

Wiltshire Local Area Agreement

2007-2010

First Draft November 2006

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1 Introduction

With its mix of beautiful rural countryside, vibrant market towns and rich heritage, Wiltshire is a place where people want to live, work and grow old. Wiltshire is a county with strong, safe communities, where people have a sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Although Wiltshire is all of these things we must not be complacent. We must strive to improve life for those who live in, work in and visit Wiltshire. That means recognising the unique characteristics of Wiltshire's communities that contribute towards making Wiltshire what it is today, and looking at priorities and trends to identifying what needs to improve. .

The **Wiltshire Strategic Board** (WiSB) is the county wide Local Strategic Partnership. It has commissioned a revised Community Strategy which examines priorities and trends to identify the things that will need attention if Wiltshire is to continue to be a good place to live. Wiltshire's first Local Area Agreement (LAA) has been informed by the draft strategy and seeks to tackle some of the problems which could have the greatest impact on the quality of life of local residents. WiSB will agree the final LAA and will monitor the achievement of the improvements set out in the LAA and in the other action plans associated with the Community Strategy. More information about the Strategy and partnership working is given below.

This LAA provides a mechanism to help achieve WiSB's ambitions to improve performance on joint priorities. It helps partners to develop new approaches whilst providing a framework for incremental sustainable long term change. Wiltshire's LAA has been developed on a template provided by central Government which uses 'blocks' or 'themes' to identify the relevant areas of service delivery under the agreement. These are:

- *Children and Young People*
- *Economic Development and Enterprise*
- *Environment*
- *Healthier Communities*
- *Older People*
- *Safer and Stronger Communities*

Wiltshire is part way through its second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2), with completion due in March 2008. There are twelve targets, which will form part of and be supported by the LAA. Focus on delivery of the LPSA2 targets will continue throughout this period and we are hopeful that we will be able to claim performance reward grant for meeting the stretch targets.

2 Much of the detail underpinning the LAA is held within the appendices, including the detail of the action and targets proposed.

32 Sustainable Community Strategy

The Wiltshire Strategic Board's first community strategy was launched in March 2004. It was the first time that a single overarching strategy for the county had been produced.

The Community Strategy is currently being revised, alongside the development of the LAA. Both have been consulted upon, and the consultation responses will be used to inform the Community Strategy to be finalised in June 2007.

The core of the draft community strategy is the section on **'What aspects of Wiltshire life are not currently moving in a sustainable direction'**. This section seeks to identify trends and issues which, if unchecked, will significantly weaken Wiltshire's communities. As explained above, the LAA will help address some of the issues in the Strategy, and the LAA's development has been informed by this section of the draft Strategy. Other action plans will help deliver other parts of the Community Strategy.

[A separate report on this agenda looks at the relationship between the community strategy and the LAA. In the final LAA document we will include summary information about the community strategy and how the LAA helps address the Strategy's key issues]

WiSB's approach to the LAA is that it should help address local priorities. However, the LAA is an agreement with central government and the government has insisted that some specific 'mandatory' outcomes are included in agreement. These may not all relate to the Community Strategy. We will try, wherever possible, to target the action to local priorities.

3 Partnership working in Wiltshire

Partnership working is well established in Wiltshire and includes special interest groups as well as partnerships at the community, district and county levels. WiSB is keen to ensure that the LAA benefits from our strong network of partnerships.

Community Planning in Wiltshire operates in 20 community areas. At the countywide level, the Wiltshire Strategic Board (WiSB) brings together key agencies to work for the benefit of Wiltshire. WiSB includes representatives from County, town and parish and District Councils; district local strategic partnerships; Police; Fire and Rescue; Probation; Learning and Skills Council; Health; and the business and voluntary sectors. Local Strategic Partnerships have also been established in each of the four districts of North Wiltshire, Kennet, West Wiltshire and Salisbury. At the very local level, community area appraisals and action plans feed into the community planning process, and community and voluntary working is a real strength.

The strength of WiSB is in bringing together partners to achieve a shared understanding of the issues across the county and the priorities for action. This work has underpinned the LPSA2 negotiations and the development of the new countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. Progress has also been made in joining up countywide and District community plans and the plans demonstrate clear linkages between priorities.

Partnerships, however, cannot commit partners to action under the LAA – it is the individual partners that make the commitment. Partnerships can give strategic coherence to the work of partners – both for a particular LAA block and for themes under the Community Strategy. A partnership is the place where partners can share their strategies and plans and build joint understanding and agreement. It may be the place where LAA action is developed and coordinated. Successful partnerships help partners to work within a shared sense of strategic intent.

It is important that partnerships are not held to account by WiSB for delivery. Accountability rests with individual partners who commit to specific action and targets, so partnerships must be clear about the accountability of individual partners. In signing the LAA, a partnership is accepting the LAA's priorities and approach and agreeing to support these in the work of the partnership. Individual partners that sign the LAA are committing to delivering the action they have agreed to in the LAA appendices.

Alongside this agreement, WiSB will develop and introduce, with the help of the Wiltshire Improvement Programme, new arrangements for governance, including performance management and risk management. This will help partners to achieve the targets set out in the LAA.

Government

Successful delivery of the LAA could be jeopardized by changes in government priorities that impact on the ability of partners to deliver agreed action. In signing the LAA, we would want government departments to agree that the LAA takes precedence over changes in government priorities. WiSB should then be able to hold government departments to account for any action which threatens the achievement of the LAA.

4 The Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire

4.1 Why have an LAA?

This is Wiltshire's first LAA, and it is part of the government's national roll out of LAAs to all areas of England. We are in the third and final phase of this roll-out.

The LAA is an opportunity for all agencies to work in partnership with the community to help address quality of life issues identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Because this is part of a national programme rather than a purely local initiative, the LAA offers the possibility of 'enabling' measures from government (eg flexibility in the use of resources or freedom from certain regulations) to help us to achieve improvement. The LAA can be viewed as one of the delivery mechanisms for the community strategy.

The disadvantage of an LAA is the increased bureaucracy demanded by government, and the inclusion of 'mandatory' outcomes that may not represent local priorities. We will need to assess whether the 'enabling measures' granted during negotiation outweigh these disadvantages.

4.2 What is an LAA?

Essentially, an LAA is an agreement between government and local areas which strikes a balance between the priorities of central Government, and those of local government and their partners. It involves negotiating a joint commitment to deliver services within a framework of measurable and accountable outcomes (or goals). We intend to use the local area agreement to provide a clear focus for delivery through partnership working over the next three years. We aim to:

- § *develop a set of transparent and measurable action plans for the effective delivery of WiSB agreed strategic Outcomes*
- § *seek efficiencies through greater integration of delivery and reduced bureaucracy*
- § *pool the knowledge, and where appropriate resources, of a wide range of partners to encourage an innovative approach to maximising the effectiveness of our combined outputs*
- § *establish a performance management framework and a governance framework which makes progress against LAA outcomes transparent and encourages WiSB partners to take joint responsibility for performance.*
- § *comply with the Government mandates to have an LAA. We will try to minimise the burden of additional bureaucracy and mandatory outcomes associated with the LAA.*

4.3 Wiltshire's LAA principles

The LAA has not been developed as the vehicle for the delivery all of the *Sustainable Community Strategy*. Some of the Strategy's priorities will be delivered through other action plans. We have used the following *principles* to identify the action proposed in the LAA:

- § *Providing services in ways which are responsive to the particular needs of individuals, groups, and communities.*
- § *Getting to the root of problems, not just tackling symptoms.*

- § *Paying particular attention to significant life transitions that are commonly associated with increased personal vulnerability.*
- § *Seeking sustainable solutions, not temporary fixes.*
- § *Promoting informed personal choices rather than making decisions for people.*
- § *Strengthening individual resilience and resourcefulness, not creating dependence.*
- § *Tackling inequalities and deprivation.*

4.4 How was the LAA developed?

This agreement has been worked upon over the last year, and has included considerable consultation. Much of the work has been firstly to introduce the concept of an LAA, and then agreement reached on what would be best for Wiltshire. Hence the formation of six blocks rather than the four mandated ones by Government. (An audit trail in appendix 7.3 provides the detail of that work.) The WiSB conference this year on the 18th October concentrated solely on the Sustainable Community Strategy and the development of this agreement. As a result a number of delegates asked to be kept informed or wished to involve further. (Documentation on the WCC website).

4.5 What are we going to do?

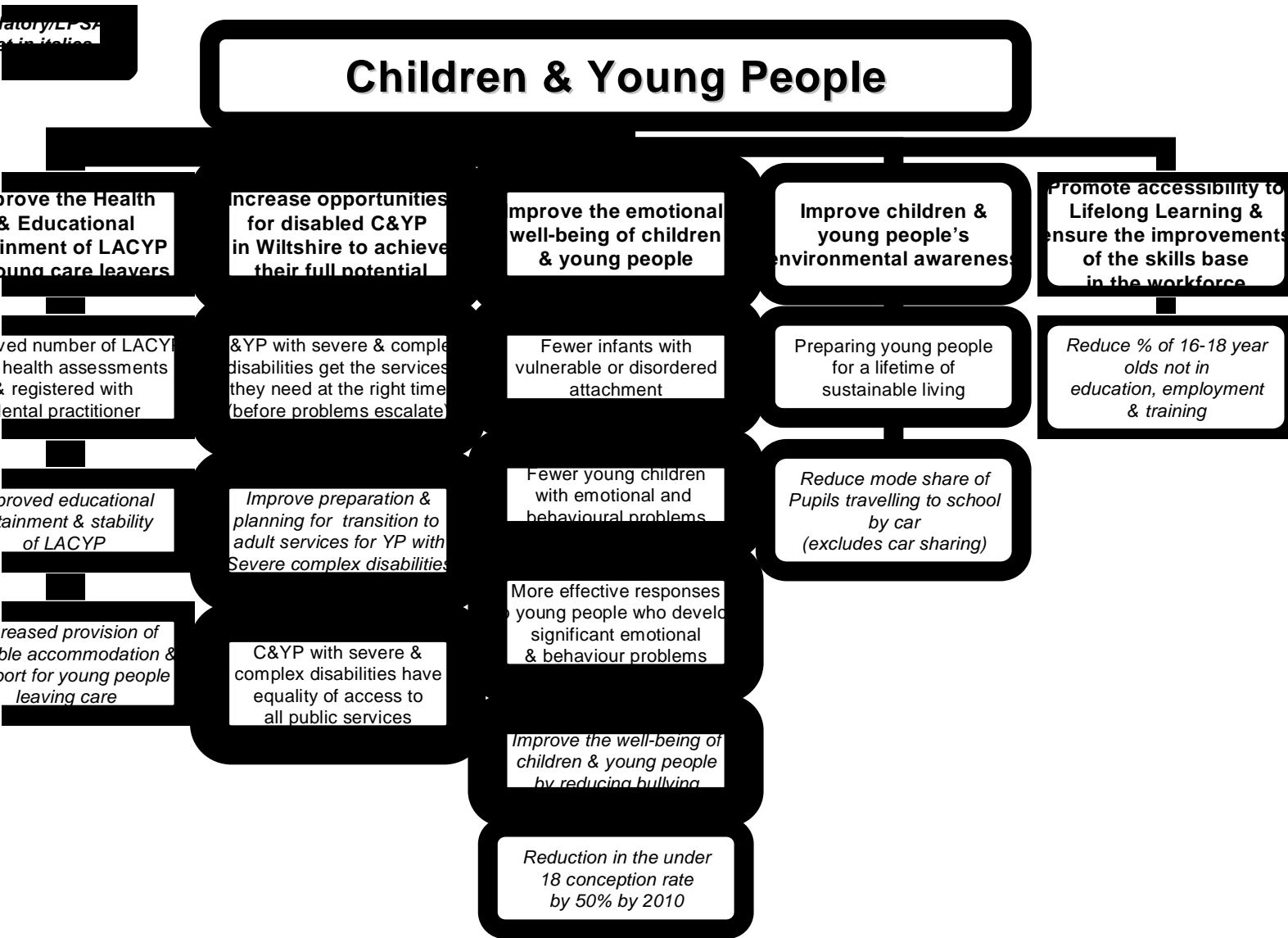
The final version of this document will detail the improvements to be made as part of the LAA. The following sub-sections provide detail of the high level and sub-outcomes of this LAA. **For details on partners, activity and targets please see appendix 7.1.**

The blocks also include mandatory targets set by government together with Local Public Service Agreement targets.

4.5.1 Children and Young People

The Children and Young People's Plan is a key element of the reforms underpinned by the Children Act 2004. It has been used to support the Children and Young People's block of the LAA. The Plan is a strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people. It sits "above" individual organisations' strategic and action plans. The plan covers services for children and young people aged 0 – 19, care leavers over 19 receiving services and those over 19 and under 25 with disabilities. It relates to the Wiltshire Local Authority area which excludes the area maintained by Swindon Borough Council. It is not intended to address every aspect of all children's services in Wiltshire. It seeks to focus on the areas most in need of improvement, and where better joint working between partner agencies is needed to bring about better outcomes for children. Those being that **all** children:

- Be healthy (Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing)
- Stay safe
- Enjoy & achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being



4.5.2 Economic Development and Enterprise

A range of organisations came together to identify priorities for this block. This group comprised representatives from: Business Link; Community First, Countryside and Land Based Issues Group, Government Office for the South West, Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council, South West of England Regional Development Agency, Wiltshire County Council, West Wiltshire Economic Partnership and the Wiltshire and Swindon Economic Partnership. In developing this block, 3 strategic issues were identified which set the context of economic development and enterprise activity in Wiltshire. Various rounds of consultation at a District level have also taken place.

1: Industrial activity in the Wiltshire economy has not restructured in a way to enable it to remain competitive in the long term.

- Lower than GB average concentration of high value-added industry;
- Low value and low skilled manufacturing activity is still a significant source of employment and business activity in Wiltshire;
- High employment levels have been achieved through the creation of low skilled jobs in the service sector e.g. retail and other personal services;
- The decline in agricultural activity and defence restructuring over the last 20 years;
- Growth in Gross Value Added (GVA) in Wiltshire has been slowing over a number of years.

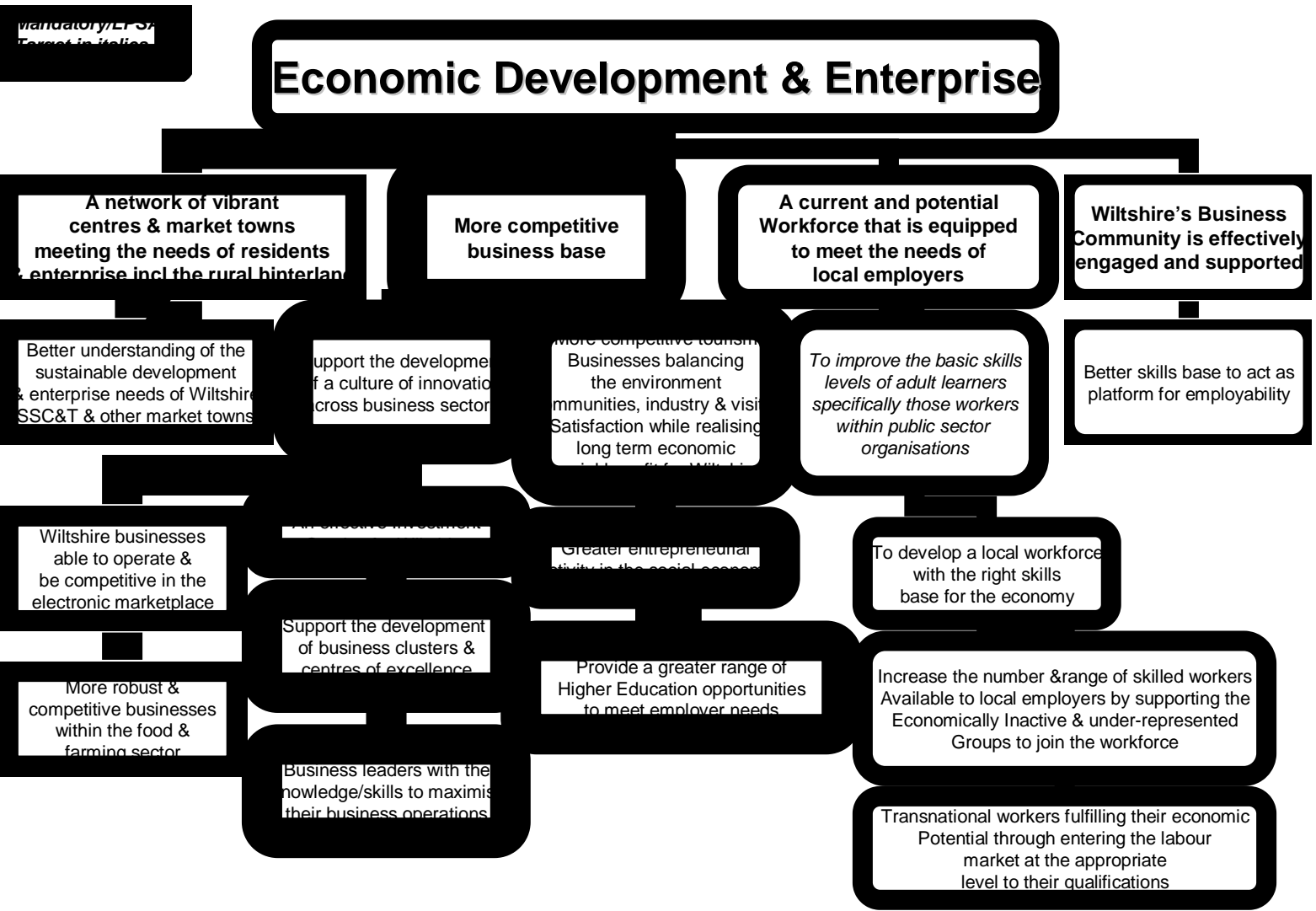
2: Capacity for growth within the Wiltshire economy is constrained.

- High employment levels have restricted the availability of staff across all occupations for businesses wishing to expand in the county. Acute recruitment difficulties exist amongst the low skilled and school leavers. In addition, work needs to be undertaken to encourage the economically inactive into work;
- Wiltshire is a high cost/low wage location and significant discrepancies exist in earnings between the resident and workplace-based employees. This places a particular strain on key workers, the low paid and the young;
- The skills mix of those people working in Wiltshire does not meet the needs of employers and high numbers have no qualifications or poor basic skills;
- There is an insufficient supply of jobs in Wiltshire for residents with higher qualifications leading to out-commuting;
- Businesses experience difficulties in accessing suitable premises and employment land;
- The country suffers from the lack of a Higher Education Establishment (HEI); a lack of young graduates, few graduate positions and an ageing workforce.
- In addition, the level of innovative and invention activity is also expected to be lower as businesses do not have a local level of engagement with a HEI.

3: Policy and Institutional Structures Restricting ED&E Dev.

Changing policy at a national, regional and local level will determine partners' ability to effect change and access resource. Work to secure the future role of Wiltshire's Strategically Significant City and Towns (Salisbury, Chippenham and Trowbridge) is imperative. That said, the Regional Spatial Strategy poses a significant threat to the vibrancy of its market towns which are not classified as a SSCT. In order that economic development and enterprise delivery is maximised and responsive, the right structures and partners (including business) need to be in place and a review of existing partnerships' structures needs to be undertaken.

Economic Development & Enterprise



4.5.3 Environment

The environment block aims to establish a sustainable future for the people and wildlife of Wiltshire. Sustainability has been placed at the heart of the Community Strategy. The LAA represents an opportunity to tackle some major issues that need to be addressed if we are to become more sustainable. Many things are already being undertaken by the voluntary and community sector, statutory bodies and local government. The LAA provides an opportunity to focus on key environmental issues: waste, biodiversity and energy.

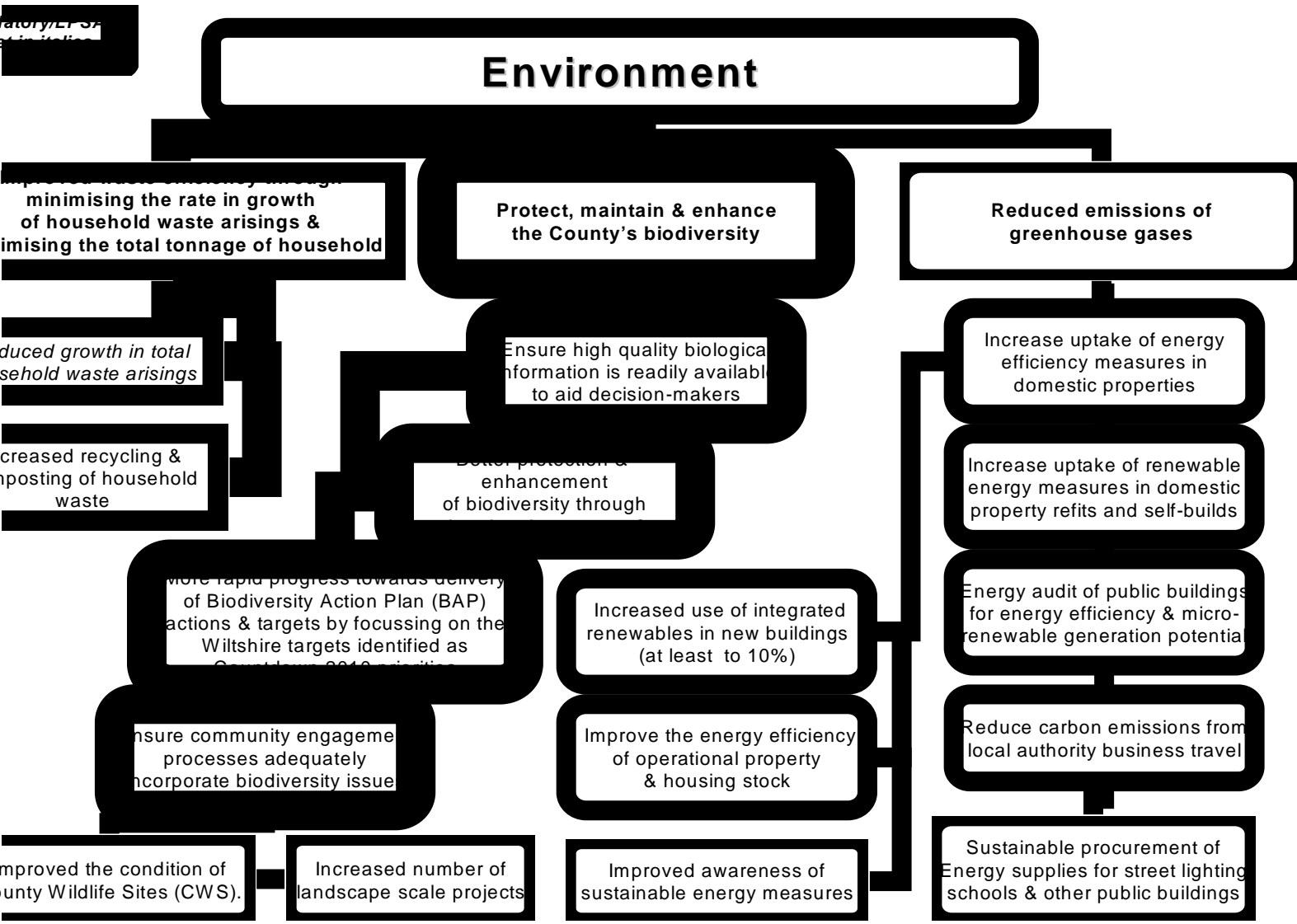
WiSB has chosen waste efficiency as one its four issues to champion, with the aim 'to become the most waste efficient county by 2014'. Forecast growth in waste is unsustainable (economically and environmentally) and is a significant contributor to climate change. Waste reduction initiatives tackle the problem at source, one of the underpinning principles of the LAA. The community strategy recognises household waste as a key issue, stating Wiltshire should 'take measures to minimise waste, promote reuse, recycling and composting'.

The biodiversity outcome will make a significant contribution to sustainability in Wiltshire, recognising our dependence on natural resources and biodiversity for our own survival. The outcome addresses several of the environmental issues highlighted in the community strategy including ongoing fragmentation of habitats; landscape issues and land management capacity.

Climate Change is a global issue relevant to us all and is an increasingly important issue of concern raised by local people. Reducing Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy efficiency and delivery of appropriate local renewable energy generation will help combat climate change and also benefit the local economy and people's health (e.g. affordable warmth). The community strategy states the need to 'address climate change by reducing CO2 emissions through the adoption of energy efficiency, and renewable energy approaches'.

The outcome targets will be SMART and will be set in accordance with existing, relevant strategies including Wiltshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, Wiltshire's Biodiversity Action Plan, Wiltshire & Swindon Renewable Energy Action Plan, Wiltshire & Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy and the South West Low Carbon Housing & Fuel Poverty Strategy & Action Plan.

The activities and outcomes set out in the environment block are interlinked to the other blocks in many ways. These links will be explored and strengthened as a result of the LAA. For example, access to a rich and diverse environment is recognised to be beneficial to our mental and physical wellbeing (Healthier Wiltshire); many of the activities associated with this outcome provide opportunities for volunteering and community involvement (Stronger Communities).



4.5.4 Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities block has developed from the work of Healthier Wiltshire—a multi agency project with the overall goal of making Wiltshire the healthiest county by 2014.

In the early phase of the LAA it was agreed to separate out Older People from the block to give Older People its own identity and to emphasise that Healthy Communities is about **all** age groups adopting healthier lifestyles.

The headline outcome is mandatory –improve health and reduce health inequalities. The sub outcomes have been chosen with the twin aims of the main outcome in mind and each has a flavour of targeting of deprived communities or harder to reach groups.

Recently completed work by the South West Regional Public Health Information service has highlighted that in the Region as a whole and also in Wiltshire the overall health of the population as measured by Life Expectancy is improving. However health inequalities are widening between areas of highest deprivation and those of lower deprivation.

It has been agreed that although the reduction in Health inequalities needs to be tackled as part of a longer term initiative it would be helpful to use the LAA as a stepping stone towards the achievement of this aim. An overall target has been agreed which is to see the gap maintained (or reduced) from its present level. The improving overall trend in life expectancy and the resultant decline in death rates is expected to continue.

There are parts of the programme of work that are more developmental and will be refreshed as Year one of the LAA draws to a close. There are also a number of indicators and targets that directly reflect the activities to be undertaken whereas others are more generic and will be affected by the totality of the activities (and by other factors).

The LPSA targets have been included in full as part of the programme.

y/LPSA
italics

Healthy Communities

Improve Health and Reduce Health Inequalities through targeted activities in & between local communities where life expectancy is lowest and/or deprivation highest with specific reference to lifestyles which influence the following :

- § **Chronic Heart Disease**
- § **Stroke**
- § **Cancer**
- § **Accidents**
- § **Mental Health and wellbeing**
- § **Sexual health and teenage pregnancy**

Reduce levels of binge drinking population drinking in excess of Recommended Government targets & under age drinking

Halt rising trend of obesity in population (increase physical activity)

Reducing the incidence of all accidents in people under 19 years

Halt rising trend of obesity in adult population (improve diet)

Reduce the incidence of CHD, Stroke & cancers through reducing the incidence of Smoking & the harmful effects of smoke

Increase the awareness of mental health problems within communities

Halt rising trend in obesity in the 0 - 19 population (improve diet)

Reduce sexual health inequalities

Reduce the incidence of CHD & Stroke through effective prescribing

4.5.5 Older People

As yet, there has not been a strategic plan to galvanise services for older people. The Beyond the Immediate project has provided the platform for this.

WILTSHIRE “BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE” OVER 50’S NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

It is worthy of note that this study was carried out to inform policy and service delivery for the future. The following outlines the main objective

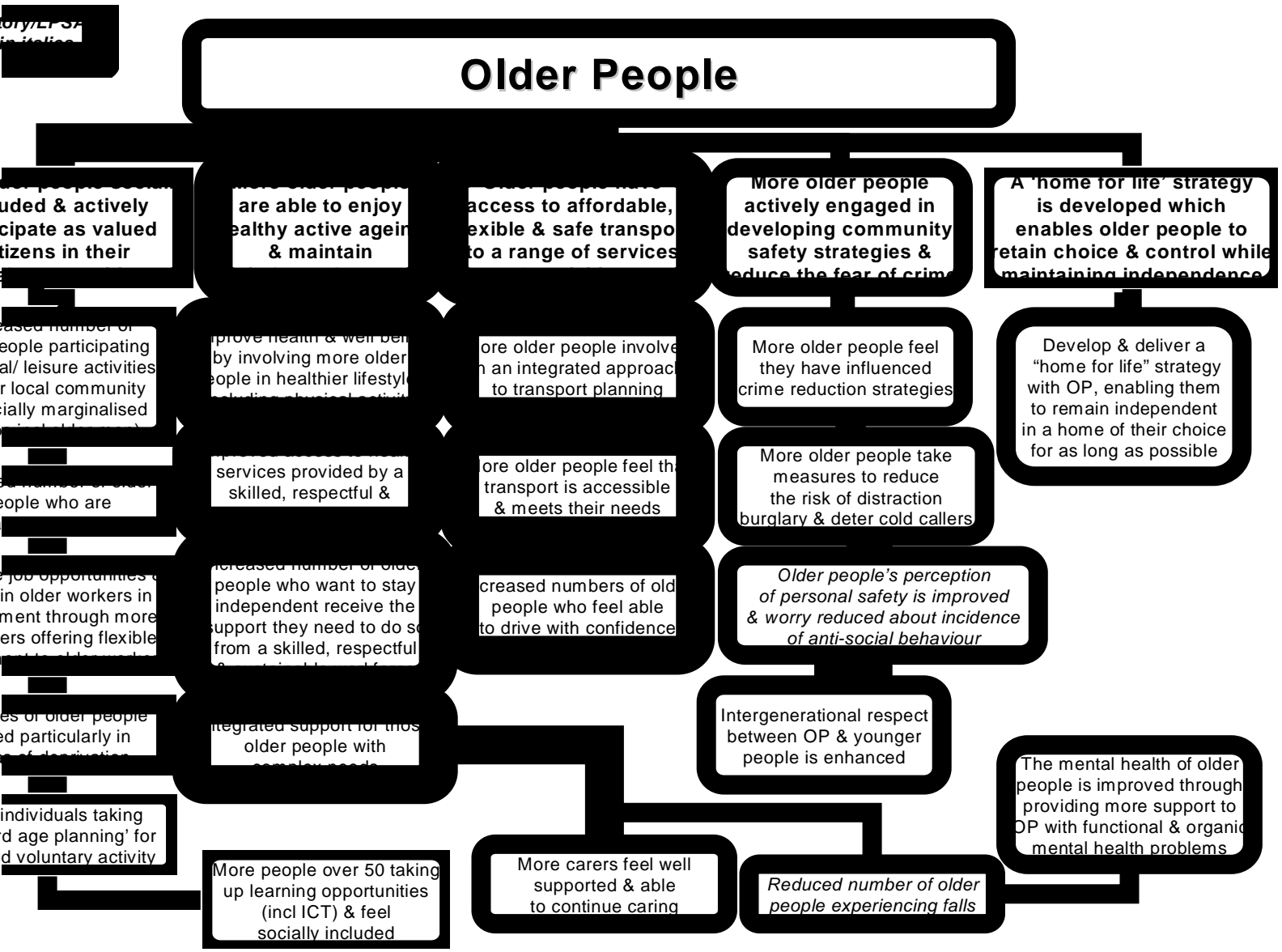
“The aim of this major study has been to research the future needs, expectations and aspirations of older people in Wiltshire, and to enable the research findings, and older people themselves, to influence the planning and delivery of services, not just in the immediate future, but also in the much longer term.”

Ultimately, thousands of older people (defined, for the purposes of this study, as those over fifty years) across this very rural county, will benefit if providers of services base their decisions on identified needs and what older people themselves say they want in the future, not on assumptions made on their behalf.”

The executive summary contains the following key facts and findings.

Key Facts and Findings

- Over a third of Wiltshire’s total population is aged 50 and over
- Within 20 years 43% of all people in Wiltshire will be over 50
- Within 20 years 50% of the voting population will be over 50
- The average age of respondents to the survey is 66 years, for both men and women
- 70% of the residents surveyed have lived in Wiltshire for more than 20 years
- 59% of respondents live in a rural location
- 27% live alone of whom 73% are female
- 65% of BTI respondents own their home outright and 13% live in rented property
- 10% are lonely and wish they had more company
- 23% require introduction/encouragement to join in group activities
- 93% want to keep fit and healthy for as long as possible
- 46% worry about their physical health and 34% worry about their mental health
- Maintaining independence is a key priority for 94%
- 44% would be happy to live in basic sheltered housing and 34% in extra care sheltered housing
- 90% of car drivers agreed that they would be lost without their car
- People are affected in their neighbourhood by: cold calling (56%), speeding traffic (50%), pavement cycling (30%), anti-social behaviour (26%)
- 76% want greater flexibility around when and how to retire
- Nearly 40,000 older people in Wiltshire are “income deprived”
- 59% have access to a computer at home but 35% cannot or do not text or email



4.5.6 Safer & Stronger Communities

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the county council, district councils, parish and town councils, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority to have regard to crime prevention in everything that they do, and to do 'all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder' in their area. This section imposes an all-embracing responsibility on these authorities to put crime reduction and community safety at the heart of their medium- and long-term planning and their day-to-day practice.

The shared responsibility for crime reduction imposed by the Crime and Disorder Act meant that organisations could no longer work in isolation – instead, partnerships were set up so that organisations could pool their ideas and resources and work together to tackle problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. Because audits and strategies have to be drawn up at *district* level, each of Wiltshire's four districts set up a community safety partnership whose membership includes the responsible authorities; the organisations which are required to co-operate; and many other representatives of the statutory, private, voluntary and community sectors which have responded to the invitation to participate in the work of the partnership. Alongside these district-based partnerships, the Safer Wiltshire Executive operates at a countywide level, taking overall responsibility for the reduction of drug and alcohol misuse and for those aspects of crime reduction which are best co-ordinated on a Wiltshire wide basis.

What follows safer communities are Stronger Communities. Building stronger communities is at the heart of this agreement. Our Sustainable Community Strategy outlines what we mean by Stronger Communities:

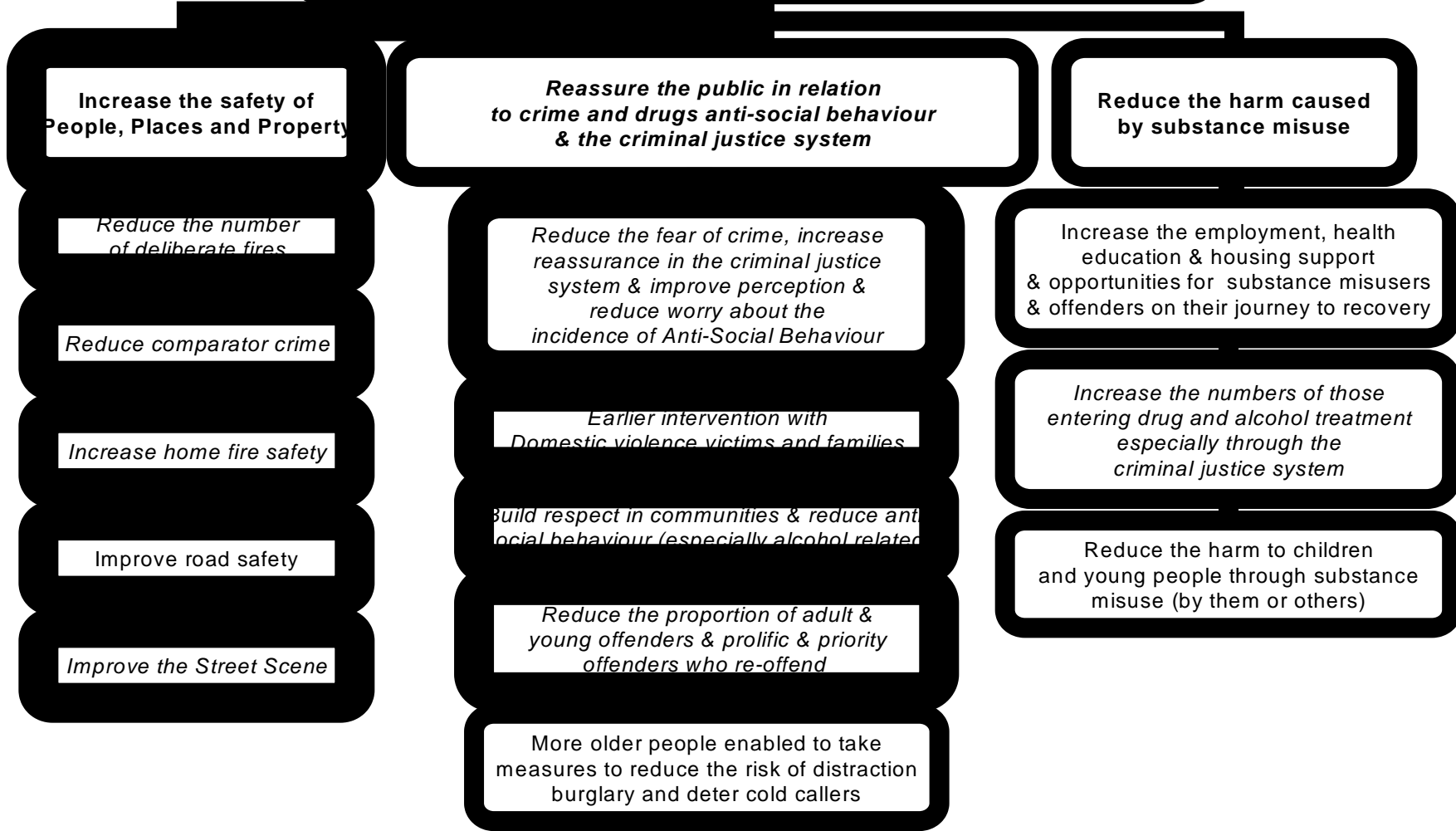
- Communities where people want to live and work. People are there by choice.
- Communities which are inclusive. People of different backgrounds, ages and beliefs feel part of the community, not separate or marginalised.
- Communities which are lively, busy places. People get together to tackle local concerns and to socialise. People readily volunteer and feel encouraged to do so. There are many social 'networks' between individuals and families.
- Communities where people feel safe.
- Communities which have effective political processes, marked by trust, high political participation, and effective relations between public, voluntary and business sectors.
- Creates a sufficient range of jobs to meet local employment needs

By creating such communities Wiltshire will build "social capital" and a capacity to sustain the long term vision of WiSB.

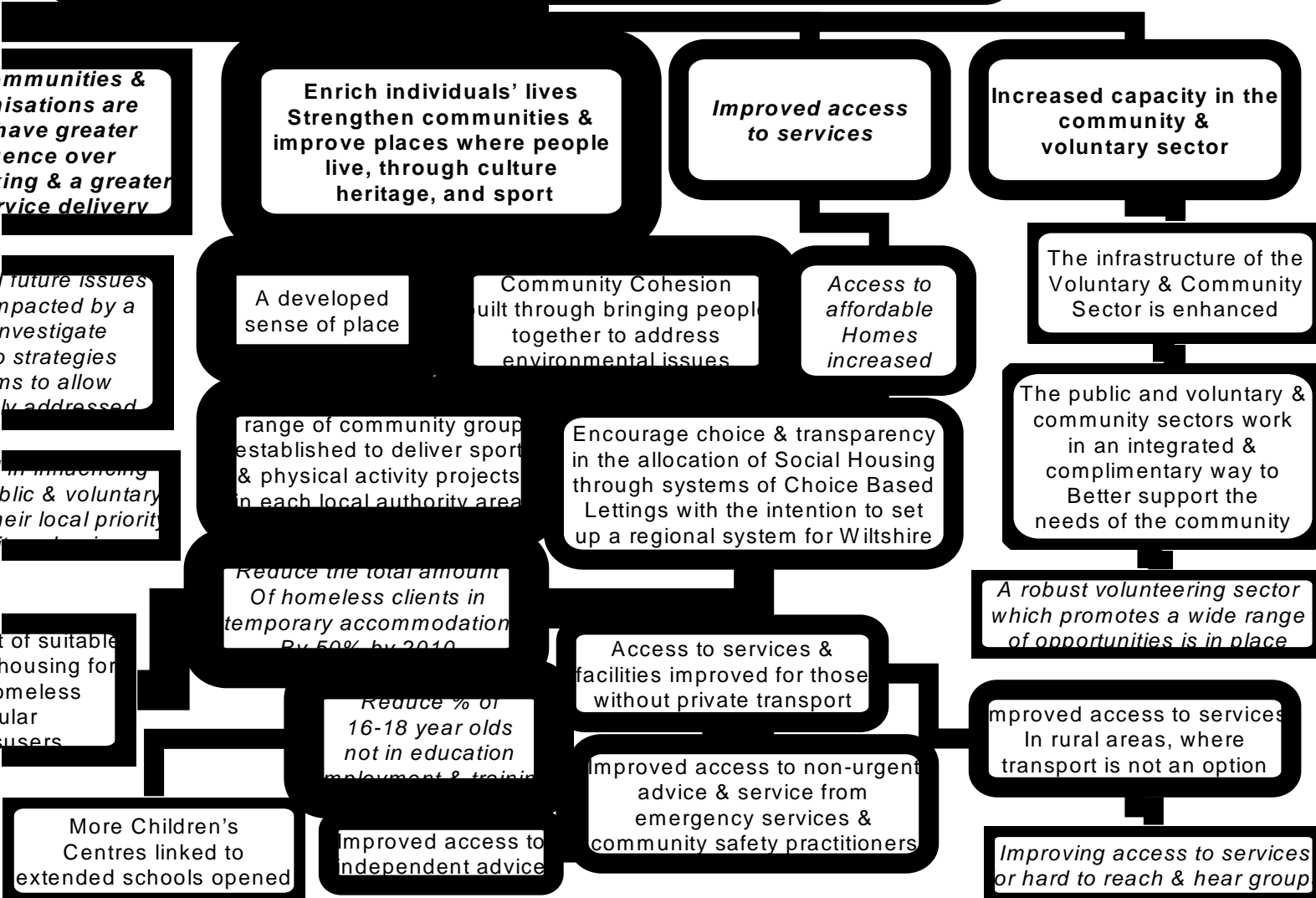
If successfully delivered a safer community will follow, as many of these sub outcomes will tackle the underlying root causes of an unsafe society

*Mandatory/LPSA
Target in italics*

Safer & Stronger Communities (1)



Safer & Stronger Communities (2)



4.6 Performance Framework

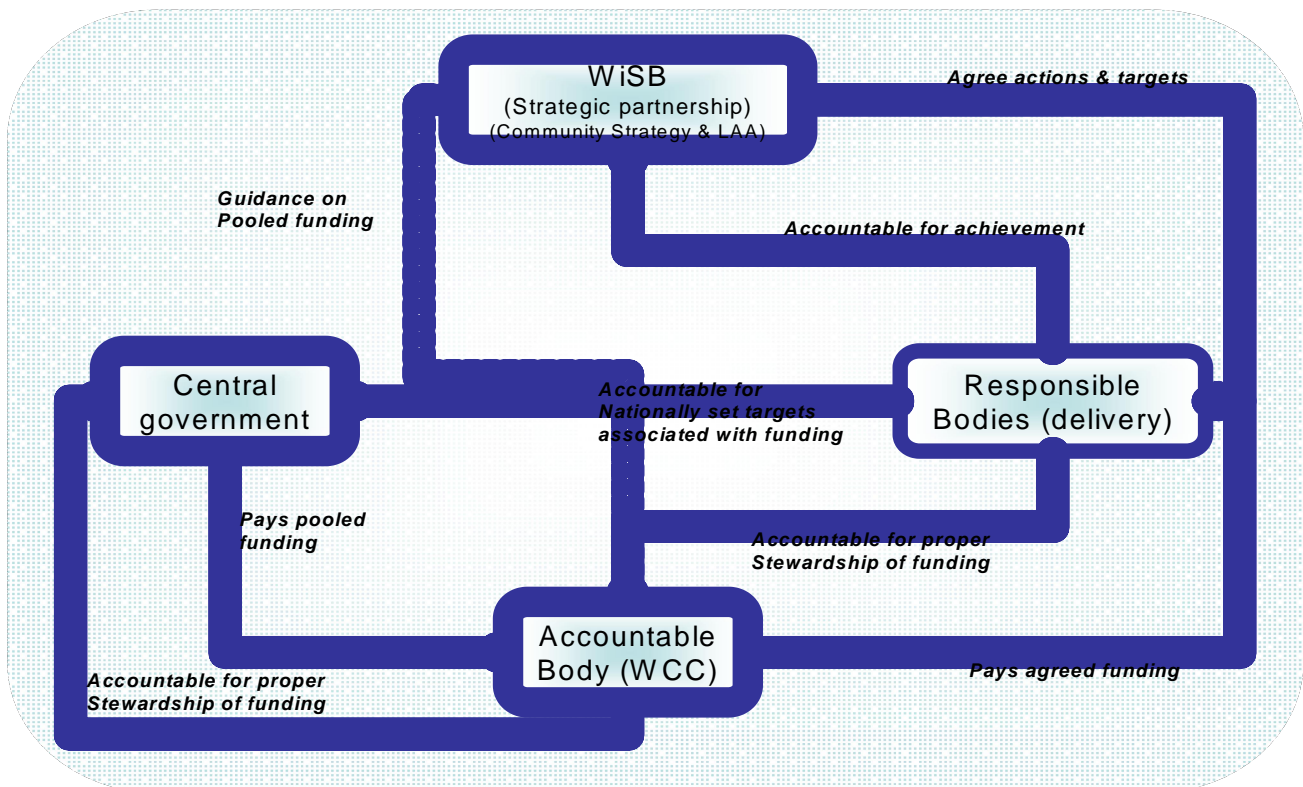
Performance monitoring of progress on LAA targets and action will be undertaken on a quarterly basis. Exception reporting will provide WiSB with specific performance information, together with a traffic light system to identify under-performance using the following criteria:

- § **Green** –on track to achieve target
- § **Amber** – not achieved; actions in place to bring about improvement
- § **Red** – not achieved; not on track to achieve target (information provided)

A six monthly monitoring report will be presented to GOSW and a yearly refresh of the LAA will take place. One of the benefits of the LAA is expected to be a reduction in the existing performance and inspection regimes, as reflected in the recent Government White Paper, “strong and prosperous communities.” The performance framework in Wiltshire will have a ‘golden thread’ that connects each outcome with the relevant target, milestones and measurement that will ensure frontline delivery.

4.7 Partnership Governance

2007/8 is likely to be a year of significant change for local government and local strategic partnerships. These changes include the county’s first Local Area



Agreement (LAA), an updated community strategy, and the development of new governance and performance management arrangements (commissioned through the Wiltshire Improvement Partnership) and the impact of the Local Government White Paper. WiSB's ambitions may also require further development to feed into future LAA's (particularly those relating to 'older people' and 'stronger communities').

For this first year, interim arrangements for governance will be put in place to support the successful establishment of the LAA. Learning from these arrangements will inform the development of more permanent arrangements.

There are some underpinning assumptions which reflect our current governance arrangements in Wiltshire:

WiSB is a strategic partnership, not a delivery organisation (eg a company). As such, it is usefully placed to take an overview of Wiltshire. It can adopt plans and coordinate arrangements between partners, can give guidance, and can challenge individual partners to achieve what they have agreed to achieve. However, it cannot commit a partner to action and it cannot spend money – anything a partnership wishes to achieve must be achieved through the action and agreement of one or more partners. Partners have their own accountabilities (eg to the electorate, to various government departments, to statute etc) that they must take account of when committing to action.

Responsible body – in the diagram below this represents a partner which agrees to take action to further the achievement of the community strategy. It may receive funding associated with this action, or it may use its own capacity. It is responsible for the delivery of the agreed action and targets, and is accountable for these to WiSB. It is also financially accountable to the Accountable Body for any funding received from the LAA pot to support those activities or targets. It may also be accountable to government for the delivery of LAA targets.

Accountable body – for the purpose of the LAA, the County Council is the body held accountable by government for the proper accounting of specific funding, including pooled funding and LPSA PPG. It will set accounting and stewardship arrangements with 'responsible bodies', and receive guidance on the use of funding from WiSB. It also needs to ensure that there are clear leads for each of the targets in the LAA so that individual partners within the LSP can be held accountable by government for delivery against these targets.

4.8 Resources for the LAA

The activities to deliver the LAA targets will be resourced in a number of ways:

- By Pump Priming Grant allocated to Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets. This was distributed in 2006/7 and totalled £1,190,821.
- By specific funding aligned to LAA targets (to be agreed as part of the negotiation process). This is not new money – it is existing grants that may be aligned locally to support the delivery of LAA improvements.
- By capacity within organisations used to further LAA goals and targets – for example; staff time, premises, and alignment of specific budgets involved in LAA action. Each organisation will be asked to agree its commitment to delivering LAA activities.

4.9 Pooled funding

In addition, some funding streams are automatically pooled centrally in all Local Area Agreements. It is important that this does not add unnecessary uncertainty, particularly in the first year of the LAA. For this reason the following working assumption has been adopted: We will simply apportion the money to meet current assumptions (i.e. as it is in 2006/7, taking account of known changes). We reserve the right not to do this, but will explain any changes. During year 1, we will develop alternative arrangements. The following list of pooled funding applies to the Wiltshire Local Area Agreement: [TO BE UPDATED]

Children and Young People

- Childrens Services Grant
- Kerbcraft
- Key Stage 3 - Behaviour & Attendance
- Key Stage 3 - Central Co-ordination
- Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
- Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative
- Neighbourhood Support Fund
- Positive Activities for Young People (includes Swindon Allocation)
- Primary Strategy - Central Co-ordination
- School Travel Advisers
- School Development Grant

Economic Development

- Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, including:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Grant
- Building Safer Communities
- Drugs Strategy Partnership Support Grant

Environment

- Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant

4.10 Other financial implications

~~24~~We recognise there will be financial challenges and risks as the LAA develops. More sophisticated governance and performance management arrangements will be developed for future years. The Wiltshire Improvement partnership is undertaking work on this for all Local Strategic partnerships.

4.11 Enabling Measures

Enabling measures are steps taken by Government to allow service providers the freedom to spend more time on delivery than on reporting performance to the centre. For this to happen it is firstly the area to make a business case for consideration by Government. This needs to set out clearly what benefits will be realised by relaxed reporting or other measure and that to reduce bureaucracy, with no adverse affect on performance.

At present very few enabling measures have been identified as extensive work has been focussed on building the outcomes, activities and targets; work that needs to be concluded before identifying enabling measures. Those identified so far can be found in appendix 7.2 Work will continue on this aspect of partnership with Government.

5 Cross cutting themes

There are a number of challenges and priorities which do not fit neatly into one specific block but are distributed across all the blocks. These are important to the successful achievement of the LAA in Wiltshire, and we need to take account of the issues outlined below in the development of LAA activities and targets

5.1 Recognising Equality and Diversity

Wiltshire is a diverse county, and it is vital that this is taken into account in the LAA. The majority of partners involved in the Wiltshire LAA are public bodies, and as such, all have obligations under the *Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000*. Specifically, whilst undertaking their role as stakeholders in this LAA, they are mindful of the General Duty under the Act which requires public bodies to:

- Eliminate racial discrimination
- Promote equal opportunities
- Promote good relations between different racial groups

These principles are reflected in our outcomes, indicators and targets.

As LAAs represent a new mechanism for channelling public resources in order to improve public services; how they are compiled is relevant to the General Duty and this LAA is written with that General Duty in mind.

But in a wider sense this means for partners signed up to the LAA

- making services accessible to all; and
- treating people fairly

...regardless of their colour, race, ethnic or national origin, language, religion or belief, gender or gender reassignment, marital status, sexuality, disability, age, and any illness or infection.

The Genral Duty will be extended to disability in December 2006 and gender during 2007.

5.2 Affordable Housing

The shortfall of affordable housing is one of the key problems facing Wiltshire. The numbers of people on the waiting list for affordable housing continues to rise faster than the number of new houses provided for those in housing need.

Different sections of the community need different solutions. There are issues affecting each of the LAA blocks, ranging from young to old people and from the economy to the environment. Good housing makes a major contribution to people's health and education and is a key part of a safe and strong local community. A good supply of affordable housing is essential to support the jobs in each of our market towns.

To address these needs there is an increasing focus on the importance of the planning system, the links required between land use planning and community planning and the potential to obtain new affordable housing at 'nil public subsidy' where there is complimentary development that can provide the funding. Supplementary planning guidance can help to achieve more affordable housing. This can encourage landowners to bring forward sites in both urban and

rural settings. In rural areas this can be on sites that would not otherwise attract planning permission, namely rural exception sites.

Targets have been set to address: the environmental impact of new housing, to require developers to provide 'nil subsidy' affordable housing, to cater for the needs of young people, old people and people that have recently left care and generally to support the development of sustainable communities with sufficient affordable housing. Targets have also been set to encourage public sector organisations to provide land for affordable housing.

5.3 Accessibility & Transport

Government sees transport as, ultimately, one of a combination of factors contributing to sustainable economic growth and social inclusion: it is not an end in itself. Government's ambition to deliver sustainable improvements in economic performance, an inclusive society, a better environment and a better quality of life requires partnership working and co-ordinated planning and action across many agendas, including education and skills, housing, regeneration, and infrastructure planning and development.

Wiltshire's local transport strategy is set out in its Local Transport Plan (LTP), and proposes a wide range of indicators and targets across a number of themes, however the involvement and contribution from local partners is likely to be most effective in relation to maintaining or improving accessibility. In preparing the LTP, the "vision" for accessibility agreed with the partners is:

"To improve access to goods, services and employment opportunities for all sections of the community, particularly those living in rural areas or without access to a car:

The following objectives have been defined in order to deliver the vision:

- § To provide health and social care services which are integrated, timely and easy to access.
- § To tackle social and rural exclusion in rural areas.
- § To ensure that housing is provided within the context of sustainable communities.
- § To increase local people's access to, and participation in, Wiltshire's cultural activities and opportunities.
- § To identify barriers to access and participation and issues of social inclusion, with particular regard to cultural activities in rural areas.
- § To ensure every citizen can access public information, services and decision-making in our area regardless of their individual economic status, disability, ethnic origin, age, gender or location."

Public transport and accessibility has been identified as a high LTP priority and partnership working between service providers is crucial to improve access to key services by non-car modes, especially from rural areas.

5.4 Involvement of the Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary and community sector has a crucial role to play in delivering public services and in building the strong and cohesive communities contained in the Community Strategy vision. There is a clear expectation from all partners that the voluntary and community sector should be a genuine partner in the LAA and that the sector has a key role to play in planning and delivering activities across all the blocks. We expect that the Voluntary and Community Sector and local people to continue to work in partnership with us to design, develop and deliver this LAA.

This will be achieved with the backdrop of good working relationships that have been already established between the statutory and the voluntary and community sectors in recent years. Developments have included the agreement of a Wiltshire Compact which sets out clear expectations and requirements, and improvements to voluntary sector infrastructure through the 'Change Up' initiative and the establishment of a Voluntary Sector Consortium.

5.5 The Military Presence

Wiltshire has a long association with the armed forces. The Salisbury Plain training area; its associated army garrison towns cover about a tenth of the county and in the north there is the RAF base at Lyneham, together with a number smaller naval sites. Integrating this military presence into the County in a way that is positive for both Forces personnel and local civilian communities is an on-going and important cross-cutting issue. This will become even more crucial as the Army develops its super-garrison on Salisbury Plain, and with the prospect of a change of use at the RAF Lyneham base.

5.6 Rural Wiltshire

It is estimated that roughly 80% of Wiltshire land mass is farmed. Rural Wiltshire faces a number of challenges, not only for the farming communities but also for villages and the infrastructure they so depend upon.

Between 2001 and 2011 the rural share of house building is expected to be 15% of the total; this represents a fall from the rate of 20% between 1978 and 1991. With little growth, competition for village properties will intensify, and house prices will continue to rise, hence making villages more exclusive.

Since 1990 the value generated from farming, nationally, has declined from £14.9 billion to £14.6 billion despite considerable increases in efficiency, whilst over the same period the value from food has increased from £62 billion to £111 billion. The primary challenge is to assist farmers to make best use of the measures introduced following the mid-term review of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The existing trend towards larger farm sizes in Wiltshire is likely to be further accentuated.

Wiltshire's landscape has national, and European significance for it's archaeological, geological and wildlife features. Well over half the County is covered by Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and other desirable designations. With around 80% of the County being farmed, the importance of the future of farming to the quality and character of the landscape cannot be overestimated.

Village communities face challenges, including the availability of affordable housing, and transport to key services and facilities.

Increasing public transport costs (higher fuel costs, shortage of drivers, especially at weekends and in the evenings, rural routes becoming uneconomic due to low, and dispersed demand, etc.) may not be sustainable, especially if Government grants are withdrawn.

There has been a 34% increase in car ownership between 1991 and 2001, with particular growth in the numbers of households with two or more cars. Also, 27% of carbon dioxide emissions nationally come from transport; a 50% increase in just over

a decade. When asked, 48% of Wiltshire People's Voice panellists believe climate change is a major threat.

5.7 Sport and Physical Activity

Sport and physical activity have been identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy as key tools in tackling a wide range of health and social issues. Many of these issues are being addressed through the LAA, thus a range of sport and physical activity targets have been incorporated across many of the LAA Blocks, with the aim of improving health, (both physical and mental), reducing crime and fear of crime, developing transferable skills and strengthening communities.

Achieving these sport and physical activity targets will not only make a great difference to the lives of the people of Wiltshire, but it will also contribute to the National target of a 1% per year increase in the number of people participating in moderate physical activity on a regular basis.

6 Next Steps

6.1 Implementation

Each WiSB partner has been asked to consider their part in delivering the activities in this LAA and take this to their respective boards or other executive body. This is to allow their representatives to sign up to the LAA in full knowledge of that commitment. This is required before the LAA is finalised in March 2007.

The timescales are tight for verification of this agreement but achievable. Significant dates are:

30th November 2006: WiSBex meeting where the first draft will be examined and, if accepted, submitted thereafter to GOSW as a first draft.

24th January 2007: WiSB will consider the second draft after comments have been received back from Government.

21st March 2007: final document submitted to GOSW ready for sign off by Whitehall.

6.2 This agreement in action

A number of activities will be ongoing within the first year of this agreement, some already alluded to. Ongoing work will include:

- § Implementation of governance and performance management arrangements following completion of the Wiltshire Improvement Partnership's governance project. (interim arrangements will be put in place for the start of the LAA. These are outlined in sections 4.6 to 4.9 above.)
- § Work to deliver the targets contained in this LAA, and to learn from the experience of that delivery.
- § Work to develop the outcomes as identified under each of the blocks. This work is likely to result in activities and targets to be included in future LAA's.
- § Work to refresh the LAA for the second and subsequent years. This will include the implications of the revised community strategy, other local changes, and national changes such as the implications of the Local Government White Paper.

6.3 Sign up

'Signing-up' to the LAA will mean different things to according to the level of involvement.

Partners

Partners (not partnerships) which are neither a responsible body nor an accountable body (see below) sign to confirm their acceptance of the LAA's priorities and approach, and agree to reflect these in their own planning and strategy. This signifies their ownership of the LAA. Signature by partners that are also responsible or accountable bodies signify additional commitment:

- § A 'Responsible Body' is a partner that agrees to take action to further the achievement of the community strategy. If this action is part of the LAA the body will be identified in the LAA as responsible for the delivery of specific actions and targets. It will be accountable to WiSB for performance and may also be held accountable by government for delivery of specific LAA targets. This action may be resourced from the body's own resources or it may be supplemented by

pooled or LPSA funding (if so, the body will also be accountable to the County Council (as the 'Accountable Body') for this funding, and may be accountable to government for related performance). As well as signing as a 'partner', a responsible body's signing of the LAA signifies its commitment to the delivery of the action and targets specified.

- § An 'Accountable Body' is specified by government as the upper tier local authority. For Wiltshire this is the County Council. For the purpose of signing the LAA, the County Council is a partner, a responsible body, and the accountable body. As accountable body it carries additional responsibilities – it will be held to account by government for the financial management of the LAA and for performance management arrangements. It will need to ensure that proper arrangements are in place and will also take decisions about pooled and LPSA funding after receiving advice from WiSB.

Signatories (TBC)

Chair – Wiltshire Strategic Board (WiSB) and
Leader of Wiltshire County Council

Chair – Wiltshire Primary Care Trust

District Council

Wiltshire Police

Wiltshire Fire Service

Other (to be added)

Date Submitted to Government

7 Appendices

7.1 Delivery matrix

7.2 Enabling Measures

7.3 Audit trail and consultation

~~7.77.4~~ Risk register

~~7.87.5~~ Communication Plan