



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14 November 2007

Cabinet

20 November 2007

Report of

Chief Executive

Title

Developing the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the consultation draft document to be used for the development of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to consider and comment upon the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy consultation draft document set out in appendix A.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy consultation draft document set out in appendix A.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed from the second Coventry Community Plan that was adopted in July 2004. Subsequently revised to cover 2005-2010 and titled "*Raising our game, closing the gap*", the Coventry Community Plan sets out at a strategic level in a single plan for Coventry the key issues that need to be tackled in partnership by organisations throughout the city.
- 3.2 Like the Coventry Community Plan (Coventry's current community strategy), the development of a local Sustainable Community Strategy for Coventry is a government requirement and will be the subject of national government guidance and inspection. It will be the responsibility of Coventry City Council as the local authority to ensure that the strategy is developed and adopted.
- 3.3 The Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed in partnership through the Coventry Partnership, the city's Local Strategic Partnership that consists of public, private, voluntary and community organisations, including Coventry City Council.

- 3.4 The Sustainable Community Strategy will set out and provide overall direction for the city, setting out a clear focus and priorities that will inform the development of a range of key strategies and organisations plans that will help to deliver the improvements and the activities needed to achieve the agreed strategic long term outcomes for the city. Examples include the city's Children and Young People's Plan; the city's Economic Development Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.5 Although based on the current Community Plan, the new Sustainable Community Strategy will need to have a longer timeframe and will look to 2026 to fit better with regional spatial and economic strategies and spatial planning timescales. The Sustainable Community Strategy should be developed within the context of future growth and aspirations for the city. It will set out the long-term vision for the city and long term strategic objectives and outcomes for Coventry that will make our city a place where people choose to live, work, learn and to do business and focus on ensuring that future growth is used to transform the city and benefit local people by improving quality of life, raising aspirations and narrowing the gap in the city.
- 3.6 Sustainability issues, including climate change and the environment and equality of opportunity and community cohesion need to influence the development of the strategy and be embedded within it.
- 3.7 Community involvement will be essential to the development, delivery and evaluation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the development of a formal Community Engagement Strategy will form part of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Government guidance on this is expected in December 2008.
- 3.8 It is important that the development of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement is evidence based and builds upon the analysis of the current position in Coventry, expected future trends and the existing priorities and strategies that have been agreed with central government, local partner organisations and local people and communities.
- 3.9 Information has been pulled together from a range of key data sources and city strategies to produce an initial strategic assessment of the current position of Coventry and likely future trends. This aims to tell the Coventry story through a number of themes as the basis for the development of long-term outcomes and short-term priorities for the city. The assessment is still being developed and is available separately as the "*Initial Strategic Assessment of Coventry*" document.
- 3.10 The **Local Development Framework** (LDF) sets out the policies that provide for the spatial planning and future physical development of Coventry and is particularly important to the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy so central government has advised that the Core Strategy of the LDF should be part of the city's Sustainable Community Strategy. Coventry's Local Development Framework Core Strategy is currently being developed within the context of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy that sets out the strategic planning policy for the region, including the number of additional dwellings that the city should plan for.
- 3.11 Another important means of delivering the long-term outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy will be the city's new **Local Area Agreement** (LAA). This will replace the current three-year Local Area Agreement that is due to finish at the end of March 2008.
- 3.12 The new Local Area Agreement will be signed between the Coventry Partnership, Coventry City Council and central government and will set out, after negotiation, up to 35 agreed

priorities with improvement targets across a range of areas such as employment and skills, housing, environment, community safety, health. There will also be an additional 17 statutory targets for early years and educational attainment in schools. The priorities and targets will be based upon a new national indicator set that was announced last month as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Local Area Agreement will be key to central government's assessment of the council's performance in the future and will also be used to assess the performance of the Coventry Partnership and other partners.

- 3.13 The new Local Area Agreement has a three-year time scale and should include short-term priorities that will help to achieve the long-term objectives and outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy. All strategic local authorities in England are producing new local area agreements that are due to be signed off with central government in March or June 2008. This means that the identification of LAA priorities is being undertaken alongside the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.14 Additional research and further in-depth analysis of the evidence base is being undertaken to inform negotiations with central government on the new Local Area Agreement using the national indicator set, with the view to having the agreement signed off by Ministers in June 2008.

4 Consultation Process

- 4.1 Based upon an initial strategic assessment of Coventry, work has undertaken by the Coventry Partnership theme groups and partnership boards involving a wide range of partner organisations from the community, voluntary, private and public sectors, regional bodies and the city council to develop initial proposals for long-term outcomes and short-term priorities. Consideration of this initial analysis by the Coventry Partnership Board and partner organisations and elected members has been used to produce the consultation draft document of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy attached at appendix A.
- 4.2 This consultation draft document was considered and amended by the Coventry Partnership Board on Wednesday 7 November 2007 and considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on Wednesday 14 November 2007. Following approval by Cabinet, the document will be used as the basis of a wide-ranging consultation exercise, running from Monday 3 December to Friday 25 January 2008 with the aim of having the Strategy approved and adopted by full council in March 2008. A longer strategic assessment document setting out more detailed information will also be available.
- 4.3 The consultation process for the Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed with the Coventry Partnership. Care is being taken to align consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy with the consultation processes for the Local Development Framework Preferred Option and the Coventry Economic Development Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and the council's budget setting process.
- 4.4 The formal process for the development and adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy within the council includes Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council. In addition, there will be further opportunities for all elected members to comment upon and be involved in the consultation development of the Sustainable Community Strategy through the consultation process.

5 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

- 5.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approves the document attached at appendix A to be used to inform a period of public consultation from Monday 3 December 2007 – to Friday 25

January 2008 as part of the development of Coventry's Sustainable Community Strategy and new Local Agreement.

5.2 There are no other options proposed.

6 Other specific implications

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Neighbourhood Management	☐	
Best Value	☐	
Children and Young People	☐	
Comparable Benchmark Data	☐	
Corporate Parenting	☐	
Coventry Community Plan	☐	
Crime and Disorder	☐	
Equal Opportunities	☐	
Finance	☐	
Health and Safety		☐
Human Resources		☐
Human Rights Act	☐	
Impact on Partner Organisations	☐	
Information and Communications Technology		☐
Legal Implications	☐	
Property Implications		☐
Race Equality Scheme	☐	
Risk Management		☐
Climate Change and Sustainable Development	☐	
Trade Union Consultation	☐	
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact	☐	

6.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy will provide strategic direction for the council and its partners and will be used to inform the development of delivery strategies and to set priorities and targets. It will therefore have implications for the council's and our partners' services; partnership working and aims to improve equality of opportunity and to make the city more sustainable and tackle climate change. The Strategy has been developed using an evidence base made up from a range of comparative data and this will be used to develop the Local Area Agreement; inform the choice of priorities and targets and used in performance management in the future

6.2 **Finance** - the Comprehensive Spending Review included a new reward grant associated with the new Local Area Agreements and the development of a new Area Based Grant that will pull together many of the specific area-based grants that are currently received by the council and other partners. The development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement will influence how this funding is allocated from 2008/09.

7 Monitoring

7.1 The consultation process will be monitored and evaluated with the aim of ensuring that it is inclusive and that the results of the process are useful. It will be important to ensure that people involved in the process are given feedback about the results of the consultation. The council, including the scrutiny function; Coventry Partnership and the new Local Public Service Board will be involved in the performance management of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

8 Timescale and expected outcomes

8.1 The consultation period will last from Monday 3 December 2007 until Friday 25 January 2008. The information gathered will be used to inform the development of a final draft Sustainable Community Strategy document that will be considered by the Coventry Partnership Board, Scrutiny and Cabinet before formal adoption by council in March 2008.

	Yes	No
Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Wednesday 14 November
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)		<input type="checkbox"/>

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Initial Strategic Assessment of Coventry	Room 71 Council House
Coventry Community Plan	"

DRAFT

Developing the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2026

Outcomes and Priorities Consultation Draft



About the information in this Consultation Draft Document

The information in this document has been taken from an initial strategic assessment of Coventry that is being undertaken to provide information to form the basis of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy and the new Local Area Agreement.

The initial strategic assessment of Coventry is based upon existing evidence about trends in quality of life and agreed strategic priorities. Building upon current strategies and priorities, it aims to provide an assessment that will tell, at a strategic level, the 'Coventry Story' of 'where we have come from and where we are heading' to help identify what the long term issues are that need to be addressed by the city to plan for 2026 and what shorter term priorities for action should be.

The "*Initial Strategic Assessment*" document is still being developed as the assessment and the evidence upon which it is based is currently being reviewed and updated by a wide range of Coventry Partnership groups and partners and it will also be further informed by this consultation process on the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The latest version of the "*Initial Strategic Assessment*" is available on request from the Coventry Partnership or can be viewed at www.coventrypartnership.com/initialstrategicassessment.

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SECTION 1

Developing the Sustainable Community Strategy

1 What is the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy?

- 1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed from the second Coventry Community Plan, adopted in July 2004 and subsequently revised to cover 2005-2010. Titled "Raising our game, closing the gap" the Coventry Community Plan sets out at a strategic level in a single plan for Coventry the key issues that need to be tackled in partnership by organisations throughout the city. Like the Community Plan, the Sustainable Community Strategy is being developed through the Coventry Partnership. The Coventry Partnership is the city's Local Strategic Partnership and consists of public, private, voluntary and community organisations, including Coventry City Council.
- 1.2 Like the Coventry Community Plan (Coventry's current community strategy), the development of a local Sustainable Community Strategy for Coventry is a government requirement and will be the subject of national government guidance and inspection. It will be the responsibility of Coventry City Council as the local authority to ensure that it is developed and adopted.
- 1.3 Although based on the current Community Plan, the new Sustainable Community Strategy will need to have a longer timeframe and will look to 2026 to fit better with regional spatial and economic strategies and spatial planning timescales. The Sustainable Community Strategy will need to be developed within the context of future growth and aspirations for the city. It will need to set out a long-term vision and long term strategic objectives and outcomes for Coventry that will make our city a place where people choose to live, work, learn and to do business and to focus on ensuring that future growth is used to transform the city and benefit local people by improving quality of life, raising aspirations and narrowing the gap in the city.
- 1.4 Sustainability issues, including climate change and the environment and equality of opportunity and community cohesion, will need to influence the development of the strategy and be considered throughout the strategy.
- 1.5 Community involvement will be essential to the development, delivery and evaluation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the development of a formal Community Engagement Strategy will form part of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2 How will the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy be achieved?

- 2.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy will set out and provide overall direction for the city, setting out a clear focus and priorities that will inform the development of a range of key strategies and organisations plans that will help to deliver the improvements and activities needed to achieve the agreed strategic long term outcomes for the city. Examples include the city's Children and Young People's Plan; the city's Economic Development Strategy and the Climate Change Strategy and Neighbourhood Plans at a local level (see diagram 1).

- 2.2 The **Local Development Framework (LDF)** sets out the policies that provide for the spatial planning and future physical development of Coventry and is particularly important to the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy so central government has advised that the Core Strategy of the LDF should become part of the city's Sustainable Community Strategy. Coventry's Local Development Framework Core Strategy is currently being developed within the context of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy that sets out the strategic planning policy for the region, including the number of additional dwellings that Coventry should plan for.
- 2.3 Another important means of delivering the long-term outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy will be the city's new **Local Area Agreement (LAA)**. This will replace the current three-year Local Area Agreement that is due to finish at the end of March 2008. The Local Area Agreement will be signed between the Coventry Partnership, Coventry City Council and central government and will set out, after negotiation, up to 35 agreed priorities with improvement targets across a range of areas such as employment and skills, housing, environment, community safety, health. There will also be an additional 17 statutory targets for early years and educational attainment in schools. The LAA priorities and targets will be based upon a new national indicator set for local authorities and local authority partnerships that has been developed by central government.
- 2.4 The new Local Area Agreement has a three-year time scale and should include short-term priorities that will help to achieve the long-term objectives and outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy. As negotiations will begin shortly, the identification of potential LAA priorities is being undertaken alongside the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

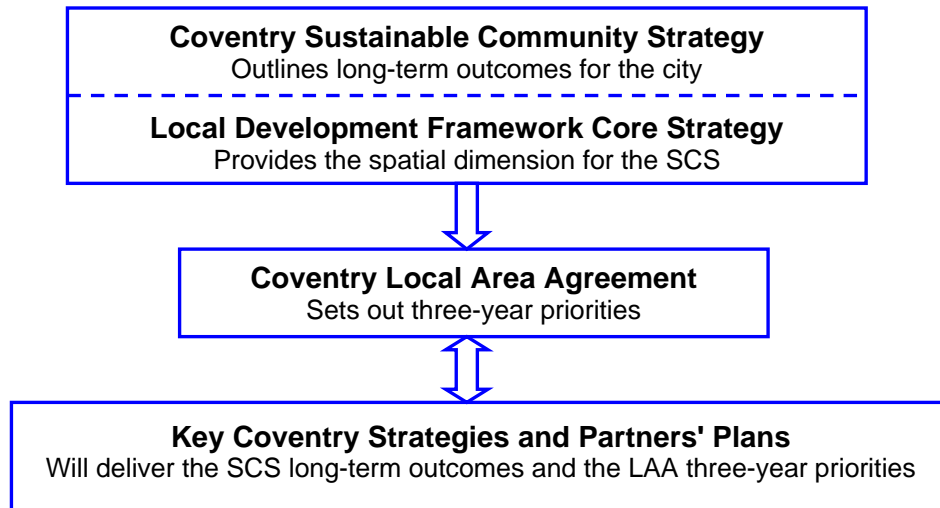


Diagram 1

- 2.5 It is important that the development of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement is evidence based and builds upon the analysis of the current position in Coventry, expected future trends and the existing priorities and strategies that have been agreed with central government, local partner organisations and local people and communities.

3 National, Regional and Local Policy Context

- 3.1 The key piece of government policy that sets out the requirements for the Sustainable Community Strategy and the new Local Area Agreement is the Local Government and Public Involvement Act that became law at the end of October 2007. This Act builds upon previous legislation and includes emphasis on local authorities' role as "place shapers"; the importance of community involvement and developing the relationship between central and local government.
- 3.2 Other national and regional policy developments that also provide context to the development of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy include the Housing Green paper and the move towards substantially increasing the number of dwellings being built nationally to meet housing demand and the need for affordable homes; government policy to improve regional economic prosperity to reduce the gap between London and the South East and the rest of England, and the need to improve the competitiveness *Diagram 1*
- 3.3 The recent Treasury Sub-National Review has reported on how best to improve the delivery of real economic development with further detail expected in the Comprehensive Spending Review. This includes the development of Multi Area Agreements at a sub-regional level that in Coventry's case could include the Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire sub-region and the Birmingham Coventry and Black Country City Region.
- 3.4 Regional policy emphasises the need to ensure that the West Midlands delivers Urban Renaissance with growth and increased prosperity in the major urban areas – including Coventry. The Regional Spatial Strategy will set out the increased number of dwellings that Coventry will need to plan for by 2026 and this is expected to be a net increase of 33,500.
- 3.5 Coventry has been identified as a "New Growth Point" under a government initiative to increase the number of dwellings being built in England and is to build 9,000 new dwellings over ten years subject to regional and local planning policy. The council is working with central government to plan for sustainable development of the necessary infrastructure and to ensure that employment and environmental concerns are addressed.
- 3.6 Coventry has a strong history of partnership working initially focused on restructuring of the local economy and tackling deprivation and developed the city's first Coventry Community Plan in 1997 – this was used by central government in developing the community strategy concept. Covering eight strategic themes the current Community Plan has a strong focus on equality of opportunity and narrowing the gap between the city's priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the city through its two underpinning themes of equalities and communities and neighbourhoods.

4 The Coventry local story

- 4.1 Coventry is the centre of a sub-region serving half a million people and, as a city of around 305,000 residents, is the 11th largest city in the UK. The city grew throughout the early and mid twentieth century with migrants settling in the city from across the UK, Ireland and the Indian sub-continent. Following rapid population decline associated with economic restructuring during the 1980s, the city's population stabilised in the 1990s and is now beginning to grow.
- 4.2 Coventry covers an area of approximately 9,980 hectares and is of a predominantly urban character. The city's urban form is tightly constrained, being almost entirely bordered by the West Midlands and Warwickshire Green Belts. To accommodate its growth, Coventry's boundaries have been changed and extended several times during the last century, with the latest additions happening in 1994.
- 4.3 Historically, industrial areas of Coventry and the pre-First-World-War city extend to the north of the City Centre, with the twentieth century suburbs radiating outwards. The city expanded considerably in the inter-war period (1918-1939), with a large number of dwellings being built across the city. Late twentieth-century development has taken place to the south and east of the city or by redevelopment of the urban areas.
- 4.4 The city's location in the centre of the country at what is now considered by many to be the "north-south" divide in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region; allied to Coventry's good rail communications with London and the country's motorway network; the revived local economy and the city's two universities give the city some key ingredients for future economic growth and prosperity.

Coventry People

- 4.5 Coventry has a younger population than the average for England with 24% under 18 years of age and 35% under 24. The high proportion of 18-24 year olds reflects the fact that the city has two successful universities – Coventry University and the University of Warwick – and the city has a higher percentage of children than average, many living in Coventry's more deprived neighbourhoods. The "State of the Cities" report identified Coventry as one of only six cities in the UK where the population was getting younger and the percentage of Coventry's population that is over 65 is 16%, lower than the national average. Life expectancy in Coventry is increasing and the city currently has about 5,200 people aged over 85, a group that is expected to grow to 17% by 2010 and to have doubled by 2020, and the overall numbers of older people in the city is expected to show a small increase over the next twenty years.
- 4.6 The city is ethnically diverse, with some 22% of Coventry's inhabitants coming from minority ethnic communities compared to 13% for England as a whole. About a quarter of the children in Coventry's schools are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Asian and Asian British communities together make up 11.3% of the city's population of whom 8.0% have an Indian background. The next largest minority group is made up of people with a White Irish

background who make up 3.5% of the population. Coventry's population with a Black or Black British background is 1.8% - slightly lower than the English average of 2.3%.

- 4.7 Newer communities that have settled in Coventry in the last ten years include Somalian, Kurdish, Afghani and Iraqi groups. The city is also currently benefiting from economic migrants from the new accession states in the European Union including Poland.
- 4.8 There are over 100 languages spoken in Coventry and a variety of faith communities – these include 65% who identify themselves as Christian, 4.6% Sikh, 3.9% Muslim and 2.6% Hindu. Over 15% of Coventry's population say that they follow no religion.
- 4.9 Coventry has a total of 122,400 households with an average size of 2.5 people. Couples and families represent the largest proportion of households (49%), however one-person households amount to near one third of the total (31%). Two thirds of the people who work in Coventry also live in the city, whereas one third commute from elsewhere. Of those commuting into the city the majority comes from neighbouring areas such as Nuneaton/Bedworth, Warwick District, Rugby and Solihull.

Coventry's Economy

- 4.10 Coventry's economy is undergoing rapid change. Decline of traditional manufacturing in the city and loss of some of its most famous companies on the one hand have been successfully balanced with population growth, new investment and new types of jobs. During the period 2000-2005, the number of jobs in the city grew from 140,476 to 142,853. The mix of jobs has changed, so that the proportion of jobs in the Manufacturing sector has reduced from 24% to 14%, and there have been small increases in the proportion of jobs in the other sectors, including: Business Services (3%), Education (2%), Health (2%), Distribution (1%) and Public Administration (1%).
- 4.11 The continued redevelopment of Coventry's city centre is seen as being a key to the development of the city's economic growth; both to improve the city's retail offer and develop a role as a sub-regional centre and to stimulate investment in office development and employment opportunities.
- 4.12 Levels of household income are rising in Coventry and both the gap between average household income in the city and the UK average closing and the gap between average income levels between priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the city also narrowing. However there is significant contrast in the distribution of incomes across the city with the poorest households receiving under £14,639 pa compared to the richest earning over £78,575(CACI 2007). A quarter of households within the city have incomes below £16,836 and a quarter of households have income above £41,047.
- 4.13 The gender pay gap for people who live in Coventry and work full time reflects the national picture with the average wages for women three quarters (76%) of that of men. However the gender pay gap for people working in the city is wider with women working full time only earning two thirds (67%) of that men.

- 4.14 Unemployment rates vary across the city from 0.8% in Wainbody to 7.9% in Foleshill (Job Seekers Allowance measure July 07). Worklessness rates have been rising since 2004 with JSA claimant count accounting for most of this increase. The JSA count is now starting to fall as the city still undergoes a high rate of economic churning. In addition to this employment has increased across the whole city and there are fewer people in households with no-one in paid work.

Housing

- 4.15 The level of owner-occupied properties in the City is in line with the national average, at 68%. There are about 5,000 vacant properties in the city, and the majority of them are privately owned. Car ownership in Coventry is lower than the national average, with one third of households with no car.
- 4.16 Approximately half of Coventry's current dwellings stock was built before 1944 and another 25% dates from the period between 1945-1964; and only about 11% of the dwellings were built after 1980. Compared to national averages, the percentage of dwellings within the lower council tax bands in Coventry is rather high: 43% of the dwellings are in band "A" and 30% in band "B" (compared to 26% and 19% for England). And only 3% of the total housing stock is within the top three council tax bands (opposed to national average of 10%).

Priority Neighbourhoods and Communities of Interest

- 4.17 Improvement in employment levels and increased household incomes are reflected in the fact that Coventry had improved its position to 64th in the Index of Deprivation in 2004. However, there is still concern about absolute deprivation levels and the differences between the more affluent and less well off neighbourhoods in Coventry. The Coventry Partnership has identified 31 priority neighbourhoods in the city that are the most disadvantaged.
- 4.18 Life expectancy is increasing slowly in the city but the difference in life expectancy between the most affluent and disadvantaged remains high, with an overall gap in life expectancy of 5.5 years for men and 4 years for women between priority neighbourhoods and the rest of city and higher gaps rates within individual neighbourhoods. Areas of the city with high minority ethnic communities also have a lower average age of death than the rest of the city.
- 4.19 There is a range of communities in Coventry that may experience disadvantage that do not necessarily have a geographical focus – these communities of interest include: disabled people, older people experiencing isolation and poverty, homeless people, disaffected young people, people from the most disadvantaged black and minority ethnic groups, asylum seekers and refugees, people experiencing mental ill health and ex-offenders.

Community Cohesion

- 4.20 For a city of its size and diversity, Coventry is comparatively well-integrated. Recent government research on segregation in cities using an Index of Dissimilarity measured unevenness in distribution between different ethnic groups. This research shows that segregation between White and Non-White communities in Coventry is low, particularly for a city with a high level of ethnic diversity, with an index of 0.4 compared to 0.72 for Blackburn and 0.58 for Birmingham. Similar comparative data shows that, whilst there are a higher concentration of Black and Asian communities in Coventry's deprived areas, this is relatively low in comparison to many similar cities in England.
- 4.21 The recent report from the Commission on Integration and Cohesion placed Coventry into community typology category 1.1 – *Changing Urban, affluent* one of the most cohesive communities types identified by the Commission.
- 4.22 This relatively high level of integration may be reflected in the high perception levels of cohesion recorded by Coventry Partnership's annual Household survey where 94% of respondents agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in 2006, this figure has risen from 91% in 2004. The percentage of respondents who agreed that residents respect differences between people from different backgrounds has also risen from 85% in 2004 to 93% in 2006.
- 4.23 Like other areas of the UK. Coventry has recently been experiencing higher level of migration from within the European Union with a higher level of "population churn" with people moving into the city for short periods of time. This short term movement is difficult to measure using traditional demographic statistical data and like many cities, Coventry is undertaking further research to understand better the impact that population churn is having upon the city and the provision of services,

Further Information

- 4.24 Further analysis and information is available under each theme of the "*Initial Strategic Assessment document*" and in supporting documentation. It should be noted that statistics using demographic data are often based upon the 2001 census.

5 Process for developing the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement

- 5.1 Information has been pulled together from a range of key data sources and city strategies to produce an initial strategic assessment of the current position of Coventry and likely future trends. This aims to tell the Coventry story through a number of themes as the basis for the development of long-term outcomes and short-term priorities for the city. The assessment is still being developed and is available separately in the "*Initial Strategic Assessment of Coventry*" document.

- 5.2 This work has been used by the Coventry Partnership theme groups; partnership boards and a range of partner organisations to develop initial proposals for long-term outcomes and short term priorities. Following consideration of this initial analysis by the Coventry Partnership Board and the City Council, this "*Outcomes and Priorities*" consultation draft of the Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy has been approved for consultation across the city in from **Monday 3 December 2007 to Friday 25 January 2008** with the aim of having the Sustainable Community Strategy approved and adopted in March 2008.
- 5.3 Additional research and further in-depth analysis of the evidence base is being undertaken to inform negotiations with central government on the new Local Area Agreement using the national indicator set to agree priorities and set specific targets with the view to having the agreement signed off by Ministers in June 2008.
- 5.4 To support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes and priorities, a detailed supporting framework will be developed to identify how which strategies; plans and activities are contributing to each of the outcomes and priorities – in the long; medium and short term. This work will be critical to managing performance and ensuring that the Sustainable Community Strategy really makes a difference to our city and all the people of Coventry.

6 Development of themes for the Sustainable Community Strategy

- 6.1 The themes that are being used as the basis of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and for the strategic assessment of the city were developed from the current Community Plan; central government floor target areas and the new national indicator set and are set out as:

Eight key themes – key areas that are critical to achieving social inclusion:

- Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment
- Health, Well-being and Independence
- Community Safety
- Cleaner, Greener Local Environment
- Children and Young People – including Educational Attainment
- Housing
- Transport
- Culture, Sport and Physical Activity

Two underpinning themes that are critical to the success of the Sustainable Community Strategy and can only be delivered through outcomes and activities of the other themes:

- Better equality of opportunity with vibrant and cohesive communities and neighbourhoods
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the city and use natural resources more sustainably

Planning across the themes

- 6.2 Although the development of a number of key themes has helped identify areas of future activity it has become increasingly clear as the work has been developed that they are all linked together by a range of cross-cutting issues. It will be essential to plan across the themes both for the city as a whole and to address the issues facing particular communities at a local neighbourhood level or to place for the needs for specific groups or communities of interest.
- 6.3 Some of the thinking that has already taken place on identifying cross-cutting issues and how themes need to be linked together is included in the "*Initial strategic Assessment of Coventry*" document and this will be used to assist with the development of future strategies and planning at citywide and neighbourhood level.

7 About this Consultation Document

- 7.1 Using the strategic assessment of data and existing strategies, Coventry Partnership Board; Theme Groups, Partnership Boards and individual partner organisations including the City Council, have begun to identify the initial emerging long term outcomes and short term three year priorities under each of the proposed themes for the Sustainable Community Strategy. These have been set out in greater detail in the "*Initial Strategic Assessment document*" and are summarised in this "*Outcomes and Themes*" consultation document.
- 7.2 In addition to the outcomes and priorities for each theme, initial work has been done to identify the issues that need to be tackled; how success can be measured; what key strategies and local organisations and communities need to do to address them; along identifying with the issues that need to be addressed to both meet the opportunities and challenges of future growth and also to ensure that the underpinning themes of Equalities and Cohesion and Climate Change are addressed.
- 7.3 These are set out under each theme in Sections 2-11 in this document below.
- 7.4 The Coventry Partnership is seeking views and advice from people and organisations in Coventry to help ensure that the Sustainable Community Strategy meets the future needs of the people of Coventry and that it sets out a vision and long term strategic objectives and outcomes for Coventry that will make our city a place where people choose to live, work, learn and to do business and ensures that future growth is used to transform the city and benefit local people by improving quality of life, raising aspirations and narrowing the gap in the city.
- 7.5 This consultation draft "Outcomes and Priorities" document has been produced to form the basis of the consultation process, but comments are also welcome on the evidence base "*Initial Strategic Assessment of Coventry*" document.

- 7.6 Responses and evidence gathered through the consultation process will be used not only to inform the Sustainable Community Strategy itself but also used to inform the development of supporting strategies and plans and to inform the negotiations with central government on the identification of priorities and targets for the Local Area Agreement. This will be based upon the new national performance framework for local government and local government partnerships and include up to 35 targets from the new national indicator set.
- 7.7 It would be particularly helpful to receive any supporting evidence (including statistics) than could also be included in the "Strategic Assessment of Coventry".

SECTION 2

"Outcomes and Priorities" the Consultation Draft



1 Economy Learning, Skills and Employment

A prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents...

- 1.1 This theme aims to develop the Coventry's economic potential so that the city becomes more prosperous and so that people living and working in the city can benefit from this increase wealth. Coventry' has a young and growing population and it will be important to ensure that there are enough jobs and business opportunities both for our city's existing residents, including children and young people currently in education in Coventry, and those who are attracted to live in the city in the future.
- 1.2 To be prosperous, Coventry will need to plan to develop and attract businesses that will be successful over the next twenty years even though it is difficult to predict exactly what these will be. It will be important to ensure that local people are able to take up these opportunities and that they are able to develop the skills to access jobs and progress to those requiring higher or new skills.

Where are we now?

- 1.3 Coventry's economy is undergoing rapid change. Decline of traditional manufacturing in the city and loss of some of its most famous companies on the one hand have been successfully balanced with population growth, new investment and new types of jobs.
- 1.4 The economy is churning but growing, and changes to the types of jobs in the city are set to continue. The city's excellent communications and the improved rail access to London, now one hour from Euston with regular trains, along with the development of the two airports, mean that Coventry is well placed to benefit from the expansion of the London and South East economy and from central government relocation programmes.
- 1.5 **Current Economic Policies** – Coventry has a policy of increasing market confidence and prosperity in the north of the city and ensuring that local people benefit from increased employment opportunities. Recent developments include the Arena and Pro-Logis Park. A further policy aim is to increase business activity in the city centre by developing the retail and leisure offer and by attracting more office based employment. Future developments include the Swanswell and the Friars Gate development at the Station.
- 1.6 **Worklessness**- Coventry's employment levels have risen, but not as much as desired due to recent high levels of redundancies, which have slowed net employment growth. Rates of worklessness have been rising between 2004-7, and a rise the numbers claiming Job Seekers Allowance is the main factor. The proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training tends to fluctuate year on year and is currently at 8.7% (Jan 2007). Evidence shows an optimistic picture at age 16, but there are concerns about retention of 17 year olds in employment.

- 1.7 **Skills** - evidence suggests that the proportion of working people who have qualifications at NVQ level 2 or above is rising, however 27% of 16-24 year olds do not this level of qualification. Furthermore 45% of JSA claimants are seeking elementary jobs, which may indicate a lack of skills and / or aspirations. Economic change is leading to a demand for a higher skilled labour force and change is making old skills redundant.
- 1.8 **Business formation** – Coventry has traditionally had a relatively low level of business formation. The city is currently is benefiting from the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and early indications are encouraging with an increase in the number of VAT registered businesses in the city.

What things will we need to tackle?

- 1.9 To achieve jobs-led growth and to increase average household income and ensure that local people can benefit from increased prosperity in the city we will need to reduce levels of worklessness including the number of young people not in education employment and training (NEETs) ; increase the levels of skills of adults and young people and encourage life long learning; attract new businesses into the city and develop those already here and increase entrepreneurship.
- 1.10 We will need to encourage the diversification of the Coventry economy and plan with sufficient flexibility to ensure that the city can meet the needs of future businesses and that new jobs are created. We should aim to maximise the benefits to the local economy from our two universities and to encourage graduates to remain in Coventry. We will need to create a more enterprising culture in the city and increase the motivation and aspirations of local people and break the cycle of unemployment by improving job retention. It will also be important to improve the image and offer of Coventry and pride in the city and transform and extend the city centre.

Developing the theme

- 1.11 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 1 - A prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents

1a) Long Term Outcomes

- The growth of the city's economy will accelerate and there will be a more diverse range of businesses and jobs, offering a choice of types and levels of work and working patterns to meet the aspirations and potential of City residents
- Local people will be benefiting from economic growth of the city - they will have been supported to develop the skills needed to access jobs and to progress to higher skilled jobs
- The city centre will have grown and will be a vibrant place to visit, live, work and for business to locate within

1b) Short term priorities

- Ensure at least 25 new businesses open in the city each year, at least one of these will be a major investment
- Create over 3000 jobs per year (net) by encouraging the growth of existing businesses and opening new ones
- Continue the transformation and extension of the City Centre
- Increase entrepreneurship by expanding use of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative model
- Reduce the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance and other worklessness benefits
- Reduce the number of school leavers not in education, employment or training (NEETs)
- Increase the proportion of school leavers who complete a first year of further education, employment or training (EETs) and continue into a second year
- Increase achievement of Level 2 qualifications and above

1c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Coventry's overall employment rate; average earnings of employees in an area; people on out-of-work benefits; people claiming benefits in disadvantaged neighbourhoods; learners achieving qualifications; qualifications of working age population at different levels; average earnings; the employment rate for disadvantaged groups such as ex-offenders; 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training; proportion of children in poverty; amount of new investment in the city; new retailers and foot-fall in city centre

1d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

The future growth of Coventry should be jobs-led – we do not want to become a commuter city but we want people who work here to live here too so we will need housing growth. Creating some big wins in job creation will be necessary to provide momentum. Economic growth needs to be planned well and be of sufficient quality to improve the image of the city. New infrastructure provision, especially transport, needs to be planned and developed at the same time as economic and housing growth to minimise commuting and encourage people out of their cars.

It will be important to raise the skills of our current labour force, particularly of Coventry's young people, if they are to benefit from future opportunities from economic growth. The development of an attractive local environment; good housing and a thriving cultural and sports offer will all make significant contributions to the economic prosperity of the city.

Theme 1 - A prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents

1e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

It will be important to ensure people who face the biggest barriers to employment benefit from employment growth, creating upward mobility for people who are currently disadvantaged and tackling discrimination including age; disability and ethnicity. The gender pay gap is wider than UK for women who work in Coventry. Provision of good quality childcare is an important factor to enabling people to access employment. Priority neighbourhoods need to benefit from economic growth and investment as well as the more prosperous parts of the city.

1f) Climate Change

Climate change offers opportunities for economic growth if we develop expertise and businesses based on low-carbon technologies. Businesses should be encouraged to adopt low carbon production methods and sustainable processes. Employers should be encouraged to adopt green travel plans and we should plan to minimise commuting.

1g) Some key strategies

West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy
 Coventry Economic Development Strategy
 Coventry Local Development Framework – the spatial plan for the city
 Coventry Employment Strategy 2007-2010
 City Strategy Pathfinder
 Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Member City Development; Cabinet Member Community Services Strategic Plans
 Learning and Skills Council Plans – including the Coventry and Warwickshire Annual Plan
 Coventry Children and Young People's Plan
 Coventry Local Enterprise Growth Initiative
 Coventry Mental Health and Well Being Strategy 2007-2010
 Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Strategy 2007-2010
 Coventry Cultural Strategy
 Neighbourhood Plans – including Neighbourhood Employment and Skills Plans

1h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry businesses; employers from all sectors
 Coventry City Council; JobcentrePlus; Local Learning and Skills Council
 Universities; FE Colleges and Schools
 Range of community and voluntary organisations
 Coventry Partnership theme groups and Partnership Boards
 Advantage West Midlands; Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership

Theme 1 - A prosperous Coventry with a good choice of jobs and business opportunities for all the city's residents

1i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Large and small employers can work with Coventry Partnership to help people experiencing a range of barriers to access employment opportunities – including offering work placements; flexible working; and childcare provision; and training opportunities.

Individuals can explore opportunities for life long learning to improve their own skills; provide mentoring for young people; and raise the profile of Coventry by being an ambassador for our city.

Community-based and voluntary organisations can provide employment; training and volunteering experiences for those seeking future employment often more flexibly for those who need to work close to home or have other constraints.

2 Health, Well-Being and Independence

People of Coventry living longer, healthier, independent lives...

- 2.1 This theme aims to address issues about health and health inequalities so that Coventry people not only live longer but that they are enjoying healthier lives and able to live independently. This theme applies to children, young people and adults and has a particular focus on ensuring that health services are improved and integrated to maximise the independence of Coventry's older people so that they are able to have more control over their lives.
- 2.2 Many indicators of health preferred by Government are actually measures of ill-health or death. It is not possible to show the direct impact of health promotion or preventative activities on death rates in the shorter term, although these do help to track health over the longer term.
- 2.3 Evidence shows that a range of social factors, particularly in childhood, can have a significant impact upon life expectancy and health inequality in Coventry. Behaviours that have a negative or positive impact upon health – such as diet; smoking and exercise - need to be addressed through the development of more healthy life styles at all ages.

Where are we now?

- 2.4 The evidence provides a mixed picture of trends of premature death in adults. The average age of death for females across the city is gradually increasing, however females from priority neighbourhoods die on average 5.6 years earlier than those from non-priority neighbourhoods. In areas of the city where the proportion of residents from a black or minority ethnic community is higher than 35%, females die on average 5 years younger than in other areas of the city. For men the gap between the age of death in priority neighbourhoods compared to the rest of the city has started to widen. Men from areas of the city where the proportion of residents from a black or minority ethnic community is higher than 35% die on average 7.7 years younger than those from the rest of the city.
- 2.5 In Coventry, evidence shows that deaths from strokes and from breast and skin cancer are areas for concern. Assessment of past trends shows that improvements have been made, including: better management of preventable factors such as statin prescription and anti-hypertensive treatments; better access to heart treatment, better cancer screening and treatment and better management of chronic diseases.
- 2.6 However, there is mixed evidence about whether primary prevention is getting better. Smoking rates are fluctuating, although they have improved over the last four years, however these are still higher for priority neighbourhoods. The Director of Public Health in Coventry estimates that 'about 500 people per year, or just under 17% of deaths are directly attributable to smoking'. Obesity levels have increased (26.2% of GP patients were recorded as being obese during the 15 months to September 2006) and there is little evidence of people taking more exercise or eating more healthily. Alcohol-related

conditions, such as cirrhosis of the liver are the most significant early killers of people in Coventry. Longstanding alcohol related illness affects significant numbers of older people.

- 2.7 The infant mortality rate in Coventry is reducing, however it is higher than the national rate with a higher rate across priority neighbourhoods than the rest of the city. Key issues associated with infant mortality include smoking in pregnancy, improving nutrition, encouraging breast feeding, reducing teenage pregnancy and improving medical and family support services. Evidence about the prevalence of smoking in pregnancy shows that it is reducing, however it is greater across priority neighbourhoods (compared with the rest of the city) and is very high in some neighbourhoods.
- 2.8 The overall trend for teenage pregnancies is downwards and has decreased by 10.6% since 1998, however it is still higher than the regional and national averages and is disproportionately high across priority neighbourhoods.
- 2.9 The take up of immunisation is higher in more affluent neighbourhoods between ages 0-3 , but the gap narrows as more parents in more affluent neighbourhoods decline the MMR vaccination for their children.
- 2.10 A greater proportion of children and young people in Coventry are affected by obesity than the average across the country. Based upon measurement of 5 and 11 year olds, the assumption is that 18.3% of children aged 2-15 are obese and nearly one third are either overweight or obese. This contrasts with the perceptions of young people themselves, and only 6% surveyed last year said they believed they were 'not very healthy'.
- 2.11 Coventry's older population is ageing as people live longer and the number of people aged over 85 will have doubled by 2020. As older people are more prone to illness and disability this means that a far greater number of people will need housing and support services. It will also mean that more people will become family carers who will need to benefit from support services. Older people with mental ill health will increase with increasing ageing population.
- 2.12 Based on current performance (2007) older people attend Accident and Emergency less that would be expected but have a higher rate of hospital admission. The number of people with long hospital length of stay is higher than would be expected and the number of people whose discharge arrangement is delayed is also higher than would be expected.
- 2.13 Effective rehabilitation and increased independence of older people through a multi-agency approach to chronic disease management and emergency care is being developed and promoted and will affect the health outcomes of people who will be older people in 20 years time as well as current older people.
- 2.14 Currently Coventry has amongst the lowest level of placements into nursing and residential care through a deliberate policy of providing alternatives in the community to promote and maintain people's independence. It is expected that more older people will be able to live independently in the community in their own homes, in housing with care or with assistive

technology support in the future, and current social care planning is already developing these services.

- 2.15 Over 30,000 people in Coventry are family carers (2001 census) and 70% of these are caring for older people, and approximately a third are older people themselves.

What things will we need to tackle?

- 2.16 We need to reduce the gap in health inequalities in Coventry between different neighbourhoods and communities. We will need to reduce infant mortality and teenage pregnancy and improve both the sexual and mental health of Coventry residents. We also need to address the rising levels of obesity in the city (including children and young people).
- 2.17 To increase the independence of older people in Coventry we need to promote effective rehabilitation through a multi-agency approach to chronic disease management and emergency care and reduce emergency hospital admissions for the over 65s.
- 2.18 We also need to promote better health, independence and choice for vulnerable adults and children, including those using mental health services and disabled people (including learning disabled people) and providing support for carers.
- 2.19 To improve health and health inequality we will need to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages; breastfeeding; healthy eating and physical activity and reduce unhealthy behaviours by adults and young people including drug misuse, alcohol consumption and smoking (including in pregnancy).

Developing the theme

- 2.20 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 2- People of Coventry living longer, healthier, independent lives

2a) Long Term Outcomes

- People in Coventry will enjoy healthier lives which will contribute towards them living longer in the future and being able to lead independent lives
- There will be reduced health inequalities between communities

2b) Short term priorities

- Reduce the gap in the under 18 conception rate between the national and the city rate and within the city
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Reduce smoking
- Develop and implement a multi-agency obesity strategy
- Getting more children, young people and adults involved in physical activities
- Improving sexual health
- Effective rehabilitation and increased independence of older people through a multi-agency approach to chronic disease management and emergency care

2c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Mortality rates; under 18 conception rate; 16+ current smoking rate prevalence; alcohol-harm related hospital treatment rates; incidence of sexually transmitted infections; achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care; healthy life expectancy at age 65; timeliness of social care packages and assessment; emergency bed days; people supported to live independently through social services (all ages); obesity amongst primary school children; children and young people's participation PE and sport;

2d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

The growth and development of Coventry provides opportunities to create an environment that will help people to make healthy choices, including taking more physical activity. This could include making it more pleasant to walk and cycle.

The future health trends in Coventry will be influenced by who lives in the city – their age, levels of affluence, how healthy their lifestyles are and what health practices they adopt etc. A key challenge will therefore be to anticipate the future make-up of the population and to ensure that appropriate preventative and treatment services are provided to meet their needs.

We need to support children and young people (who are tomorrow's adults) to adopt healthy lifestyles so that they are able to benefit from the employment opportunities from growth.

Theme 2- People of Coventry living longer, healthier, independent lives

2e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

We need to tackle health inequality in the city and address the health needs of different communities. Premature death disproportionately affects priority neighbourhoods and areas of the city with higher levels of people from black and minority ethnic communities. Infant mortality disproportionately affects priority neighbourhoods, teenage mothers, and mothers from overseas. Children from Black African, Black Caribbean and Asian families are more likely to be obese as are those with parents with routine or semi-routine occupations.

2f) Climate Change

Negative impacts from climate change will include risks to health, especially for more vulnerable population groups including older people, children and those in poor health. These could include increased respiratory problems, heat exhaustion, skin cancer, illness from pollution and contaminated land. These need to be anticipated and plans put in place to deal with them.

2g) Some key strategies

Director of Public Health Annual Report
 Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Member Community Services Strategic Plan
 Coventry Older People's Strategy
 Mental Health and Well-being Strategy 2007-2010
 Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Strategy 2007-2010
 Children and Young People's Plan
 Coventry Cultural Strategy
 West Midlands Health and Well Being Strategy
 Neighbourhood Plans

2h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Partnership; theme groups and Partnership Boards
 Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust
 Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust.
 University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire
 West Midlands Ambulance Service
 Community and voluntary organisations focused on health and community care
 West Midlands Strategic Health Authority

2i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Individuals can take responsibility for improving their own health through adopting healthier life style; stopping smoking; increasing exercise and take up volunteering opportunities to provide support within local communities and neighbourhoods
 Development of healthy organisations, including healthy schools
 Community groups can take part and organise Healthy Walks and other physical activities; development of allotments and community gardens;

3 Community Safety

A safer and more confident Coventry...

- 3.1 This theme aims to address both crime prevention and the reduction of crime in Coventry and also to reduce the fear of crime. Fear of crime can often have a significant negative impact on Coventry people's lives by restricting their activities - particularly for vulnerable groups including older people. Often the perception of crime in Coventry is much greater than the reality.

Where are we now?

- 3.2 Overall crime levels have been falling for some years in Coventry as well as in most of the UK. The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Government's PSA1 (British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes) target. The target reduction for Coventry during the period 2005/06 and 2007/08 is 20%.
- 3.3 Following successful reductions between April 2005 and September 2006, there was an increase in these crimes during September 2006 and April 2007. In 2006/7 one of the key issues was theft from a vehicle which increased by 34% compared to 2005/6, which is primarily due to the theft of satellite navigation systems. Domestic burglary, which had shown year on year reductions, also increased by 3.7%. Targeted activity is now underway to address these issues.
- 3.4 Some parts of Coventry experience more crime than others. The Community Safety Partnership has recently completed a Strategic Assessment of Community Safety in Coventry and has identified that 49% of crimes that are covered by the British Crime Survey take place in seven areas of Coventry (including the city centre) that combined only include 28% of the city's population.
- 3.5 The Community Safety Strategic Assessment includes a threat assessment and highlights the following as being of key relevance to the city: violent crime including domestic abuse; anti-social behaviour; burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage; robbery; environmental complaints; graffiti; arson; discarded needles and drug misuse.
- 3.6 Anti-social behaviour is an issue that is very important to local residents, and 80% of those surveyed through the Coventry Partnership survey in 2006 said they had experienced a major or minor problem. Coventry as an Action Area for delivery of the Respect Agenda (aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour) has shown significant improvements, through a recent MORI poll about the way that Coventry residents perceive that Anti Social Behaviour is being addressed. Left unchecked it is understood that Anti Social Behaviour can escalate into more serious crimes, such as violence or criminal damage.
- 3.7 The number of accidental fires and arsons is steadily decreasing across the Coventry. This is largely due to a preventative approach by the Fire Service and integrated referral processes using partnership contacts. There is still a gap between priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the Coventry.

- 3.8 From 2003/04 to 2006/07 the number of people accessing drug treatment services has risen by 42% (379 individuals), however retention targets for drug treatment are below target at 58%. From 2003/04 to 2006/07 (3 years) the numbers accessing alcohol treatment has risen by 26% (426 individuals). Coventry has no waiting lists for most treatment services.
- 3.9 The Children & Young People's Partnership has identified a priority to reduce the harm caused to children and young people by illegal drugs and alcohol. A survey of school children aged 11-16 in 2005 revealed that 18% say they have taken illegal drugs at least once and the percentage rises to 21/22% across four wards in the city. This is in line with national trends. There are a number of incidents where anti-social behaviour involves both young people and alcohol misuse and this is tackled through a variety of means including the introduction of a city-wide Designated Public Places Order linking with outreach work, treatment, positive activities and controlling access through raising parental awareness of the risks and enforcing licensing laws.
- 3.10 Coventry has a proven track record of reducing crime through partnership action and there is a strong emphasis on working through the city's Neighbourhood Management structure and involving the extended police family in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and making neighbourhoods cleaner and there is evidence that anything which has a negative impact on the street scene is also likely to attract Anti Social Behaviour.

What things will we need to tackle?

- 3.11 We will want to continue to reduce overall crime in Coventry as measured by the British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes. We will need to address the causes of violent crime – including hate crime and domestic violence and work with the private sector to prevent and reduce business crime. We will also need to tackle road safety.
- 3.12 We will need to work actively with offenders, adults and children and young people, to reduce offending and re-offending and address issues associated with anti-social behaviour and in particular ensure the provision of positive activities for young people. We will aim to reduce drug and alcohol abuse.
- 3.13 We will also need to reduce the fear of crime in Coventry and increase public reassurance and confidence and we need to promote safety in parks and other public places

Developing the theme

- 3.14 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 3 - A safer and more confident Coventry

3a) Long Term Outcomes

- There will be less crime and anti-social behaviour and people will feel safer and more confident
- There will be less harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol
- There will be less environmental crime including graffiti, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping

3b) Short term priorities

- Reduce crime in Coventry by targeting approaches using the national intelligence model.
- Reduce violent crime that is racially motivated
- Tackle crimes which are motivated by hate
- Reduce alcohol related crime
- Reduce the proportion of adult and young offenders and prolific and priority offenders who re-offend
- Reduce rowdy / nuisance behaviour reported to the Police
- Reduce accidental fire related deaths and deliberate fires, especially across priority neighbourhoods

3c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Crime rates; perceptions of anti-social behaviour; satisfaction with the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with; re-offending rates; arson incidents; repeat incidents of domestic violence; drug-related offending rate; drug users in treatment; alcohol-harm related hospital admission rate; offenders under probation in employment; young offenders engagement in education, employment or training; children/people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

3d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

The growth of the city gives opportunities to "design out crime" in new development and the quality of the physical environment is important. Growth offers more employment opportunities and opportunities to empower communities by involving them in improving the quality of the local environment. Improved cross-boundary working may be required if the city grows at its outer edges

3e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

We need to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in those areas and communities experiencing the most crime through a multi-agency approach. We need to promote community cohesion through shared values and respect across cultures and to increase awareness of crime reporting mechanisms, especially within new communities and also increase awareness within new communities of acceptable behaviour and cultural differences in relation to community safety.

Theme 3 - A safer and more confident Coventry

3f) Climate Change

There are potential implications for community safety from changes in patterns of behaviour if the climate changes, including an increase in anti-social behaviour and could include more acute weather conditions causing fires and floods; longer periods when people are outside in the evening; open windows. Fear of crime is putting people off using public transport that increases use of cars and lack of confidence in road safety reduces cycling and walking.

3g) Some key strategies

Community Safety Strategy

Drugs Strategy

West Midlands Police Strategic Plan

National Community Safety Plan

Neighbourhood Policing Plan

West Midlands Fire Service Plan

Coventry Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership Strategy

Challenging and reducing Hate Crime – A Hate Crime Strategy for Coventry City Council

Young People's Substance Misuse Plan

Adult Drug Treatment Plan

Alcohol Reduction Plan

Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Member Neighbourhoods and Community Safety and City Services Strategic Plans

Coventry Cultural Strategy

Coventry's Children and Young People's Plan

Neighbourhood Plans

3h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Community Safety Partnership and the Coventry Partnership and Paartnership Boards

West Midlands Police and Police Authority

West Midlands Fire Service

Probation Service

Coventry City Council

Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust

Safer Neighbourhood Groups

Theme 3 - A safer and more confident Coventry

3i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Householders can take more responsibility for making homes safe and secure and taking a more active role in their communities – Neighbourhood Watch and increase their personal responsibility for security of private vehicles

Local organisations could make better use of their personnel's presence on the street to provide more eyes and ears to report community safety issues

Local people; community groups and businesses can increase reporting of anti-social behaviour and hate crime

Develop a greater awareness and tolerance within local communities in relation to young people

Local people and communities can be involved in agreeing priorities and developing solutions through Safer Neighbourhood Groups and Ward Forums.

4 Cleaner, greener local streets and open spaces

Making Coventry's streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces attractive and enjoyable places to be

- 4.1 This theme aims to address Coventry's local environmental issues and in particular, the immediate environment that Coventry people experience everyday when they step outside their homes. This includes our streets, pavements, verges, open spaces in local neighbourhoods and the city's parks.
- 4.2 The very local environment has a real impact upon the quality of life for Coventry people. Issues to be addressed under this theme include street cleanliness; graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles and the provision of pleasant, enjoyable green spaces.

Where are we now?

- 4.3 **Clean Streets** - cleanliness is a key issue and a high priority for Coventry's residents. Local surveys across the city and within specific neighbourhoods shows that there is less satisfaction with cleanliness in priority neighbourhoods than in the rest of the city.
- 4.4 There has been a big improvement in the level of street cleanliness in Coventry, with 21% of areas surveyed in 2006/7 not meeting the Government standard compared to 33% in 2005/6. Evidence shows that areas of high-density housing are less likely to meet the Government standard, however improvements are being made more quickly across that land type. Targeted improvements on problem land types including main roads, secondary retail sites, high-density housing estates and other highways have been implemented have made a significant contribution and put the city in a strong position to achieve its target for March 2008.
- 4.5 **Abandoned vehicles** - new arrangements for reporting and removing abandoned vehicles have improved performance significantly during the second half of the year but not enough to achieve the target for the full year. The proportion of vehicles removed within 24 hours for quarter 3 (56.97%) and quarter 4 (59.88%) exceeded the annual target of 50%.
- 4.6 **Fly-tipping** - Coventry's flytipping performance, which captures a range of activities including levels, removal and enforcement has been provisionally assessed by DEFRA's Flycapture system as "good". Improvements in performance to deal with the growing number of flytipping incidents being experienced across the country are currently being supported through the NRF funded "Don't Dump It" project. Through inter-agency co-operation and the use of handheld technology it seeks to: reduce fly-tipping; remove fly-tipped waste more quickly; and secure good evidence to prosecute fly-tippers.

- 4.7 Coventry has a proven track record of partnership action at a local level and there is a strong emphasis on working through the Neighbourhood Management structure and involving partners in working together to make neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and greener.
- 4.8 **Environmental crime** - the AIMS process, which brings a range of organisations together regularly to consider the current levels of crime and related activity in different parts of the city and how best to address this, continues to deliver a joined up response to hotspot areas, recognising the link between the environment and crime, community safety and anti social behaviour. Environmental crime and cleanliness issues will be tackled as part of the programme of crack down and consolidation days being planned with partners in hotspot areas identified through the AIMS process. Working with residents to identify and address environmental priorities is a central part of the "*Your Neighbourhood Matters*" programme.
- 4.9 **Green Spaces** - the Coventry Liveability programme continues to deliver street scene improvements with the focus now on delivering physical improvements in Coventry's neighbourhoods. Thirty eight small scale, green space, streetscape, neglected property and neighbourhood shopping centres improvement schemes are completed or being currently implemented on site. Design is complete on 9 of the remaining 10 areas and works will start on site during the year.
- 4.10 The Sustainable Communities programme projects being delivered by Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire in Radford Meadowlands and Stoke Heath are complete and have brought neglected green-space back into use while a third scheme in the programme at Charterhouse is awaiting the outcomes of a planning application. Good progress is being made with the three flagship projects. Work on public realm improvements to Far Gosford Street, including the £1.5m project to create a new public square will be completed on 2nd June.
- 4.11 **Parks** - the Longford Park improvements and first phase of access improvements in the War Memorial Park have been completed. In all cases, opportunities have been taken to maximise match resources and link with other programmes to maximise the impact of the Liveability funding. In this context, central government agreed that some of the resources could be used to help secure National Lottery funding to maximise the restoration and regeneration plans for the War Memorial Park. In March it was announced that an award of £2.8m from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery had been made allowing the improvements identified and begun under the Liveability Programme to be implemented. Coombe Abbey has been awarded Green Flag status.

What things will we need to tackle?

- 4.12 We will need to improve Coventry's streets and public spaces so that they are cleaner, safer and greener. We need to continue to improve our street cleaning services and to tackle environmental crime and fly-tipping and aim to join up better design, management and maintenance of streets and open spaces.
- 4.13 We need to recognise that our green infrastructure is a valuable asset that makes a significant impact upon regeneration, health and transport. In future we will need to actively plan our green infrastructure as an integrated network as a basis for sustainable travel,

regeneration, strengthening communities, mitigating climate change and supporting diversity and to improve health and air quality.

- 4.14 Green spaces need to be of high quality and accessible to local people and a new innovative approach to green spaces should include spaces such as allotments and gardens. People also need to feel safe when they are using open spaces and we need to promote safety in our public parks and other open spaces.

Developing the theme

- 4.15 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 4 - Making Coventry's streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces attractive and enjoyable places to be

4a) Long Term Outcomes

- Coventry people will see their streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces as more attractive and enjoyable places to be.

4b) Short term priorities

- Improve street cleanliness in Coventry, especially in neighbourhoods involved in the New Deal for Communities and Your Neighbourhood Matters programmes and in areas of high density housing
- Improve fly-tipping in targeted areas of Coventry
- Improve the quality of open spaces including car parks, hedgerows and verges
- Improve the quality and use of local parks

4c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Improved street and environmental cleanliness including levels of graffiti, litter detritus and fly posting; levels of fly-tipping; improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites; satisfaction with the local area.

4d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

New developments need to include provision to improve the built environment, enhance and maintain green spaces and enhance quality of life. We should consider the provision of new green spaces in existing densely built up areas not just design in new developments when the opportunity arises. Development on brownfield sites can reduce land currently used as gardens that form part of the Coventry green space network and abandoned brownfield sites often contribute to Coventry's biodiversity.

4e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

Environmental inequality correlates very closely to wider inequality and deprivation. Tackling environmental inequality is a fundamental part of narrowing the gap. Cleanliness standards and levels of satisfaction are lower in priority neighbourhoods. There are opportunities for communities to manage open spaces and the use of open spaces in neighbourhoods are often used for activities and events that bring people from different backgrounds together, including children's play and physical activities, and contribute to a cohesive Coventry.

4f) Climate Change

Coventry's green spaces are important to the mitigation of climate change – including prevention of flooding and reducing heat. Improving the safety and attractiveness of the street environment can improve conditions for cycling and walking and reduce the use of cars. Opportunities for the use of new technologies such as permeable services to improve drainage.

Theme 4 - Making Coventry's streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces attractive and enjoyable places to be

4g) Some key strategies

Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and the Cabinet Members City Services; Neighbourhoods and Community Services; and Culture, Leisure and Libraries Strategic Plans

Coventry Local Development Framework

Coventry Green Space Strategy

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Coventry Cultural Strategy

Coventry Climate Change Strategy

4h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Partnership, theme groups and Partnership Boards

Coventry City Council

A range of community and voluntary organisations including Groundwork

4i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Local communities and individuals can become responsible for improving local neighbourhoods and open spaces and join local environmental groups

Local people and communities can increase reporting of fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles and graffiti

Local gardens and allotments can make a positive impact upon the local environment and to Coventry's bio-diversity

5 Children and Young People

Ensuring that children and young people are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry...

- 5.1 Coventry is a young city and children and young people make up the Coventry's largest demographic group. Like other population groups and communities in Coventry, issues involving and affecting children and young people are covered by all the other themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Some of Coventry's children, young people and their families, like some of Coventry's older people or disabled people for example, may have particular health, housing, transport and employment needs.
- 5.2 This Children and Young People theme has been developed because some issues, in particular education attainment, are specific to children and young people as a group and because evidence shows that many life-long issues – including health and socio-economic well-being – are most effectively influenced in childhood. This is reflected in national government policy and in the way that both local government and local government partnerships are performance managed with more than a third of the new national indicator set specifically focused on children and young people. If Coventry is to be a successful city in 2026, we need to make sure that children and young people are able to achieve their potential.
- 5.3 This Children and Young People's theme will be developed based on the five national "Every Child Matters" outcomes and Coventry's own local sixth outcome and the work already developed through the *Coventry Children and Young People's Plan*. Issues relating to other Sustainable Community Strategy themes will also be considered under the appropriate theme along with the needs of other groups and communities. The six outcomes are:
- Being Healthy
 - Staying Safe
 - Enjoying and Achieving
 - Making a positive contribution
 - Having Economic Wellbeing
 - Supportive Friends, Families and Communities (local outcome priority)

Where are we now?

- 5.4 Improving the educational achievement of Coventry's children and young people is a key priority, both nationally and locally, because historically, fewer children and young people Coventry have achieved key targets (such as 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C at age 16) than nationally. However, results are generally improving and children are achieving well. Compared to Coventry's statistical neighbours (which is a group of about ten cities of a similar size and population mix to Coventry) the picture is changing and Coventry is steadily narrowing the gap on national figures, and in some cases, overtaking them.
- 5.5 Over a third of Coventry's children (38%) live in the areas of Coventry that are included within the 20% most disadvantaged areas in the country. In 2007 the attainment of children

living in these "Priority Neighbourhoods" has improved at a faster rate than neighbourhoods in the rest of the city and so they are closing the gap.

- 5.6 At **Key Stage 2**, performance improved by 1% in both English and mathematics. English increased from 78% to 79% and mathematics from 73% to 74%. Compared to the national score, Coventry is still a point behind for English, as it was last year. The gap between the national score and Coventry widened from 1% last year to 3% in mathematics because although our figure improved by 1%, the national figure increased by 2% points. In Science performance remained the same at 86%, however the gap widened to 1% with as the national score increased by 1 point.
- 5.7 There were significant improvements in attainment in all three subjects for Mixed White and Asian pupils. Other ethnic groups showed small decreases, following significant increases in 2006.
- 5.8 At **Key Stage 3**, performance in English remained the same, in line with the national picture. There was no change in the gap of 4% points between Coventry at 69% and the national at 73%. In mathematics performance decreased from 73% to 72% but the gap narrowed by 1% point to 3% as national standards decreased by 2% points to 75%. In Science the gap narrowed considerably from 5% to 2% as Coventry's performance increased from 68% to 72%.
- 5.9 All 19 secondary schools achieved the government targets in mathematics and science. The target was that a minimum of 50% of pupils from each school should achieve KS3 level 5 or above. In English 17 schools were above the target. There were significant improvements in attainment in all three subjects for most ethnic groups particularly Bangladeshi, Asian Other, and Mixed White Asian.
- 5.10 At **Key Stage 4**, in our Secondary schools there are now no schools where less than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*, A, B or C grades at GCSE (another key target for us). Our GCSE results increased by 4.7% points from 47.9% to 52.6% in the number of students gaining five or more grades of A*-C in any subject and from 37.8% to 38.9% in the numbers gaining five or more A*-C grades when you include English and Mathematics.
- 5.11 At **A level** the overall pass rate improved from 96.5% to 97.2%.
- 5.12 There is an on-going focus on school improvement and no Coventry school requires special measures or has serious weaknesses, despite the fact that there are large pockets of deprivation in the city and that there are over 100 schools in Coventry and this is a firm foundation for further improvement.
- 5.13 The behaviour of pupils in school is good and attendance at all stages is improving, with fewer exclusions. At Key Stage 4 we have developed alternative provision for some cohorts of young people who are hard to reach or at risk of not achieving their potential.
- 5.14 There has been a great deal of good partnership work between the Council and the Connexions Service, and other partners, in order to see a reduction in the number of 16-19 year olds "Not in Employment, Education or Training" or NEET group.

- 5.15 Similarly there has been a continuing focus on raising the performance of young people from minority ethnic communities: standards have risen. The performance of children who are looked after by the local authority (e.g. through foster carers) is encouraging in most key stages but more work needs to be done to ensure that all looked after children or LAC are entered for GCSEs or other recognised qualifications.
- 5.16 Partnership between schools, education and social care teams now focus on intervention to improve outcomes for individual looked after children. Nine looked after children are currently being supported through University by the local authority. A single integrated service for looked after children is now in place.
- 5.17 The partnership work between schools and extended learning centres continues to deliver low rates of exclusion and improved reintegration. A good range of leisure, sport and cultural opportunities are provided to enable children to enjoy themselves both within and out of school.
- 5.18 Good progress has been made in implementing the Special Educational Needs and Inclusion strategy. A play strategy is being successfully implemented.
- 5.19 External inspectors have said the Coventry children and young people have outstanding opportunities to make decisions, take personal responsibility and actively engage with services and partners.

What do we need to tackle?

- 5.20 Through the development of the *Children and Young People's Plan* a number of key priority issues have been identified to achieve under the *Every Child Matters* outcomes to improve the lives of Coventry children and young people.
- 5.21 Under the theme "*Be Healthy*" we need to improve both sexual and mental health of children and young people and reduce obesity. The implementation of the Play Strategy is a key action.
- 5.22 Under "*Staying Safe*", improving the outcomes for children in need is a key priority. This will include ensuring that looked after children have stable placements; fewer children are the victims of repeat abuse and fewer children are affected by domestic violence with less harm being caused to children and young people by illegal drugs.
- 5.23 Key areas for activity under the "*Enjoy and Achieve*" heading are to improve the foundation stage outcomes for children before they start school, to improve outcomes at Key Stage 4 5*a-c grades at GCSE (including English and Maths) and to improve the use of ICT in Coventry schools.
- 5.24 To improve "*Economic Wellbeing*" we will need to improve employment opportunities for young people and in particular to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in Coventry's priority neighbourhoods.

Developing the theme

- 5.25 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 5 - Ensuring Children and Young People are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry

5a) Long Term Outcomes

- Standards and choice of learning will have improved and more children will have realised their full potential
- Young people's aspirations will have been raised and their career and employability prospects will have improved
- Children in Early Years will have the foundation for happy, healthy and successful lives.
- Children and young people's achievements and aspirations will have been fulfilled to the benefit of themselves, their communities and neighbourhoods
- Children and young people will be making a greater positive contribution
- Children and young people will have supportive families, friends and communities
- Improve the outcomes for children in need

5b) Short term priorities

- Ensuring that children are more ready for school
- Continue to work with schools and stakeholders to improve educational standards at ages 7,11, 14 & 16
- Targeted work to support underachieving individuals, groups and schools
- Improve the educational achievement of looked after children
- Continue to develop Extended Schools as hubs in communities
- Provide support to parents through implementation of the city-wide Parenting Strategy, including delivery of parenting programmes
- Increase the participation of children and young people in the design of services
- Encourage more children to be involved in outdoor play
- Improve the way young people's achievement other than academic is recorded

5c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Emotional health of children; services for disabled children; obesity among primary school children; assessments for children in social care; stability of placements for looked after children; child protection case; hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people; Education attainment and progression rates at all stages for all children and specific groups including ethnicity and special educational need; absence rates from schools; participation in positive activities; under 18 conception rate; proportion of children in poverty; 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training; care leavers in suitable accommodation; care leavers in employment, education or training; mode of travel to school

Theme 5 - Ensuring Children and Young People are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry

5d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

Children and young people will need to develop the right skills if they are to benefit from the new employment opportunities of growth. Future housing growth should meet the needs of the city's young people and of Coventry's families with affordable housing of the right size. A growing city will need to meet educational needs with new schools to meet demand where necessary – Building Schools for the Future is critical to this.

Growth needs to include the right type of open spaces and facilities for children to play and get involved in physical activity and sport.

5e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

Ensuring that all children can achieve their potential requires continued effort needs to be made to make early interventions for children experiencing disadvantage. Key groups include disabled children and looked after children. Access to facilities and activities can be limited by the ability to pay and travel. We also need to provide targeted support to parents and families.

Children and young people are key to developing a cohesive Coventry and it is important to develop mutual understanding and to bring young people together through enjoyable experiences such as culture and sporting events.

Local communities and neighbourhoods are really important to children and young people and it is important to encourage them to become involved in local activities and neighbourhood planning.

5f) Climate Change

Coventry's children and young people are going to be affected by future climate change more than any other people in Coventry and we know that they are very interested climate change and can play a role within their families and communities in developing understanding about the issue and take part in addressing it. Schools have a key role to play in developing understanding about changing behaviour to reduce carbon footprints. Reducing travel to school by car and encouraging cycling and walking would have a positive impact on the environment and on children's health.

5g) Some key strategies

- Coventry Children and Young People's Plan
- Coventry Cultural Strategy
- Coventry Play Strategy
- Building Schools for the Future
- Primary Capital Programme
- Neighbourhood Plans

Theme 5 - Ensuring Children and Young People are safe and enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution to Coventry

5h) Some key organisations and partnerships

Children and Young People's Partnership

Coventry Partnership theme groups and Partnership Boards

Coventry's schools, FE colleges and Universities

Coventry City Council; Learning and Skills Council; Connexions; Schools' Forum; Excellence Clusters

Range of community and voluntary organisations and young people's groups

5i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Children and young people and their families can become involved in the develop and design of services and in local consultation exercises

Children and young people taking up volunteering and community activities

Individuals can become involved in mentoring schemes and as learning partners, volunteering to take part in a range of community activity including sports and other cultural activities; and become school governors

Businesses can provide support to local schools including offering work experience to Coventry students and encouraging volunteers e.g. reading partners

6 Housing

A good choice of housing to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Coventry...

- 6.1 This theme aims to ensure that Coventry people's future housing needs will be met both by the development of new dwellings and through improvement to Coventry's existing housing stock.
- 6.2 To meet people's current and future needs Coventry needs to have more housing and of different types of tenure and size including the provision of affordable housing. As well as improving the overall standard of housing in Coventry it will also be important to meet the specific needs of local people including people from vulnerable groups and to increase the provision of suitable housing and housing related services to people requiring care and support.

Where are we now?

- 6.3 Coventry has a total of 122,400 households with an average size of 2.5 people. Couples and families represent the largest proportion of households (49%), however one-person households amount to near one third of the total (31%). Two thirds of the people who work in Coventry also live in the city, whereas one third commute from elsewhere. Of those commuting into the city most people come from neighbouring areas such as Nuneaton/Bedworth, Warwick District, Rugby and Solihull.
- 6.4 The level of owner-occupied properties in the City is in line with the national average, at 68%. There are about 5,000 vacant properties in the city, and the majority of them are privately owned. Car ownership in Coventry is lower than the national average, with one third of households with no car. Approximately half of Coventry's current dwellings stock was built before 1944 and another 25% dates from the period between 1945-1964; and only about 11% of the dwellings were built after 1980.
- 6.5 Compared to national averages, the percentage of dwellings within the lower council tax bands in Coventry is rather high: 43% of the dwellings are in band "A" and 30% in band "B" (compared to 26% and 19% for England). Only 3% of the total housing stock is within the top three council tax bands (opposed to national average of 10%).
- 6.6 Coventry has been designated as a 'New Growth Point' and the Regional Assembly and the City Council are currently consulting with partners about what the scale of housing developments should be as part of the Phase two review of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and the development of the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework. It is expected that the preferred option in the Regional Spatial Strategy would mean that the city must plan for an additional 33,500 net new dwellings between 2006 and 2026.

- 6.7 The Coventry Housing Demand Study (2005) showed that there is a need for a better mix of housing types and tenures across the market as a whole to help make Coventry a more attractive place for people to remain in or move to. In particular there is a need to provide for:
- Higher income / aspirational consumers seeking larger houses in desirable locations
 - Lower income consumers unable to buy or rent on the private market and requiring access to a diverse range of affordable housing with good quality environments.
- 6.8 The Coventry's Older People's Housing Survey (2006) identified that over a third of older people would want to downsize to owner occupied or rented accommodation if the choice of accommodation, quality and location was available.
- 6.9 It is a national priority to make all council and housing association properties decent by 2010, and to improve conditions for vulnerable households in privately owned housing, particularly those with children. In basic terms the definition of a decent home is that it should be warm, weatherproof and have reasonably modern facilities. In 2000 all local authority housing stock was transferred to Whitefriars Housing Group, meaning that responsibility for ensuring that all social housing meets the decent homes target now falls with housing associations in the city. However the Council has a duty to ensure that the private sector target is met.
- 6.10 The proportion of decent homes in social housing increased from 74% in 2005 to 82% in 2006, and it is projected that 100% of Coventry social rented stock will meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010. However the challenge will be tackling non-decent homes in the private sector, particularly in terms of tracking properties.
- 6.11 Another priority is to ensure that housing is more suited to people's needs and aspirations with a better mix of housing (type and tenure) in all neighbourhoods. 60% of Coventry's housing stock is pre-1964 and suited to a past predominantly industrial local economy and with house price increases a rising number of households on lower and average incomes are finding it difficult to gain access to good quality, affordable housing.
- 6.12 The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance aims to provide direction to private developers on the requirement for affordable housing on developments over 15 units. In most circumstances the requirement for affordable housing is 25% per development. This enables the council to maximise the supply of new affordable homes in the city, and to work towards creating a balanced social and economic community by creating a mix of housing, which will meet a variety of accommodation needs.
- 6.13 Coventry is ahead of schedule to meet the Government target to save 30% of energy consumption in the domestic sector by 2011.

What do we need to tackle?

- 6.14 We need to provide more housing in the city to meet future levels of demand for housing of all types and tenure. We need to provide aspirational housing in desirable locations and to provide a diverse range of affordable housing with good quality environments and provide housing pathways for Coventry people and achieve a balance of housing type to produce mixed developments and communities. This will require the identification of land for building more homes to meet the growth targets. We will need to work closely with our neighbouring local authorities to deliver sustainable housing growth.
- 6.15 New housing should be sustainable and carbon neutral and developments should be planned to reduce the need for commuting and to be of high quality design within a good quality local environment to improve the quality of life in Coventry's local neighbourhoods. To support the policy of promoting independence and maintaining people in their own homes new developments should be built to lifetime standards to accommodate different and changing needs.
- 6.16 We also need to improve the existing housing stock in Coventry to meet the decent homes standard and to improve the energy efficiency of existing housing stock. The least energy-efficient housing is often home to the most vulnerable people and fuel poverty has a real impact on people's lives and health, particularly of older people.

Developing the theme

- 6.17 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 6 – A good choice of housing to meet the needs and the aspirations of the people of Coventry

6a) Long Term Outcomes

- Housing in Coventry will be more suited to people’s needs and aspirations with a better mix of the type and tenure of housing in neighbourhoods
- The quality of the existing housing stock in Coventry will improve and it will be more energy efficient
- All new build housing stock will be carbon neutral
- New housing developments will be ‘climate-proofed’ - contributing towards reducing the carbon foot-print of the city and adapted to cope with the ill-effects of climate change

6b) Short term priorities

- Planning to achieve a balance of housing type – mixed developments / communities
- Ensuring the planned growth of the city’s housing stock contributes towards sustainability and meets future housing targets
- Improving the existing housing stock to meet the decent homes standard
- Improving the energy efficiency of existing stock, especially in the private sector.

6c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Net additional homes provided; number of affordable homes delivered; processing of planning applications; supply of ready to develop housing sites; changes in housing benefit/council tax benefits; time taken to process housing benefit/council tax benefits; tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income base benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating; adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation; care leavers in suitable accommodation; adults in contact with secondary mental health services in settled accommodation; young offenders and offenders under probation living in settled and suitable accommodation

6d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

Growth should provide and increased number and type of housing to meet the needs and aspirations of local people and their families and attract people to live and work in the city. Housing growth must be complemented by jobs growth and the associated infrastructure developed to reduce commuting and minimise congestion.

6e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

It will be important to ensure that new housing provision includes affordable housing and that it meets the need of vulnerable people. To support the policy of promoting independence and maintaining people in their own homes we need to ensure that new developments are built to lifetime standards to accommodate different and changing needs.

Good housing and its immediate environment are critical to ensuring that quality of life is improved in local neighbourhoods. The development of mixed communities will support community cohesion

Theme 6 – A good choice of housing to meet the needs and the aspirations of the people of Coventry

6f) Climate Change

Housing design and improvements to existing stock to make Coventry homes more energy efficient will have a positive impact on the city's carbon footprint – 42% of the city's carbon emissions come from domestic dwellings. We must plan to minimise any potential negative effects of housing growth upon Coventry's environment including reducing journeys to employment and leisure opportunities. New developments should be designed to cope with the ill-effects of climate change, including hotter temperatures and more extreme weather events such as storms and flooding.

6g) Some key strategies

Coventry Housing Strategies
 Coventry Local Development Framework
 Coventry Growth Point Development Plan
 West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy
 Coventry City Council Housing Statement
 Five Year Strategy for Supporting People in Coventry
 Coventry Older People's Strategy
 Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Members Community Services; Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability; Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Strategic Plans
 Neighbourhood Plans

6h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Partnership, theme groups and Partnership Boards
 Coventry City Council
 Coventry Warwickshire and Solihull Forum (of local authorities)
 Registered Social Landlords
 Housing Developers; private landlords
 Community and voluntary groups including residents' and tenants' associations

6i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Individuals can be good neighbours; join residents' associations and tenants' associations welcome new arrivals to their neighbourhoods
 Better insulation of private housing will contribute to a reduction in Coventry's carbon footprint
 Residents' Associations can be involved in developing local parking schemes and improving the local neighbourhood
 Local people and communities can be involved in the development of the Coventry Development Framework and the development of planning policy

7 Transport

Making places and services easily accessible for Coventry people...

- 7.1 This theme aims to make Coventry a city where it is easy and enjoyable to get around. To properly address this the theme will not only cover transport provision and the improvement of the quality of local public transport but also look to reduce the need for travel by making sure that future development is planned to make employment opportunities, services and facilities convenient to access reducing the use of cars and encouraging people to cycle and walk.

Where are we now?

- 7.2 Increasing levels of car ownership have resulted in ever increasing levels of car usage. The Coventry Partnership Household Survey indicates that those living outside of priority neighbourhoods are almost twice as likely to travel to work or take their children to school by car than those living in priority neighbourhoods, where there are lower levels of car ownership.
- 7.3 **Commuting** - in 2001 66% of the total people who have jobs in Coventry live in the City and 34% commuted in from elsewhere. Of the total number of people employed who live in the city 76% work in the city and 24% commute out. Overall there was a net inflow of workers of 13%.
- 7.4 Most of the commuting into and out of the city is between Coventry and neighbouring districts in Warwickshire. Of the people commuting into the city: 25% come from Nuneaton/Bedworth, 16% from Warwick, 11% from Rugby, 7% from Solihull, 6% from Birmingham and 4% each from Stratford, Hinckley and North Warwickshire. Of those Coventry people commuting out of the city: 23% went to Warwick, 15% to Rugby, 13% to Nuneaton / Bedworth, 12% to Birmingham, 7% to Solihull and 3% to Stratford.
- 7.5 **Modes of transport** – the total travel by road mileage is increasing in Coventry and is set to rise by a further 6% by 2011. The number of trips by **public transport** has continually fallen between 1994 and 2003, however this trend was reversed in 2005 when the proportion of people travelling into Coventry by bus increased from 18% to 19%. Bus satisfaction and punctuality has remained similar over the same period. A significant investment of £42million has been made on Prime Lines bus routes across Coventry and it is believed that this will assist in further increasing the number of trips by public transport.
- 7.6 The overall proportion of people **cycling** into the City Centre has remained relatively similar over the past four years, however encouragingly the number of people walking into the City Centre has risen by 10% over the same period from 10,385 to 11,446. It is hoped that further improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure, such as Hill Street pedestrian and cycle bridge will help boost levels of walking and cycling even higher.

- 7.7 **Road safety** – Coventry's people's perceptions about road danger are increasing and this is leading to greater car usage, particularly when taking children to school. This perception is at odds with road traffic accident statistics, which show that the number of accidents involving children and adults has dropped significantly since the introduction of local safety schemes in 2001. The main reason that people give for choosing not to cycle is a lack of cycle lanes along busy roads.
- 7.8 **Bus safety** - similarly perceptions about safety of public transport have worsened, yet the number of reported crimes within 10 metres of a bus stop, at bus stations and on buses has actually fallen constantly between 2001 and 2005. Consequently a local pilot is taking place to experiment with police beats on buses to provide passengers with reassurance about their safety and to tackle anti-social behaviour.

What do we need to tackle?

- 7.9 We need to plan to make places and services, including schools and employment .more locally accessible and reduce the need to travel both for residents and commuters. We need to reduce car use and encourage people to travel by public transport, walk or cycle, particularly during peak periods to reduce congestion and reduce emissions.
- 7.10 We will need to ensure that Coventry's transport infrastructure, especially public transport, is able to cope with the planned growth of the city and we will want to maintain the low rates of road-traffic accidents and improve people's perceptions about the safety of travelling by bus, bicycle or on foot.
- 7.11 We will need to work regionally and sub regionally with the other West Midlands Metropolitan Councils and with bus operators to improve public transport as we need to improve the quality of Coventry's local bus and rail services, including park and ride facilities and to tackle road congestion. This will include the development of the north/south corridor between Leamington-Coventry-Nuneaton.
- 7.12 We need to maximise the use of our available road space and give priority to public transport in peak times and make it easier for people to access and use bus services through better information, on-line websites, pricing options and the use of smart cards.
- 7.13 We should share good practice about how to increase the use of sustainable travel, including car sharing and green travel planning and encourage more Coventry people and organisations, including schools and businesses, to do this.

Developing the theme

- 7.14 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 7 – Making places and services easily accessible for Coventry people

7a) Long Term Outcomes

- The need for travel in Coventry will have reduced by putting developments for learning and leisure, health services and shops and employment in convenient places.
- The quality of Coventry’s local public transport services will have further improved and people will be more likely to travel in ways that are less damaging to the environment

7b) Short term priorities

- Plan to make services, including schools, and employment more locally accessible and to reduce the need to travel (residents and commuters)
- Reduce car use and encourage people to travel by public transport, on foot and by bicycle, particularly during peak periods
- Ensure that the transport infrastructure, and especially public transport, is able to cope with planned growth in the city
- Maintain low rates of road-traffic accidents and improve perceptions about safety of travelling by public transport, by bicycle or on foot
- Reduce CO2 emissions due to transport

7c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Congestion average journey time per mile during peak hours; principal and non-principal road maintenance; access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling; working age people with access to employment by public transport; local bus journeys starting in Coventry; bus services running on time; children travelling to school - by mode of travel; air quality

7d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

Developing the transport infrastructure will be critical to ensuring that growth benefits local people and that negative impacts of growth of more people living and working in Coventry are minimised. As well as planning the infrastructure of roads; footways and cycle paths, we need to plan the location of housing; employment, schools, shops and leisure facilities to minimise the need for Coventry people to travel, including reducing commuting to work; and to encourage people to use more sustainable forms of travel – including walking and cycling. Good road and rail and air transport communications are very important for Coventry’s businesses and we need to reduce congestion.

7e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

People living in Coventry’s non-priority neighbourhoods are more likely to own and travel by car – car parking, particularly in the central and older parts of the city is often a problem for local neighbourhoods, We need to ensure that good transport is available to Coventry people without cars to provide equality of access to employment opportunities and local facilities and services – including those living in priority areas. It is important to continue to make public transport more accessible to disabled people. Transport has been identified as a very important issue for Coventry’s older people and is an important factor in maintaining independence – it needs to be good quality, feel safe and be demand responsive.

Theme 7 – Making places and services easily accessible for Coventry people

7f) Climate Change

Transport currently makes up some 28% of Coventry’s carbon emissions and contributes to poor air quality in parts of the city. Good future planning and the improvement of public transport and the local environment to encourage people to walk and cycle. We need to encourage children and young people to walk or cycle to school as this will have a positive impact on health as well as reducing carbon emissions.

7g) Some key strategies

- West Midlands Local travel Plan
- Coventry Local Development Framework
- Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Members City Development; Culture Leisure and Libraries Strategic Plan
- Climate Change Strategy
- Coventry’s Older People’s Strategy
- Children and Young People’s Plan
- Coventry Cultural Strategy
- Neighbourhood Plans

7h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

- West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority
- Centro and local bus and rail companies
- Coventry Partnership, theme groups and Partnership Boards
- Passenger organisations
- Coventry City Council
- Employers and schools

7i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

- Employers and schools can develop green travel plans to encourage more sustainable forms of travelling
- Individuals can reduce their use of the car by car-sharing and using public transport; walking and cycling; children can learn how to cycle safely by taking part in cycling proficiency courses
- Local people and communities can be involved in local transport planning and design through passenger organisations and consultation on local traffic and public transport schemes
- Local people can become volunteer drivers and travel buddies

8 Culture, Sport and Physical Activity

A creative, active and vibrant Coventry...

- 8.1 This theme covers the broad spectrum of cultural sport and physical activity as participation and enjoyment of these activities form an essential part of the quality of life for the people of Coventry. In addition, culture sport and physical activities make an important contribution to the other themes of this Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 8.2 The culture and leisure sector provides increasing numbers of jobs and training opportunities in Coventry and the associated businesses – in media, arts, sports and leisure - contribute to the city's productivity and prosperity. In addition, sporting and cultural activities such as the International Children's Games and the productions and events at our larger venues such as Warwick Arts Centre; the Belgrade Theatre and the Ricoh Arena improve the image of Coventry.
- 8.3 Cultural and sporting activities that local people take part in across Coventry, often in local neighbourhoods, play an important part in improving health and well being and by, bringing people together from different backgrounds, are key to developing a cohesive Coventry.

Where are we now?

- 8.4 **Economic development** - Coventry is in the middle of an £8bn city-wide regeneration scheme and the city's cultural sector in terms of its people, facilities and activities is able to make an increased contribution to Coventry's development and the quality of life of its citizens. Cultural provision has grown substantially in recent times and now includes the Ricoh Arena, major developments of the Belgrade Theatre and the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery and a host of festivals and events including the Godiva Festival and the Jazz Festival. The city centre management company CVOne plays an important role in managing / promoting the City centre.
- 8.5 The development of a range of leisure opportunities including clubs, pubs restaurants, is critical to the development of an vibrant evening economy is making an important contribution to the wider local economy.
- 8.6 **Image of Coventry** - during recent consultation on the Coventry Cultural strategy it has become apparent that Coventry is 'stuck with an outdated, industrial, manufacturing image, yet also viewed as a relatively harmonious place which welcomed incomers throughout history and has positive attitude towards an increasingly diverse community.
- 8.7 Perceived weaknesses include:
- The city centre, particularly in the evenings and its ability to attract businesses
 - A need to promote city as a sub-regional centre, competing with Birmingham / NEC
 - Limited understanding about the range of cultural activities and opportunities available

- 8.8 **Use of facilities** -Coventry people and visitors make over two million visits to libraries, 1.7 million visits to sports centres and golf courses and nearly 300,000 to the Transport Museum. Compared to other areas Coventry people make good use of visits to museums and libraries and a high number of school children are involved in group visits.
- 8.9 Some weaknesses in Coventry's facilities infrastructure have been identified, including:
- Coventry Sports Centre is in need of renewal
 - Voluntary sports club provision needs revitalising
 - Much of the heritage of the City is playing too limited a roles for local people and visitors
 - Accessibility of University and school based facilities and activities needs reviewing
 - There are gaps in provision of spaces for arts and heritage activities / groups
 - Some neighbourhoods have limited community and sports provision

What do we need to tackle?

- 8.10 Work on the development of the *Coventry Cultural Strategy* has identified five key areas that we need to address to maximise the benefits from cultural activity in Coventry and to improve the quality of life of Coventry people:
- 8.11 We need to develop the new "*Creative Coventry*" and encourage the development of creative and innovative businesses already here in Coventry and to attract new businesses and creative people to help Coventry local economy thrive. We need to raise Coventry's cultural and sporting profile with local communities and visitors and promote the Coventry city as a place to live, work, visit or to do business.
- 8.12 It will be important to connect Coventry's culture with our diverse local neighbourhoods and to increase chances for Coventry people to participate, volunteer and take up employment opportunities and to enjoy a wide range of cultural, sporting and physical activities, We should celebrate and showcase local and diverse cultural expression and through this develop civic and local pride.
- 8.13 We need to make Coventry city centre a vibrant centre of culture – so it becomes a more attractive place and projects a positive image of Coventry's diverse communities and innovative culture. Events and festivals can play an important part in this.
- 8.14 Culture; sports and leisure activities should be designed to contribute to social inclusion and improving well being of local people. We need to ensure that activities offer opportunities and enjoyment to all Coventry people including disabled people, children & young people, older people and those on low incomes. Sports and physical activity is key to improved physical and mental health and is very important in tackling obesity.
- 8.15 By engaging with and involving local people the wider cultural sector can contribute to lower crime rates, and by bringing people together from different backgrounds to share experiences together cultural and sporting activity increase community cohesion, and a greater recognition of the different cultural backgrounds that make up the city

Developing the theme

- 8.16 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 8 – A creative, active and vibrant Coventry

8a) Long Term Outcomes

- Coventry will benefit economically from its cultural industry, the profile of the city will have been raised and Coventry will be seen as a more attractive, vibrant and creative city where people want to visit, live, work and do business
- Coventry will offer distinctive and high quality cultural activities and enjoy a reputation for this
- More Coventry people will be participating and enjoying cultural, leisure and sporting activities

8b) Short term priorities

- Development of local cultural and creative industries
- Develop a distinctive programme for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, linked to the 50th anniversary of Coventry Cathedral, in which Coventry can build on its status as a Centre of Peace and Reconciliation
- Increase participation, volunteering and employment in cultural, sports and physical activities

8c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

Participation rates in sport for children and adults; use of public libraries; visits to museums or galleries; engagement in the arts; number of new cultural and creative businesses; perception rates about the city locally and nationally

8d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

Improving the city centre and cultural offer will improve the profile of Coventry and enhance its attractiveness attracting businesses; visitors and shoppers. Growth of city should enrich the cultural base of the city and increase the opportunities for cultural businesses and create employment and prosperity. We will need to develop existing and new cultural and sporting facilities and access to them to meet the needs of the growing population and to plan for parks and open spaces to encourage physical activities. These facilities will include local schools , community centres, libraries and sports centres to provide good quality facilities for opportunities for learning and personal and social development as well as health and fitness.

8e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

We need to develop equality of access to cultural; leisure and sporting activities. Increasing the participation of older people in cultural, leisure and sports activities promotes independence. Looked after children and children from black and minority ethnic communities would benefit from greater involvement in sports. Good transport links are needed to help people access leisure opportunities. The targeted provision of cultural and sporting activities leads to better social engagement for disaffected young people and is an important part of the community safety. Cultural and sporting activity along with events and festivals is one of the most important ways of bringing people from different backgrounds together and developing shared understanding – especially young people - and activities need to be planned to maximize the benefits of this.

Theme 8 – A creative, active and vibrant Coventry

8f) Climate Change

Arts activities can provide powerful ways of promoting messages and understanding about how individuals can help to address climate change. New and existing facilities need to be "climate-proofed" to ensure that their carbon footprint is minimised and to ensure that buildings and landscapes can cope with the impacts of climate change such as flooding and higher temperatures and changes in social behaviour patterns such as an increased demand for outside facilities for longer in the year.

8g) Some key strategies

- Cultural Strategy
- Coventry Sports and Physical Activity Strategy
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Coventry City Council Corporate Plan and Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure and Libraries Strategic Plan
- Coventry Older People's Strategy
- Coventry Community Safety Strategy

8h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

- Coventry Cultural Partnership; the Coventry Partnership and Partnership Boards
- Coventry City Council
- CvOne
- Universities; Colleges and schools
- Cultural Venues and companies
- Creative industry – including media; leisure outlets and individual artists and performers
- Sports venues and local sports groups; clubs and teams
- Community groups and community arts projects; drama groups

8i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

- Individuals can join a wide-range of community-based cultural and sporting activities; take up volunteering opportunities and organise activities
- Community-based sports and arts groups provide experience and activities for local people and can come together to bring people from across the city together
- Local companies can provide sponsorship for arts and sports activities and use of facilities

9 Equality of opportunity and involved, cohesive communities and neighbourhoods

A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods...

- 9.1 This is the first of the two underpinning themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy and it is fundamental to the success of the overall strategy which aims to ensure that future growth is used to transform the city and benefit local people by improving quality of life, raising aspirations and narrowing the gap in the city.
- 9.2 Better equality of opportunity in Coventry will be achieved through meeting local people's needs through all the other themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy and ensuring that these focus on specific actions to meet the needs of all Coventry's communities and remove the barriers that Coventry people face that prevent them achieving their full potential.
- 9.3 This theme aims to ensure that Coventry becomes a more cohesive city, a place where:
- there is a sense of belonging and involvement for all Coventry's communities
 - the diversity of Coventry people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued
 - people from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities
 - there are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds
- 9.4 The theme also focuses on ensuring that Coventry's diverse communities and neighbourhoods are vibrant and successful with local people and communities involved with the way that local needs are met and in their future development.

Where are we now?

- 9.5 Coventry is ethnically diverse, with some 22% of Coventry's inhabitants coming from minority ethnic communities compared to 13% for England as a whole. About a quarter of the children in Coventry's schools are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Asian and Asian British communities together make up 11.3% of the city's population of whom 8.0% have an Indian background. The next largest minority group is made up of people with a White Irish background who make up 3.5% of the population. Coventry's population with a Black or Black British background is 1.8% - slightly lower than the English average of 2.3%.
- 9.6 There are over 100 languages spoken in Coventry and a variety of faith communities – these include 65% who identify themselves as Christian, 4.6% Sikh, 3.9% Muslim and 2.6% Hindu. Over 15% of Coventry's population say that they follow no religion.

- 9.7 Newer communities that have settled in Coventry in the last ten years include Somalian, Kurdish, Afghani and Iraqi groups. Like other areas of the UK. Coventry has recently been experiencing higher level of migration from within the European Union with a higher level of “population churn” with people moving into the city for short periods of time. This short term movement is difficult to measure using traditional demographic statistical data and like many cities, Coventry is undertaking further research to understand better the impact that population churn is having upon the city and the provision of services.
- 9.8 Levels of household income are rising in Coventry and both the gap between average household income in the city and the UK average closing and the gap between average income levels between priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the city also narrowing. However there is significant contrast in the distribution of incomes across the city with the poorest households receiving under £14,639 pa compared to the richest earning over £78,575(CACI 2007). A quarter of households within the city have incomes below £16,836 and a quarter of households have income above £41,047. In areas of the city where the proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic communities is higher than 35% the average household income is £23,860 pa, compared to £30856 for the rest of the city.
- 9.9 The gender pay gap for people who live in Coventry and work full time reflects the national picture with the average wages for women three quarters (76%) of that of men. However the gender pay gap for people working in the city is wider with women working full time only earning two thirds (67%) of that men.
- 9.10 Unemployment rates vary across the city from 0.8% in Wainbody to 7.9% in Foleshill (Job Seekers Allowance measure July 07). Worklessness rates have been rising since 2004 with JSA claimant count accounting for most of this increase. The JSA count is now starting to fall as the city still undergoes a high rate of economic churning. In addition to this employment has increased across the whole city and there are fewer people in households with no-one in paid work.
- 9.11 Life expectancy is increasing slowly in the city but the difference in life expectancy between the most affluent and disadvantaged remains high, with an overall gap in life expectancy of 5.5 years for men and 4 years for women between priority neighbourhoods and the rest of city and higher gaps rates within individual neighbourhoods. Areas of the city with high minority ethnic communities also have a lower average age of death than the rest of the city.
- 9.12 There is a range of communities in Coventry that may experience disadvantage that do not necessarily have a geographical focus – these communities of interest include: disabled people, older people experiencing isolation and poverty, homeless people, disaffected young people, people from the most disadvantaged black and minority ethnic groups, asylum seekers and refugees, people experiencing mental ill health and ex-offenders.
- 9.13 For a city of its size and diversity, Coventry is comparatively well-integrated. Recent government research on segregation in cities using an Index of Dissimilarity measured unevenness in distribution between different ethnic groups. This research shows that

segregation between White and Non-White communities in Coventry is low, particularly for a city with a high level of ethnic diversity, with an index of 0.4 compared to 0.72 for Blackburn and 0.58 for Birmingham. Similar comparative data shows that, whilst there are a higher concentration of Black and Asian communities in Coventry's deprived areas, this is relatively low in comparison to many similar cities in England.

- 9.14 The recent report from the Commission on Integration and Cohesion placed Coventry into community typology category 1.1 – *Changing Urban, affluent* in the more cohesive communities groupings.
- 9.15 This relatively high level of integration may be reflected in the high perception levels of cohesion recorded by Coventry's annual quality of life survey where 94% of respondents agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together in 2006, this figure has risen from 91% in 2004. The percentage of respondents who agreed that residents respect differences between people from different backgrounds has also risen from 85% in 2004 to 93% in 2006

Ways of working and Community Involvement

- 9.16 The Coventry Partnership has adopted a community cohesion protocol to ensure that the Partnership considers community cohesion and equality in all its strategies and activities.
- 9.17 In addition, the Coventry Partnership is committed to ensuring that local people and communities (including the business community) and public service users are involved in the development and evaluation of the strategies plans and activities of the partnership and partner organisations. This involvement runs through the membership at all levels of the Partnership itself from the Board and Theme Groups and through its wider structure in the communities of interest Partnership Boards and the Community Empowerment Network.
- 9.18 Partnership Boards – these are a formal part of the Coventry Partnership structure and inform the development of the Coventry Partnership's strategies and plans. The Boards are:
- Older People's Partnership
 - Children and Young People's Partnership
 - Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership
 - Learning Disabilities Partnership
 - Mental Health Services Partnership Board
- 9.19 The Coventry Community Empowerment Network - CEN brings together community based groups from across the city including both residents groups and community of interest groups. CEN representatives are members of the Coventry Partnership Board and Theme Groups and the wider network is involved in the development of strategies, plans and activities.
- 9.20 Coventry Voluntary Service Council is made up of a wide range of voluntary and community groups and members from the voluntary sector are also on the Coventry Partnership Board and theme groups. CVSC is currently working closely with the Coventry Partnership to

develop the Coventry Compact with the voluntary sector and plays a key role in ensuring that voluntary sector is engaged with the Coventry Partnership.

- 9.21 The recently reformed Equalities and Community Cohesion Theme Group aims to bring many of these networks and organisations together to ensure that equality and community cohesion is delivered through all the Coventry Partnership's activity.
- 9.22 Neighbourhood Management is a council service that involves a range of partners, including the Police, and links with the Coventry Partnership to promote neighbourhood working that enables joint service delivery at a local level, involving local residents in developing better solutions and tackle local issues, and supporting the development of sustainable and cohesive communities. There are three Neighbourhood Management Areas in the city and Area Management Groups have been set up for each of the three Neighbourhood Management Areas of the city to develop this work further at a local level through Neighbourhood Planning. The "Your Neighbourhood Matters" programme is developing ways of working between local communities and public service providers to improve local services. Neighbourhood Management is currently working to create a framework for the City Council's relationship with community associations that will dovetail with a review of community centres and work to support new community groups
- 9.23 Building on this work the Coventry Partnership has started to develop a formal Community Engagement Strategy with the City Council to meet the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. The Act also replaces the current arrangements in place for community involvement in the health sector with LINKs networks – one of which will be commissioned within the city.

What we need to do?

- 9.24 Most of the activities to achieve the aims of this theme need to be identified and delivered through the priorities and programmes of activity set out under the previous themes – this is why it has been described as an underpinning theme.
- 9.25 However, this theme will ensure that the wider issues of equalities, cohesion and neighbourhoods are considered together and, in particular, that community engagement and involvement is promoted and is effective.

Developing the theme

- 9.26 Proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 9 – A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods...

9a) Long Term Outcomes

- Coventry will be a more inclusive and cohesive city and people will feel able to influence the quality of services and be involved
- There will be more equal opportunities for people from different backgrounds in Coventry
- People will have seen improvements to quality of life happen most quickly in priority neighbourhoods and communities

9b) Short term priorities

- Development of a Community Engagement Strategy to meet local and national government requirements and community involvement in Coventry
- Ensure that equality of opportunity and community cohesion are embedded throughout the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement
- Development of Neighbourhood Planning to involve local communities in addressing local issues and improve local service delivery
- Develop better understanding about the demographics and future needs of people in Coventry including the effects of migration into and out of the city upon service delivery and local communities

9c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

In addition to the wide range of equality indicators under other themes indicators could include perception measures about people getting on well together in their local area; people who feel they belong to their local area; people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality; levels of civic participation; participation in volunteering; environment for the third sector; fair treatment by local services; differences in satisfaction rates

9d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

We need to plan to ensure that that the opportunities from sustainable growth benefit everyone in Coventry and are used to improve the life chances and aspirations of the most disadvantaged people in Coventry of all ages and backgrounds and that the challenges of growth do not disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged communities.

Future planning needs to anticipate diverse needs of increasingly diverse communities and needs to take account of differential needs and aspirations of Coventry people and we need to ensure that community cohesion issues are considered and cohesion promoted in the development of all the city's strategies and activities.

Neighbourhood Planning will help to address local issues within the context of the city's growth and the opportunities and challenges that are faced at a neighbourhood level and to promote equality of opportunity

Theme 9 – A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods...

9e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

We need to address equality of opportunity and the narrowing gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the rest of the city through the Sustainable Community Strategy and each of its themes, the Local Area Agreement and the strategies and plans and activities that underpin them. We should ensure that the role and benefits from the involvement of the voluntary sector is sufficiently reflected in the development and implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy. We also need to ensure that local people, communities and service users are involved appropriately in the development, delivery and evaluation of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the strategies and plans that implement it.

9f) Climate Change

People living in Coventry's non-priority neighbourhoods are more likely to travel by car and to travel further distances to work, to leisure activities and to shop and travel more often by plane with the subsequent higher carbon footprints whilst it is likely that the most vulnerable communities are more likely to suffer from the negative effects of climate change and least able to make adaptations for them - being most likely to live in housing that is less easy to insulate against lower and higher temperatures; most likely to be at risk from the effects on health and to be under or uninsured. The involvement of Coventry's people and all its communities is crucial to tackling climate change in the city to change lifestyles to make Coventry more sustainable.

9g) Some key strategies

Coventry Community Plan
 Local Development Framework
 Coventry City Council Equality Strategy
 Coventry City Council Community Cohesion Strategy
 Coventry City Council Corporate Plan; Cabinet Members Finance Procurement and Value for Money; Neighbourhoods and Community Safety
 Coventry Advice Services Strategy
 Children and Young People's Plan
 Older People's Strategy
 Cultural Strategy
 Challenging and Reducing Hate Crime
 Neighbourhood Planning

9h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Partnership; theme groups and Partnership Boards
 Public sector organisations responsible for the delivery of local services
 Local businesses including the local media and Chamber of Commerce;
 Coventry City Council; Neighbourhood Management Service
 Voluntary sector organisations including Coventry Voluntary Services Council
 Community organisations; faith groups and networks including Coventry Community Empowerment Network

Theme 9 – A more equal Coventry with cohesive communities and neighbourhoods...

9i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

In addition to the specific activities set out under the other themes local organisations; people and communities can become more involved in the life of the Coventry and their local communities and neighbourhoods by volunteering; becoming involved in influencing policy and service delivery through taking part in public consultation including the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy; voting, attending ward forums and becoming a local councillor; joining local community groups and the Community Empowerment Network; attending and getting involved in local events and festivals.

10 Making a Positive Environmental Contribution and Tackling Climate Change

Improving Coventry's environment and tackling climate change...

- 10.1 This is the second underpinning theme which aims to ensure that the Sustainable Community Strategy focuses on wider environmental sustainable issues across all themes and Coventry is tackling climate change.
- 10.2 This theme focuses on the things that we need to do in Coventry to have a positive impact on Coventry's environment and reduce or mitigate the negative impact activity in the city is having on climate change and to ensure that the city is prepared for the possible impacts of climate change. This theme aims to address the wider environmental issues that are not addressed in the plan's fourth theme which focuses on ensuring that Coventry's streets, neighbourhoods and parks are clean and enjoyable places to be.

Where are we now?

- 10.3 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Stern Review have each concluded that the need to take action *now* to limit climate change is imperative. Global impacts include global warming with reduction in the extent of polar ice caps, melting glaciers and warming of oceans. This is resulting in increasing rainfall and large-scale, long-term droughts, rising sea levels, and extreme weather including hurricanes and storms.
- 10.4 It is expected that climate change will cause more extreme weather conditions across Europe, including more very hot days, more intense downpours of rain and changes in storm patterns. A heatwave in 2003 resulted in an estimated 35,000 excess deaths across Europe. It is estimated that in the future there will be 2,800 heat related deaths in the UK each year.
- 10.5 Urban areas like Coventry will be particularly vulnerable particularly where a lack of natural ventilation in buildings, insufficient green open space and blocks of tall buildings combine to exacerbate the heat island effect, which could clearly affect some areas of Coventry including the city centre and densely built-up neighbourhoods like Foleshill and Stoke.
- 10.6 Other climate change impacts on Coventry could include and increase in flooding and winter storm damage. pressure on drainage systems, habitat and species loss, summer water shortage and low stream flows, increased subsistence risk in subsistence-prone areas, increasing thermal discomfort in buildings and health issues in summer.
- 10.7 Coventry City Council became a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in October 2006 and is currently consulting on a *Draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry (Aug 07)*. This sets out proposals for *mitigation* actions that will address the factors causing of climate change, and proposals for *adaptation* to deal with the consequences of climate change. The proposed actions being consulted upon aim to deliver the target to reduce carbon emissions in Coventry by 67% by 2050. One key vehicle

for delivery will be through Climate Proofing of City Council policies and strategies, and those of Partner organisations.

10.8 Generation of Coventry's greenhouse gas emissions for 2002-3 is split as follows:

- Housing 42%
- Transport 28%
- Industry / Commerce 25%
- Local Authority 3%
- Other Public Sector 2%

10.9 Coventry is ahead of schedule to meet the Government target to save 30% of energy consumption in the domestic sector by 2011.

10.10 The proportion of Coventry's waste sent for recycling and composting during 2006/07 was 24.67%. This exceeded our own full year target of 23.72% (and is ahead of Coventry's nationally set statutory performance standard of 20% for 2007/08). This is a significant improvement on last year's 18.09% (when Coventry's statutory performance standard was 18%) and reflects the major investment in new kerbside collection facilities across the city which will reach all households in the city by December. Coventry sent just 7.1% of its domestic waste to landfill, showing a small improvement on the previous year's 7.3%.

What do we need to do?

10.11 The key action to be taken is to reduce Coventry's carbon-dioxide emissions of Coventry. We also need to improve the air-quality of the city. We will need to raise public awareness about climate change and motivate Coventry people as individuals and within organisations to choose more sustainable behaviours to reduce their impact on climate change.

10.12 As part of this change of behaviour we should promote energy efficiency, reduction of energy use and the use of sustainable energy sources and the micro-generation of energy. We will need to make the city's current housing stock more energy efficient and encourage people to use more sustainable forms of transport including walking and cycling.

10.13 We also need to reduce the amount of waste that is produced by Coventry and further increase the amount of waste that is re-used, recycled or composted. We will need to develop and implement a city and sub-regional sustainable waste strategy.

10.14 We should plan to adapt Coventry to climate change and to do this we will need to better understand the likely impacts of climate change on Coventry, its infrastructure and people.

10.15 To address this, the planned growth of the city, including all new developments, will need to be climate proofed to minimise emissions from buildings and transport and ensure that they are adapted to meet conditions from climate change, including providing habitats for wildlife.

Developing the theme

- 10.16 Many of the activities to achieve the aims of this theme need to be identified and delivered through the priorities and programmes of activity set out under the previous themes – this is why it has been described as an underpinning theme.
- 10.17 Additional proposals for developing this theme, including long term outcomes and short term priorities and some of the key strategies to help to achieve them are set out in the box overleaf.

Theme 10 – Improving Coventry’s environment and tackling climate change...

10a) Long Term Outcomes

- Coventry’s carbon footprint will have reduced
- Coventry will be making more sustainable use of natural resources – less energy and water will be used, less waste and pollution will be produced, more waste will be recycled
- Coventry will be better prepared for the impacts of climate change

10b) Short term priorities

- Reduce the carbon dioxide emissions produced by Coventry City Council and the wider community, supported by robust systems of measuring, managing and monitoring – learn from this and disseminate good practice across the Coventry Partnership
- “Climate-proof” Coventry’s key strategies and plans
- Proactively encourage individuals and organisations to adopt behaviours that will minimise their impact on climate change, and provide guidance to help them to do so
- Develop and start to implement the Climate Strategy
- Develop and start to implement the Waste Strategy
- Raise understanding and awareness of individuals about how they can adopt more sustainable lifestyles

10c) Indicators we could use to help us measure success:

In addition to the indicators identified under the other themes indicators could include: level of air quality; reduction of CO2 from local authority operations; per capita level of CO2 emissions; adapting to climate change; residual household waste per head; household waste recycled and composted; municipal land filled; level of air quality; improved biodiversity – active management of local sites

10d) Opportunities and Challenges of Growth

The future growth of the city needs to be “climate proofed” and needs to account for the detrimental impacts of climate change on wildlife and help provide habitats to support biodiversity in Coventry. We should plan new developments of jobs and homes to minimise commuting and build low or zero carbon homes and provide healthy attractive and safe environments (including parks and open spaces) that encourage people to adopt healthy sustainable lifestyles and provide quality public transport and better facilities for walking and cycling to reduce the use of cars.

Mitigation against climate change needs to include landscape features that will absorb sudden peak flows in watercourses and flooding.

There are a number of business opportunities from developing response to climate change and the application of new technologies including energy efficiency. Working with Coventry’s two universities we should look to encourage the development and application of new technological solutions; sustainable production methods and the business opportunities these might provide.

Theme 10 – Improving Coventry’s environment and tackling climate change...

10e) Equality of Opportunity; Community Cohesion and Neighbourhoods

As set out in Equalities theme, vulnerable communities are likely to be most affected by the impact of climate change/ High density developments are most likely to be prone to a “heat island” effect. It will be important to involve local communities in addressing issues in their neighbourhoods and in developing local responses to tackle and adapt to climate change.

10f) Climate Change

not applicable

10g) Some key strategies

Coventry Climate Change strategy
 Coventry Air Quality Action Plan
 Local Development Framework
 Green Space Strategy
 Coventry City Council Corporate Plan; Cabinet Member Climate Change and Housing Strategic Plan
 Coventry Economic Development Strategy
 Coventry Waste Strategy
 Local Development Framework
 Neighbourhood Planning

10h) Some key local organisations and partnerships

Coventry Partnership; theme groups and Partnership Boards
 Environmental voluntary sector organisations including Wildlife Trusts
 Community groups
 Local businesses including retailers
 Public sector organisations including hospitals
 Universities; colleges and schools
 Coventry City Council
 Coventry and Solihull Waste Partnership

10i) Involvement of local organisations; individuals and communities

Everyone - local organisations; people and communities can learn more about climate change its implications and how to reduce their own carbon footprint
 Local businesses can consider more sustainable business processes and energy efficiency; retailers can review use of packaging and the associated waste
 Individuals can join local voluntary and community groups that work together to improve Coventry’s environment and local neighbourhoods and encourage more sustainable lifestyles including re-using goods; recycling schemes; buying organic and locally produced products; shared transport schemes; creating wild life habitats

11 What are your views?

- 11.1 The Coventry Partnership would like to hear your views about the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and we are particularly interested in hearing about how you and your organisation would like to be involved in the further development of the strategy and how you can contribute to its aims.
- 11.2 The consultation period runs from Monday 3 December 2007 to Friday 25 January 2008. of Please would you send your comments to:

(Details to be added)

- 11.3 You may find the following questions helpful in framing your response.

Looking at the overall document

What are your general views about the "Outcomes and Priorities" Consultation Draft?

Are the themes taken together proposed the right ones – is there anything missing?

Are there any particular links between the themes that should be considered?

For individual themes

Do the long-term outcomes and short term priorities seem the right ones for this theme?

What indicators should be used to measure success?

Are there another opportunities and challenges from the growth of the city?

What needs to be considered under this theme to promote equality of opportunity, make Coventry a more cohesive city and benefit neighbourhoods?

Are there any other potential impacts from or on climate change that should be considered?

Are there any other key strategies that should be included?

What are the organisations and partnerships that are key to this theme?

What could you do?

How could you, your organisation or your local community contribute to this theme?

SECTION 3

Appendices

To be added