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20 November 2006

Dear David

NWDC response to Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

Please find enclosed comments and feedback prepared in response to the latest version of the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. You will find that many of the responses echo the queries and issues representatives of North Wiltshire raised at the annual Strategic Board Conference.

North Wiltshire Partnership has prepared a response separate to the District Council.

It is clear to see that the document has positively progressed since the last consultation version and that the Local Area Agreement preparation provides an opportunity for real focus to planned and shared delivery in response to the identified community need. I appreciate that the timescales are tight for the negotiation of the Local Area Agreement, however a number of questions have been raised on more than one occasion relating to actions for those areas that fall outside of the currently LAA programme. Will action plans be developed for these areas?

There have been the three key areas of priority for a number of years now, the question has been asked as to what will be the key areas of focus for the Strategic Board going into the future and how will these priorities be selected and resourced?

With respect to the 'Sustainable' nature of the strategy again questions have been raised about whether or not the strategy will address the root causes of some issues within the County. Many issues will be addressed as the proposals stand but the emphasis is rather responsive and short term as opposed to looking to address problems that will provide solutions for future generations.

As I mentioned on the telephone yesterday this response is due to be endorsed by our Corporate Management Board and Executive next week. I will of course forward any additions or revisions to you. If you have any queries surrounding the content of our response please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

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