



# **North Yorkshire's Future**

**The Sustainable Community Strategy for  
North Yorkshire 2008/18**

**Refreshed version**

## **[Inside cover]**

Include statement about availability in other formats – including statements in other languages?

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## Foreword

Welcome to North Yorkshire's Future. This plan updates and revises the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership's (NYSP) Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire which we launched in 2008 for the period 2008-2018. The Sustainable Community Strategy is our ten-year plan for **making North Yorkshire an even better place in which to live, work and visit.**

Three years on from that launch, our vision for improving the quality of life for people in the county remains the same. But even in this short time, new and sometimes difficult challenges have arisen for communities and for us as NYSP partners in responding to them. For example, we have seen the effects of recession in North Yorkshire as in other parts of the country and have had to plan in partnership for tackling the challenges presented by this and to prepare ourselves for a brighter economic future. We have also seen a change in government and a forecast of considerable spending cuts over the next few years in the public sector, whilst pressure remains on us all to deliver critical services at lower cost. This brings difficulties but also some opportunities for us as partners to re-focus our efforts and ensure that we are delivering effectively for you, our communities.

So whilst our end goal is still the same, we have recognised these shifts by reviewing and amending some of our priorities and giving others a greater focus on specific issues. For example, we have identified "Employment" and "Climate Change" as two increasingly crucial issues for the county in the years ahead and you will see that we have brought these to the fore in some of our priority areas.

At the same time, this refresh process also gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work which has been delivered through our Local Area Agreement, which has also been refreshed in line with the review of our Strategy. For example, we have achieved recognition as partners for excellent work in helping older and more vulnerable people to achieve their independence and have seen many other successful schemes put in place within the areas of community safety and financial inclusion, to name a few. We can be proud of such successes but need to ensure that we keep building on this good work and as such this plan reflect this.

There is much for us to do but we are working hard to make a difference to the lives of people in North Yorkshire. Our outlook is forward-looking and forward-thinking and as such we have re-named our strategy to reflect this. I therefore have pleasure in presenting you with "**North Yorkshire's Future**".

**County Councillor John Weighell**  
Chair of the NYSP Wider Partnership

## Executive Summary

*Need a short intro here – vision, review of priorities and targets, evidence...  
If agreed that we include this section then it will be written up prior to public consultation.*

### **Three Years On: The Story So Far**

*Short section highlighting some of the key successes changes.*

### **Our Focus Areas**

Our priorities for North Yorkshire cut across these seven themed areas.

- Children and Young People
- Economy, Enterprise and Employment
- Environment and Climate Change
- Health and wellbeing
- Older and Vulnerable People
- Safer Communities
- Stronger Communities

*Add more here about key aims once the priorities have been drafted up.*

### **Key Challenges for North Yorkshire – Access and Inclusion**

North Yorkshire is one of the most beautiful and varied counties in the country with a wealth of opportunities for those wanting to live, work or visit here. But the large, dispersed nature of the county presents us with particular challenges in terms of making services accessible to all, tackling isolation and narrowing the gap between those living in areas of deprivation and those in areas where quality of life is good.

These challenges cut across all of our priority areas and must therefore be tackled effectively if we are to achieve against these:

- **Access and inclusion:** ensuring everyone can access services; connecting people to places and opportunities by improving transport and communications networks; recognising that there are areas in the county and parts of our communities which experience deprivation or which are more vulnerable and require targeted support.

Under each of our seven priorities, we have highlighted how these cross-cutting challenges can be tackled.

## Introduction

**North Yorkshire - a place of equal opportunity where all can develop their full potential, participate in a flourishing economy, live and thrive in secure communities, see their high-quality environment and cultural assets maintained and enhanced, and receive effective support when they need it.**

This remains the long-term vision of the NYSP and is what all our partners are working towards. However, we understand that priorities and challenges within communities can and do shift over time. It is therefore important that we keep revisiting and renewing our objectives every three years to make sure that we are focussing on the issues that are most critical to achieving our long-term vision.

In 2008, stakeholder consultation helped us to identify ten priorities which would be critical issues for the subsequent three years and which needed an effective partnership response and joint working to be tackled effectively.

We have recently undertaken consultation to find out whether these priorities are still critical to North Yorkshire's communities in the long term (see below) and this has brought about some changes to our key priorities and how we name them.

There have also been a number of key changes in the political and legislative context to this strategy which have also required us to review our priorities and aims and ensure that we are mindful of other plans and governmental work that has been underway. For example, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEC) Bill sets out a new duty for all county councils and unitary district councils to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area. A number of other plans have also been produced more locally to North Yorkshire in the last few years, which have also provided us with a clearer picture about some aspects of life here and which we need to reflect in the strategy.

We expect that as our own three-yearly review cycle develops that countywide planning on other such strategies also becomes more closely aligned to help feed in to our strategy through a more co-ordinated process.

### **How has this refresh been done?**

During 2010, we undertook a review of our ten priorities with key partners and the public to find out whether changes needed to be made to these to make sure that we continue to reflect the most pressing issues for the future in North Yorkshire. This review took the form of:

- Consultations on priorities and on the draft strategy with NYSP partners and other stakeholders, via meetings and via the internet;
- Discussions with NYSP partners at the NYSP Wider Partnership conference in October 2010;

- Using evidence collated through the seven district community strategies and the six countywide thematic partnership plans (see Appendix 1).
- Drawing on the evidence collated from key countywide plans such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Local Transport Plan 3.

The results of this process are that we have been able to identify seven priorities which will be our focus from 2011 to 2014. These are:

- Children and young people
- Economy, enterprise and employment
- Environment and climate change
- Healthier and wellbeing
- Older and vulnerable people
- Safer communities
- Stronger communities

Further information about how each of these will be delivered can be found at pages xxx to xxx.

**How we have responded: key features of our revised strategy**

*[Develop this section following main summer consultation on the draft document.]*

Our consultation highlighted that the issues identified as important in 2008 still remain important to communities in North Yorkshire. However, the changing political and economic contexts, along with other national and global pressures, have resulted in a slight shift in how these priority areas are grouped or presented.

For example, people are increasingly concerned about the impact of climate change on their communities and this has also been recognised within the new strategy. Employment is another key issue which has also been brought to the forefront of our priorities following our consultations and reflects the current economic climate and a key area for growth and improvement in North Yorkshire.

To see a copy of the summary responses to our initial consultation on the strategy's priorities, please go to [www.nysp.org.uk/consultation](http://www.nysp.org.uk/consultation) *[insert correct link]*.

Following feedback and review, there are also a number of key principles which have been applied to the writing of this revised strategy, which we hope have improved it for the reader. These include writing in plain English, giving a better explanation of what it means to be 'sustainable' or to develop 'sustainably' and a glossary of all key terms that we use.

We have also provided a comprehensive list of the key countywide and partner documents that are referenced in the strategy or that we have drawn on to write this document.

The strategy is not able to and does not intend to pick up every issue from every part of North Yorkshire, nor is it able to highlight every action that will be taken in response to an issue.

What this document **does** aim to do and achieve is:

- Clarify our key principles
- Identify cross-cutting priorities for partners, to join up our work
- Provide an opportunity for added value
- Recognise that there are different needs in different areas of the county

We want this strategy to be a working document which will continue to be reviewed every three years to make sure that we are focussing our energies on the issues which are most critical to communities.

### **Our principles**

Three years ago, we highlighted several principles or aims which applied across all of our priorities. These remain largely the same or similar, although some of the actions needed to progress them may have changed or developed over time.

- **Narrowing the gap** – No one should feel that their opportunities in life are limited due to their age, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability or where they live. We must adopt an approach that narrows existing gaps and provides accessible, affordable and exciting opportunities for everyone in the county.
- **Understand our broader impact on the local area** – (see section on Making our communities more sustainable....)
- **Develop a thriving Third Sector** - This includes recognising the value of this sector in the planning and delivery of public services and helping to build vibrant communities. We will do this by enhancing the sector's involvement in key partnerships and activities to ensure it continues to develop and thrive.
- **Invest now for a better future** - Early identification and tackling of issues is generally more effective and cheaper than later interventions. We need to work with vulnerable individuals and communities to build their capacity to respond to their own needs and to give them more control over their own lives, whilst continuing to help those in greatest need. We also need to invest in our environment and recognise the importance of accessible natural landscapes and green space to communities; to ensure its sustainable management and thereby its continued contribution to economic prosperity, social wellbeing and quality of life. We need to recognise the increasing identification of broadband internet access as a human right & strive to overcome the disadvantage encountered by communities unable to access online services.

## Setting the Scene

*[Awaiting some updated info from PRIT]*

North Yorkshire covers 3,102 square miles in area stretching from Scarborough on the North Sea coast to Bentham in the West, and from the edge of Teesside to south of the M62.

The county is a predominantly rural area and many of North Yorkshire's communities, although being diverse in nature, share the same or similar challenges and aspirations. It offers a high quality of life to many but is still a low wage economy, with pockets of serious urban disadvantage and extensive but scattered rural deprivation. For example, Woodlands and Selby North are two of the most significantly deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs)<sup>1</sup> in relation to health deprivation and disability as well as education, skills and training. These two areas also rate highest in the county in terms of deprivation linked to income.

The Leeds and Tees City Regions play a role as economic drivers which North Yorkshire contributes to and benefits from. Settlements in the south of the county have strong economic flows with the Leeds City Region, and those in the most northern parts of county have strong economic flows with the Tees City Region.

There are a wide range of partners from public, private, voluntary and community sectors responsible for the wellbeing of the county, including seven district councils and the County Council.

With a population of 591,600 (2006 mid year estimate) across 3,102 square miles, North Yorkshire is sparsely populated. The population is increasing and getting older. By 2018 it is estimated that the population will be 642,800. However, the number of people who are 65 and over will increase from about 111,400 (18.8%) in 2006 to 152,400 (23.7%) in 2018, thereby creating additional challenges to sustainable health and social care provision. By contrast, the number of people under 19 will fall from 139,100 (23.5%) in 2006 to 131,700 (20.4%) in 2018.

Whilst 21% of people live in the two major urban centres (Harrogate and Scarborough), 32% of people live in areas defined as 'sparse' (between 4.0 and 0.5 people per hectare) and 24% live in 'super sparse' areas (fewer than 0.5 people per hectare). This often makes service delivery more difficult and costly, particularly for elderly or disabled people living in rural areas. There are also fewer facilities for young people in our rural areas than for their urban counterparts.

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<sup>1</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. See [www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp) for further information. Figures taken from the Index of Deprivation 2007.

Although the 2001 Census of Population showed that just fewer than 96% of the county's population were white British, we know that considerable immigration from Eastern Europe since this time has altered the position. However, it is likely that the North Yorkshire picture will continue to follow the developing national trend of high numbers of migrants returning to parts of Eastern Europe, partly due to the current economic climate in the UK and reduced opportunities for employment.

The county is also home to a number of MoD establishments including Army and RAF bases. Catterick Garrison is the largest British Army Garrison and is nearing the end of a £500 million investment programme started in 2006. Substantial new and replacement facilities have been accompanied by a rise in population in 2008/09 of around 1200 (civil and military) and substantial economic benefits for the local and wider community. There is capacity for further growth should MoD policy and Treasury funding permit, although none is planned before 2018 in the MOD strategic plan, the Defence Estate Development Plan.

The county attracts tourism year-round and efforts are being made to sustain a longer tourist season outside of the peak period from Easter to October and to more generally improve the holiday experience. Competition for housing from second home owners and the tourism sector contribute towards making affordable housing a significant challenge in North Yorkshire.

The county has the major part of two of England's nine national parks, a stunning heritage coast, three designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, 244 sites of special scientific interest and numerous other special sites of national and international importance such as the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. There are over 12,000 listed buildings and many thousands more monuments and archaeological sites, including the Fountains Abbey world heritage site. The county is also home to a wealth of contemporary cultural assets such as important festivals, museums, galleries and sports facilities, such as the Dalby Forest Centre of Excellence for Outdoor Adventure. North Yorkshire also has a burgeoning creative industries sector which has seen growth of 16% in the last 5 years.

The combination of large upland water catchments and extensive flood plains makes the county particularly vulnerable to flooding.

Communications north/south by road and rail are good but links to the east and west are very much slower as commercial, local, agricultural and tourist traffic compete for space on predominantly two lane roads. The county's low population density makes public transport difficult to provide and those without private transport can be significantly disadvantaged.

The County still has areas of broadband "not spots" and areas which are not covered by mobile phone networks. Investment has taken place through NYnet to create a Wide Area Network bringing stable, high-speed broadband to County Council and partner sites but there are challenges in extending the benefits to citizens in their own homes. This is largely because the sparsely

populated and scattered communities do not provide large internet service providers with a sufficiently attractive commercial opportunity.

Crime is relatively low within the context of the rest of the country, but fear of crime is high and North Yorkshire does have specific problems, for example in relation to alcohol-related crime and disorder. The tourist population and intermittent habitation of large proportions of housing in some areas bring their own community safety concerns. Additionally, the demographic of the county is such that the spread of rural and urban crime presents particular challenges to those agencies with a responsibility to respond effectively.

## Three years on: the story so far

Refreshing our strategy also gives us an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over the last three years, in partnership, when working towards our aims. We received recognition for our effective work as a partnership in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment of North Yorkshire in December 2009. Particular areas of success highlighted included helping older and more vulnerable people to keep their independence (for which a 'green flag' was awarded), tackling the economic downturn and domestic abuse. Below are examples of some of the key success stories in North Yorkshire which have resulted in quality outcomes for local people, such as an improvement in services or an improvement in their general environment. They do not give us the whole 'story' of work that has been – and will be – done by partner agencies in the county, but are critical examples of how our partnership plans are put into practise to help make a difference to communities. In particular, we received recognition as a partnership

- **Better support for older and more vulnerable people**

Supporting older and more vulnerable people to live independently was - and continues to be – a key feature of our strategy. Almost 15,000 people are now being supported to live independently via the Telecare initiative in North Yorkshire, involving investments by partners in technology and extra care housing. This is around 1,000 more people than in similar areas. The 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment undertaken by the Audit Commission highlighted the “groundbreaking and sustainable improvement” which has been made to the lives of vulnerable and older people through the effective partnership working among public and private sector organisations.

- **Digital inclusion – connecting more people via the internet**

NYnet was founded in 2006 by Yorkshire Forward and North Yorkshire County Council with funding from the European Union, to provide a super-fast internet network to ensure North Yorkshire is not 'left behind' by the rest of the world in the next phase of the internet revolution. The NYnet scheme has provided faster internet coverage by establishing a network of connections at schools, libraries and local authority offices. Nynet has also been working with independent companies and communities to deliver pilot broadband schemes to rural areas such as Newton-on-Rawcliffe, which have been suffering from exclusion and isolation due to poor internet access. For example, NYnet has provided optic fibre-based internet, known as a "Fat-Pipe", to Lady Lumley's secondary school in Pickering, just four miles away from the village. The signal is then beamed wirelessly to the villages by community interest company NextGenUs UK CIC and community service provider Beeline Broadband. As a result of this initiative, residents will be able to access a broadband connection of up to 10Mbps. The scheme has benefited over 140 residents living and working in Newton-on-Rawcliffe with high-speed, next generation broadband. A second trial is due to go live by late summer 2010 to provide high-speed connections for another 400 villagers in an area of the North York Moors including Gillamoor and Hutton-le-Hole.

- **Achieving economic wellbeing in Scarborough**

The Scarborough Renaissance Partnership won the National Enterprising Town award in 2008 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Most Enterprising Town in Europe award in 2009 from the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry Directorate. These awards recognised the Partnership's success in working closely with local businesses to regenerate Scarborough town, supported by the use of NYnet's high-speed broadband technology. Scarborough has also been awarded £200k from the Government's Seaside Towns Grant to help priority seaside towns tackle long term jobless.

- **Tackling financial exclusion – the York and North Yorkshire Credit Union**

We highlighted in our 2008 strategy that the very rural nature of North Yorkshire means that it is more difficult for many people to access services and support, including financial support services. The York and North Yorkshire Credit Union was launched in 2009 to serve people who live or work in North Yorkshire, with a mission to provide secure and ethical financial services on an inclusive and not-for-profit basis. The Credit Union is of particular benefit to those on low incomes and those living in more deprived areas who need to gain access to financial support. It continues to grow and already has almost 3,000 members and community access points at several locations across the county. *[include link - [www.nycu.org.uk](http://www.nycu.org.uk)]*

- **Tackling underage drinking and related anti-social behaviour**

The Alcohol Respect Campaign (ARC) is a partnership approach between the County Council's Trading Standards department, the Police and Community Safety Partnerships to put co-ordinated action in place in identified 'hot spot' areas of underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour. ARCs are undertaken as a result of intelligence provided by the public, community safety partnerships and the police. Initiatives include work to educate traders and teenagers of the consequences of selling alcohol to underage people and also the consumption of alcohol by underage people. These have included asking local retailers to put in place a 'Challenge 21' policy through which anyone buying alcohol who appears to be under 21 years of age must provide ID. The overall objective is to ensure that alcohol is sold responsibly in order to reduce the affects of alcohol on a young person's health and/or any associated anti-social behaviour. A pilot scheme was rolled out in Bedale in 2008. Key success measures included significant reductions in recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. The initiative has since been rolled out successfully Ryedale, Tadcaster and Thirsk, with similar campaigns planned for other parts of the county.

- **Improving road safety**

Reducing the number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in road accidents remains a high priority. The number of casualties is very variable year on year so figures are measured as a three-year rolling average. The three-year average for KSI casualties in North Yorkshire has fallen from 710 in 2007 to 597 in 2009 (provisional) a reduction of 16%. The number of people killed in road accidents in North Yorkshire has fallen from 77 to 43 in the same

period. Much of this improvement has been achieved through the Education, Enforcement and Engineering activities of the '95 Alive' York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership.

- **Tackling domestic abuse – the Making Safe scheme**

The Making Safe scheme is a victim-focussed scheme which offers a multi-agency approach to reducing the repeat rates of domestic abuse. It is unique in that it is a multi-agency initiative supporting victims of domestic abuse to remain safe within their homes whilst at the same time challenging the offender's behaviour and encouraging them to seek alternative ways of resolving conflict. The Making Safe scheme was initially run in the Scarborough Borough Council and Ryedale Council areas of North Yorkshire. The scheme has now been successfully replicated across North Yorkshire. An independent evaluation of the scheme has evidenced the value of the service Making Safe is providing to families county-wide; 95.8 % of the Parents & Guardians questioned stated that there was 'nothing that could have been done better by the service.'

- **Military and civil integration**

Over 30,000 military personnel are based in North Yorkshire, which is home to three large RAF bases, the Army's largest garrison at Catterick and about 10 per cent of the regular army itself. This presents its own challenges and opportunities in terms of military/civil integration and also service provision, particularly when troops are mobilised abroad or are recovering from being away, with consequent effects on family life which in turn have implications for local services and the economy. In North Yorkshire the MoD and civil stakeholders have embarked on a Military-Civil Integration (MCI) programme aimed at ensuring that there is a structured dialogue and effective joint working with public sector partners on key areas such as health, housing, children's issues and education and economic impact. Additionally, a DVD has been produced by North Yorkshire County Council which helps chart the different stages of the emotional rollercoaster that families of soldiers experience during a soldier's deployment. Entitled "Deployment For Those Left Behind: How Will You Cope", it is intended to help families and professionals understand the possible effect of the seven identified stages on children, young people, the adult left behind and the serving soldier. Such is the success of the DVD, which has also been funded by the Ministry of Defence and the Royal British Legion, that it has been adopted by the British Army for its missions globally.

# Making our communities sustainable

To make our vision for North Yorkshire work, we need to plan for and deliver services in a way that is sustainable.

## What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development is about integrating our planning for services and spaces around social, economic and environmental factors to ensure that what is delivered to a community is of benefit for the long term. There are various definitions of what it means to have “sustainable communities”. One way of describing it is planning and delivering services which enable communities to flourish and thrive right now, without compromising the quality of life for future generations.<sup>2</sup> Characteristics of a “sustainable community” would therefore be one that is:

- well planned, built and run;
- safe and inclusive;
- thriving in terms of its local economy and opportunities;
- accessible for all with well-connected transport and services;
- culturally rich; and, crucially
- sensitive to its environment.<sup>3</sup>

## How will we know if what we deliver is sustainable?

The promotion of sustainable development underpins the whole of the planning system in North Yorkshire and an up-to-date framework of planning policies, prepared through extensive stakeholder involvement, provides an opportunity to deliver this.

In particular, the preparation of Local Development Frameworks (LDF) provides an opportunity to translate high-level objectives and priorities (derived through the SCS) into a more focussed set of policies and proposals for the infrastructure and investment that will be needed, as well as for the protection of those aspects of the environment that we wish to safeguard. We will also have to “mainstream” climate change issues into this work, as a vital aspect of sustainability. Fundamentally, LDFs are delivery documents, containing specific and measurable targets to ensure that actions contribute to sustainable development.

Furthermore, we recognise the increasingly critical importance of working towards reducing our carbon footprint when planning and delivering services and planning around the impact of climate change on our communities. To this effect, we have amended our key Environment priority in the strategy to become specifically about “Environment **and** Climate Change”. This priority will set out our aims and ambitions for working in partnership to not only ensure the continued conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the natural landscape but also to ensure that we work sustainably as agencies to

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<sup>2</sup> Definition used by Defra – see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Drawn from Defra’s definition of characteristics of a sustainable community – see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/sustainable-communities/what-makes.htm>

reduce and mitigate against the impacts of climate change, for example through promoting more sustainable travel options for communities.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

In order to check that the vision for North Yorkshire has been developed in a way that will further promote sustainability, a Sustainability Appraisal has been produced during the development of this strategy. A Sustainability Appraisal tests policies and plans against a number of environmental, economic and social questions (objectives) and goes on to suggest changes to the plan to make it more sustainable. A full copy of the Sustainability Appraisal can be found at [include hyper link/details].

## Access and inclusion

North Yorkshire is a place of opportunity with a lot to offer those who live, work and visit here.

But the large, rural nature of the county and the fact that its population is so dispersed can prove to be a barrier to people being able to make the most of its opportunities.

This means that there are some key challenges that we must address to be able to achieve our priorities. These challenges cut across our seven theme areas and they are also interlinked with one another. They can be more easily categorised as **Access** and **Inclusion**.

Difficulties in accessing the services people need can result from a lack of local services or a lack of transport to get to the services, or in many cases both.

In considering these difficulties we should think about:

- Place - difficulty accessing services because of where people live. For example in many rural areas, barriers to access may include accessing health services, post offices and lack of broadband internet.
- People – difficulty accessing services because of personal circumstances. For example, this may relate to age, wealth or disability.

In isolation either of these can result in accessibility difficulties but in combination the problems can be significantly worse.

The availability of private cars in North Yorkshire is, however, very good. The North Yorkshire Citizens' Panel survey has established that over 75% of people in the county consider their access to services to be good. Whilst this is encouraging it does mean that difficulties with access are often acute but very localised to small pockets, often across large areas. Addressing these can often be difficult. Good quality, affordable public and community transport is one of the key means of improving access for people who do not have private transport.

However, removing barriers to access and connecting people to services is not purely about better transport. Yorkshire has the lowest rate of internet connection in the country. 64 per cent of people are online compared with a national average of 71 per cent and vast swathes of East and North Yorkshire still cannot get broadband at all. According to Yorkshire Forward statistics, 95 per cent of businesses in North Yorkshire have access to the internet but only 84 per cent of these have a broadband connection. In order for the county to be well connected it is essential to utilise communication technologies. However, major internet providers often struggle to see the economic benefits of investing in such sophisticated infrastructure in a sparsely populated area. Many residents living in isolated parts of North Yorkshire are having to rely on

outdated dial-up internet connections, which are excruciatingly slow and do not have the necessary bandwidth to send large documents and attachments online. Recent successes and pilot work being undertaken with communities to improve their 'digital inclusion' (see "Three Years On: The Story So Far") show that it is possible to overcome this issue but the model requires significant investment and mobilisation of communities to become a widespread success.

We also need to improve how we provide our services, as partner agencies, in a way that makes it easier for communities to contact us and receive basic information. The North Yorkshire Connect Partnership brings together the County Council and seven district councils as well as the City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police and the National Park Authorities with the aim of extending customer access in a sustainable manner and offering value for money by working together. Citizens can walk into district council Customer Service sites such as Access Selby or Richmond Community Office or any NYCC Library and be given basic information about partner services or be supported in making contact with the service provider. Customers are not told that they have come to the wrong place as staff work together to make sure that citizens receive the services they need as quickly and easily as possible.

We need to continue to build on such initiatives in the longer term to improve communities' access to services.

We also need to be mindful that, whilst offering a good quality of life to many, there exist considerable gaps between wealth and poverty, healthy and sick, accessible and remote in North Yorkshire. We need to work to close the gap between those whose quality of life, health and general wellbeing is poor and those with better quality of life. We will also ensure that the county's more vulnerable groups are supported in engaging with us as agencies and in feeling confident about using our services.

The dispersed nature of North Yorkshire also means that financial inclusion can be an issue for some. The York and North Yorkshire Credit Union is of particular benefit to those on low incomes and those living in more deprived areas who need to gain access to financial support (see also page xxx).

*[Insert more text here about recent financial capability work and what still needs to be done]*

We have highlighted against each of our seven priorities some of the particular challenges faced in ensuring better access and inclusion.

## **Our seven priority areas for 2011/14**

Our consultations during 2010 have helped us to understand whether the priorities we had in 2008 needed to be changed or removed altogether for the next three years – or whether there were new areas to bring out.

On the basis of this we have refined our approach and have now grouped our aims under seven priority areas which we will focus on for the period from 2011 to 2014.

These are:

**Children and young people**  
**Economy, enterprise and employment**  
**Environment and climate change**  
**Health and wellbeing**  
**Older and vulnerable people**  
**Safer communities**  
**Stronger communities**

We will be measured on our performance against these priorities through the specific targets and outcomes which are realised within the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement (see also section XX).

As it is this strategy that underpins the LAA, prior to each annual review of the LAA, we will review the evidence and the priorities so as to ensure that the priorities still accurately reflect the needs of North Yorkshire.

## Children and Young People

North Yorkshire is home to 139,100 children and young people. Of these, a large proportion experience good health, progress well educationally, live in safety, are economically secure, and enjoy a successful transition into adulthood. Many children and young people do well in all sorts of ways. Not all of them, however, and not in every way. Childhood and adolescence are periods of astonishing growth and development which combine great hope with great risk. The North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership recognises the importance of supporting all children and young people through these dynamic and vulnerable life stages.

By working together through the Children's Trust we aim to make North Yorkshire one of the best places in the country for children and young people, their parents and carers and the people who work with them. Through the Children and Young People's Plan we support children and young people to:

**Adopt healthy lifestyles:** so that children and young people can participate in physical exercise and benefit from healthy eating, can enjoy good mental and emotional health, and can receive suitable advice and support regarding drugs, alcohol, and sexual health, and receive good health care when they need it.

**Be safe and feel safe:** so that children and young people are free from maltreatment, abuse, violence and neglect, can live in caring and stable households, are protected from accidents, and are not victims of bullying and discrimination or criminal and antisocial behaviour.

**Enjoy and achieve both in and out of school:** so that children and young people grow up ready for school life; they attend and enjoy their school, can fulfil their potential through academic and vocational activities, and have opportunities for recreation, culture and personal development.

**Make a positive contribution to their communities:** so that children and young people can have a say in decisions that affect them (such as in their school or local community), can develop positive relationships with others and be law-abiding citizens, and can pursue enterprising activities which enhance their communities.

**Achieve economic security and a successful transition to adulthood:** so that children and young people can live in decent homes free from poverty, are ready for employment and can pursue training and education after leaving school, and can access reliable transport to help them get around.

Our Priorities: We aim to:

- **Keep children and young people safe:** enhance safeguarding, child protection and services for looked after children.
- **Support children with disabilities:** improve the quality and coverage of services and support for disabled children and their families.
- **Improve education and skills:** maintain high standards of educational attainment at all key stages, support pupils and schools which perform less well, and ensure all young people can access in education, training and employment.
- **Support parents and families:** provide a range of multi-agency local preventative services to support vulnerable parents and families.
- **Reduce youth offending:** reduce crime and antisocial behaviour by children and young people, and improve outcomes for young offenders

**Access/Inclusion: Integrated Services in Localities** The Children's Trust strategy for delivering localised multi-agency preventative services includes children's centres, extended schools, parenting support, and other targeted and outreach provision. These services enable children, young people and their families, including the most vulnerable and hard to reach groups, to access a range of help and support in and around their communities. We aim to join-up more provision including family support, health, and social care services, to further improve the services delivered.

**Narrowing The Gap: Child Poverty Strategy** The Children's Trust is leading the work to develop a child poverty strategy for North Yorkshire. Experience of poverty can damage the development and life chances of children and young people, adversely affecting their educational, social and economic prospects as they progress towards adulthood. Child poverty is a cross-cutting issue which demands a multi-agency response. The child poverty strategy will aim to support families affected by poverty now, and to improve outcomes for those children who experience poverty, including educational attainment, housing, family stability, and opportunities for training and employment.

## **Economy, Enterprise and Employment**

*[Awaiting further comments/clarification from BES/ w/c 7 June 2010]*

This is one of the key elements that underpin sustainable communities and quality of life. Our vision incorporates an aspiration to develop sustainable communities which enable everyone who participates to flourish and which are a place of opportunity for all.

To realise this, we must continue to develop employment opportunities across the county, improve our infrastructure and the quality of our workforce. We need to attract and retain dynamic entrepreneurs and capitalise on the city regions of Leeds and Teesside for the benefit of all North Yorkshire. We must also ensure that appropriate support is provided for rural businesses, agriculture and market towns.

The state of the county's economy is mixed. North Yorkshire's economy is reliant on a smaller working age population than elsewhere in the region and the country. Employment opportunities, quality of work available and salaries offered are inconsistent across the county, with variances in relation to location and gender. Supporting entrepreneurship is key to helping people move from low paid to higher paid jobs and the county is supporting the development of broadband. We must also improve access to training and employment for more vulnerable groups.

We must recognise the value of North Yorkshire's stunning environment and heritage to its economic success. We must also invest long-term in a year-round, sustainable tourist industry which includes the key contributions of business tourism in Harrogate and tourism in other popular areas such as the National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the coast.

Creative industries also represent a significant contribution to the region's economy. For example, there are over 35 museums in North Yorkshire, each attracting between 4,000 and 300,000 visits each year. We must therefore encourage greater participation in the arts from within local communities and utilise the benefits of cultural engagement to promote wider cohesion and wellbeing.

Good transport links are essential to businesses and connectivity is about how easy it is to move people and goods around the county, to other parts of the country and the rest of the world. Businesses usually identify the reliability of journey times rather than the absolute journey times as being the key transport issue. The Local Transport Plan 3 sets out how the County Council and other partners will maintain the highway network to allow the economy to function and how where possible we will seek to improve journey times and reliability by reducing congestion on long distance routes and in our main towns.

We also need to improve our connectivity via better, more widespread broadband connection. Developing this will, in turn, attract more businesses to locate themselves in North Yorkshire, will connect our young people to

more opportunities and will enhance our tourism offer to communities inside and outside of the county.

The Sub-Regional Investment Plan has also identified that there is a need to support long-term plans for the regeneration of the county's coastal strip and diversification of its economic base. The focus of activities should be the stimulation of new enterprise to generate local employment opportunities, modernising the tourism and leisure product and further developing cultural and creative industries, addressing the problems of economic inactivity and concentrations of deprivation in particular neighbourhoods and ensuring new private sector led developments.

Through a co-ordinated approach we will strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of our existing businesses, encourage entrepreneurship and promote North Yorkshire globally as a preferred business location and key place to invest.

The county's residents and workforce will have increased access to skills provision and training in areas and sectors which are most likely to result in fulfilling and sustainable employment. Promoting and supporting opportunities for all within further and higher education will be key in securing social mobility, the retention of our young people and also job creation.

We will support the economy of the county by improving digital and physical accessibility, and by safeguarding and enhancing the natural and heritage assets, capitalising upon the economic opportunities that they present.

We aim to:

- Stimulate and support enterprise and an enterprising culture.
- Develop a contemporary, high quality cultural and environmental offer.
- Attract and develop knowledgeable and creative people.
- Ensure a connected sub-region through the improvement of ICT infrastructure.

### **Access and inclusion**

- North Yorkshire cannot thrive in isolation. We will therefore aim to ensure strong inter-urban and cross-boundary transport links and services to support the free movement of people and goods. This includes supporting community transport and 'wheels to work' initiatives through to large scale mass public transport such as contributing to measures to improve rail capacity on the York - Harrogate - Leeds rail line, or Park and Ride services in Scarborough.
- With a view to the longer term, transport planners and land use planners are now working more closely to ensure that new housing and employment development is located to reduce the need to travel and hence improve access to employment opportunities for people.

- More text on apprenticeships and opportunities for those young people who have been out of work for some time? We will improve access to training and employment for more vulnerable groups etc etc.

## **Environment and Climate Change**

North Yorkshire is one of the most beautiful and varied counties in the country, with stunning countryside and coast and a rich, historic and cultural heritage. Our vision is for communities to see their high-quality environmental and historic assets, the landscape, wildlife, community green spaces, historic features, rivers and coast - North Yorkshire's 'green infrastructure' – protected and enhanced. They are key to the county's economic prosperity and to the quality of life it offers its residents.

Large parts of the county are vulnerable to flooding, but improvement management of the county's extensive flood plains and large upland water catchments can help protect downstream communities and businesses whilst also providing other environmental benefits. Our coastal areas are also under threat through coastal erosion and poor sea water quality is a threat to our beaches and tourism.

Global warming and climate change are fundamental issues for the county. We will make our contribution to tackling these by reducing carbon dioxide emissions through a variety of partners' programmes and local level renewable energy schemes, as well as safeguarding moorland and woodland carbon stores. These efforts include action to reduce operational buildings emissions including schools and community emissions together with programmes to improve the energy efficiency of the residential and business sectors throughout North Yorkshire. There will be opportunities for local level renewable energy, for example, small scale hydro electricity and wood fuel heat generation.

The county's expansive moorland areas have a massive role to play in locking up and storing carbon dioxide emissions. Upland peat deposits and woodlands, besides being important habitats, represent major, captured stores of CO<sub>2</sub>. Unless the upland moors are managed appropriately, they could dry out and release huge quantities of carbon into the atmosphere and nullify efforts to reduce emissions.

Waste management is a particular challenge in North Yorkshire because of the past reliance on relatively inexpensive landfill and increasing pressure to reduce this method of disposal. Bio-diversity acts as a mirror of the way we treat our increasingly stressed environment and could be seen as a measure of the wider economic and social benefits that the environment offers. We must protect and reinforce green corridors to maximise their benefits to local communities along which species can move to increase their territories and in response to climate change.

Transport also has an impact on, and is affected by, the environment. We must reduce the ever-increasing emissions from traffic and transport. Environment and Climate change is therefore also one of the key Objectives of the Local Transport Plan (LTP). This sets out how we will reduce the contribution of transport to climate change by seeking to reduce people's need to travel (through encouraging behavioural change, local delivery of services and improved land use planning) and encouraging and facilitating the use of lower carbon modes of travel (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport). The LTP also sets out the measures we will take to adapt to the climate change that is already happening. This includes new drainage and flood prevention procedures and measures to improve the resilience of transport to extreme weather events.

The LTP also adopts a new 'highway construction manual' which includes details of different methods and materials to be used where appropriate in highway schemes in sensitive and protected environments such as conservation areas, national parks and AONB's.

With a view to the longer term, transport planners and land use planners are now working more closely to ensure that new housing and employment development is located to reduce the need to travel and hence the impacts on the environment.

We aim to:

- Contribute to combating global warming through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding and adding to carbon sinks.
- Reduce waste to landfill and increase recycling.
- Conserve and enhance networks of green spaces, biodiversity, natural habitats, landscape and built environments for the wider economic and social benefits these environmental assets offer.
- Develop solutions to reduce the risk, and mitigate against the impact, of flooding and use non-engineered flood defence systems as opportunities to enhance habitats whilst at the same time contributing to protecting businesses and communities from flooding.
- Support and encourage greater involvement of commercial interests in environmental and conservation issues.

### **Access and inclusion**

- We will continue to encourage newer, less polluting buses and to promote wider use of public transport to reduce the environmental impact of travel.
- North Yorkshire is well endowed with many landscapes and heritage attractions. To reap the full benefits of these we will need to sympathetically manage the landscape to sustain its diverse and attractive qualities, and find way to create, manage and promote facilities (footpaths, car parks, connections to public transport, local and regional promotion and information provision) that allow people of every ability and from every community to enjoy, appreciate and gain a sense of place from the area in which they live.

## Health and wellbeing

*[Awaiting comments from Helen Christmas]*

In North Yorkshire residents are generally healthy by national standards and we would like to maintain that. In order to do this the focus of work needs to be on prevention of health issues such as obesity, serious illness due to smoking or alcohol misuse and more widely reducing health inequalities across the County.

This focus will ensure that we tackle issues of particular concern at local levels around the county, alongside delivery of the 'mainstream' agenda to improve diet and exercise generally. For example Scarborough experiences the lowest male life expectancy and the highest rates of teenage pregnancy and alcohol and substance misuse in North Yorkshire. We will promote effective partnership and cross-agency working to help tackle such issues.

*Need to include more on alcohol harm reduction – highlight that this issue is cross-referenced for delivery under 'Safer' and Children's' as well.*

We will reduce childhood obesity and promote physical activity across all age groups and take advantage of opportunities afforded by the 2012 Olympics in achieving this and in promoting the Five Hour Offer for young people. We will also provide access to greater, more targeted activities and by making our communities safer and more accessible for the enjoyment of regular activities such as walking and cycling.

We aim to:

- Reduce obesity amongst primary school children.
- Increase adult physical activity - as this impacts on many other aspects of health.
- Encourage participation in sport, countryside recreation and volunteering as part of a healthy lifestyle. As part of this, we will also encourage active travel such as walking and cycling as a means of introducing exercise into peoples everyday lives.
- Reduce smoking.
- Target areas and groups with the greatest health inequalities.
- Ensure that particularly vulnerable individuals with complex and challenging needs are able to access the range of community services which they need.

### Access and inclusion

- Generally in the county, access to healthcare facilities by public transport walking or cycling is below the national average. This difference is particularly marked in Ryedale where a third fewer people have easy access to a GP surgery. We have found that flexible or community based transport is effective in improving access, particularly for health services, in rural areas and have made good progress over the past few years in increasing its availability and use. We will aim to build on this over the coming years.

- examples around how we will be (and are) tackling health inequalities, for example.

## Older and Vulnerable People

All of our communities should be good places to grow older, where the independence, wellbeing and participation of older people is supported and developed and where the challenges and opportunities of an ageing society are addressed.

An ageing society is no longer coming tomorrow; it is here with us today. In North Yorkshire, the number of people who are 65 and over will increase from 111,400 (18.8% of the population) in 2006 to 152,400 (23.7%) in 2018. We will see more people with dementia, with a projected 78% increase by 2025. The communities of North Yorkshire also have people who are vulnerable for other reasons due to a disability or having long term conditions and we must take account of those needs and aspirations as well.

This presents real opportunities, but also raises challenges for all of us in North Yorkshire. It is now more important than ever to recognise the needs and changing aspirations of increasing numbers of older people and to commission and deliver services in the most effective way. It is vital that we listen to and address the needs of today's older people, and prepare for the future.

We will therefore work to support and promote a healthy and active older community within North Yorkshire, ensuring that they have access to key services, are safeguarded within their communities and are able to become more involved in healthy, recreational activities. ***[Add something about the key role of carers – including older people as carers?]***

However, we must also recognise that a considerable increase in the number of older people living in North Yorkshire will necessarily create substantial challenges for not just health and social care providers but for all organisations across the county.

Partners are working together to transform services to fit with this changing world and these will be driven through North Yorkshire's Strategic Commissioning for Independence, Well being & Choice Strategy *[insert link?]* and informed by the voice of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment *[link]* The partners will also work together to deliver the 'Putting People First' concordat *[link]*.

We aim to:

- Safeguard all vulnerable people in our communities.
- Provide dignity and respect in care - which contributes to older and vulnerable people's well being and is ultimately what makes their lives worth living.
- Support people to live as independently as possible in their own homes.
- Give people choice and control over the way they have their support needs met and enable them to make informed choices relating to their independence and well-being.

- Promote healthy ageing and active involvement in the local community.
- Ensure joint planning and commissioning of support and care services.
- Ensure equal access to services for all and ensure that all key services are 'age-proofed'.

### **Access and inclusion**

- The future development of Extra Care schemes will ensure that they are accessible to all vulnerable people in the community and not just those people whose vulnerabilities relate to age.
- The Partnership Boards include people who use services in order to provide a challenge to strategy and policies. The Boards raise relevant issues such as (for the Older People's Partnership Board) loneliness and fuel poverty.
- Public libraries run regular sessions which encourage and support older people to develop digital skills so that they can use online services.
- The North Yorkshire Dementia network aims to promote collaborative working across agencies, professional groups, users and carers and the voluntary and independent sectors. The network will inform and actively support the implementation of the North Yorkshire and York dementia strategy and provide better outcomes for people with dementia and their carers.
- We are addressing the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people in the gypsy and traveller through improved management arrangements on sites and through a housing support service, along with developing a wider approach through the NYSP.

## **Safer Communities**

*[Awaiting further comments from the Safer Forum/June 2010]*

Sustainable communities are safe and inclusive. A fundamental part of our overarching vision is therefore to reduce crime and make our communities safe and secure places in which people and economies can flourish and thrive.

North Yorkshire has the third lowest crime rate in the country and continues to see year on year reductions in the number of offences reported. The latest information shows a reduction in crime of 13%, from 48,563 crimes reported to 42,248 *[which year?]*. Despite the reductions that have been achieved, the county continues to face specific issues such as violent crime, anti-social behaviour and road safety. All three of these priority areas have seen reductions, yet they continue to cause the most concerns to the partnership and to the local communities. Alcohol is also a specific issue which is cross-cutting in nature, impacting on all of the priority areas as well as many other crime and disorder types.

The Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have developed a wealth of information on the importance, relevance and levels of concern of community safety issues in each district and play a vital role in listening to the concerns that communities themselves raise. We will support such partnerships and take a joint approach to the reduction of crime, re-offending and to increasing the perception of safety. We must also take a joint approach to the role that substance and alcohol misuse play in harming the safety of our communities. The York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum will work closely with local CSPs to complement and co-ordinate existing work and to ensure that local communities see positive outcomes to concerns raised.

The demographic of North Yorkshire is such that we must provide particular support and education to older and more vulnerable people by working effectively in partnership to tackle doorstep crime and support communities in confidently implementing "No Cold Calling Zones".

Making our communities safer and more secure is not purely about crime prevention and reduction though. In 2009 in North Yorkshire 2,755 people were killed or injured in road accidents. This included 77 serious injuries and 43 deaths. Improving road safety must therefore be seen as a high priority to ensuring that our communities are safer places for both permanent and transient members of our communities. The refreshed York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership will continue to address road safety issues through encouraging behavioural changes and where necessary through physical improvements to the highway network.

We aim to:

- Reduce the re-offending rate, particularly by young offenders.
- Tackle the issue of domestic abuse.
- Reduce the fear of crime.

- Support partnership-working between agencies responsible for environmental and transport planning, along with others such as the police, to reduce the number of deaths or serious injuries as a result of road traffic accidents.

#### **Access and inclusion**

- Engaging face-to-face with local communities is key to Community Safety Partnerships understanding local people's community safety concerns and identifying local priorities. The CSPs will continue to hold 'Face the People' events at community fairs and roadshows in areas of North Yorkshire which will facilitate even the more remote communities to engage with partners.
- We have set up XXX centres across North Yorkshire in 2009/10 for the reporting of hate crimes. We want to make these centres somewhere that all people within the community feel safe and comfortable about using. We will, in particular, continue to make adaptations to and review our locations and processes for the reporting of hate crimes to ensure that they can be easily used by those people who have learning disabilities.

## **Stronger Communities**

Strong communities are places where people get on well together, have good access to services and where they are given the opportunity to be able to live and work in their local community.

### **Housing for all...**

Housing affordability is probably one of the greatest issues facing North Yorkshire as house prices are high compared to average earnings. This results in difficulties for local people finding suitable accommodation that they can afford in the areas they want to live and, in more extreme cases, results in homelessness. The issue of affordability is compounded by a high level of second home ownership, particularly in rural areas, coastal areas and National Parks.

North Yorkshire's ageing population creates challenges not only in ensuring provision of specialist appropriate affordable housing for those who need it, but also ensuring that people can remain sustainably in their own homes if that is their choice. We need to ensure access to housing and support by implementing choice-based lettings and improved housing services and assistance for specific vulnerable groups. These include women who have experienced domestic abuse, young people, ex-offenders, people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities and single people moving from temporary accommodation to sustainable housing.

Whilst we have increased significantly over the past few years the number of new affordable homes delivered, public investment is limited and we therefore need to make sure that the investment that is available is targeted in areas where we can deliver and make the most difference, as well as exploring other funding options to tackle the sub-region's housing priorities.

We also recognise that our existing homes are our most valuable resource and that we need to look after best use of them.

Housing also has an impact on other aspects of our communities and contributes to providing employment, financial inclusion and improving the energy efficiency of existing and new homes. Through the Homelessness Prevention Strategy we have reduced the risk of people becoming homeless, but of course the economic climate makes this an ongoing concern and we will have to continue to work hard at this.

### **Bringing people together...**

North Yorkshire may appear to be a largely mono-cultural County with few residents from ethnic minorities. However there are residents representing all of the 16 ethnic categories, spread across all districts of the County. We recognise and will celebrate the positive impact that this blend of cultures has on communities in North Yorkshire. We will do this by working towards enhancing wider understanding of the role that cultural difference plays in creating strong and vibrant communities and will enable greater integration of those from ethnic minorities.

The ethnic mix of the county is now also being strongly influenced by migration from Eastern Europe. The exact size of this population is not known but we do know that during the current economic downturn new arrivals are much reduced. Most are single and of working age, returning to home countries within a couple of years. Smaller numbers bring children with them and settle for the longer term. Overall research tells us that they are net contributors to the economy rather than service users. They principally work across the food processing, catering, hospitality, construction and agricultural sectors. Partners will need to work together to ensure that new migrants to the county are helped to adapt to their new home, by supporting the learning of English, skills training and making sure that they have advice about such things as driving, UK legal issues and access to health services. Additionally, partners need to work together effectively to manage and find solutions to the additional pressures related to this migrant population. This includes affordable housing and an increased need for community safety initiatives.

There has been a significant piece of research looking at the impact of new arrivals and their needs. This identified the need for information to be made available in a range of languages. Partners have developed a Welcome Pack [*include web link*] that provides information on our way of life, expectations of newcomers and details of how to access essential services and support. This has been well received by both longstanding and new arrivals to the county, whatever their background or place of origin.

To help realise our vision for North Yorkshire as a place of equal opportunity and a county in which support is provided for those who need it, we need to encourage greater participation in community-based recreation as ways of promoting community cohesion. We must also provide opportunities for people to become involved in decision-making on their locality.

Strong communities are also places where people are easily able to access key services. 82.5% of the county's population in March 2010 were within 5 miles of a Joint Access Centre, providing mediated access to council services. We need to continue to build on such successes and find ways in which key services can be readily accessed by all, even those living in the remotest communities.

We aim to:

- Increase the percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- Better understand and tackle localised challenges to community cohesion that may arise by improving our intelligence base and using an effective multi-agency approach to develop solutions.
- Increase participation in volunteering and community-based activities.
- Increase the amount of affordable housing available to local people to ensure that they have the choice and opportunity to live and work in their community

- Provide older and also vulnerable groups with affordable accommodation and appropriate support to enable independent living and integration into their surrounding community. These include young people at risk, people who have complex needs, including people with substance misuse problems, mental health and learning disabilities, ex-offenders, gypsies and travellers, women experiencing domestic abuse and migrant workers in poor-quality tied accommodation.
- Work to prevent homelessness occurring, through advice services, mediation and support.
- Complete a review of services to prevent the homelessness of young people.

### **Access and inclusion**

- 186 new extra care units were delivered during 2009/10 and xxx new extra care apartments are currently under construction.
- The North Yorkshire Choice Based Lettings scheme aims to deliver a single housing register with all homes allocated according to a new joint allocations policy. This policy is predicated on a number of principles – to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, to make best use of the existing stock and to promote flexibility and fairness in the allocation of scarce affordable housing. A further priority is to expand the scheme to allow for the promotion and marketing of a much wider range of housing options, as well as access to high quality, consistent advice across the partnership area.
- Add a cohesion example?
- The North Yorkshire Housing Partnership has undertaken sub-regional research projects to inform our strategic approach, particularly in relation to difficult to reach groups:
  - a sub regional research project has been completed looking at the needs of the gypsy and traveller community
  - an additional project was added on to the above project looking specifically at the needs of show people
  - a sub regional research project has been completed looking at the needs of BME communities and migrant workers
- xx people were prevented from becoming homeless and a range of services including mediation for young people and supported lodgings services were developed to support this.

## Making it happen

The NYSP has overall responsibility for making sure that the commitments outlined within the seven priority areas are delivered.

### Who is involved?

Following a period of consultation and review in 2009/10, some changes have been made to the NYSP structure to ensure that each group continues to provide value and deliver quality outcomes.

The NYSP is now made up of three key component groups, which meets as part of a wider sub-regional structure and contributes to the strategic direction of the NYSP.

The **Wider Partnership** is the largest group, functioning largely 'virtually' (through electronic newsletters and consultations) and through an annual conference, which acts as a forum for briefing, networking and steering the direction of NYSP policy and the content of the LAA. It is open to all organisations and partnerships interested in the wellbeing of North Yorkshire's communities.

The **NYSP Executive** is effectively the 'Board' of the NYSP and ensures that the priorities of the strategy are progressing effectively. Membership comprises chief executives of the principal public sector agencies in the county together with representatives of the voluntary and community and business sectors.

The six **Thematic Partnerships** each have their own detailed plans for delivering against thematic issues and are responsible for monitoring their delivery. The Thematic Partnerships are:

- Adults Strategic Partnership
- Economy and Skills Board
- Healthier Communities Strategic Partnership
- North Yorkshire Children's Trust
- Stronger/Rural Partnership
- York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum

The Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA also obtain the approval of the leaders of the district councils in North Yorkshire and the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Primary Care Trust, the Police Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authorities. This change follows the consultation on the NYSP structure in 2009/10.

**[Insert diagram here to show information flows between district LSPs and the NYSP and links between communities and county plans etc]**

### **The Policy Framework**

A number of other important countywide and national plans, strategies and frameworks also feed into the development of this strategy. Some of these are given specific mention within our priorities. We are unable to reference them all under each priority but they include, as follows:

*[include embedded web links to each plan, where possible, for the web-based version]*

- The Sustainable Community Strategies of North Yorkshire's seven district councils
- The Local Development Frameworks of North Yorkshire's seven district councils
- The Children and Young People's Plan
- The North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2016)
- The North Yorkshire Housing Strategy (in development)
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment
- The Regional Economic Assessment (in development)
- The North Yorkshire Compact
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy
- The Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework
- The North Yorkshire Countryside Strategy (in development)
- Let's Talk Less Rubbish

These strategies are all delivered by different partnerships and organisations who have told us about their key challenges and priorities for the next few years so that these could help shape this revised strategy.

### **How will we measure how well we are doing?**

Progress by NYSP partners against the aims of this Strategy will continue to be measured in the next three years through our delivery plan, the Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement signed between NYSP partners and central government which sets out specific targets for how the NYSP will achieve its vision against each of the seven priorities. Section xxx ("Three Years On: The Story So Far") highlights some of the achievements realised under the LAA 2008/11. The LAA has been reviewed in tandem with the refresh of the Strategy to make sure that it translates any changes in priorities into a new three-year delivery plan for 2011 to 2014.

The targets in the North Yorkshire LAA 2011/14 are focused on a limited set of designated targets, drawn from the National Indicator Set (NIS), 16 statutory education and early years targets prescribed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and a number of local non-designated targets that can be drawn from the NIS or can be locally determined. *[To be amended following consultation with TPs and post-election]*

## **DRAFT \_NYSP Exec (version 0.4)\_as at 14 June 2010**

Progress against the targets in the LAA will be monitored quarterly by the six Thematic Partnerships (TPs) and by the NYSP Executive. The Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (GOYH) will also receive a progress report at six monthly intervals. The progress reports will continue to be made available to view on the NYSP website [www.nysp.org.uk](http://www.nysp.org.uk).

North Yorkshire County Council is the accountable body for the LAA and is:

- responsible for supporting and facilitating the management of the LAA
- accountable for the proper use of funds managed through the LAA
- responsible for checking all LAA expenditure and financial returns to central Government
- responsible for the preparation of overall financial monitoring reports.

[Click here to download a PDF copy of the LAA.](#)

In addition to its own performance framework, the NYSP's performance is also monitored by other bodies such as GOYH and NYCC's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The NYSP Executive and Thematic Partnerships all have governance arrangements in place which are reviewed regularly. Copies of governance documents can be found at [www.nysp.org.uk](http://www.nysp.org.uk).