

A stylized map of Nottinghamshire in shades of green, showing its county boundaries and internal district divisions. It is positioned on the left side of the top green banner.

# All Together Better

## Nottinghamshire Community Strategy 2005-2009

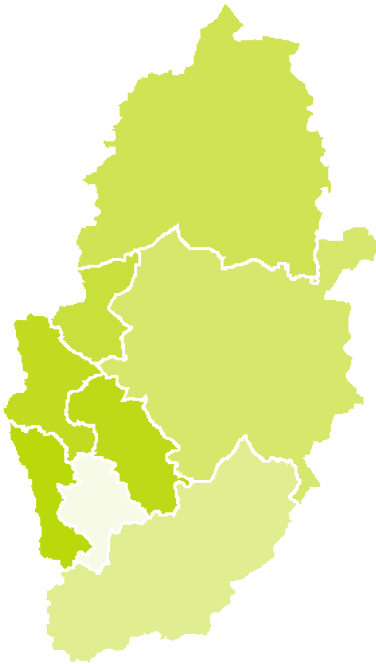
### **FOREWORD**

This Strategy frames a vision for Nottinghamshire for the next four years. It makes the links between the activities already underway and those priorities which local people have told us that all partners, working together, should address to improve quality of life across the county. The Strategy builds upon the wide range of responses we have received on the earlier draft and we are grateful for all the comments that local people and partners have sent. The document discusses the important links between existing local partnerships, the emerging Nottinghamshire Partnership and the Local Area Agreement which is currently being negotiated and which will change the way we all work to deliver better services for local people. This is a high level document which cannot represent all the activities that are being undertaken across the county but annual Action Plans will be published giving more local detail, targets and outcomes.

I believe this document provides a jointly owned blueprint for a way forward for the next four years but also wish to encourage feedback on its content or on any other issues which you feel we should address. For details on how to respond please see back cover.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kirkham', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor David Kirkham**  
**Chair**  
**Nottinghamshire Local Authorities' Association**  
**July 2005**



## INTRODUCTION

The government has given local authorities powers to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their areas.

They have also said that all local partners should work together to develop and agree a community strategy outlining the priorities that all organisations, working together, should tackle to make local communities truly sustainable.

## PARTNERSHIPS

This document, which builds on the Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire published in 2003, outlines what we believe are the major priorities for our work together over the next four years. This high level and medium term vision will be augmented by annual action plans with short term targets against which progress can be measured.

This document builds on the strong tradition of partnership work in Nottinghamshire; there are over 300 existing partnerships - neighbourhood, local, sub-regional and thematic.

The existing plans and strategies of these partnerships are also used as a foundation we won't duplicate or supersede them but they'll complement and contribute to our work.

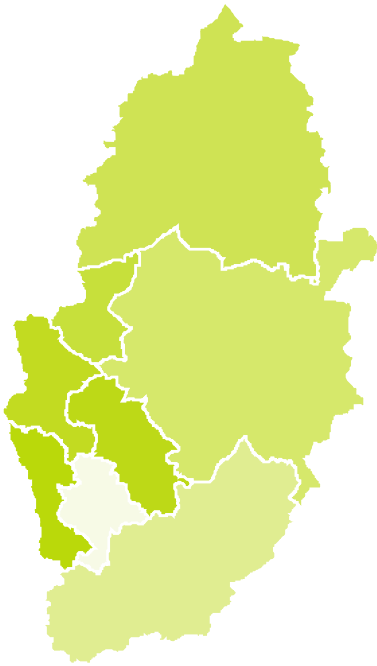
In particular, we're building on the work of the existing local strategic partnerships (LSPs), - district-based partnerships with a wide remit to tackle issues for local communities across the county.

We have reproduced the main priorities driving the local work of each of the LSPs later in this document and have evaluated what each of these is trying to address. Several LSPs are currently consulting on their priorities and forward plans as they near the end of their first 3-4 year cycle and begin to plan for their next. It is clear that there is much common ground between LSPs in the county and city, and there is alignment and consistency between the priorities being pursued by LSPs and those outlined in this wider strategy.

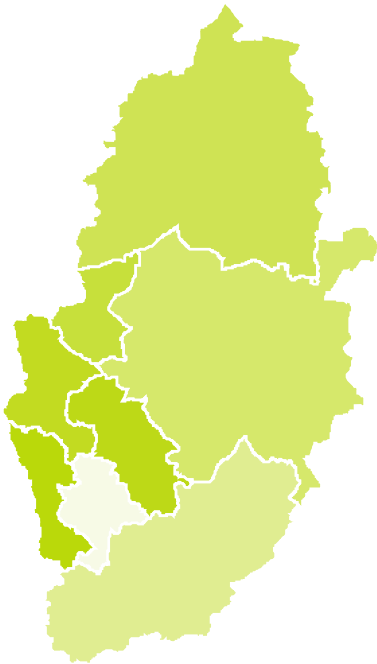
The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum, which steered the work that resulted in the drafting and adoption of the Framework Community Strategy, is now evolving into a more formal partnership which is driving the development of the countywide Local Area Agreement, bringing together all the main players to deliver better public services across the county.

Partners believe that by developing better working relationships, we can build on the county's strengths, tackle our needs and improve quality of life for all, creating truly sustainable communities.

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It is important to stress that the sub-regional agenda in north Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottingham - is very important, with two existing sub-regional partnerships driving economic development and regeneration issues on behalf of the East Midlands Development Agency. The relationship with the City of Nottingham and the One City Partnership is also very important. It is impossible to address many themes or priorities across the conurbation for example in transport, urban and sub-regional planning and development - without close collaboration over cross-boundary issues. We do this with the Joint Structure Plan, the Local Transport Plan and the Greater Nottingham Development Strategy, and this approach is working well in the development of the Local Area Agreement. The document also puts into context more detailed work being carried out by individual organisations, networks and communities. The strategy should provide a vital link between local concerns and priorities, many of which are addressed by parish and town councils, and the sub-regional, regional and national framework. One particularly important relationship is with the East Midlands' Integrated Regional Strategy, which acts as the region's sustainable development framework and sets countywide and more local work in context.



## CONSULTATION

The priorities outlined below were drafted following widespread consultation. In Autumn 2004, we commissioned MORI to undertake a major survey of local people to ask about quality of life issues and future priorities for the county.

We also made sure we had as accurate a picture as possible of people's priorities in other ways; in November 2004 we held a visioning conference where our partners and local people discussed what they wanted to see happen in their communities over the next few years. We also talked to targeted groups of people around the county, contacting young children through the play development service, young people through the youth forums and parliament, and older people through the Nottinghamshire Older People's Advisory Group. We also held specific events to contact 'hard to reach groups' including disabled people and black and minority ethnic groups to find out what issues they felt should be addressed.

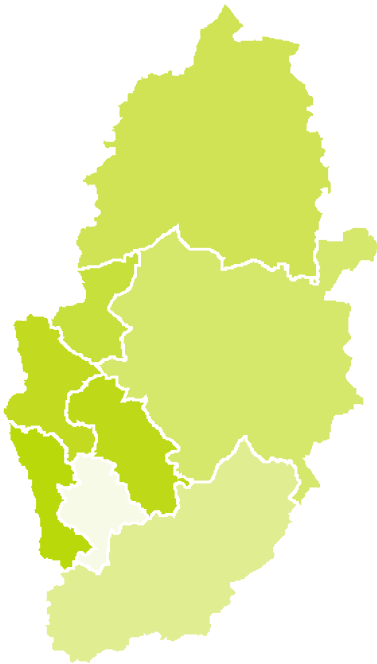
Through the efforts of the newly formed consultation practitioners forum, partners have also begun to learn more about the needs of specific groups of people to ensure that views on services or needs are shared and that all organisations have a more detailed understanding of the opinions of specific groups of people or specific services.

All this, together with partners' views and recent research into the state of the county and its communities, shaped the priorities in this strategy, which are:

- **safer and stronger**; making Nottinghamshire safer, building a strong sense of community and enriching lives
- **healthier**; improving health and wellbeing
- **learning and earning**; helping everyone to reach their potential
- **cleaner and greener**; protecting and improving the environment
- **travel and access**; travelling easily and safely and being able to access all the services people need.

The first round of consultation on the draft strategy suggests there is general support for these priorities.

The Priorities section of this document expands on the above and raises questions about what we need to do to address them.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

Nottinghamshire covers 805 square miles and has a population of 755,000. If the City of Nottingham is also included the population of the geographic county is over one million. The largest concentration of population is in the Greater Nottingham area, where almost 600,000 people live. The conurbation is centrally important in providing both economic growth and cultural and sporting facilities that add to the quality of life of the county. Outside Greater Nottingham, the main towns are Mansfield (50,000), Sutton-in-Ashfield and Worksop (both 40,000), Newark and Kirkby-in-Ashfield (both 25,000) and Retford (20,000).

Each of the seven district and borough council areas in the county has a population of around 100,000. About a third of the county's population live in small towns and villages. The County and City Joint Structure Plan outlines the major issues facing the county area and the links between the county's urban, suburban and rural areas. Large areas of the county are rural and sparsely populated and this can cause problems with providing services and getting access to them.

The county has a slightly older population profile than the regional and English average, with fewer under-16s and more people aged 65 and over. There are over 83,000 unpaid carers in the county supporting at least as many elderly or disabled people.

Deprivation is concentrated in Nottingham City and in Ashfield and Mansfield, but pockets of need exist in many other parts of the county, alongside relative prosperity. Health inequalities are marked and these are explored in more detail under the Healthier theme.

The county's population is predominantly white with less than 3% from the black and minority ethnic population; the small numbers of the black and minority ethnic population in some parts of the county can lead to isolation. There are larger percentages in Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe, with almost 5% in Broxtowe. The largest group in the county's black and minority ethnic population is Indian.

There are 181,500 children and young people aged 0 to 19 in the county; it is expected that this will decrease by around 15% by 2020. In recent years the percentages of children and young people have been increasing fastest in Rushcliffe and Bassetlaw and decreasing fastest in Mansfield.

In the 2001 Census almost 20% of Nottinghamshire people said they had limiting long term illness, and almost 6% said they were permanently sick or disabled. In some parts of the county, levels are significantly higher than this.

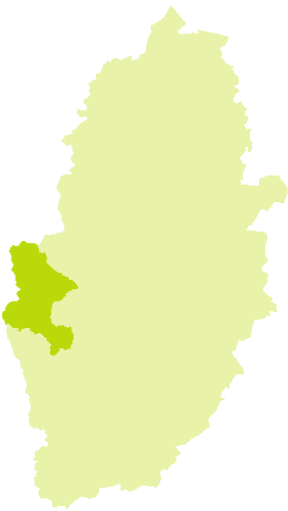
There are almost 19,000 businesses in the county; and unemployment is now lower than the national and regional level at 1.8%. Some parts of the county record levels that are two or three times higher than this. In addition, levels

of benefit claimants are also high, indicating poor health and disability or lower than average wages.

Many organisations cover the whole county, including the area covered by Nottingham City Council; these include the Learning and Skills Council, JobCentre Plus, Nottinghamshire Police, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Connexions, Probation Service and so on.

There are also seven district and borough councils and seven Primary Care Trusts, each of whose areas is covered by a Local Strategic Partnership, (LSP), with a wide remit to address issues across the community.

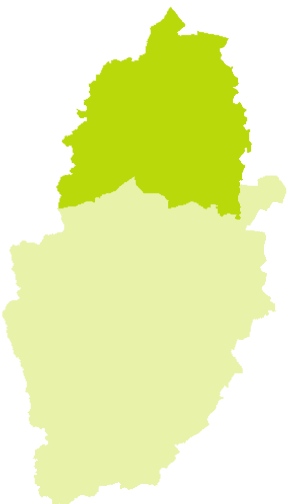
The sections below give a few facts about each of these areas and outline the current priorities for each of the LSPs. As outlined earlier, several LSPs are currently consulting on their priorities for the next few years. However, the following extracts show much common ground between areas.



**Ashfield** has a population of 111,000 and a third of its area is built up or urban. Ashfield has higher rates of deprivation than many other parts of the county, high crime levels and poorer health. The area has a good record of enterprise in recent years and housing affordability and the quality of local amenities are good.

The Ashfield Partnership's current priorities include:

- addressing health inequalities by taking measures to increase life expectancy and reducing the number of teenage conceptions
- reducing crime and disorder and the fear of crime and disorder in line with Ashfield Partnership Against Crime's strategic priorities
- increasing accountability and community involvement through the development of partnership groups as area champions
- Creating a learning culture that permeates all parts of Ashfield
- ensuring the provision of well maintained and affordable housing
- attracting new industries and developing new ideas and technologies
- protecting our environment and working for sustainable regeneration.



**Bassetlaw** has 107,000 people and its area covers almost a third of the county, with much of the eastern half of the district being very rural. The district has poor qualifications and skills levels but scores well in terms of other labour market issues.

The Bassetlaw Partnership's current priorities include:

- increasing the GDP of the area by at least 1% above the national average
- increasing the percentage of 19-year-olds achieving a level 2 qualification

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- providing at least one hectare of local nature reserve per 1000 population by 2005 and increasing this availability each year
- reducing health inequalities by focusing on those in greatest need
- reducing the number of wards in Bassetlaw that are amongst the most deprived in the country
- reducing the number of reported crimes.

**Broxtowe** has a population of 107,600, with the highest population density in the county. The borough is a mix of urban and rural areas, with much of the latter designated green belt.

The Broxtowe Partnership's current priorities include:

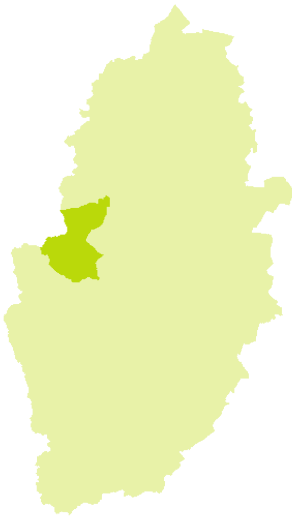
- promoting active citizenship, to enhance access to services and improve the transport system
- developing better housing
- reducing crime and the fear of crime
- promoting health, safety and wellbeing and reducing avoidable injuries, deprivation and social exclusion
- providing training and employment opportunities
- promoting learning
- sustaining, conserving and enhancing our environment.

Consultation is currently underway on a set of priorities for 2006-2012.

**Gedling** has a population of 111,800 and 81% of homes in the district are owner occupied, the highest rate in the county. Three quarters of the area's population live in Arnold and Carlton. Ten rural parishes stretch towards Sherwood Forest in the north and the River Trent in the south east.

The following themes will be reflected in the Gedling Community Strategy which is currently being reviewed by the Partnership:

- safer communities including specific actions to reduce fear of young people by the elderly and work to reduce the sense of isolation amongst the elderly and disabled
- action for youth, including projects to improve the quality of life for young people and take action to reduce teenage pregnancies
- health inequalities - partnership projects which can show improvements in Health Gain for the community
- building social capital - encouraging community involvement in delivery of LSP work and influencing decision making, with communities including geographical communities, communities of interest and the voluntary sector.



**Mansfield** has the smallest population of all Nottinghamshire districts - 98,000 - and covers the smallest area. It also has high crime rates and poorer health than many other areas. Conversely, it also has good transport connections and good local amenities.

The Mansfield Area Strategic Partnership has the following current priorities:

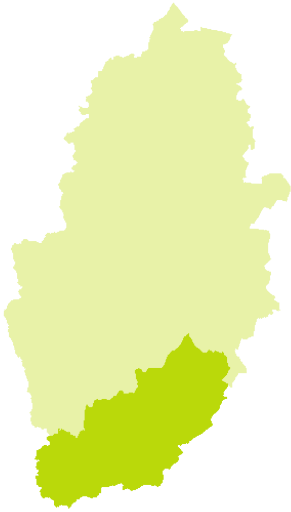
- crime reduction, including a focus on burglary, vehicle and drug-related crime, town centre and domestic violence, racist incidents and anti-social behaviour
- health, including reducing teenage pregnancy, avoidable injury and sickness absence from work due to stress, increasing drug user treatment and encouraging healthier lifestyles
- learning, including focusing on pupil achievement and post-16 participation and progression and promoting the benefits of learning as well as increasing workplace skills
- environmental, including improving neighbourhood services, quality of life and local sustainability
- economic prosperity improving employment and workforce skills, improving marketing and business support and promoting tourism and progressing urban regeneration
- housing, including more co-operation and information sharing, agreeing priority areas for regeneration and reducing the number of empty properties; addressing housing need, ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing and reducing anti-social behaviour.



**Newark and Sherwood** has a population of 106,000 and the lowest population density in the county. It also has the best record of all Nottinghamshire districts in terms of qualifications and skills, is relatively prosperous and has low crime rates.

The Newark and Sherwood Partnership's current aims are:

- reducing the level of crime and disorder and the fear of crime
- developing and enhancing participation in cultural activities in rural areas and towns
- achieving a diverse and sustainable local economy which provides employment opportunities
- promoting the conservation and protection of our surroundings
- improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and reducing social exclusion.
- maximising the reach and accessibility of lifelong learning opportunities.



**Rushcliffe** has a population of 105,600 and the highest economic activity rate in the county. 36,000 of the borough's population live in West Bridgford. Rushcliffe is home to many of the county's main sporting and leisure attractions.

The Rushcliffe Partnership has the following current priorities:

- promoting and improving the whole environment to help create thriving towns and villages
- promoting sustainable transport solutions
- encouraging the development of skills and enterprise to reduce social exclusion
- supporting the development of integrated community facilities and opportunities
- reducing avoidable injuries and delivering the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.

## PRIORITIES

**You said: Living in a safe area with low levels of crime and disorder is really important. Real community involvement and being able to access services is crucial.**

### **SAFER AND STRONGER - Making Nottinghamshire safer, building a strong sense of community and enriching lives**

- the highest priority over the next ten years for most people in Nottinghamshire is crime; many of you have particular concerns about vandalism, improving police presence on your streets and response times, and you support community wardens
- tackling drugs crime is a priority across particular Nottinghamshire communities. Supporting parents and ensuring that services working with children pick up early signs of difficulty and providing appropriate support to prevent young people getting into crime are also important
- older people want to live independently at home but feel that improved community safety both at home and in neighbourhoods is vital
- young people in Nottinghamshire are worried about their safety both on the streets and in their schools, and want bullying stopped
- businesses in Nottinghamshire are increasingly worried about crime and want to see crime against business measured so that joint responses can be developed and coordinated
- all ages and communities feel that having access to good local leisure, social and cultural services and facilities contributes to a sense of inclusion and wellbeing. Many feel that specialist facilities are the answer whilst others want 'access for all' improved
- focus groups identified the sense of community involvement that emerges from improved information and communication and through people having a greater influence on decisions that affect their lives. We need to value and respect all ages and cultures more, and encourage more joint work across communities and generations as well as in schools, to increase a sense of community and encourage active citizenship

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- young children said they want more outdoor activities and access to safe play areas, free from needles, rubbish and dog fouling; disabled children want the same access to leisure and cultural facilities as non-disabled children and young people
- the most vulnerable people need help to ensure their opinions and experiences are heard, they feel safe, supported and valued and are empowered to reach the goals they set themselves
- people feel that more choice in amenities and supporting independence will lead to more cohesive communities, better neighbourhoods and quality of life
- the role of voluntary and community organisations is crucial in supporting involvement and cohesion and combating social exclusion.

## We know:

Crime levels are high; the geographic county ranks 6<sup>th</sup> out of 49 sub regions in terms of total offences per 1,000 population. But once City figures are excluded from the above, crime rates fall dramatically. Of the county's districts Mansfield has the highest rate of overall offences, followed by Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Gedling. Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood have far fewer offences.

Burglary rates also show marked disparities within the county, with Ashfield, Mansfield and Broxtowe ranking significantly higher than the England average.

Anti-social behaviour and drinking can sometimes be addressed through licensing or decreased by providing diversionary activities such as sport and recreation. In addition, support to prevent young people misusing drugs and alcohol can be productive.

Each of the county's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships has just published their 2005-8 strategies, based on thorough research and consultation with local organisations and people. All these strategies outline in detail what issues are to be addressed, with specific targets on, for example, business crime, rural crime, anti-social behaviour and so on. This strategy should align with the details in each Community Safety Strategy rather than duplicate activity already underway.

Many agencies, not simply the police, have a major role to play in this area; these include the Probation Service, Victim Support, the Fire and Rescue Service, organisations serving young people and a range of education and training providers

On accidents, including those affecting children, preventative work can pay huge dividends. Safer routes to school and similar initiatives can play a role in this work and we have reduced the number of killed and seriously injured by 11% over the last 4 years.

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There are higher than average numbers of children on the County's Child Protection Register and the safety of children and vulnerable adults can best be addressed through co-operation between many agencies.

Domestic violence is a major issue which affects overall crime levels but this is now being addressed through dedicated support units and joint work between agencies.

Arson and avoidable injuries are a problem in some areas and can be tackled through better joined-up work between agencies.

Road and footpath repairs and maintenance, road safety measures and improved street lighting are all playing a part in reducing accidents and the fear of crime.

Taking government measures, Nottinghamshire ranks as the 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived county in England. Also on deprivation, Mansfield, Ashfield and Bassetlaw are the districts which score highest.

Culture, sport and leisure enrich people's quality of life and contribute to social and economic wellbeing and stronger communities.

In 2003/04 there was take-up of almost 11,600 adult and community learning opportunities by people in Nottinghamshire. In the same year, 10,810 people attended sports training courses, 216,293 went to council-supported arts events and there were 4,827 visits per 1,000 people to public libraries.

Ashfield and Mansfield have populations with the lowest average ages in the county, whilst Gedling and Newark and Sherwood have the highest. Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield have the highest dependency ratio in the county.

**You said: People value health. Increasing numbers of residents say that the quality of local health services is important in making their area a good place to live.**

## **HEALTHIER - Improving our health and wellbeing**

- focus groups said local and accessible health services that involve patients in the planning and provision of services to help everyone feel independent are important. You are also concerned about raising awareness of mental health issues and increasing local

provision and support in this area

- people feel that good health is an essential prerequisite for an enjoyable life. Feedback stressed the importance of obesity and mental and sexual health as issues of concern. In addition, in several parts of the county people are worried about high numbers of road accidents
- there is a clear message that we all need to take responsibility for our own health, but that sometimes we need help to do this. The importance of sport, physical activity and outdoor recreation was seen to be very important. You agree with the view that targeting effective preventative measures for improving health is critical to tackling the major causes of death such as cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke.

## We know:

That the county has a higher infant mortality rate than the average for the region and Great Britain as a whole.

We also know that the mortality rate for those aged under 75 is higher than in the region and country.

Nottinghamshire has above national averages of people aged 50 and over across all districts.

Within the county, there are more babies born with a low birth weight in Bassetlaw, Ashfield and Rushcliffe, than the average for England.

The teenage conception rate is substantially higher in Ashfield and Mansfield than the average for England.

There is a clear link between physical inactivity and ill health. We need to continue to address issues such as obesity and poor health through a mix of initiatives focusing on better diet and healthy food, engaging people and children in activities and sports both in schools and elsewhere and encouraging higher levels of walking, cycling and outdoor recreation.

Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw districts have the highest rates of road accidents in the county and Rushcliffe has rates which are higher than the average for England.

Some issues mentioned under other themes are also very important for health; these include avoidable injuries and accidents, which connect to health inequalities and the health impact of domestic violence on victims and their families.

Better information provision, including sex education, signposting to resources and health promotion are also important in tackling health issues.

**You said: We should raise community aspirations and encourage everyone to strive to achieve their potential**

## **LEARNING AND EARNING - Helping us all reach our potential**

- although there were some worries many of you feel very positive about the current performance of Nottinghamshire schools and quality of education generally and believe this is important to improve the quality of jobs in the county. You told us that for children with additional needs you want improved transition from nursery to school, primary school to secondary school and secondary school to further training
- local businesses want us to support training that meets their current and future needs. They also asked us to work with them to improve job quality by connecting industries with communities, and by developing the links between schools, colleges and business
- you are unhappy about how local partners are tackling deprivation, the economy and unemployment. Focus groups tell us not to forget those on benefits and the poverty that leads from unemployment. You feel that provision to ease the transition from education to work will help people aspire to and access the best quality training and jobs
- older people tell us that they are active participants in their communities, in terms of lifelong learning, employment and volunteering
- all ages and cultures say it's important not to forget that learning and education for its own sake is fundamental to our quality of life
- economic prosperity depends on encouraging enterprise and this can be helped by providing good infrastructure, stimulating investment, local procurement, higher level skills and economic diversity.

### **We know:**

That in 2004, the percentage of 16 year olds achieving five or more GCSE higher grade passes in Nottinghamshire was below the national average and below that of similar authorities. Pupils' performance varies across the county with pupils in former coalfield areas performing below those in other areas.

Our economic productivity is 2% less than across the East Midlands and 12% less than the average for Great Britain. The county's economy is changing and sectors such as tourism and creative industries are becoming more

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important, as the jobs market changes. This is creating demands for new and enhanced skills.

The county has substantially fewer businesses per 1,000 population than the region and the country. In recent years however, some parts of the county - including Mansfield and Ashfield - have been creating businesses faster than the rest of the county. We also know that small firms are crucial to the future health of the county's economy and that support for business formation and survival and for new and innovative businesses and social enterprises is therefore very important.

The region recorded employment growth from 1998 but the county's overall employment rate declined. In the same period, Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Newark and Sherwood recorded levels of growth above the national average.

Skills and qualification levels are relatively low; the county has fewer people qualified at high level (NVQ4) than the country as a whole, though more than in the region.

Employment rates are quite high, though almost 5% below those of the region. Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Newark and Sherwood have employment rates which are considerably higher than the national average. We need to ensure equality of opportunity and can encourage employment through stimulating child care and other measures to encourage those excluded by circumstances including older people and young parents - back to the labour market.

The county's unemployment rate is comparable with the national average, but worklessness is a major problem in certain areas of the county. Local employment and local companies can be stimulated though the wider use of local labour agreements and local procurement and contracting.

Extended schools can play a major role in bringing parents and communities into education and training as well as promoting leisure, health, sport and recreation, reducing anti-social behaviour and developing links to adult, lifelong and further education opportunities.

**You said: Living in a clean area was your fourth top priority in our 2004 MORI Survey**

## **CLEANER AND GREENER - Protecting and improving our environment**

- you say that you want recycling to be expanded and made easier and more accessible. Litter, abuse of bridleways, abandoned cars and fly-

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tipping all affect people's sense of wellbeing and better management of these issues was called for

- local communities feel proud of their heritage and actively work to protect and improve their environment. Protecting the green belt across the county was very important to your quality of life and you think well planned developments are key to this
- your local environment - whether it be in built-up areas, villages or countryside, is very important to everyone. The natural environment, footpaths, wildlife and biodiversity, access to country parks, nature reserves, sport and recreation and tranquillity are all valued
- young people and children want access to safe play areas, free from needles and dog waste, and almost everyone feels that a pleasant place to live - without graffiti, litter or that 'run down' feeling - greatly improves the quality of our lives
- transport issues, such as bus lanes, park and ride schemes and the enhancement of rural transport are also thought to be key in protecting the environment and character of villages and towns in the county. In addition, cycling and rights of way, highway and footpath maintenance are all seen to be important.

## We know:

We are among the top performers in the country for recycling, with recycling rates reaching 31% for 2004/05. Whilst Gedling and Rushcliffe are performing well above the national average, there is still more to be done to improve the rates in all parts of the county.

In terms of the natural and historic environment, our key assets are Sherwood Forest and the Trent valley but we benefit from other important areas such as the Greenwood Community Forest and the Chesterfield and Grantham canals. Multi-agency partnerships are working to conserve, enhance and capitalise on the regeneration and tourism potential of all of these areas. Additionally in the last year alone we have almost doubled the size of the network of Local Nature Reserves.

Climate change is an important issue which links the local with the global and necessitates a joined-up response by many organisations working together. As part of this work we know that Co<sub>2</sub> emissions across the county are being tackled and Nottinghamshire has been praised for its sustainable energy use.

During the last year, 240 local environmental improvement schemes were carried out, working with local communities to revamp town centres, improve the appearance of housing estates and enhance the quality of the local countryside.

**You said: The county is easy to get about, but we need to get the balance between road improvements and public transport right. We also need to make services accessible and affordable**

## **TRAVEL AND ACCESS - Travelling easily and safely and being able to access all the services people need.**

- safe parking, improved access to facilities and places of worship, and transport that is co-ordinated between the city and county are important to people who live in the conurbation. Good quality public transport for people with a disability and, particularly, access to stations are also important to people with access problems
- young people tell us that transport - both its availability and cost - are major issues which stop them accessing services. They do not want to have to rely on parents giving them a lift, they want good quality, reliable public transport
- older people also feel that quality, reliable and affordable transport is crucial for accessing services including recreation, health and hospitals, education, training and employment
- transport is particularly important for people living in rural areas and it was felt that responsive travel options, including community transport projects, catering for specific needs were necessary
- the links between transport options and regeneration are strongly emphasised and there is criticism of the adequacy and maintenance of current roads by some business representatives and of bus services by parish councils
- this priority includes access to sports and leisure facilities, cultural and social activities as well as health, employment, information, advice and financial services
- affordable, decent housing is vital to your wellbeing, and many of you from across all areas of the county want better housing for everyone, but particularly for young people and families. Empty homes are seen as a continuing problem that needs attention
- people living in some more rural parts of the county are not able to access certain services and affordable housing was felt to be a particularly important issue; public transport is felt to be less than perfect, not convenient for many villages or too expensive for many people to use.

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## We know:

Rates of travel to work by public transport are lower than nationally by 2.5%, though substantially higher in Gedling.

That in 2004/05 29.2 million journeys were made on local buses and in rural areas, 52% of the population live within a 10 minute walk of a frequent bus service.

That in 2003/04 29% of journeys to school were taken by car. Improving accessibility is already underway as part of the county's transport planning process in conjunction with all partners.

Average incomes in the county are lower than in the region and nationally. Wage rates are also relatively low. Conversely, there are parts of the county where incomes are in excess of the regional rates and, in the case of Rushcliffe, even the national rate.

In terms of house prices, Ashfield and Mansfield have prices that are well below other parts of the county as well as substantially below the regional and national averages. On the other hand, the average house price in Rushcliffe exceeds the national average.

In 2003/04 195,000 young people aged 13-19 went to events organised by the Youth Service.

The condition of the main roads across Nottinghamshire is the 4th best in the country.

Access to support services that help people to maintain their own homes can prevent homelessness and the need for more intensive support and care services; ensuring that new housing provides accessible accommodation that caters for people's changing needs and provides 'homes for life' should inform development plans.

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Nottinghamshire Partnership aims to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the county and its people through a number of guiding principles which are:

### Community involvement and participation

We want to increase the number of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their community. We will do this by developing community and public engagement strategies which work at county and district level, and which recognise the wide range of organisations that can help. We will continue to use innovative and creative approaches to make sure that as many people as possible feel they can influence the decisions which affect their lives and their communities.

### Equality

Diversity enriches our community and we will strive to value it more, by promoting community cohesion and making sure that everyone has a chance to contribute to, and benefit from, our society. No-one should be disadvantaged by where they live, what they look like, or what they believe. We will work with communities to remove the barriers which prevent people from participating on an equal basis.

### Sustainability

We want to make sure that today's actions do not reduce the opportunities for future generations; we want to make sure that big strategic decisions which enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire residents are taken with future generations in mind.

### Subsidiarity

This means 'making sure that decisions are made at the right level', whether it is countywide, district, parish or neighbourhood. We want to make sure that the principle of subsidiarity applies across Nottinghamshire, and that where decisions are best made at a local level, then that is where decisions are made.

### Quality and value for money

We want to provide high quality and value for money services, so we will strengthen our efforts to be efficient, economical and effective by working closely together and making savings by reducing duplication. We will be clear and transparent about how much public money is spent in key areas and we will ensure that spending decisions are based on evidence of need.

### Accountability

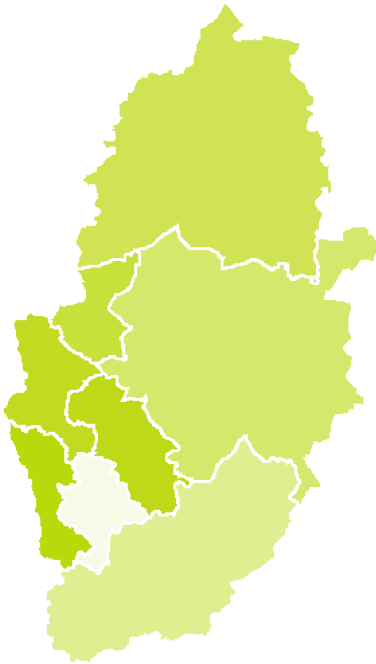
We have to make sure that whatever actions the Nottinghamshire Partnership takes, those actions are evaluated to make sure that they represent value for money, and that real improvements are visible to everyone. We will do this by providing regular progress reports to the communities and people of Nottinghamshire.

### Partnership

By being proactive in identifying new opportunities for improving services by working together better. We will make best use of the strengths of all the partners to deliver projects that meet the needs of communities across Nottinghamshire and improve quality of life for everyone. We will join up money, people, offices and outcomes - and save money at the same time.

# Nottinghamshire Community Strategy 2005-2009

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