



# Health, Community Wellbeing and Cohesion

## Topic Paper No 9 – Summary

### Introduction

Social cohesion is the capacity of a society to ensure the welfare of all its members, minimising differences in wealth and income and generally making people aware that they are members of the same community and that everyone can play a role in society. In terms of a Local Development Plan the many different facets to social cohesion, e.g ,employment, housing, income, health, education and culture will be influenced by policies in relation to planning decisions and land use.

### Context

The Community Strategy has been produced by the Flintshire Local Service Board to look at the main issues and define the vision for the county including the statutory direction given by the government.

The vision sets the priorities of:

- Economic prosperity.
- Health improvement through everything we do.
- Learning and skills for life.
- Living sustainably.
- Safe and supportive communities

This can be used to illustrate the particular elements of community wellbeing and cohesion that need to be considered in the emerging LDP. Also as part of the development of the LDP an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Health Impact Assessment will be carried out alongside the plan. These will sit alongside the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental

Assessment to ensure social as well as environmental and economic impacts can be assessed.

### The role of the Plan

The role of the LDP or the key objectives will include:

- social and welfare - to enable all local residents the opportunity to have access to quality housing, services, shops and leisure, recreational and sports facilities.
- To have regard to needs of an ageing population
- health - to promote and facilitate the development of a safe and healthy environment.
- community identity - to preserve community life by limiting development to a level which can be reasonably sustained and assimilated within existing communities.
- culture and language - to promote and support a diverse local culture including the protection and development of the Welsh language.
- to provide for the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers.
- to provide for employment opportunities for all communities.
- The plan must also sit comfortably within a wider policy context in terms of other plans and strategies.

## **Key Employment and Economy Plans and Strategies**

- Flintshire's Community Strategy 2009-2019 (2009)
- Community Safety Partnership Strategy (2010): Joint with Wrexham
- Flintshire Local Housing Strategy 2012 – 2017 and the Homelessness Strategy 2009- 2015
- Economic Prosperity Strategy 2012
- Good Health, Good Care in Flintshire 2011- 2014 Flintshire Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 to be included in a Single Integrated Plan not yet published.
- Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 5 Nov 2012
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 Sport Recreation and Open Space

## **Issues to be Addressed by the Plan**

**Access** – Local planning authorities should consider the issue of accessibility for all, including the needs of people with sensory impairments, people with learning difficulties and people with mobility impairments, such as wheelchair users, elderly people and people with young children, at an early stage in the design process.

**Crime and Community Safety** - The aim should be to produce safe environments through good design.

**Employment** -The planning system should support economic and employment growth alongside social and environmental considerations within the context of sustainable development. New businesses in rural areas are essential to sustain and improve rural communities.

**Housing** - ensure an adequate supply of land for housing for all groups of people in society, e.g. affordable homes, open market homes for a range of needs and gypsy traveller sites.

**Welsh Language** – All local planning authorities should consider whether they have communities where the use of the Welsh language is part of the social fabric. If so it is necessary to show how the needs and interests of the Welsh language have

been taken into account in plan preparation.

**Health** - Health is a theme which is integrated throughout the plan in terms of provision of community facilities, sustainable housing, and recreational and open space. A Health Impact Assessment of the LDP will be carried out alongside the development of the plan. Access to recreational and natural open spaces is an important aspect of health promotion to allow and encourage physical activity.

PPW states that one of the Welsh Governments main planning objective is to promote a more sustainable pattern of development, creating and maintaining networks of facilities and open spaces.

## **Potential Land Use Policies / Proposals**

Although there is no one specific policy relating to community well being, many policies will have some influence over issues which affect well being and social cohesion.

- Allocate land for Gypsy Traveller accommodation.
- Sites will be allocated for a range of housing in sustainable locations.
- The plan will identify where and to what level affordable housing is needed. It will also identify other forms of housing need e.g. sheltered accommodation.
- Allocate land for economic growth on sustainable sites and create policies to allow some economic development in the rural areas.
- Policies to ensure the design of new developments are accessible to all, create safe communities and create flexible and adaptable lifelong housing. Policies should ensure high standards of design which create attractive places to live in. New Development should integrate with existing settlements and retain the character, culture and sense of place that makes Flintshire special.
- Policies to allocate and safeguard open and green spaces.