

INTRODUCTION

Pride of Place is a Sustainable Community Strategy. It sets out a long term vision for improving people's quality of life and creating strong communities within and across East Sussex. It focuses on the issues and priorities that local people have told us they are most concerned about, like crime, housing, education, jobs and the environment. It also sets out the key things we must tackle to achieve the vision.

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

All local authorities have a duty to work with partner organisations to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy – a document which demonstrates how local organisations and agencies will work together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area whilst safeguarding the prospects of future generations.

The task of developing this Sustainable Community Strategy has been taken on by the six Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in East Sussex, namely: East Sussex, Eastbourne, Hastings and St. Leonard's, Lewes District, Rother and Wealden. These Local Strategic Partnerships bring a wide range of organisations together to improve the quality of life for people in their area by tackling the big issues that concern them.

What is a Sustainable Community?

Most people want to live in a community where they know their neighbours and feel safe. A place with decent and affordable homes, local shops, lots of jobs and opportunities to get a good education and learn new skills. A place that provides the services and facilities people need, when they need them. A place that encourages people to be ambitious, and helps them achieve their ambitions - regardless of their age, background or circumstances.

Pride of Place provides a framework in which organisations, local people and communities work together to nurture, support and sustain communities which are:

- **Vibrant, inclusive and safe:** fair, tolerant and cohesive with a thriving culture and low crime

- **Well run:** effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- **Healthy:** promoting healthy lifestyles, good health and well-being and independence
- **Environmentally sensitive:** protecting and enhancing our natural and built environment, whilst reducing CO₂ emissions and adapting to climate change
- **Well designed and built:** providing high quality places and spaces for people to live, work and spend their leisure time
- **Well connected:** good transport services and communications linking people to jobs, health and other services
- **Prosperous:** a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy
- **Well served:** public, private and voluntary services that meet people's needs and are accessible to all, and
- **Fair for everyone:** equality of opportunity for all, including new communities, now and in the future.

Communities like this help us to live within environmental limits, create a sustainable economy, stronger, healthier and more just society and good governance now, and for future generations to come.

A Partnership Approach

The six Local Authorities and six Local Strategic Partnerships in East Sussex have, for the first time, linked their individual community strategies into one, integrated strategy - Pride of Place - and linked them to the strategies and plans of our partners. We have taken this approach because we believe we can achieve more by having a shared vision of the future and planning and working together to achieve it. This approach also means that we can make best use of our resources, joining up where necessary, whilst ensuring very local issues are also tackled.

Evidence of Need

Pride of Place is based on evidence of current needs, and the challenges and opportunities ahead. This evidence has been drawn from:

- Consultation with local authorities including Parish Councils, businesses, voluntary and community organisations

- Gathering and analysing information and statistics
- A range of public consultations and surveys to ensure local people's views, needs and aspirations have been included
- District, borough, countywide, sub-regional and regional plans and key data sources.

Links to Local, Neighbourhood and Parish Plans

A number of local community plans for local areas, neighbourhoods and Parishes exist which set out the issues that concern people in their local community, and their main priorities for action. These plans have been used to inform the District and Borough Community Strategies in Chapters 4 to 8 and the countywide strategy set out in Chapter 3, and will be reflected in the action plans.

As a result, local, District and Borough level strategic issues and priorities, as well as those which affect people and communities across the county, are included in Pride of Place.

Links to Local Development Frameworks

As well as ensuring local people's concerns and priorities are reflected in Pride of Place, it is also important that the physical infrastructure we need is developed. The planning system will play an important role in helping us deliver sustainable communities by facilitating provision of, for example:

- Affordable homes and housing options
- Shops, business sites and premises
- Schools, health facilities, social and community centres
- Transport networks for pedestrians, cyclists, bus and rail users, and private and commercial road users
- Parks, recreation, sports and play provision
- Energy supply, waste management sites and flood defences.

To make sure this happens, each of the District and Borough Councils in the county have been developing a Local Development Framework (LDF) alongside the Sustainable Community Strategy. An LDF is a collection of policies and plans that provide the framework for coordinating and delivering the spatial planning strategy for the area.

These LDFs, along with the South East Plan (the Regional Spatial Strategy) and other major plans, such as the Waste and Minerals Development Framework, will therefore guide how much development and building there is in an area, where it is located and what infrastructure services are needed to support it.

We have therefore worked hard to ensure that the local plans set out in Local Development Frameworks, and relevant county and regional plans, are fully aligned with the priorities identified in Pride of Place.