

Comments on the Draft Strategic Plan 2006 to 2010

Respondent	Issue	Response
Debbie Groves Prince's Trust	Thinks the title is brilliant and very inclusive, and that the document is very easy to read. As a plan setting out the aims it's something we can all buy into.	The use of the same title as the Community Strategy is a deliberate attempt to adopt a broad and inclusive and partnership approach to the issues affecting Nottinghamshire.
David Gilbert Nottm Police	In the Safer and Stronger block, the authority's contribution through additional PCSOs and neighbourhood wardens is mentioned, but perhaps undersells its commitment.	The statements of commitment in the Plan are all at quite a general level but they represent clear priorities for Council.
David Gilbert Nottm Police	We suggest you consider making the authority's commitment to neighbourhood policing and tackling anti-social behaviour explicit within the plan in the Delivering our Vision Section perhaps by a reworded sentence or preferably an additional bullet point.	This commitment has been redrafted to refer to our support for the police and support for neighbourhood policing. Tackling anti social behaviour is now specifically mentioned. It is backed up by a target on the proportion of people who feel safe.
David Gilbert Nottm Police	The plan is concise, easy to read and sets out some tremendous challenges for the authority.	
Jean Pardoe Connexions	It looks good – succinct and something for everyone.	
Jean Pardoe Connexions	The Transport and Access section is rather bland re young people. "Consider the needs of..." sounds a bit patronising and non-committal. Young People in the county are very clear that access to services is a major issue for them – they want better bus services and subsidised transport.	The statement of commitment has been redrafted to a express more active approach to children and youth issues and access has been specifically mentioned. Any view of subsidised transport would be too specific for this document.

Jean Pardoe Connexions	Is it possible to mention encouraging/enabling young people to engage in the democratic process/civic duty?	The commitment to encourage community activity and promote community cohesion has been edited to emphasis the involvement of all ages.
Nina Dauban NAVO	Good stuff - hits all the points. I particularly welcome the succinct easy read of it!	
Nina Dauban NAVO	In the 'Our Role' section under communities, I think you should mention improving 'community cohesion'.	A new commitment to promote community cohesion has been added to the Safer Stronger section of Delivering our vision.
Nina Dauban NAVO	In the section 'Being Civic Leaders' I would like to see you challenge yourselves, councillors and employees and the like to be 'Role Models'.	The Plan recognises that the Council must be more than a service provider and commits the Council to developing the role of individual councillors and the Council as a whole in community leadership
Michael Newstead BCVS	Overall the Draft Plan seems robust.	
Michael Newstead BCVS	Worksop Bus Station is in urgent need of attention.	The Plan contains a commitment to improve major bus stations in the County which are seen as a key element in widening transport choice.
Michael Newstead BCVS	There is a very real problem of the sustainability of several community centres, often in our most deprived communities.	This is a matter that will be considered in specific service plans.
Michael Newstead BCVS	What is the relationship between 'customers' and 'citizens'?	The Strategic Plan presents the role of the County Council as being both a service provider and a civic leader. These roles imply different relationships with those that live in the County. As a service provider we aim to give

		excellent services to those we serve, children at school; car users on the road etc in short, our customers. As civic leader we work with all residents and communities to give voice to their needs and aspirations.
Linda Hardy Country Parks Service	On the whole I would say that the strategy is a good attempt to distil many different viewpoints into a consensus of citizens' priorities.	
Linda Hardy Country Parks Service	I feel that priority one - "Safer and Stronger" - is muddled, and needs to be separated out into its separate strands. "Safer" should be a point on its own. It is fundamental to civilised life that people feel safe at home, at work, outdoors and in the street.	While undoubtedly it is possible to separate out our work as it relates to community safety from that aimed to strengthen community cohesion, they are presented together as they are seen as mutually supportive. The Safer Stronger theme derives from the work done on the Community Strategy and relates well to the Safer Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. No generalisations of this type are perfect but this theme does convey the important link between feeling safe and good community relationships.
Linda Hardy Country Parks Service	The strategy should have an additional, separate category recognising the value of culture and heritage. I would say that this is not well expressed in the word "stronger". A better description might be "quality of life". This would aim for "richer, brighter community life" or "a strong, vibrant culture".	Culture and heritage are key factors that contribute to community cohesion. The specific commitment under the Safer Stronger theme aims to enrich people's lives and our community's culture and heritage. This covers both the individual and collective benefits of these services.
Linda Hardy Country Parks	The strategy avoids naming the problems that the county face. I think if there was a short list somewhere in the strategy of the main challenges, we	The work done to develop the Community Strategy including the MORI survey and the

Service	could all focus better on the job we have to do. Only by honestly facing up to the shortcomings of our county can we determine what work we need to do to overcome them.	Visioning Conference presented a rounded picture of the County's strengths and weaknesses and what people feel about the places in which they live. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to map out a way forward. Many of our commitments represent a determination to tackle problems the County faces. Aiming to improve the level of GCSE passes achieved by 16 year olds would be one example.
David Roberts Notts CC	Various typographic issues	These have been corrected.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	No specific reference throughout the document in relation to the impact of the plan on black and minority ethnic communities and other disadvantage groups i.e. victims of race/hate crime, attainment of black, Caribbean boys in county schools and the high number of exclusions amongst Black Caribbean boys in secondary county schools.	As a strategic document setting the broad direction for the County Council over the next four years its presents a strong commitment to engaging with, helping and voicing the needs and aspirations of all communities. The document has been amended to make specific references to minority and disadvantaged communities. The first theme of "safer stronger" expresses the County's commitment to making all parts of the County a safe place to live and to promote community cohesion. The "learning earning" theme included a commitment to improving educational attainment.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	No real mention about general and specific duties on public bodies as outlined in the RRA(A) 2000 – furthermore the impact upon services following equality impact assessment.	As part of the national context the plan mentions the expectation that public services will be more responsive. This is reflected in our

		own principles and values which put customers at the heart of everything we do. Impact assessments allow us to identify how particular service or policy might have differential effects for different communities and to respond accordingly and these are an integral part of our service planning.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	What more can <u>we</u> all do 'together and better' profile the county as not a 'white shire County' and be in a position to access alternative funds.	The council is keen to hear new idea bout how a positive profile reflecting the county's diversity can be promoted.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	The need to create existing services to be made more accessible to BME diverse and disadvantaged groups.	The Plan makes commitments to responsiveness which will include specific plans to improve responsiveness to these groups.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	No mention of improving ways of reporting, recording and investigating racist/hate crimes. County schools, along with other organisations fail to send their referrals to the common monitoring project now housed at the REC.	The council is keen to improve the way that all organisations work together to tackle racism and this will be reflected in specific service plans.
Afzal Sadiq NNREC	How do we bring together 'scattered' communities together across the seven districts. How do we engage and involve BME and other disadvantaged groups in decision making bodies.	The council has already undertaken some good examples of engaging scattered and hard to reach communities and this practice will be spread through service plans.
Sue Budden Environment Agency	<i>Introduction</i> How does the Strategic Plan fit in with the LAA? There seems to be some crossover and duplication of objectives – could this create some communication difficulties if different groups are working from different documents?	The Local Area Agreement represents the commitments of the Nottinghamshire Partnership as negotiated with Government. The Strategic Plan relates just to the County Council. Both documents are based on the very broad intentions of the Nottinghamshire Community Strategy. The County have

		deliberately organised the Strategic Plan around the themes used in the Community Strategy and its contribution to the Local Area Agreement will also form an important part of the Plan. It is inevitable that the documents will cover similar issues. Each document however has a specific purpose.
Sue Budden Environment Agency	<p><i>Safer and stronger</i></p> <p>The Environment Agency are reducing flood risk through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood warnings - Emergency co-ordination - Liaison with development companies <p>Is this something that could be included, perhaps in the delivery of the plan?</p> <p>There is also the OnTrent project that we are involved in, which has put in a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for development work along part of the River Trent. This could be part of enriching people's lives and community culture and heritage.</p>	The contribution of the Environment Agency to partnership priorities would valuably be taken forward through the Community Strategy Delivery Plan. A new commitment has been added to the Strategic Plan to protect and enhance the natural environment.
Sue Budden Environment Agency	<p>Fly tipping is high up on our agenda, so we may be able to help in delivering your objective to improve the physical environment. We are looking to work with some Trading Estates to try to address pollution issues and help them work more efficiently. We are also looking at tackling hazardous waste streams, and helping industry comply with changes in legislation.</p>	The assistance of the Environment Agency will be extremely valuable in tackling fly tipping which for which a target has been set in the Local Area Agreement. Delivery Planning to meet the new target is now beginning.
Sue Budden Environment Agency	<p><i>Improving the way we work</i></p> <p>The first paragraph talks about taking into the needs of the whole community. The document is a Nottinghamshire County plan - will the strategy be tailored to each district/community within Nottinghamshire to meet specific, rather than countywide needs?</p>	The Strategic Plan is a high level statement of priorities. Individual services will be delivered in response to the needs and requirements of areas and communities. The Plan contains strong commitments to community leadership

	<p>Strengthening civic leadership – this talks about supporting <u>councillors</u> voicing the needs and aspirations of their communities. Is there a mechanism for supporting other community leaders? e.g. church leaders, community centre/organisation leaders, town centre managers, neighbourhood managers. These are often people who play an integral part in communities and are skilled at communicating the needs and aspirations of the communities they are in.</p>	<p>and engagement. The County Council already plays a active role of supporting and working with the voluntary and community sector and this work will be developed.</p>
<p>Sue Budden Environment Agency</p>	<p><i>Improvement priorities</i> The last part talks about working efficiently. We are concerned about businesses being greener, so is a greener business practice part of your improvement priorities?</p>	<p>The County Council has adopted a commitment to environmental sustainability and works actively to improve its own practices.</p>
<p>Paul Woods Notts Fire & Rescue</p>	<p>Happy to endorse the content.</p>	
<p>David Sharp Newark & Sherwood DC</p>	<p>Supportive of the five key aims.</p> <p>Healthier Resource Implications</p> <p>The strategic objectives outlined in the document are laudable but concern was expressed about the resource implications for the NHS, particularly in relation to the All together – Healthier section’s objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Adults with mental health problems or learning disabilities to be more independent and to enrich their lives • Promote greater choice and independence through community care service. <p>Clearly the costs associated with the these objectives of providing high quality care for individual people need to be considered in relation to the cost effectiveness of providing care collectively for people experiencing similar conditions. These objectives also potentially raise the issue of whether the provision of expensive</p>	<p>The partnership working on the local area agreement will provide a mechanism for working through these issues.</p> <p>The commitment on participation in sport has been extended to all ages</p>

	<p>care packages for individual people represents an equitable use of limited resources.</p> <p>To address the problem of increasing obesity, particularly in children it may be appropriate to change the wording of the third bullet from 'older people' to 'people of all ages'</p>	
David Sharp Newark & Sherwood DC	<p>Cleaner and Greener</p> <p>Newark and Sherwood PCT would welcome advice on how it could contribute to this strategic goal. I am aware of the advice to the NHS on the Sustainable Development Commission's website but would hope to facilitate closer working at a local level.</p>	The Local Area Agreement and the Community Strategy Delivery Plan offer opportunity for partnership working on these issues.
David Sharp Newark & Sherwood DC	<p>Our Role as a County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults <p>Newark and Sherwood PCT believes that this paragraph should reflect that the County Council does not necessarily lead this work and leadership is undertaken in partnership with the NHS and voluntary organisations.</p>	The Council's commitment to partnership working is emphasised by the title of the Plan and throughout its text.
David Sharp Newark & Sherwood DC	<p>Objectives</p> <p>It was noted that the first paragraph on page 3 refers to the setting of targets for each objective. It would be helpful for the document to cross reference from where the reader might obtain more detail about the targets, for example in the wealth of performance data confirmed in the LAA. This would increase the credibility of the 'target' word.</p>	The targets will be published along with the Plan.
David Sharp Newark & Sherwood DC	<p>Partnership Working</p> <p>It may be helpful for the plan to place greater emphasis on working with the community and community partners rather than for the community.</p>	Community leadership and engagement are key elements of the Plan.

<p>Peter Murdock Gedling BC</p>	<p>We broadly support the five key objectives and note the significant overlap between these and the local priorities of the Gedling Partnership and of Gedling Borough Council. We appreciate the way the document sets out national, county partnership and county political priorities and then seeks to knit these together, recognising the complex drivers that shape a local authority agenda. This is an approach we are already exploring in refreshing our own Strategic Corporate Plan later this year.</p> <p>We would suggest that, in delivering these priorities, the County Council works effectively with partners across all sectors. We look forward to working with you on the priorities, but would urge that, where we do work together, this is on the basis of a partnership of equals. We would also urge that, where the County and Borough Council work together in partnership settings, the County Council's representatives are suitably empowered to commit resource from across the County Council to address agreed priority issues.</p>	<p>The County Council have a strong commitment to working in partnership through the Local Area Agreement, the Community Strategy delivery plan and wide range of more specific partnership arrangements that also exist.</p>
<p>Peter Murdock Gedling BC</p>	<p>We have some concern about the vagueness of reference in the document to communities. We would encourage you to recognise that communities work at many different levels, which in turn suggests that different issues need to be addressed at varying spatial levels, whether county wide, conurbation wide, district wide or neighbourhood based. Given the increasing significance of Nottingham as a Core City, we are surprised to see no specific reference to this in the document.</p>	<p>The County is making a new commitment to community leadership and community engagement in the Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>Peter Murdock Gedling BC</p>	<p>We hope the County Council will be able to engage with and support both community engagement and service delivery at varying spatial levels, recognising that not all services and issues can or should be addressed at county level.</p> <p>There are particular sensitivities in two-tier areas around the emerging community leadership agenda and related issues around neighbourhood development. We hope we will be able to continue to develop a positive and constructive approach to this through the period covered by this Plan, building on recent successes such</p>	<p>.It is recognised that service delivery, leadership and engagement need to take place at different spatial levels across the County</p>

	as the Gedling Area-Based Initiatives.	
Peter Murdock Gedling BC	We must also urge that resources are allocated in a fair and equitable way, and would hope to see recognition that needs are spread throughout the county. There remains a perception that county resources are distributed inequitably and that the conurbation districts do not receive a fair share of funding, particularly when compared with the Mansfield and Ashfield areas, in spite of specific (often localised) needs in our area. We hope the County Council will recognise these needs and ensure resources are allocated in a way that allows Gedling Borough and wider conurbation needs to be addressed.	The Council will take account of the needs and aspirations of communities across the County in delivering its services.