

Hastings & St Leonards
**Community
Strategy**
November 2002

your ideas

As promised in
'The Future of
Hastings & St Leonards',
this strategy is your chance
to make sure that our ideas
for a better quality of life
in the town reflect yours.

Read it carefully,
tell us if we've missed
anything out and make
your vital contribution
to the most important
debate in our lives.



our ideas your ideas

A message from **Jeremy Birch**, chair of The Hastings Local Strategic Partnership and Leader of Hastings Borough Council

Hastings & St Leonards is at a crossroads.

This draft document sets out our ideas for taking the town along the right road, the road that leads to a better future for everybody.

We want you to help us set clear and measurable targets for improving every aspect of life in the town.

We need your ideas and we need them now.

We need your ideas on how to tackle crime, improve education, boost employment, enhance and protect the environment and develop our culture.

This will give us a 10 year plan to steer us through to 2012.

During those 10 years, you can expect to see changes and improvements that you will have played a major part in bringing about.

Help us by completing some or all of the questions within this document and returning it to us by December 6. (You can also fill this in on our website www.hastings.gov.uk).

Please come along to one of the exhibitions or meetings about the future of Hastings & St Leonards and don't hold back in expressing your views and making sure your voice is heard.

This truly is your chance to be part of the team that's creating a vision and shaping the town's future.

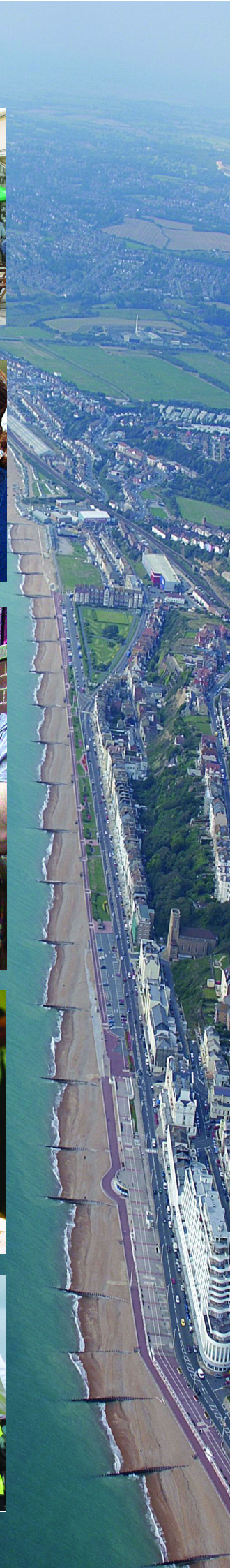
We'll listen to your ideas and amend the strategy to reflect what we have learned from you.

A final version will be available by April 2003.

I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Jeremy Birch

Hastings Borough Council is producing the Community Strategy but is working with all the agencies providing services or encouraging regeneration in the town. These now meet to discuss how to join up services and cut red tape in a body called the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).



Hastings & St Leonards **CommunityStrategy**

In this draft strategy we present seven themes that we think everybody wants to see in the future of Hastings & St Leonards:

A Safer Town

A Learning Town

A Decent Home for Everyone

An Inclusive Town

A Town that's Good to Live in

A Healthier Town

An Economically Successful Town

Under each theme, we've set out the problems that are keeping us from achieving them, some solutions to those problems and a set of targets that we want to achieve by 2012.

These are our ideas.

Do you agree with them?

We want you to challenge everything we've said.

Your ideas will help us to complete the Community Strategy and set twenty targets that will mark every stage of the town's transformation.

Twenty milestone targets by which everybody can measure the success of the strategy over the next 10 years.

Twenty ways in which you can make sure that our ideas reflect your ideas.



A Safer Town

our ideas

Everybody wants to see a safer town where crime is under control and people don't have to live in fear of it.

The problems:

- a. Despite a general fall in crime levels, the town's crime rate is considerably higher than the national average.
- b. Violent crime continues to grow (much of this is alcohol related) particularly in the Town Centres of Hastings & St Leonards.
- c. Crime in the Town Centres may put off future investors and damage job creation.
- d. Young people commit the most crime and are most often the victims of crime.
- e. Hidden crimes such as racial assaults and domestic violence.

Some solutions:

- a. Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) to restrain people whose nuisance behaviour is making life intolerable for others.
- b. Focussing on neighbourhood policing to allow closer contact between the police and the community.
- c. Tackling public disorder and drunken behaviour in the Town Centres through targeted policing (supported by the street wardens) and pro-active use of licensing powers.
- d. New ways of diverting young people away from criminal behaviour and drug abuse.
- e. Continuing to drive down burglary and car crime and developing work with businesses to reduce the impact of crime on shops and factories.
- f. Monitoring crime to identify hot spots, with all agencies talking to each other and working on local solutions.
- g. Tackling 'hate crime' - particularly racially aggravated crime and harassment.

Proposed targets:

- a. Halve the gap between Hastings & St Leonards and the rest of the country (currently this means reducing recorded crime from 165 to 130 crimes per 1000 people).
- b. Create safer, people friendly town centres, halving the number of people who are currently worried about walking in these areas at night.
- c. Ensure that people reporting 'hate crimes' are satisfied that their case is properly dealt with.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

Comment on our ideas and add yours in the boxes below

your ideas

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
a	a	a
b	b	b
c	c	c
d	d	d
e	e	e

Any problems missing?

a	a	a
b	b	b
c	c	c
d	d	d
e	e	e
f	f	f
g	g	g

Your solutions

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b	b	b
c	c	c

Your targets

A Learning Town

our ideas

Everybody wants to see lifelong learning where the imagination of children and adults is stimulated and minds are educated so that people of all ages achieve their full potential.

The problems:

- a. Affordable, quality childcare places are not available for all those who want them.
- b. Primary schools have improved achievements of 11 year-old pupils, but results are still lower than county and national levels.
- c. Low literacy and numeracy levels in early years of primary education.
- d. Despite improvement, the percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C is still lower than the national average of 50%.
- e. Fewer people stay on for further education and training compared to the national average.
- f. Low levels of basic literacy and numeracy (25% of people aged 16-60 face these problems).

Some solutions:

- a. Childcare and education services to meet the needs of young children, families and the community.
- b. Improving overall school performance to the national average and ensuring that 11 year-olds (Key Stage 2) and GCSE results improve faster than the rest of the county.
- c. Increasing post 16 school leaver involvement in education and training.
- d. Providing basic skills and work-based learning opportunities to make sure local people can get jobs.
- e. Increasing levels of advice, guidance and support to ensure everyone has access to learning.

Proposed targets:

- a. Provide early years education places for all 3 year-olds whose parents want one by 2004.
- b. Improve the number of 11 year-old children achieving National Curriculum level 4 to 85%.
- c. Raise the number of pupils gaining GCSE 5 or more A*-C grades to 55%.
- d. Raise the number of 19 year olds achieving NVQ level 2 or equivalent to 90%.
- e. Raise adult literacy and numeracy by 10%.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

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your ideas

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
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Any problems missing?

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Your solutions

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c	c	c
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Your targets





A Decent Home for Everyone

our ideas

Everybody wants to see high quality housing and more choice.

The problems:

- a. A higher percentage than the national average of unfit homes.
- b. A large and often low quality private rented sector with poor conditions, mainly concentrated in the Town Centres.
- c. Shortfall of over 750 affordable homes each year, over 800 households in severe need awaiting assistance.
- d. Around 1,100 private homes empty for 6 months or more.
- e. Short-term private tenancies mean high turnover of short term lets
- f. Lack of help available for vulnerable people to keep up tenancies.

Some solutions:

- a. Using enforcement action and working with good landlords and residents to improve housing conditions.
- b. Increasing the number of new, affordable homes built on previously used land and bringing empty homes back into use.
- c. Helping people find and keep homes though advice and support.
- d. Helping elderly and vulnerable people to live independently.

Proposed targets:

- a. Halve the gap between our town and the national average for unfit homes and reduce the number of long-term empty homes by 30%.
- b. Declare a new Housing Renewal Area in 2003 and reduce the number of unfit homes in Central St Leonards to no more than double the town average by 2012.
- c. Build 3,300 new homes, with at least 60% on previously used land, and 825 being affordable to young people and others in housing need.
- d. Ensure that 50% of vulnerable people do not become homeless again within 2 years and extend support to 500 more vulnerable people in the community by 2012.

Comment on our ideas and add yours in the boxes below

your ideas

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
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Any problems missing?

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Your solutions

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b	b	b
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Your targets

An Inclusive Town

our ideas

Everybody wants to see a town where people are treated equally and fairly.

The problems:

- a. Local services are delivered by different agencies which sometimes makes it hard to know who to go to for information and action.
- b. The traditional networks for individual, family and community support have disappeared.
- c. The town is now multi-racial and multi-cultural but this is often not reflected in decision making.
- d. People in deprived communities have often been unable to feed their opinions into the decision-making process.
- e. Young people's needs and ideas are not always taken into account when decisions are made.
- f. Public buildings need to be more accessible to more people.

Some solutions:

- a. Clear, relevant and up to date information about where to go for help and advice.
- b. Giving everybody the chance to feed their views into how services are provided.
- c. Agreeing targets for the involvement of disadvantaged groups and creating equal opportunities for all.
- d. Accessible community facility for use by local residents in each ward.
- e. Increasing opportunities for local residents to take decisions on issues affecting their neighbourhood.
- f. Tackling disadvantage caused by discrimination.

Proposed targets:

- a. Increase by 25% the number of residents who say that they are "well informed" about services and find it "easy" to access them.
- b. Agree by the end of 2003, targets for involving marginalised groups and ensure equality of access and involvement in services by 2012.
- c. Ensure that each ward has an accessible community facility.
- d. Ensure that 80% of people have a neighbourhood forum or similar so that people can influence services and take decisions affecting their local area.
- e. Set clear equality targets for housing, crime reduction, culture, health, employment, education and key services by the end of 2003, and achieve these by 2012.
- f. Agree new ways of carrying out public consultation by the end of 2003 and make sure future consultation reaches groups who have not been involved in the past.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

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your ideas

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a	a	a
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Any problems missing?

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Your solutions

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Your targets



A Town that's Good to Live in

our ideas

Everybody wants to see a town that's an enjoyable and healthy place to live in, work in and visit, where people can enjoy a better standard of living.

The problems:

- The town's parks, beaches and play areas are there for everybody to enjoy, but many people cannot get to them easily.
- Public transport is poor, so many people without cars cannot easily get to work, shops or medical facilities.
- We need to dispose of 30,000 tonnes of household waste each year in more environment friendly ways.
- Many people do not feel they can access or take part in local leisure, play, sport, learning and cultural activities due to their cost, location, or inaccessible buildings.
- Many people, often the elderly, young families or people who are housebound, suffer from fuel poverty and cannot afford to keep warm.
- Increasing demand for new development and redevelopment in the town could place pressure on the town's green spaces.

Some solutions:

- Everyone should have access to open space including formal parks, beaches, pocket parks and town squares.
- Improving access to affordable and regular public transport to help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.
- Reducing how much waste we throw out and achieving long-term waste management by re-using, recycling and composting.
- Improving access to and involvement in cultural and leisure activities to improve everyone's quality of life.
- Helping people suffering from fuel poverty (where they spend more than 10% of their income to heat their home).
- Conserving green space by developing previously used land and using existing buildings.

Proposed targets:

- Ensure 90% of all people can enjoy access to public open spaces (including the beach) within 300m of their homes.
- Increase the number of bus passenger journeys by 20% compared with 2001 levels.
- Increase the amount of household waste recycled and composted from 10% in 2002 to 25% by 2012.
- Ensure 80% of people are "satisfied" with provision of sports, play, arts and cultural activities.
- Ensure everyone can afford to heat and light their homes, and no one has to spend more than 10% of their income on this.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

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your ideas

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Your solutions

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Your targets

A Healthier Town

our ideas

Everybody wants to see a town where people's health does not suffer because of where they live.

The problems:

- People here die younger on average than elsewhere in the South East largely due to high rates of cancer and heart disease.
- The town has one of the highest teenage conception rates in the South East.
- Many people suffer from drug and alcohol problems which lead to poor health, violence (including domestic violence) and death.
- Higher than average rates of mental illness.
- Increasing need for care and support for older people.

Some solutions:

- Reducing the number of early deaths from cancer and heart disease, by encouraging healthy eating, breast feeding, sensible drinking and exercise and discouraging smoking.
- Working with young people to promote contraception and sexual health awareness.
- Providing advice and support for drug and alcohol users to help them adopt a healthy lifestyle.
- Providing the range of funding, support and parenting advice which lay the foundations for a healthy and stable life.
- Enabling older people to live as long as possible in their own homes.

Proposed Targets:

- Increase life expectancy by two years above the 1996 figures of 74.2 (men) and 80.2 (women).
- Reduce the number of emergency admissions to hospital by 20% by raising health standards.
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 15% by 2004 and 50% by 2012.
- Reduce drug related deaths by 20%.
- Ensure parenting support services are available to everybody.
- One third of older people being supported by Social Services will be able to remain in their own homes.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

Comment on our ideas and add yours in the boxes below

your ideas

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
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Any problems missing?

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Your solutions

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Your targets



An Economically Successful Town

our ideas

Everybody wants to see thriving businesses, more jobs and a skilled workforce.

The problems:

- High levels of unemployment (4.5% compared to a national average of 3.1% and East Sussex average of 2.4%).
- Unemployment of over 10% in Castle and Central St Leonards wards.
- Low wages that are almost £90 a week less than the national average.
- A workforce lacking the type and range of skills needed for future economic success.
- A lack of modern business and industrial sites for new and growing companies.

Some solutions:

- Creating more jobs for local people in and around the town.
- Supporting those with the greatest difficulties in gaining employment to find and keep jobs.
- Building modern business and industrial units for small and growing companies to help develop and sustain a diverse, exciting economy.
- Making sure employees and companies receive training and support to help improve their skills.

Proposed targets:

- Reduce average unemployment to the East Sussex level.
- Reduce unemployment in the 5 poorest wards to the national average.
- Increase average weekly earnings to national levels.
- Build 100 new premises for new and growing businesses.
- Increase the number of local businesses which take active steps to train their staff.

All targets by 2012 unless otherwise stated

Comment on our ideas and add yours in the boxes below

your ideas

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
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Any problems missing?

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Your solutions

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Your targets

our vision

your vision

What kind of place do you want Hastings & St Leonards to be in 2012?

Using the box below, please tell us what your vision for the future is, in around 20 words... For example, "A town where everyone knows their neighbours".

Completing the form below is optional. However, you could win a Christmas hamper worth £100 and help us to understand who has responded to this consultation by entering your details.

Name		Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Address		
Post Code		
Your age:	under 13 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 to 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19 to 29 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 39 <input type="checkbox"/>
	40 to 49 <input type="checkbox"/>	50 to 59 <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 69 <input type="checkbox"/> over 69 <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you describe yourself as having a disability?		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
White British <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Other White background <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify	Black or Black British Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> Black African <input type="checkbox"/> Other Black background <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify	Chinese or other Ethnic Group Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian background <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify
Asian or Asian British Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian background <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify	Dual Ethnicity White & Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> White & Black African <input type="checkbox"/> White & Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other background <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify
The information you provide will be confidential and used for our monitoring purposes only.		

Please return this document to:

Freepost PTL

OR

hand in at one of the exhibitions (details in 'The Future' leaflet or local media) or at one of these places:

- The Hastings Information Centre, Queens Square, Priory Meadow, Hastings
- The Regeneration Centre, 45a Robertson Street, Hastings

DON'T FORGET you can also fill this in online at our website www.hastings.gov.uk



your ideas

FURTHER INFORMATION

For all queries
about this
consultation programme
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Primary Care Trust



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produced under contract by
Clive Jacotine & Associates
Limited with Nick Wates
Associates.

Graphic Design & Artwork:
Intergrafix