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Responses to Phase 1 of Sustainable Community Strategy Refresh – January to March 2010 (as at 31st March 2010)

This table **summarises** responses received from partners regarding the current priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Detailed feedback in relation to Local Area Agreement targets has been fed into that development process and will be dependent on agreement of the strategy's core priorities.

	Group/Organisation/Name	Comments Received
1	Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Learning Disability Partnership Board Task Group Chairs	<p>Access to services and public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bus passes for those with learning disabilities should start earlier in the morning to enable more take-up of work opportunities. <p>Affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to ensure the right variety of housing for people. - Need to build the housing where the opportunities are. <p>Community safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important to people with learning disabilities to have places they can go to in the community where they feel safe, not just about having centres for reporting hate crimes.
2	Harrogate & Craven Self-Advocacy Group	<p>Access to services and public transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concerns about the age and condition of buses in the Harrogate area. - Wheelchair users need more assistance on the county's trains, for example in getting help with ramps on and off trains – this can be hit and miss. - Could be more facilities for wheelchair users on buses to help them feel more secure, such as belts to help strap the chair securely on the bus. <p>Economy and enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are limited employment opportunities for vulnerable people, particularly during the recession. This is a national issue. - Many companies don't make the application and appraisal/supervision processes accessible for people with learning disabilities. Forms are difficult to complete and understand. - Companies should respond to those who have not been successful in getting a post. It's about giving some respect/dignity. <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many people do want to recycle more at home but are not enabled to do so as councils do not all collect the same things and do not collect everything. - Not easy to get to recycling points (such as the local tip or supermarket recycling points) if

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		<p>you are disabled.</p> <p>Older people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to have more clubs/activities for those of retirement age who have learning disabilities.
3	Not given (individual response)	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>No further priorities to add to the list.</p> <p>“If all the ten priorities were met Craven would be a small part of a very much improved North Yorkshire – whatever age you are.”</p>
4	John Blevins	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>No further priorities to add to the list.</p> <p>“We need super fast broadband enabled exchanges to truly maximise the social and economic benefits of the digital revolution, WiFi and satellite offers a max 4MB but practical experience shows it is usually between 1-2MB. Fibre optic cables are being put in all area of the UK except North Yorkshire and we will be left behind and the digital divide will widen.”</p>
5	York St John University.	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>No further priorities to add to the list.</p> <p>“It would be appropriate to refer to the role of higher education (or even tertiary education) somewhere in the strategy given the critical economic and social importance of higher level skills development and the well-known major contribution which the experience makes to wellbeing, social mobility, retention of young people in an area and job creation. The absence of reference to this is disappointing and unusual in comparison to other regions.”</p>
6	Not given (individual response)	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>New priorities: Access to Services / Increase awareness of barriers to service provision experienced by gypsies/travellers and other minority ethnic groups and improve access.</p> <p>“Affordable housing” should be changed to “affordable accommodation” to include groups who</p>

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		prefer to live in caravans or mobile homes.”
7	North York Moors National Park Authority	Stress the importance of maintaining the ‘environment’ as a high priority, and to include under the point on page 7 of the existing LAA (revised March 09) landscape (currently omitted) as follows; Conserve and enhance landscape, biodiversity, natural habitats and the natural and built environments.
8	Youth Justice Service	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities. No further priorities to add to the list.
9	Kirkbymoorside Town Council.	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities. Need to add the following new priority - Infrastructure improvement: 1. Storm water and drainage provision; water harvesting and conservation; slowing down the drainage rate off the upper water course to alleviate flooding levels; avoiding any sizeable development in areas suffering from inadequate storm water provision or in existing flood zones. 2. Balancing the timing of employment / residential development to encourage more local employment rather than dormitory communities with excessive loads on stretched public transport – and ensuring infrastructure provision is adequate before building. 3. (Sensibly!) Relaxing the planning constraints on construction / installation of renewable energy sources; easy to say but no doubt problematic!
10	Elizabeth Hodgson	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities. Access to services and public transport. Please look into Personal Rapid Transport as an alternative to buses and cars and trains. There is a website under that name or you could look up Taxi 2000. This is not just a pipe dream, but a vital necessity to take action not to make it available very soon. We could be the first to have it up and running and sell it throughout the world. What a boost to our economy, converting car manufacture to Personal Rapid Transport.
11	NY Fire & Rescue Service	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.

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		<p>No further priorities to add to the list.</p> <p>Within the community safety priority we would like to see a greater emphasis on road safety as, despite improvements, the County still has a high number of road deaths and injuries.</p>
12	Foundation Housing	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>Homeless prevention services should be added to the priorities.</p> <p>“Provision of affordable housing does not go far enough although it is necessary in an area of high cost and high demand like NY. Homeless prevention is essential especially for young people.”</p>
13	Sanctuary Housing	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>Need to add financial inclusion and dealing with issues around overcrowding/underoccupation. Also the worklessness agenda needs to be looked at.</p>
14	Craven District Council (Private Sector Housing)	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>Unsure which if any of the priorities this would fall under, but I think the issue of closed and in some cases boarded up public houses needs to be addressed in small rural villages.</p>
15	Chevin Housing Group	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>It’s vital to ensure that affordable housing does not drop off this list as this is an absolutely crucial factor in people’s health, wellbeing, educational attainment and quality of life. Without making affordable housing a priority, it will be much harder to achieve some of the other priorities in the Strategy.</p>
16	Craven Older People’s Reference Group	<p>The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities.</p> <p>Access to buildings and toilets etc for disabled people where activities are held including meetings.</p>
17	North Yorkshire Older People’s Partnership Board	<p>The Board agrees that the current 10 priorities of the strategy still reflect the needs and priorities of local communities in North Yorkshire.</p>

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		<p>It is worth pointing out that a lot is dependent upon the breakdown of the priorities to ensure that the needs of older people are reflected in those that are ‘cross – curricular’. This is clear in housing. However an example where this might not be the case is in the alcohol strategy. Are the needs of older men taken into account as a group noted to have rising needs in this area?</p> <p>It was also felt that within the priorities there needs to be more focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel poverty and taking people out of it • Suitable housing for older people in order to create more mixed communities and estates • Action to tackle the growing Dementia problem across N.Yorks • Equality in Community Transport across the county, but also the maintenance of other viable transport services • Digital inclusion especially for hard to reach groups – linking in with current Government priorities and programmes • Social isolation and exclusion.
18	Craven District Council (Strategic Housing Team)	<p>Economy & Enterprise is no longer a critical priority for communities.</p> <p>Need to add reducing homelessness through prevention – providing holistic advice and support and promoting financial inclusion.</p> <p>“Reducing levels of homelessness will only be maintained if we continue to invest in and develop new initiatives to prevent families and single vulnerable people from reaching crisis point.”</p>
19	Harrogate District Strategic Partnership	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities. There are no new priorities to add to the list.
20	Ryedale Strategic Partnership	No further priorities to add to the list. Current priorities still reflect needs of communities.
21	Age Concern, Clapham	The current ten priorities still reflect the needs of communities. There are no new priorities to add to the list.
22	Learning & Skills Council	The LSC supports the continued inclusion of the theme on Economy and Enterprise as it gives priority to adult skills issues within the SCS. We feel more emphasis could be given to the important role of skills within this theme and the impact it can have both with those groups

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		<p>furthest away from the labour market, and those groups which need to continue to upskill to keep pace with the jobs we know will be available in the future. We believe that the fundamental importance of high levels of skills to continued and sustainable economic development, social regeneration and general well being needs to be clearly identified.</p>
23	Stronger/Rural Partnership (NYSP)	<p>The Partnership agreed to keep all ten of the existing SCS priorities as it was felt that all were still relevant to North Yorkshire and were mirrored in the priorities identified in the Comprehensive Area Assessment evaluation for North Yorkshire 2009.</p> <p>As discussion progressed some thought was given to the lack of resources and funding expected in the coming years and that it may be that North Yorkshire chooses fewer priorities to concentrate resources on in order to make a difference.</p> <p>Alcohol - Possible subset of Health and Wellbeing or Community Safety? Drugs and alcohol currently funded separately would benefit from joint/community work.</p> <p>Community safety - North Yorkshire has 2nd lowest crime rates in England and if resources are few it could be argued that funds be diverted to other areas where performance compares poorly nationally.</p> <p>Economy and Enterprise - The Voluntary sector has a key role that is often ignored. Important to include culture and transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Older People - Possible change of heading to vulnerable people which includes all age groups. Recognition of aging population.</p>
24	Business & Environmental Services, NYCC	<p>It is felt that the ten current SCS priorities still represent the issues for North Yorkshire's communities. The Directorate is particularly supportive of the continued inclusion of the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment ▪ Economy and Enterprise (and Employment) ▪ Access to Services. <p>Whilst two of the five aims listed under 'Environment' in the SCS are effectively about aspects of climate change (greenhouse gases and flood risks), there is no mention of climate change and sustainability. It may simply be a case of changing the wording of the priority to 'Environment and Climate Change'. Alternatively, it may more powerful to have two separate priorities so that the aims are more specific and focussed in relation to both.</p>

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		<p>In addition, the aims currently set out under the current environment section do not really make a substantial connection with enhancing the natural and historic environment that underpin North Yorkshire's greatest environmental (and economic) strength. This should be strengthened in the refreshed SCS.</p> <p>It is suggested that 'Economy and Enterprise' could be expanded to 'economy, enterprise and employment'. 'Employment' doesn't currently receive much emphasis and given the current economic climate, it is perhaps worthy of its own mention, particularly as this is likely to better reflect the priorities of residents.</p> <p>Access to Services and Public Transport - it is suggested that this priority is amended to simply 'Access to services' or alternatively 'ease of access to services' or 'access to services locally or through good transport links' so that it reflects not just public transport but also community transport, the availability of private transport and the local provision of services.</p> <p>The Directorate would support the recognition of the cross-cutting impact of culture in the SCS in the same way that other cross-cutting areas such as equalities are recognised.</p> <p>The number of priorities should perhaps be reduced to target what is really most important for North Yorkshire's communities. The more detailed series of aims outlined in the SCS for each priority area are useful as these provide a clearer statement of meaningful actions to be taken. Whilst the background of the inclusion of Alcohol as a discrete priority is understood, and the cross cutting impact it has is recognised, whether this should remain as one of the key priorities is questioned. It is suggested that this could be incorporated in a more focussed way within the more detailed aims of 'Health & Well-being' and/or 'Community Safety'.</p> <p>It could be suggested that both 'children and young people' and 'older people' are not so much priorities, as groups for which it is harder to deliver the other priorities.</p>
25	Healthier Communities Thematic Partnership (NYSP)	<p>No priorities to be removed or new priorities to be added.</p> <p>Whilst the partnership agreed that Alcohol was a priority, it was felt that there needed to be clearer ownership of this priority area, with a specific lead thematic partnership identified Keep the priority area of health and well being, with some amendments to specific overall aims.</p>

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		<p>Would it be possible to make a more explicit reference to the Five Hour Offer for Young People in relation to Health and Wellbeing and Children and Young People? This is that every child aged 5 - 16 years should be offered 2 hours high quality PE and sport within the curriculum, a further one hour beyond the curriculum (after school, lunch clubs etc) and two hours within the community per week. For 16 - 19 year olds it is the final 3 hours as they wont be receiving two hours within the curriculum.</p>
26	Brough with St Giles Parish Council	<p>New priorities to add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to health, sport and leisure • Accessible transport and effective road network • Quality jobs for local residents • Environment should include action in respect of flood defences, reducing fly tipping and addressing dog fouling • Quality Local Schools <p>Many residents of the parish currently feel that they are unable to properly access services as the estate on which they live has not been adopted by the District or County Council. The NYSP should consider how the adverse effects on residents of delays in the adoption process can be minimised.</p>
27	English Heritage	<p>Whilst we agree that the Strategy’s current objectives reflect the needs of the county, we believe that the refreshed version can be significantly enhanced by recognising heritage as a key priority and adopting a local indicator to measure heritage at risk.</p> <p>By enhancing the role of heritage in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement, you can help to ensure that North Yorkshire is in a strong position to capitalise on opportunities as they emerge, and to use the county’s heritage as a focus for economic revival through tourism and heritage-led regeneration.</p> <p>In addition to heritage being a key determinant of local distinctiveness and sense of place, there are important links to stress with wider aspects of the Sustainable Community Strategy, including community cohesion, economy and enterprise, education and the environment.</p> <p>Community Cohesion - Heritage Open Days (HODs) have been shown to contribute toward enhanced community cohesion by engaging the public with their local area. we would encourage you to recognise HODs as an effective means of enhancing community cohesion and generating</p>

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		<p>greater public interest in cultural participation.</p> <p>Education - North Yorkshire's historic sites are also an excellent educational resource for schools and adults across the county</p>
28	North Yorkshire Police	<p>As members of the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum we fully support the Forum and the priorities proposed for 2010/11, which align to NYP's Strategic Priorities set out in our 2010-2013 Policing Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Neighbourhoods, • Safer Roads, • Stronger Partnerships, • Safeguarding our Communities and • Sustainable NYP <p>The York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum priorities in our view still reflect the need of the communities in North Yorkshire. We would suggest that Partnership Working or Stronger Partnerships are added to the list, as this is a fundamental requirement and underpins all the other activity undertaken in relation to the defined priorities.</p>
29	Natural England	<p>Health and wellbeing - Natural England believes that the provision of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces is essential to improve the health of people today and in the future.</p> <p>Landscape Natural England recognises the importance of the landscape in North Yorkshire and believes it should be interlinked with the 'environment' priority.</p> <p>Housing and Green Infrastructure - Natural England believes that housing growth should deliver benefits for the natural environment and people, and should be accommodated with minimum impact on the natural environment and deliver maximum benefits for the natural environment and people together and we would encourage North Yorkshire to consider the following:.</p> <p>The provision of multi-functional green infrastructure as an integral part of all new development can substantially enhance the quality of development and deliver a wide range of benefits for people and the natural environment;</p> <p>An assessment of environmental capacity should be central to decisions on future development to ensure the most environmentally sustainable locations for housing growth are selected.</p> <p>Substantial funding needs to be identified for the creation and long-term maintenance of extensive green infrastructure, including use of the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy.</p>

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		<p>Access It is important to ensure access includes both general access to the natural environment, as well as the wide range of healthy and sustainable leisure or recreational activities.</p> <p>Climate Change Natural England notes that North Yorkshire County Council’s Local Area Agreement does not incorporate National Indicator 188 ‘Planning to Adapt to Change’. Climate change is a serious issue for North Yorkshire, and Natural England would welcome inclusion of this indicator in future LAAs.</p> <p>Access to services and public transport - North Yorkshires transport policy should aim to deliver net environmental gain and, in so doing, ensure that the delivery of economic and societal benefit is not at the expense of the natural environment. Network operators should be encouraged to deliver improvements in the environmental performance of transport infrastructure and greater levels of investment in innovative measures, such as ‘green’ bridges and tunnels to reduce habitat fragmentation. North Yorkshire should aim to ensure better integration between transport and spatial planning, and more emphasis on the design of communities and the accessibility of services and facilities, to achieve reductions in car journeys and increases in walking, cycling and bus use.</p> <p>Economy and Enterprise There should be strong linkages made with the landscape as this is a draw for business, and also links with tourism and heritage.</p>
30	NHS North Yorkshire and York	<p>No priorities to be removed or new priorities to be added.</p> <p>NHS North Yorkshire and York is committed to working in partnership to support delivery of the priorities</p>