



Workshop resource:

Using a mind map to explore issues which move us further away from our vision of the future

Examples of issues raised could include:

- The traffic in the centre of town on a Friday evening
- Eating healthy food, when we have no control over from where food is sourced
- Global warming
- Voter apathy.

Question in the centre of the mind map is: “What current trends or initiatives are moving us away from the future we want?”

Prompts:

- Think locally, nationally and globally
- Think about formal and informal trends and initiatives
- Think about some of the links between the trends and initiatives.

Use the mind map of issues to draw out a discussion about:

- Different problems (and their solutions) may pull in different directions (in other words, our objectives may conflict). These can be called crunch issues: draw out the key crunch issues. This could be, for example, the need for more housing vs. the need to preserve the countryside, or access to services in rural areas vs. the need to reduce road-based travel

- Other problems (and their solutions) may pull in the same direction
- Different participants will have different views about what the key issues are
- The need for decision making which integrates the different objectives
- The potential to use sustainable development principles to check that solutions move us in the right direction
- Sphere of control and sphere of influence. Many of the issues identified on the map will be outside the council's own sphere of control. However many will fall within its broader sphere of influence (working with partners etc)
- Global problems – local solutions. The flip side of this discussion will be that some problems cannot be acted upon locally.