buyers?
 - Should it be 'suitable / appropriate' housing?
- Are 'Social Inclusion' (4) and 'Disengaged Communities' (9) not the same thing? There should be a strong link between the two.
- 'Slow economic growth' – should be 'sustainable economic growth'. Should not react to the short term, the challenge is to ensure sustainable growth over a long period.

Goals and aims

- Housing could be included; this would follow on from key challenges. Agreed.
- Tackling climate change: Should be about two joint approaches: stopping it / limiting climate change, and coping with the effects. We should not just concentrate on one, whilst neglecting the other.
- Under 'A better place to live', Aim 5: *We will aim to widen accessibility for all parts of the District and support the development of adequate provision of drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.* This should include reference to public transport.

General Discussion

Inclusion of young people under Goal 4: Staying and feeling safe – does this automatically assume they are linked to crime? Is that linked to other people's perceptions, rather than the young people themselves? No consensus reached, just general discussion.

Gaps

- Reduce the number of people seriously injured or killed in road traffic accidents.
- 'Affordable / appropriate' housing.

Feedback from Workshop Group 2

Overall Document

The group was generally satisfied and pleased with overall approach taken to developing the document.

Key Challenges

Key Challenge 1, final sentence - there was a general consensus in the group that we are not in a position to maintain vibrant towns with strong retail activity as the group felt that many towns in the District do not currently have strong retail activity. It was suggested that the wording should be amended to state that the aim or ambition is to maintain vibrant towns and enhance retail activity.

Key Challenge 2 - The group questioned whether out-commuting should be included as a key challenge, as the range of jobs, opportunities and wages are so different in London that people will not stop commuting unless they can be matched here.

Key Challenge 8 - Equestrian activity should be taken out of the commitment as it is not seen as essential for future transport and access improvement. Also stronger objectives needed to address this key challenge.

Key Challenge 9 - Some of the group felt that we should be more clear on our use of the word 'empowering' and articulate what we mean by it.

Gaps

New Key Challenge Suggestion - it was agreed that there is not enough about education and training and these should be included as a Key Challenge.

New Key Challenge Suggestion - given what the District has been through with the Land West of Horsham and the development pressures the District will encounter in the future, the group felt that a key challenge should be housing.

New Key Challenge Suggestion - the group thought that crime in the District should be a new key challenge. They felt that it should be specifically aimed at addressing the gap between the perception and the actual reality of crime. It was argued that while recorded crime rates may be low, the amount of unreported crime was unknown.

Goals and aims

Goal 1 – Regarding the aim 'We will aim to widen accessibility for all parts of the District...', it was suggested that this paragraph should mention adequate provision for passengers as well as those mentioned.

Goal 2 & 3 - There should be more under either or both of these goals addressing the needs of people with learning difficulties.

Goal 4 - The goal should be broadened to include more issues such as cycling on pavements. Objective 42 should be amended to champion measures to reduce the speed of traffic in all areas of the District.

General comment - There should be a general reference and thread through the goals in relation to pre-school education right through to adult education.

Feedback from Workshop Group 3

Key Challenges

Key challenge 3: change “young people” to “young adults”.
Add Affordable Housing as a key challenge.

Overall

Need better links between aims and objectives.

Goal and aims

Aim 1/5: change “support the development of adequate provision” to “support the sustainable development...”.

Feedback from Workshop Group 4

Key challenges

- No mention of changing ethnic population in the District (is this a challenge or a fact?) – social inclusion should be addressed in advance
- Work to be done on detail / assertions made
- Ageing population mentioned, but not Early Years
- Why is out-commuting seen as a challenge? Isn't this just a fact of life? The challenge is getting the balance right – we need the right mix of employment so those that want can have jobs in the District rather than commute
- We can't do anything about 'uprooted youth' but we could do something to get young adults back after university – they don't currently come back because they can't afford to and because of the lack of employment opportunities
- Some issues not challenges but “opportunities”

- Communicating the Strategy within the District to different audiences needs to be considered

Promoting Social Inclusion

- Very important
- People need opportunities to have their voices heard
- Only small pockets excluded in actuality – but that makes it harder to include those people
- Encourage different social interest groups (this could be an objective)

Goals and Aims

- Question whether Tourism should be linked to leisure services
- Health input for Under 5s in rural areas is sparse – no baby clinics outside of Horsham
- Rural services generally need to be improved (this could be an aim)
- Connection with reliability of transport and rural transport / accessibility in particular
- Lots of help schemes provide for older people but not for families and children
- Re 'Staying and Feeling Safe' – add "to further improve public confidence"
- Dependency on 1st Key Challenge: Economic growth is going to be the key
- Economic growth could defeat sustainability – this isn't coming through that we want sustainability as well as economic growth – some growth is needed to maintain services
- Quality of experience for young people / children going through school needs stating, not just what they can do for the economy
- Opportunity for All – Leisure is a gap (only tourism mentioned) including social activities such as groups

Feedback from Workshop Group 5

Key Challenges

- Nebulous words like 'wonderful' should be avoided
- Meant to be short and snappy, but still uses jargon
- What is sustainable development? - definition in full needed
- Social inclusion should be first Key Challenge
- List Key Challenges in order of priority
- Point them rather than number them
- No housing Key Challenge!
- Not enough on sustainability – must be more explicit

Goals and aims

- A better place to live – Fine
- Opportunity for All – terminology needs addressing, eg education should be enjoyable; outcome should be wider than just employment and national indicators – what about on the job training – life long learning
- Better health for all – terminology targets vulnerable groups (‘nanny like’) - support not target - improvement and prevention – striving for optimum health and wellbeing
- Staying and Feeling safe – Fine as long as it’s long term

Task 2: Developing the short term objectives

GOAL 1: A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Our Environment

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
1. Set a challenging target to cut the number of people in fuel poverty within 4 years.	9	12	9	2	Need to clarify houses "which may be too big for them".
2. Exploit the potential of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to support the needs of local communities.	6	5	14	1	CIL still under review – too soon for this target
3. Increase access to Broadband for all parts of the County.	3	4	25	4	
4. Support our facilities in widening access and increasing participation.	6	9	8	2	Whose facilities?
5. Lead our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and man-made pollution hazards.	15	12	1	2	
6. Act together to prevent waste and be resource efficient.	10	13	13	0	

GAPS

6a Set a challenging target to stimulate the provision of affordable housing to increase supply, reduce demand and reduce homelessness	17	0	0	0
--	----	---	---	---

Getting around

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
7. Conduct a survey of actual need for public and community transport.	13	0	12	4	Also survey how local people get about
8. Secure agreement to a clear plan for the provision of transport across the District.	15	7	12	2	Tighter wording to reflect key challenge 8 (public and community transport)
9. Improve access to health and social/leisure facilities for individuals without private transport.	27	11	4	2	Outcomes for younger people as well.
10. Improve the availability of information on services.	3	7	13	4	
11. Agree an appropriate strategy relating to the provision and charging for car-parking	1	5	14	6	
12. Improve access to railway stations, particularly for people with mobility problems.	1	7	15	2	
13. Increase facilities for walking, cycling and horse-riding by following up the results of studies.	4	6	14	2	What studies?
14. Review cost of transport for young people.	4	6	12	6	Link to 3:1 card. Plus infrequent bus service? Shouldn't this be for everyone.

Involving People and Strengthening Communities

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
15. Develop a Community Engagement Strategy to co-ordinate and streamline community engagement within the District Partnership.	18	7	7	1	Will it address social isolation?
16. Strengthen links between District and local planning bodies.	4	9	14	1	
17. Actively support the third sector.	16	8	7	1	Re-name 'third' as 'voluntary' sector
18. Encourage corporate social responsibility and business involvement in supporting local communities.	7	5	16	2	

GOAL 2: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Economic growth

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
19. Positively promote the District as a location for businesses.	18	11	7	2	
20. Explore the development of a modern high-tech business park.	8	7	6	6	This might not reduce the outflow of skilled workers from District.
21. Provide support and advice to meet the needs of the clusters of home-based businesses.	6	11	10	2	
22. Policies are needed to keep post offices, shops, village halls and public houses.	29	6	3	3	
23. Support our local producers – food, drink and crafts.	8	8	11	0	

GAPS

23a Training for businesses including local tourism providers on what customers want

23b Support local individuals with their own sustainable initiatives, eg grow your own crops

23c Retailers need affordable rents, rates, and Some need training in providing what people want

Education and skills

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
24. Focus sufficient resources on young people and other residents with no or low qualifications.	13	13	11	0	Clarify that NEET stands for 'Not in Employment, Education or Training'
25. Maintain the high quality of the schools and sixth form provision within the District.	8	8	14	0	Change 'maintain' to 'improve'
26. Support the University of Crawley proposal.	12	4	8	10	Not 15-19 year olds but 18-19 yrs

GAPS

26a Promotion of lifelong learning

26b Vocational element including encouragement of apprenticeships missing

1 0 0 0

26c Nothing for special educational needs

Tourism

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
27. Support the provision of more bed spaces in our hotels.	2	9	11	5	Change 'hotels' to 'nationally quality- assessed visitor accommodation. Essential that Horsham District has a proper hotel structure.
28. Support the WSCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan.	4	9	13	3	
29. Encourage the arts as a way of boosting tourism and providing health and social benefits to local people.	7	8	17	1	What does this include?
30. Exploit the tourist opportunities of the new South Downs National Park.	5	11	11	2	Change 'exploit' to 'capitalise on'
31. Seek an additional visitor attraction for the District.	3	6	6	10	

GAPS

31a Encourage and support local tourism providers, eg raising standards, improving skills etc (see 23a)

GOAL 3: BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL**General health**

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
32. Develop and deliver targeted support and behaviour change programmes to individuals who suffer with health problems as a result of their lifestyle.	12	10	10	0	
33. Deliver targeted interventions to address health inequalities linked to poverty, unemployment, low aspirations, poor quality housing, and other indicators of deprivation.	16	12	6	0	Re-name 'deliver' as 'enable'
34. Provide community-based opportunities to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of hard to reach groups, including people with chronic conditions, disabilities, mental health problems or living in isolation.	20	8	10	0	Add: after mental 'and emotional' wellbeing
35. Provide strong support for carers, develop new services in response to identified gaps, and ensure they know about the support available to them.	18	12	8	0	Add: Including young carers
36. Provide and sustain accessible	10	9	10	0	

opportunities that enable all people to follow active and healthy lifestyles.					
---	--	--	--	--	--

GAPS

36a Total strategy for hospital provision from new acute to local surgery services 1 0 0 0

Ageing population

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
37. Promote independence for older people including increasing availability of low level help at home and addressing the shortage of day care facilities.	23	8	5	0	
38. Support older people to ensure they can also derive benefits from new technology.	6	13	11	1	

GOAL 4: STAYING AND FEELING SAFE**Crime and fear of crime**

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
39. Develop joined-up actions to tackle the underlying causes of what makes people feel unsafe.	13	7	12	0	
40. Focus resources on issues of greatest priority by locality working across boundaries as necessary.	5	7	17	1	
41. Provide care and support for victims of crime but focus particular resources on those who suffer serious violence.	3	12	17	0	

GAPS

41a Need for an objective addressing pavements, both their use, eg clear distinction needed between cycle paths and roads to keep cyclists off the pavements, and about their state, eg uneven surfaces and location of street furniture

41b Nothing about local policing in local areas

Respect (No objectives identified in draft SCS)**GAPS**

41a Build mutual respect through inter-generational work 1 0 0 0

Road safety

Objective	Gold	Silver	Green	Red	Comment
42. Champion measures to reduce the speed of traffic particularly within residential and built up areas (in order to reduce numbers killed or seriously injured)	26	6	12	3	Change to 'change attitude which then changes behaviour'. 40mph across the board!

GAPS

42a Improve quality of current roads and their safety provisions, eg traffic lights

42b Address difficulties walking/cycling on some pavements

42c Improve cycle paths and help take cycles off pavements

42d Rural roads need speed limits as appropriate

42e Driving skills training for young drivers

42f Promote school travel plans

POTENTIAL PRIORITIES – All Gold Stars

	Objective	Gold	Red	Green	Goal
1	22. Policies are needed to keep post offices, shops, village halls and public houses.	29	3	3	2
2	9. Improve access to health and social/leisure facilities for individuals without private transport.	27	2	4	1
3	42. Champion measures to reduce the speed of traffic particularly within residential and built up areas.	26	3	12	4
4	37. Promote independence for older people including increasing availability of low level help at home and addressing the shortage of day care facilities.	23	0	5	3
5	34. Provide community-based opportunities to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of hard to reach groups, including people with chronic conditions, disabilities, mental health problems or living in isolation.	20	0	10	3
6	15. Develop a community engagement strategy.	18	1	7	1
7	19. Positively promote the District as a location for businesses.	18	2	7	2
8	35. Provide strong support for carers, develop new services in response to identified gaps, and ensure they know about the support available to them.	18	0	8	3
9	6a Set a challenging target to stimulate the provision of affordable housing to increase supply, reduce demand and reduce homelessness	17	0	0	1
10	17. Actively support the third sector.	16	1	7	1
11	33. Deliver targeted interventions to address health inequalities linked to poverty, unemployment, low aspirations, poor quality housing, and other indicators of deprivation.	16	0	6	3
12	5. Lead our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and man-made pollution hazards.	15	2	1	1
13	8. Secure agreement to a clear plan for the provision of transport across the District.	15	2	12	1
14	7. Conduct a survey of actual need for public and community transport.	13	4	12	1
15	24. Focus sufficient resources on young people and other residents with no or low qualifications.	13	0	11	2

	Objective	Gold	Red	Green	Goal
16	39. Develop joined-up actions to tackle the underlying causes of what makes people feel unsafe.	13	0	12	4
17	26. Support the University of Crawley proposal.	12	10	8	2
18	32. Develop and deliver targeted support and behaviour change programmes to individuals who suffer with health problems as a result of their lifestyle.	12	0	10	3
19	6. Act together to prevent waste and be resource efficient.	10	0	13	1
20	36. Provide and sustain accessible opportunities that enable all people to follow active and healthy lifestyles.	10	0	10	3
21	1. Set a challenging target to cut the number of people in fuel poverty within 4 years.	9	2	9	1
22	20. Explore the development of a modern high-tech business park.	8	6	6	2
23	23. Support our local producers – food, drink and crafts.	8	0	11	2
24	25. Maintain the high quality of the schools and sixth form provision within the District.	8	0	14	2
25	18. Encourage corporate social responsibility and business involvement in supporting local communities.	7	2	16	1
26	29. Encourage the arts as a way of boosting tourism and providing health and social benefits to local people.	7	1	17	2
27	2. Exploit the potential of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to support the needs of local communities.	6	1	14	1
28	4. Support our facilities in widening access and increasing participation.	6	2	8	1
29	21. Provide support and advice to meet the needs of the clusters of home-based businesses.	6	2	10	2
30	38. Support older people to ensure they can also derive benefits from new technology.	6	1	11	3
31	30. Exploit the tourist opportunities of the new South Downs National Park.	5	2	11	2
32	40. (In tackling crime) Focus resources on issues of greatest priority by locality working across boundaries as necessary.	5	1	17	4

	Objective	Gold	Red	Green	Goal
33	13. Increase facilities for walking, cycling and horse-riding by following up the results of studies.	4	2	14	1
34	14. Review cost of transport for young people.	4	6	12	1
35	16. Strengthen links between District and local planning bodies.	4	1	14	1
36	28. Support the WSCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan.	4	3	13	2
37	3. Increase access to Broadband for all parts of the County.	3	4	25	1
38	10. Improve the availability of information on services.	3	4	13	1
39	31. Seek an additional visitor attraction for the District.	3	10	6	2
40	41. Provide care and support for victims of crime but focus particular resources on those who suffer serious violence.	3	0	17	4
41	27. Support the provision of more bed spaces in our hotels.	2	5	11	2
42	11. Agree an appropriate strategy relating to the provision and charging for car-parking	1	6	14	1
43	12. Improve access to railway stations, particularly for people with mobility problems.	1	2	15	1