



# A new vision for Darlington

The draft Sustainable Community Strategy

Consultation Phase  
[Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee]

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28 January 2008



# Today's presentation

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

The process to date:

- Data collection;
- Enquiry Groups;
- Consultation

New v Old

The vision

Priorities and themes

Next Steps

Consultation questions



# What's it all about?

- What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?
- Haven't we got one already?



# The process

- May 2007 – LSP agree project management arrangements
- Led by LSP – a Partnership document
- Data pack and other evidence
- Enquiry Group process
- Engagement and prioritisation



# Data collection

- Government priorities
- Regional/sub-regional plans
- Local Service and Business Plans e.g. Policing Plan
- Inspections
- Performance data, e.g. analysis of existing Community Strategy themes
- Darlington specific data, e.g. demographics, parish plans, etc.



# Enquiry Group process

- Darlington Partnership Board established 6 Enquiry Groups to address priority issues for Darlington
- Chaired independently, key support from DBC employees
- Aim to give practical solutions
- Common themes across enquiry groups would be recognised



# The Enquiry Groups

- EG1** How can we develop the **economy** and grow high quality jobs in Darlington?
- EG2** What is needed to ensure Darlington has the best **education** in the UK producing the workforce for a high value economy?
- EG3** How can we make Darlington **crime free** and reduce anti-social behaviour?
- EG4** How can we make Darlington the healthiest place in the UK by persuading people to adopt **healthy** lifestyles?
- EG5** What would it take to make Darlington the **greenest** place in the UK?
- EG6** How can we maximise **life chances** and choices throughout Darlington and ensure continuous improvement for priority people and places through a joined-up approach?



# Engagement and prioritisation

- Extensive community engagement summer 2007
- 42 events – range of public meetings
- Employee focus groups held
- Views captured on postcards, online, via competition entries, etc.
- Database of views held for analysis





# Prioritisation

- 13 topic areas identified from the pre-consultation
- Interactive prioritisation September – November 2007
- Follow up focus groups with employees, public meetings, Citizens' Panel, Darlington Assembly
- Not a simple average!!
- Results combined with data collection and Enquiry Groups process to produce the draft content



# New v Old

	Old	New
<b>Lifespan</b>	5+ years	10+ years
<b>Vision</b>	Expressed as 4 visionary goals	A short simple Darlington specific statement
<b>Priorities</b>	3 Themes from a list of 8	2 priorities that will help shape decision making
<b>Themes</b>	8	5 clearly identified from extensive consultation
<b>Priority Groups</b>	Separate consideration of 3 priority groups	Single Strategy to include NRS
<b>Delivery</b>	3 year rolling action plan updated annually	Short term (LAA – 3 years) Medium term (MTFP– 5 years) Long term - Vision
<b>Feeling</b>	Doing everything at once	Fewer, clearer priorities structured in short, medium & long term plans



# The Vision

At this stage in drafting, there is not yet a clear statement of this vision, although it encompasses the following:

- A prosperous and empowered community founded on its rich tradition of enterprise and innovation;
- The opportunities, ambition and vibrant life of a city;
- The quality of life and history of a friendly market town;
- Successful, innovative and enterprising businesses;
- Easy and sustainable access by road, rail and air for everybody



# Priorities and themes

Two priorities, helping to shape decision making:

**The vision** – describing Darlington as a **place** and helping us to shape investment decisions and spatial planning

**One Darlington** – describing our approach to **people**, and specifically narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the borough

5 themes:

- Prosperous Darlington
- Aspiring Darlington
- Healthy Darlington
- Greener Darlington
- Safer Darlington



# Next Steps

Developing a new Local Area Agreement, acting as the delivery plan for the new Sustainable Community Strategy

- Up to 35 indicators from the new National Indicator list;
- Action planning for delivery of Sustainable Community Strategy actions

2 months consultation on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy – December and January

Final Strategy to LSP Board, Cabinet and Council in March



# Consultation Questions

**Is the content factually correct?**

**Is it complete – what is missing? Please remember this is a high level document that will provide the context for more detailed plans, and can't include everything...**

**Is there any content that you think should be deleted?**

**What do you think of the approach to the priorities of the 'Vision for Darlington' and 'One Darlington' running through the themes?**

