

**WIRRAL'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2009**

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY GROUP**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the steps taken by the Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group to establish a process for a programme of sustainability appraisals of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Appraisals have been carried out on the 2008/11 LAA priorities for improvement. The work of the group identified risks to the sustainability of the delivery of the priority areas and highlighted interactions between priority areas. A summary of the group's findings is attached and proposals for an approach to continuity of this work.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A meeting of the Local Area Agreement Programme Board on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 endorsed a proposal to establish a panel for the purpose of forwarding the Local Strategic Partnership's commitment to ensuring sustainability in its community strategy and in the delivery of the LAA by a programme of sustainability appraisals.
- 2.2 To fulfil the wishes of the Programme Board a new group, the Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group (ESAG) was formed to replace the Environmental Partnership Steering Group. A summary of its terms of reference and membership is given in **Appendix I**. As well as the expertise in sustainability needed to support the process, a detailed knowledge of the LAA priority areas for improvement was also a prerequisite for the task. All members were mandated by their block leads or line management to represent them in the discussions of the group.

**3. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS**

- 3.1 For the purposes of understanding the sustainability appraisal, the term sustainability is taken to mean ensuring a balance between the economic, environmental and social/community aspects of the priority area or target under scrutiny.
- 3.2 A three-stage process was devised to assess the sustainability of the LAA priority areas for improvement.
- 3.3 The first stage made a straightforward assessment of the potential positive or negative impacts of the priority area under scrutiny on the sustainable implementation of the LAA.
- 3.4 For the second stage, a risk assessment approach was incorporated into the appraisal process so that the risks to the partnership of not delivering actions in a sustainable way are clearly understood and evaluated. The council's risk and insurance manager provided expert support to this part of the process.

- 3.5 The third stage took a more in depth look at the interaction and connections between the priority areas for improvement. This approach identified areas of support and collaborative working that can give added value to the delivery of the LAA's priorities. It also identified potential conflicts arising from the delivery of the actions so that any negative impacts can be mitigated through revised action planning.

#### **4. SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY OF THE LAA PRIORITY AREAS**

- 4.1 The sustainability appraisal risk assessment process identified that in every case the positive benefits to the economy, environment & community of delivering the improvement priority outweighed the negative. However where negative impacts have been identified, action plans should be amended /adapted to mitigate these.
- 4.2 Many of the LAA priority areas are interlinked across the blocks, the majority in a positive way which gives scope for adding value to delivery plans; for example a reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation will benefit some of the health and education indicators.
- 4.3 There are cases where the delivery of one indicator may potentially have a negative effect on another; for example a successful outcome to the new business registration target may result in an increase in congestion, or increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- 4.4 For most of the priority areas there are matters outside the scope of the LAA priorities that need to be taken into account for their effective achievement. For example a cross cutting issue such as accessibility is fundamental to the delivery of many targets. There are other issues, which may be viewed as enabling the sustainable delivery of the LAA priorities, e.g. equality & diversity, or as enhancing the sustainable delivery, for example, by including natural environment issues in the delivery of net new homes.
- 4.5 Summaries showing the most important issues arising from the risk assessment and the potential interactions between priority areas and their associated indicators are shown in **Appendix II**.
- 4.6 The majority of sustainability issues raised during the appraisal exercise have not been categorised as high risk to short-term delivery but are integral to the long-term sustainability of Wirral's priorities for improvement. The table in **Appendix III** illustrates the potential negative impacts to long-term sustainability if these issues are not taken into account. Similarly the table lists the potential positive impacts if LAA priority areas are delivered in a sustainable way.

#### **5. RISK REGISTER**

- 5.1 This work has been aligned with the LAA risk register as far as possible and some sustainability issues have been raised as high level risks in that document, notably issues of accessibility.

- 5.2 It is proposed that further work is carried out to integrate sustainability appraisal work into the main LAA risk register, so that sustainability is integral to the process of review by theme leads on a quarterly basis.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That thematic partnerships ensure impacts on targets in other partnerships are taken into account in their implementation plans with clear mitigation plans in place to minimise any potential negative outcomes.
- 6.2 That opportunities for working across priority areas are positively encouraged in order to promote better outcomes and more effective use of resources.
- 6.2.1 That this work is fed into the LAA risk register as appropriate to ensure alignment and identification of high level risks to delivery.
- 6.3 That an annual report from the sustainability appraisal review is considered in conjunction with the review of delivery plans.

**Contact: Graham Gladden  
Chair, Environment & Sustainability Appraisal Group**

This report has been prepared by Sue Weldon who can be contacted on 691 8030.

**Appendix I**

**Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group**

**Terms of Reference**

1. The Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group (ESAG) is tasked by Wirral’s LSP through its LAA Programme Board to assess the sustainability of the Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and all action plans arising out of it.
2. The ESAG will report to the Programme Board at least twice a year making recommendations for action as necessary.
3. ESAG will, through its membership, identify opportunities for interaction between LAA blocks/organisations to work towards more sustainable solutions.
4. ESAG will promote wider understanding of sustainability through the organisation of Forums for the existing WEP membership, partner agencies and other organisations.
5. Members of ESAG will attend other meetings and groups (e.g. Nottingham Declaration Group, Sustainability Appraisal Group) to promote a consistent approach to sustainability.

**Membership**

<b>Organisation</b>		<b>Member</b>
Wirral Environment & Sustainability Partnership		Graham Gladden (Chair)
Wirral Council Corporate Policy		Sue Weldon
Nottingham Declaration Working Group		Brian Anderson
Merseytravel		Jason Roberts
Voluntary Sector Representative		WCVSN nominee
Business Representative		Chico Ribeiro (WIN representative)
Wirral Council Forward Planning		John Entwistle
Themes:	Stronger Economy	Alan Evans
	Safer Communities	Steve McGilvray
	Health & Well-being	Sue Drew
	Living & working environment	Tara Dumas
	Children & young people	Deirdre Smith
Sustainable housing		Alun Hughes/Peter Rogers
Co-opted member		David Moore (United Utilities)

Appendix II

<b>Strong Local Economy</b>					
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Sustainability Appraisal</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers</b>
Working age claiming benefits NI153	Positive – benefits to economy & community	Overall positive but with concerns over effects of recession and risk that job creation does not reach target cohort. Issues of accessibility. Skills taught need to be appropriate for jobs.	Skills Drug related offending Anti social behaviour Serious violent crime Assault with injury crime U18 conception rate NEET AAACM Mental health Temp accommodation	Impact on CO2 Affordable homes	Accessibility Sustainable transport Local economy LDF
Overall employment rate 151	Positive	Recession Skills locally available not appropriate for jobs.	Skills Crime related indicators Health related indicators	Net new homes Affordable homes	Accessibility Sustainable transport Local economy LDF
New Business Registration rate 171	Overall mixed with concerns over environmental and community impacts.	Overall assessment positive but highlights concerns over impacts on CO2 emissions, availability of suitable premises, congestion and	Working age claiming benefits Overall employment rate	Skills levels Land & premises Congestion CO2 emissions Net new homes Affordable homes	Support to existing business Sustainable transport Waste & recycling LDF Accessibility

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

		impact on living environment			
NVQ level 2 <b>Local</b>	Positive	Positive but depends on delivery of appropriate training courses for employment	New business registration rate NEET	Overall employment rate New business registration rate	Business engagement with schools & colleges
Employment land and premises <b>Local</b>	Overall mixed with serious concerns over possible impacts on emissions, congestion and the natural environment	Overall assessment strongly positive but highlights the possible impact on greenbelt, site availability or the cost of brownfield remediation	New business registration rate Working age claiming benefits Skills levels	Impact on CO2 Recycling Net additional homes	LDF Sustainable transport Natural environment Waste & Recycling Climate change

<b>Community Safety</b>					
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers</b>
Drug related (class A) offending rate <b>NI138</b>	Positive – benefits to economy & community	Recession Skills for employment	Skills levels Health related indicators Serious violent crime Assault with injury NI 21 NEET	None identified	Community safety-perceptions
Anti social behaviour <b>Local</b>	Positive – all areas	No risks identified	NEET Young people’s participation in positive activities Alcohol harm	First time entrants to YJS	Community safety Neighbourhood management LDF

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

			Env. Quality NI 21		
Serious violent crime rate <b>NI15</b>	Positive- all areas	Increase in cocaine use compared with other drugs	Alcohol harm Temp accommodation Looked after children NI21	None identified	Community cohesion
Assault with injury crime rate <b>NI20</b>	As NI15	As NI15	As NI15	As NI15	Community cohesion

Housing Indicators					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Number of affordable homes delivered <b>NI155</b>	Positive	Current economic climate Employment prospects	Homelessness Health related indicators Education indicators Decent homes CO2 emissions	None identified	Climate change Accessibility E & D LDF
Number of households in temporary accommodation <b>NI156</b>	Positive	Repossessions Unemployment	Homelessness Education indicators Health related indicators	Affordable Housing	Accessibility
Decent homes <b>Local</b>	Positive	Availability of grants	Health related indicators CO2 emissions	Affordable Housing	

Housing Indicators (2)					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Net new homes <b>NI 154</b>	Positive if in suitable & sustainable locations	Current economic climate	New business registration Decent homes	Affordable Housing Waste indicators CO2	Natural environment Accessibility Community cohesion LDF

Congestion					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Average journey time <b>NI167</b>	Mixed- interventions may not constrain traffic growth, may impact on quality of life, road safety, businesses.	Fuel costs	CO2 Health indicators	KSI	Public transport Travel plans Air quality



Liveability					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Improved street cleanliness <b>NI195</b>	Positive	None identified	New business registration Land & premises	None identified	
Household waste recycled and composted <b>NI192</b>	Positive	Falling markets for recyclates	CO2 Street cleanliness	Net new homes	Social enterprise New business registration
Improved street cleanliness in most deprived areas <b>Local</b>	Positive	Reduction in HMRI funding (env wardens)	ASB	None identified	High density housing Highway obstructions Planning

Road Safety					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
KSI <b>NI47</b>	Positive-all areas	Increase in traffic	Health indicators	Congestion	Sustainable transport School travel plans

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

Climate Change					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Per capita CO2 emissions in LA area <b>NI186</b>	Positive	Many aspects of delivery of this indicator not in LA control	Health indicators Waste & recycling Congestion	New business registrations Net new homes	Other partners- public, private, & community

*Please note: the appraisal of the HWB indicators is at the time of writing not complete- information will be added to this table.*

Health & Wellbeing					
Priority Area	Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community	Risk assessment	Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators	Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators	Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers
Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates <b>NI39</b>	Positive-all areas	Promotion of night time economy	Conception rate ASB Assault with injury Falls	None identified	Licensing Retail Domestic violence
Under 18 conception rate <b>NI112</b>	Positive	Economic downturn	Skills Employment rate Affordable housing	None identified	
All age all cause mortality rate <b>NI120</b>	Positive	Lifestyle issues	Employment rate Skills	Supported living Carers Decent homes	Climate change LDF Accessibility & transport
Stopping smoking <b>NI123</b>	Positive	Economic downturn	AAACM Env quality		Environmental services

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

Social care clients receiving self directed support <b>NI130</b>		Disability living allowance		Carers Affordable housing Decent homes	Environmental services Transport- shared services LDF
Carers receiving needs assessment or review <b>NI135</b>		Need for more carers to support other indicators may increase low skill part time economy or impact on family ability to be economically active.		Falls Supported living	
Number of emergency bed days for # neck femur in >75s <b>Local</b>	Positive	Ageing pop <sup>n</sup>	AAACM Independent living	Affordable housing Decent homes Carers	Streetscene Env. Services Transport & Accessibility
Clients with $\geq 2$ episodes of self harm engaged in meaningful activity <b>Local</b>					
Reduce number of people with dementia admitted to care <b>Local</b>				Affordable housing Decent homes	
People supported to live independently thro social services <b>Local</b>				Affordable housing Decent homes Carers	Env. Services Transport- shared services LDF

<b>Children &amp; Young People</b>					
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Sustainability Appraisal – impacts on economy, environment, community</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Key Potential positive interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Key Potential negative interactions with other indicators</b>	<b>Sustainability Enablers/Enhancers</b>
Children KSI <b>NI48</b>	Positive	Increase in traffic	Health indicators	Congestion	School travel plans Sustainable transport
Obesity among primary school age children <b>NI55</b>	Positive	Availability of facilities for exercise Affordability of healthy food	AAACM Working age claiming benefits Employment rate Attainment indicators	None identified	Sport & Rec School Travel Plans Lifestyle Parks & Countryside Extended school s
Referrals to children’s social care going on to assessment <b>NI68</b>	Positive	External incidents* Media *	Looked after children	None identified	Community cohesion
16-18 yr olds not in education, employment, training (NEET) <b>N117</b>	Positive	Availability of jobs Accessibility	ASB Teenage conception Skills First time entrants to YJS Mental health Alcohol harm Participation in positive	None identified	Sustainable transport Community safety – perception Housing Natural environment (work schemes)
Safely reducing number of looked after children <b>Local</b>	Positive		Mental health	None identified	
Young people’s participation in positive activities <b>Local</b>	Positive	Availability of schemes Transport & accessibility Affordability	Skills ASB Obesity NEET Teenage conception	None identified	Community safety- perception

\* May influence number of referrals but not likely to influence no of assessments

Appendix III

**Delivery of LAA priorities for improvement :Impacts on long term sustainability**

Potential negative impacts of delivery	Potential positive impacts of delivery
<b>Strong Local Economy Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Increase in traffic emissions &amp; congestion</li> <li>• Impact on natural environment</li> <li>• Impact on living environment – number of new/affordable homes needed</li> <li>• Increase in waste produced</li> <li>• Increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> <li>• Planning for climate change adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to local economy</li> <li>• Benefit to health &amp; well being</li> <li>• Decrease in crime</li> </ul>
<b>Community Safety Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No negatives identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceptions of community safety</li> <li>• Community cohesion</li> <li>• Benefit to economy</li> <li>• Benefit to environment (ASB)</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Well Being Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Need for sustainable transport choices</li> <li>• Impact on living environment – number of affordable homes needed</li> <li>• Number of decent homes needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to economy</li> <li>• Benefit to health &amp; well being</li> </ul>
<b>Children &amp; Young People Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable transport</li> <li>• Number of affordable/decent homes needed</li> <li>• Maintenance of open space/ facilities for sport</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to economy</li> <li>• Benefit to health &amp; well being</li> <li>• Attainment &amp; aspirations raised</li> <li>• Perceptions of community safety</li> </ul>
<b>Environment Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable transport choices (Congestion)</li> <li>• Impact of climate change on health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to economy</li> <li>• Benefit to health &amp; well being</li> <li>• Quality of Life</li> </ul>
<b>Housing Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on natural environment</li> <li>• Community cohesion</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> <li>• Planning for climate change adaptation</li> <li>• Increase in waste produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit to health &amp; well being</li> <li>• Community cohesion</li> <li>• Benefit to economy</li> </ul>