



## Briefing:

# Making community strategies sustainable – an overview

Government guidance (see briefing “What is sustainable development” in the ‘Sustainable Development’ resources area) makes it clear that contributing to the achievement of sustainable development is one of the key objectives of community strategies.

It also stresses that:

- social, economic and environmental well-being must be addressed
- this should be done in an integrated way
- local people should be involved.

What does this mean in practice? How does the sustainability/well-being remit affect the way that a community strategy is developed and the way a local strategic partnership works? Indeed, what difference does it make to action that is taken as a result?

The Routemaps in this section outline the key phases of community strategy development and LSPs and summarise the key opportunities for addressing sustainability/well-being.

The other briefings in this section expand on the issues identified in the Routemaps.

*The Routemaps are adapted from an article in **eg magazine**, Volume 8, Number 4 April 2002 called ‘Community strategies and LSPs: fast lane or cul-de-sac for sustainable development?’ by Alison Pilling, formerly at CAG Consultants and David Cooper formerly at Fenland District Council.*

Opportunities for integrating SD *into the Community Strategy*

Stage in CS Development	For more information
<p><b>Map local need (community consultation and local data)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have local people already said about SD issues? Make sure that this information is available to the LSP.</li> <li>• Highlight the main sustainable development trends and issues of significant concern and market these to your LSP as priorities needing their support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Community involvement” briefing</li> <li>- Sustainable development indicators: see <a href="http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk">www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Map existing plans and strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that SD plans are included at this stage.</li> <li>• Enlist the support of key partners on social, economic and environmental issues: sell the benefits of community strategies and the well-being power.</li> </ul>	<p>“The power to promote well-being” briefing</p>
<p><b>Design framework for CS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that the CS objectives are consistent with SD objectives.</li> <li>• Make sure that all important SD objectives are covered. In particular futurity and global environmental issues such as climate change are often ignored.</li> <li>• Use relevant SD frameworks (local or regional) for this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “What is sustainable development” briefing within the ‘Sustainable development defined’ resources area.</li> <li>- “Systems for integrating sustainable development into the community strategy” briefing.</li> <li>- LGA resource pack: “Future Works” on <a href="http://www.lga.gov.uk">www.lga.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Work with local people to agree local vision and plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the community dialogue process already started with LA21.</li> <li>• Who is the plan for? Local people may not be interested in the CP for the local authority, but may be more interested in action plans for their neighbourhood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The power to promote well-being” briefing</li> <li>- “Joined-up working and policy integration” briefing</li> <li>- “Community involvement at the heart of a sustainable partnership and strategy” briefing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop/review the detailed action plan based on the views of local people and strategic partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic partners will be looking for added value from the plan. SD actions need to be specific and practical, and help the partners deliver their agendas.</li> <li>• Look for opportunities for joined-up thinking, for example between regeneration and sustainable development.</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable development objectives, and address conflicts between objectives (crunch issues).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The power to promote well-being” briefing</li> <li>- “Joined-up working and policy integration” briefing</li> <li>- “Systems for integrating sustainable development into the community strategy” briefing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monitor implementation of the CS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link local quality of life indicators to the CS objectives.</li> <li>• Link to the Best Value Performance Plan. Report progress against CS objectives in the BVPP.</li> <li>• Develop a community scrutiny culture: hold the LSP to account on the delivery of its objectives.</li> <li>• Link to the local government scrutiny process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “How can sustainable development be promoted through Overview and Scrutiny?” briefing in the ‘New Structures’ resources area.</li> <li>- “Addressing Sustainable Development within CPA Self-Assessments and Best Value” briefing within the ‘Best Value’ resources area.</li> </ul>

Opportunities for integrating SD into the LSP

Stage in LSP development	For more information
<p><b>(Continue to) raise awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Get inventive with the wellbeing power.</b> Think about the potential of the new power to encourage effective partnership working to implement more sustainable development.</li> <li>• <b>Continue to enlist the support of key partners</b> on social, economic and environmental issues: sell the benefits of community strategies and the well-being power. Benefits could include more influence for their issues at LSP board level and in each theme group, less plans and strategies and duplicated meetings, an opportunity to develop integrated solutions, and a real voice for community viewpoints</li> </ul>	<p>- “The power to promote well-being” briefing</p>
<p><b>SP development/ accreditation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Develop a quality partnership</b> Use Neighbourhood Renewal Accreditation Guidance and the Performance Management Framework as a template. Include SD as a cross-cutting issue, or make the links with the liveability agenda. Look at the potential for including liveability and SD training for partnership members.</li> </ul>	<p>- “Joined-up working and policy integration” briefing</p>
<p><b>LSP operation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stress links between themes</b>, for example between regeneration and environment. The environment (and particularly global environment) is the element of sustainable development that tends to be ignored by the LSP<sup>1</sup>. Therefore suggest that the LSP chair be rotated so that an environment or sustainable development partner has an opportunity. Look to keep ‘the environment’ on the agenda – for example suggest a slot for each LSP meeting for updates from all themes.</li> </ul>	<p>- “Joined-up working and policy integration” briefing</p>
<p><b>LSP membership/links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Link to existing partnerships.</b> Many LSP are exploring the potential of ‘nesting’ partnerships and are making formal links with action-oriented partnerships and forums – ensure that local forums such as LA21 forums and neighbourhood action groups are drawn into this process</li> <li>• <b>Understand difference.</b> Many existing partnerships and forums, particularly those involving community level organisations, work in very different ways to formalised LSPs – but they are an important part of the picture. Broker working relationships between formalised strategic partnerships and those that are action-focused and community-led.</li> <li>• <b>Develop representation over time.</b> Facilitate the flow of information between the LSP and the community sector, and make the case, where possible, to strengthen the representativeness of the LSP board itself.</li> </ul>	<p>- “Community involvement at the heart of a sustainable partnership and strategy” briefing</p>
<p><b>Continuous improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use sustainable development principles as a core appraisal tool. This will also help to simplify the relationship with the land use strategy</li> </ul>	<p>- “Systems for integrating sustainable development into the community strategy” briefing</p>

