



Workshop:

Community action, sustainable development and community strategies

Workshop aims

- To understand the links between community involvement and sustainable development
- To explore the role of community involvement, and understand how it moves beyond consultation. Map how this might relate to the whole community strategy / LSP process
- To map how current community involvement processes link to the community strategy and to understand how this could be straightened.

This exercise covers a strategic view of community involvement throughout the community strategy and local strategic partnership process. It does not attempt to reproduce the huge variety of excellent material that already exists, designed specifically to help community participation. The briefing [“Putting sustainable development into practice”](#) within the ‘Sustainable development defined’ Resources area gives links to additional resources and contact organisations.

Resources to use

- The briefing: [“What is sustainable development?”](#)
- Briefings: [“Routemaps”](#) and [Systems for integrating sustainable development into the community strategy, PowerPoint slides 17 to 18](#)
- Workshop resources: [“Stages of the community strategy process”](#), and [“Options for working more closely with the community”](#)

NB Click on [Hints for managing workshops](#) for general guidance on running successful workshops.

Summary (indicative timings are shown in brackets)

1. Introductions (10 minutes)

Introductions, agree objectives for the workshop (these can be used for evaluation of the session at the end), agree ground rules for the session.

2. Brainstorming in pairs, followed by plenary discussion: Why involve local people? (25 minutes)

In pairs, brainstorm:

- a) What are the benefits of local people being involved in the community strategy process?
- b) What are some of the worries about local people being involved?
- c) What is needed to ensure effective community involvement?

Sandwich feedback on the three questions above. Use the discussion to draw out:

- Links between the benefits of community involvement and sustainable development (See the briefing [“What is sustainable development?”](#) from the ‘Sustainable development defined’ Resources area.
- The need to link into existing processes (draw out, among others, the existing work of LA21 forum etc)
- Principles of good community involvement (See PowerPoint [slide 18](#))
- The difference between community consultation and community involvement (see the briefing [Systems for integrating sustainable development into the community strategy](#))
- The continuous process of community involvement.

Present the Venn diagram in the resources section, describing the different stages of the community strategy process and processes through which people could be involved.

3. Small group work: What are the objectives for community involvement at each stage and who would want to be involved, and how? (20 minutes if each group takes one part of the process each)

This group session is an opportunity to think through why different people would want to be involved in the community strategy process and what the options are for different kinds of involvement.

Use the first three columns of the group worksheet (provided at the end of this outline) to answer the following questions:

For each stage of the community strategy process:

- What are the objectives for community involvement?
- Who should be involved?
- How should they be involved?

4. Plenary: What are the objectives for community involvement at each stage and who would want to be involved, and how? (20 minutes)

Sandwich feedback. Draw out the different objectives for community involvement.

5. Work in pairs: What community involvement processes already exist? Are they linked into the community strategy process? (20 minutes)

Note on to Post-it notes:

- **Community-led processes (Post-it note colour 1)**
- **Council-led processes (Post-it note colour 2)**
- **Partner-led processes (Post-it note colour 3)**

Place onto the Venn diagram (on large piece of flip-chart on the wall):

- If it is already linked into the community strategy process / LSP, place the Post-it note *within* the most appropriate circle
- If it is not currently linked to the community strategy process / LSP, place it *outside* the circles.

6. Small group work: Strengthening community involvement in the community strategy process (20 minutes)

Each group to use the information on the Venn diagram to make suggestions about how the community involvement process of the community strategy could be strengthened.

Use last two questions on the worksheet to structure the discussion.

For each stage of the process:

- How can this build on existing processes, link into existing organisations and build in support from existing workers?
- Are new processes required?

Points to note: Is the activity focused around consultation rather than strategy development / partnership / delivery? Is there significant activity which is not related to the community strategy? Is it a certain group of stakeholders who tend to be involved? Are there gaps?

7. Wrap up and action planning (20 minutes)

Sandwich feedback. Develop and agree action plan to strengthen community involvement within the community strategy process. Use worksheet structure to draw out actions, and for each action point note: Who has responsibility for taking this forward and by what date? Are additional resources required?