

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

15th January 2008

Report of: The Leader of the Council

Title: The City's Future - the emerging priorities for the next three years

Ward: City wide

RECOMMENDATION

That Council debates the issues discussed in this report and that Council's views are taken into account in the drafting of the Corporate Plan

Summary

The report sets out the Cabinet's initial thinking about emerging priorities for the council in working towards delivering the city's future and contributing to the delivery of the revised Bristol Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy. Council is asked to discuss these issues in its "state of the city debate" in order that members views can be taken into account in work on the four key priorities for the authority over the coming three years.

The significant issues in the report are:

The four emerging headline priorities

Introduction

1. The Cabinet has had initial discussions about the emerging priorities for inclusion in the revised Corporate Plan 2008-11. These will be formally considered by Cabinet in March 2008 for referral to Full Council in April 2008. These are summarised as:
 - Our City: prosperous and ambitious
 - Driving change - making a difference
 - Our City: safer and healthier
 - Our neighbourhoods
2. The Council role is increasingly being described as that of 'community leader'. It is my and the Cabinet's hope that by the time Full Council is asked to agree the Corporate Plan 2008-11 in April 2008, we will have been able to create a Council consensus about the priorities we should focus on for the next three years. The strength of a democratic organisation is that there may be different views about how best to deliver each of these priorities. That is wholly acceptable. The purpose of this debate today at Full Council is to start the process of building consensus, so that we, as a Council, can fully take up our community leadership of the city for the future. I look forward to the debate and your contributions.

Why are we reviewing the Corporate Plan now?

3. This is for a number of reasons. Most importantly, the city is changing: as demonstrated in the member briefings prior to this meeting of Full Council and in the attached evidence base. We need to ensure that the Council is well placed to lead the city into the future and respond to the changes that are happening.
4. At the same time, we need to face up to some of the challenges we face as an organisation. By reviewing the Corporate Plan at the same time as the review of the Bristol Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy (please see **Appendix 1** to this report) we can ensure that we are influencing that strategy and that there is good alignment between the longer term vision for the city and the actions we are going to take in the next three years. This will place us in a stronger position in the negotiations we are now entering into for the new Local Area Agreement (LAA). One of the criticisms of the Round 3 LAA was that the national agenda over dominated the choice of targets. We are determined this time that the LAA will better reflect our priorities and that it will be what it

is meant to be: a delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Key Issues

5. I now turn to each of the four priorities and give some greater detail of what we want to focus on in the next three years:

• Our City: prosperous and ambitious

We propose four major focuses for our work:

Bristol a regional capital

With the Bristol Partnership, our vision for the Bristol economy is to be the dynamic heart of a City Region that is at or near the top of UK and European premier leagues for both economic performance and quality of life

- ensure that development within the city is sustainable, so that future generations can enjoy the benefits that growth will bring

Sharing our prosperity

- ensure everyone shares in the prosperity of our ambitious and growing city by creating better places to live, more affordable homes, skills for better jobs and quality public transport

Together

- improve services, targeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and securing equal access by tackling the barriers of prejudice and discrimination

Green Capital

- improve air quality
- maximise waste diversion from landfill and securing sustainable, long term solutions for waste treatment

• Driving change - making a difference

This priority focuses on areas of service where we need to make the greatest step change.

- ensure all young people have the best chance in life

- ensure that older people and disabled adults are empowered to live independent lives
- make significant changes to the way we do things to ensure services are more effective, responsive, flexible and easier to access so that everyone gets real value for money from public services

• **Our city: safer and healthier**

Safer Bristol has recently completed a strategic assessment which has identified a number of key priorities for the next three years

- reduce crime through strengthening police support
- tackle rubbish dumping, littering and graffiti
- reduce anti-social behaviour, through the targeted use of ASBOs, working with families, particularly those at risk
- combat hate crime and domestic violence
- promote a sense of personal responsibility and respect

The challenge for the priority of 'healthier city' is to successfully link together the big strategic changes which create a healthier environment *with* the choices individuals make about their own lifestyles.

- increase year by year the number of people engaging in physical activity
- increase healthy eating- particularly targeting children and young people
- reducing smoking
- reducing substance misuse, including alcohol and drugs

• **Our neighbourhoods**

The quality of where we live is important. This priority focuses on our neighbourhoods.

- continue to improve neighbourhoods by responding to local concerns and increasing targeted clean-ups
- ensure good quality parks and green spaces

- enable improved public transport and support alternatives to vehicle use, such as cycle routes and safe routes for pedestrians
- provide leisure and cultural activities that reflect the needs of our diverse population

What are our next steps?

6. I have given the broad outline of our priorities over the next three years. We now need to 'put the flesh on the bones' and be specific about outcomes we will work to achieve by 2011. We look forward to the contributions to the debate today at Full Council to inform our thinking about outcomes, how ambitious should we be, balanced with realism about what is achievable.
7. The budget proposals we have published in December 2007 underpin the delivery of these priorities and potential outcomes. The Medium Term Financial Plan, as it is rolled out, will continue to support the delivery of our ambitions.

Proposal

8. The Council is asked to debate the priorities detailed in the report in order that members views may be taken into account in ongoing work on the above priorities and in the drafting of the Council's Corporate Plan.

Appendices :

Appendix 1 - Bristol Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 Background Papers:

None

THE BRISTOL STRATEGY

Bristol's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008/2028

APPENDIX 1 – EVIDENCE BASE

Version 5, Created 7th January 2008

PART ONE – INTRODUCTION

INTERIM DRAFT

Bristol is one of England's great cities. With a population of about 410,000, it is the ninth largest city in Britain, and the largest city in the south of England outside London.

As well as the largest city in the South West, it is the most diverse – 10.7%¹ of the population is made up of black or minority ethnic communities, with 22% of young people in Bristol schools from BME communities. Bristol's influence stretches well beyond its administrative boundaries for employment, transport and culture.

Bristol is a prosperous city nationally and internationally. Our level of unemployment is currently the lowest of the core cities (4.8%²). There has been a 24% increase in VAT registered businesses between 1994 and 2006, well above the average for the core cities. Ours is a beautiful city with an international reputation for quality of life. Bristol is a great place to live and do business, with a thriving arts scene, a modern city centre and great energy from its people and organisations. Long-term regeneration of the Harbourside and the city centre is well advanced. It well connected by road, rail, sea and air.

Bristol shares some characteristics with the other core cities, notably pockets of disadvantage and deprivation, but in other ways is rather different, enjoying more sustained economic success in the post-war period. Much of this growth has taken place in other parts of the West of England, such as part of Bristol's 'north fringe' in a neighbouring authority (South Gloucestershire), adjacent to the M4 and M5 motorways. This growth has been accompanied by high levels of congestion and a heavy reliance on the motorways to facilitate commuting.

The city centre benefited from the relocation of financial services businesses during the 1970s and 1980s. The central harbourside area has been transformed in recent years, with a range of cultural attractions and housing and commercial developments. A £500m expansion of the central shopping area, Broadmead, is well underway and is expected to open in 2008.

However, Bristol faces a number of significant challenges. It is a city of contrasts: its relative prosperity throws these contrasts into sharp relief. The city has two very successful and popular universities and has a highly educated and skilled workforce with 36% educated to degree level. At the

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2007 (Experimental Statistics)

² NOMIS, Labour Market Profile. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431894/report.aspx>

same time, however, educational attainment, at all Key Stages, particularly Key Stage 4, is far below what it should be. Bristol's economic success has also brought with it problems and challenges, such as congestion, environmental pollution and high house prices (relative to income) causing major problems for key workers and younger people looking for affordable housing.

Furthermore, Bristol's prosperity is not shared by all its citizens: many areas of the city suffer from multiple deprivation. There is a ten-year gap in the life expectancy between the most deprived communities (75 years, in Lawrence Hill) and the most affluent areas (85 years, in Henleaze).

The Bristol Strategy expects the best for Bristol as a whole and for the many communities within it – it represents the city's ambitions and aims.

PART TWO – CONTEXT

1. A GREEN CAPITAL

1.1 Local basis for the Green Capital

Bristol's ambitions as a Green Capital are a distinctive part of our city's identity – from the specific achievements of the current Green Capital Momentum Group to a widespread perception that the city's growing attractiveness to firms and employees is significantly driven by Bristol's reputation for a high quality of life.

Developing and maintaining this reputation is likely to form **a key part of the city's 'offer'** – from promotional initiatives to the spatial priorities of the Bristol Development Framework.

1.2 National basis for the Green Capital

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 is now in force, requiring local areas to replace their community strategies with Sustainable Community Strategy. It suggests a greater need to commit to the principles of sustainable development – This will need to be met by achieving all four ambitions.

In Bristol, the Green Capital initiative aims to achieve a low carbon city with a high quality of life. The Climate Change Bill³ is likely to commit the UK to the world's most explicit planning regime for mitigating the effects of climate change by working towards a 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050. It is critical that local partners in Bristol take a lead in incorporating these concerns into mainstream planning processes – led by the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2 A COHESIVE AND INTEGRATED CITY

³ Currently before Parliament

2.1 Bristol's population is changing rapidly –

- The city's population is just over 410,500⁴, and is expected to reach 464,600 by 2029⁵.
- The proportion of Bristolians from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds is significant – 10.7% today, which is similar to the national average of 10.9%. Changes are expected in the future – for instance 24% of children in Bristol primary schools are BME.

2.2 **Community cohesion** is an issue of rising importance – both nationally (following riots in some Northern towns in 2001) and locally. A local Community Cohesion Act Plan has been revised to take account of changing circumstances, and to clarify the role of public agencies and partners in promoting community cohesion.

2.3 **Promoting equality** has been a cross-cutting principle of the Bristol Partnership's for some time – guided by the Equality Action Group, which conducted a formal Equalities Impact Assessment for this Sustainable Communities Strategy. Equalities considerations are likely to become more, rather than less important over the next few years.

2.4 **Neighbourhood renewal** has been a strong component of the current community strategy, and is likely to remain so, as there continue to be big differences in life chances between more and less deprived parts of the city, and significant challenges to narrowing the gap. There is a ten-year gap in the life expectancy between the most deprived communities (75 years, in Lawrence Hill) and the most affluent areas (85 years in Henleaze).

2.5 The national framework for deprivation is changing – toward a more specific focus on helping more people into work and provision of dedicated support to fewer areas. Central government has not chosen to allocate any 'working neighbourhoods' funding to Bristol and, although we are challenging this decision, it is likely that the funding for neighbourhood renewal in Bristol will become even more challenging than in the past – suggesting that partners will have to work much closer together to ensure that our remaining resources are deployed to best effect.

3 A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

3.1 Place shaping – city-wide

The Sustainable Community Strategy has a key role in defining the objectives of the city, and thereby influencing the **Bristol Development**

⁴ Office of National Statistics – Mid Year Estimates for 2006. [Summary available.](#)

⁵ Office for National Statistics Migration and Subnational Population Projections Unit © Crown Copyright

Framework⁶, which is intended to be the ‘spatial representation’ of this strategy.

Local Development Frameworks take into account national and regional expectations for changes to housing and employment in the Bristol area. A **Regional Spatial Strategy**⁷ for the South West is currently being finalised – this is expected to include plans for the West of England⁸ to expand by 92,500 homes and 122,000 new jobs between now and 2026.

3.2 Place shaping – regeneration

Bristol contains persistent concentrations of deprivation in certain areas – the inner city and areas in the north and south of the city (typified by relatively large social housing estates). Actions must create lasting and transformation change, securing quality neighbourhoods across the city through improved integration of interventions and through addressing both disadvantaged communities and their wider context.

The Bristol Regeneration Framework, which is being developed by Bristol City Council and the Regeneration Group, and the Bristol Development Framework will set the strategic context to enable delivery of transformational change to Bristol’s deprived neighbourhoods. This will support partners to pursue comprehensive physical, social and economic regeneration activity to rebalance Bristol’s deprived communities and to secure a sustainable and positive future for all. The Regeneration Framework includes a shared vision for regeneration and sets out key priorities and principles for delivery as well as a mechanism for attracting and guiding investment in the future.

- ▶ There three broad priority areas of the city for regeneration projects – **South Bristol, Inner City/East and Northern Arc, with South Bristol being the early priority.**

3.3 Place shaping – major sites

There are a number of significant projects in specific areas, which are making major contributions to Bristol’s regeneration. The examples identified below give a sense of Bristol as a changing city.

- Broadmead retail development. This will create 3,000 new jobs.
- Temple Quay 2. This provides a prime new location for business within an exceptionally high quality new mixed use development.
- Hengrove Park, Imperial Park and Symes Avenue are developments in South Bristol, which will create up to 1,000 new jobs.

⁶ [The Local Development Framework](#) – Setting out the spatial plans and policies for Bristol. A major consultation process in 2007 and 2008 drives the elaboration of the BDF.

⁷ The [Regional Spatial Strategy](#) sets high-level requirements for the region. The draft document was subject to an ‘examination in public’ in 2007.

⁸ Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset

- Bristol Airport's expansion promises new jobs and opportunities with an increase in full time employees from 2,300 currently to 5,700 in 2030. We will work to ensure that these jobs are available to Bristolians.
- Hartcliffe Campus will provide a replacement secondary school with a 200 place vocational centre, replacement City of Bristol College and up to 5,000 sq m of business floorspace.
- The Post Office Site in Temple Meads is being developed by Media Office UK as workspace for the creative and media industries. This will provide new jobs, businesses and opportunities for local people.

3.4 Affordable housing

Affordable housing is a major concern for many people.

- The affordability of home ownership has decreased in Bristol over the last ten years – In 1997 the ratio between lowest quartile incomes and lowest quartile house prices was 3.31. By 2006 this had risen to 7.45. This is a steeper rise than the pattern across England as a whole (where the increase has been from 3.65 to 7.12).⁹
- The numbers of new affordable housing (i.e. social housing and other forms) has not kept pace with demand. Between 1st April 1997 and 2006 Bristol averaged around 11,654 households on its' register each year – this figure has generally increased over the years, standing at 12,927 for 2006.

Addressing the need for affordable housing in Bristol is a long-term aim, and one where a number of partners have significant contributions to make –through making land available for social housing, or perhaps by supporting a Local Housing Company for Bristol¹⁰.

3.5 Housing Strategy

Bristol's Housing Strategy¹¹ sets the strategic agenda for housing in the city, including four housing objectives:

- ▶ Sufficient homes to offer everyone realistic choice about where and how they live, and how support needs are met
- ▶ Good quality homes that make best use of land and are built to sustainable physical standards
- ▶ Safe and lasting neighbourhoods that encourage social inclusion, welcome diversity, have a social sustainable mix of housing and are supported by good quality local services
- ▶ Ensure that there is timely, integrated information, advice, support and education around housing choices.

⁹ Community and Local Government, [housing market figures 1007-2006](#).

¹⁰ Local Housing Companies are a new radical partnership between councils and the private sector being tested as one of a range of models to help local authorities to bring forward land for housing development, in particular to help increase the supply of affordable housing.

¹¹ [Bristol's Housing Strategy 2005-2010 – increasing choice, improving lives](#).

The Bristol Partnership and the Housing Strategy Group recognise that the strategic background to housing is changing – both nationally and in Bristol – and are committed to refreshing the strategy and its associated three-year action plan to ensure the housing objectives are current, effective and influential.

There is a strong **sub-regional** dimension to strategic housing, so agencies in Bristol are working with partners from across the West of England to identified strategic priorities and interventions that will help meet housing need.

3.6 Transport

There are transport dimensions to issues across the Sustainable Community Strategy – seeking to improve the transport system of the city, reduce congestion, reduce the number of road accident casualties, improve public transport and promote cycling and walking.

The four local authorities of the West of England have submitted a joint transport vision¹² to central government, which aims to:

- ▶ Tackle congestion
- ▶ Improve road safety for all road users
- ▶ Improve air quality
- ▶ Improve access to job opportunities
- ▶ Help us to get to work and school efficiently
- ▶ Strengthen the local economy
- ▶ Improve our quality of life

A key feature of transport vision is that it explain what can – and cannot – be achieved with certain levels of resource. This gives local partners and resident clearer understanding of which aspects of transport improvement are feasible, and under which conditions.

4 A SUCCESSFUL CITY

4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy includes a cross-cutting need to improve the Bristol's influence and reputation outside the city and city-region. This in an issue that was particularly addressed by the Stakeholder Conference on 5 November, where some of the workgroups were able to explore Bristol's place in the world.

4.2 The previous Community Strategy identified this area as part of the vision – to become *'a city that realises its full potential and exerts influence appropriate to its status at the regional, national and European levels'*.

4.3 Partners recognise the importance to enabling Bristol to exert influence at local, national and international levels, and to compare itself with other major European cities of similar importance. It is critical that the delivery of

¹² [Our Future Transport – West of England, October 2007](#)

the Sustainable Community Strategy includes a commitment to address this issue, and enables the Bristol Partnership to add value to partners' activities in this area.

4.4 Bristol's contribution to a recent monograph by England's Core Cities expresses this positive message:

“Bristol is already a success story – in terms of both economic performance and environmental quality. It is a great place to work and live.

The economic is thriving, with the highest GDP per head of any major city outside London, and strength across a diverse range of sectors, including financial and business services, ICT, aerospace and advanced engineering, and cultural and creative industries. World-class teaching and research and the University of Bristol makes a key contribution to this success.

Our quality of life is enviable, and the city brings together a mixture of old and new – from Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge and the City Centre Floating Harbour to the creative hubs of the Watershed and the Paintworks”

[Excerpt from *Creating Balanced and Sustainable Communities in Bristol*, in '[Working Together](#)' by the Core Cities and the Smith Institute]

5 PROSPEROUS AND GROWING CITY

5.1 Our objective is for the Bristol economy to be the dynamic heart of a City Region that is at or near the top of UK and European premier leagues for both economic performance and quality of life.

5.2 Bristol has the highest GDP per head of any major UK city outside London¹³. Bristol compares favourably to other major English cities – the city's strengths include sustained economic growth and world-class clusters in key sectors, a strong R&D base in universities and some business sectors, and high skill levels.

5.3 However, there are barriers to sustaining and sharing economic success

- Bristol's prosperity is not shared by all and significant proportions of the workforce have low skill levels.
- Economic growth has been slowing down in recent years – although Bristol has out-performed other Core Cities over the last ten years, growth of the last five years has been much slower than during the previous five years.

5.4 Bristol Economic Strategy has been drawn up to provide a framework for the wide range of initiatives and programmes developed by partners and other agencies, businesses and communities.

5.5 A notion of **growth** is fundamental to an understanding of the nature of economic progress in Bristol – both in terms of what was needed to sustain growth, and how growth needed to be accommodated.

¹³ [State of the Cities Report, May 2006](#)

5.6 The Economy Delivery Group has re-affirmed that the elements of the current 'thriving economy' aim remain fit for purpose –

- ▶ Reduce worklessness and develop a skilled workforce
- ▶ Encourage continued economic investment into Bristol
- ▶ Increases productivity and competitiveness of Bristol businesses
- ▶ Ensure diversity and sustainability of Bristol's economy
- ▶ Share prosperity across Bristol's communities

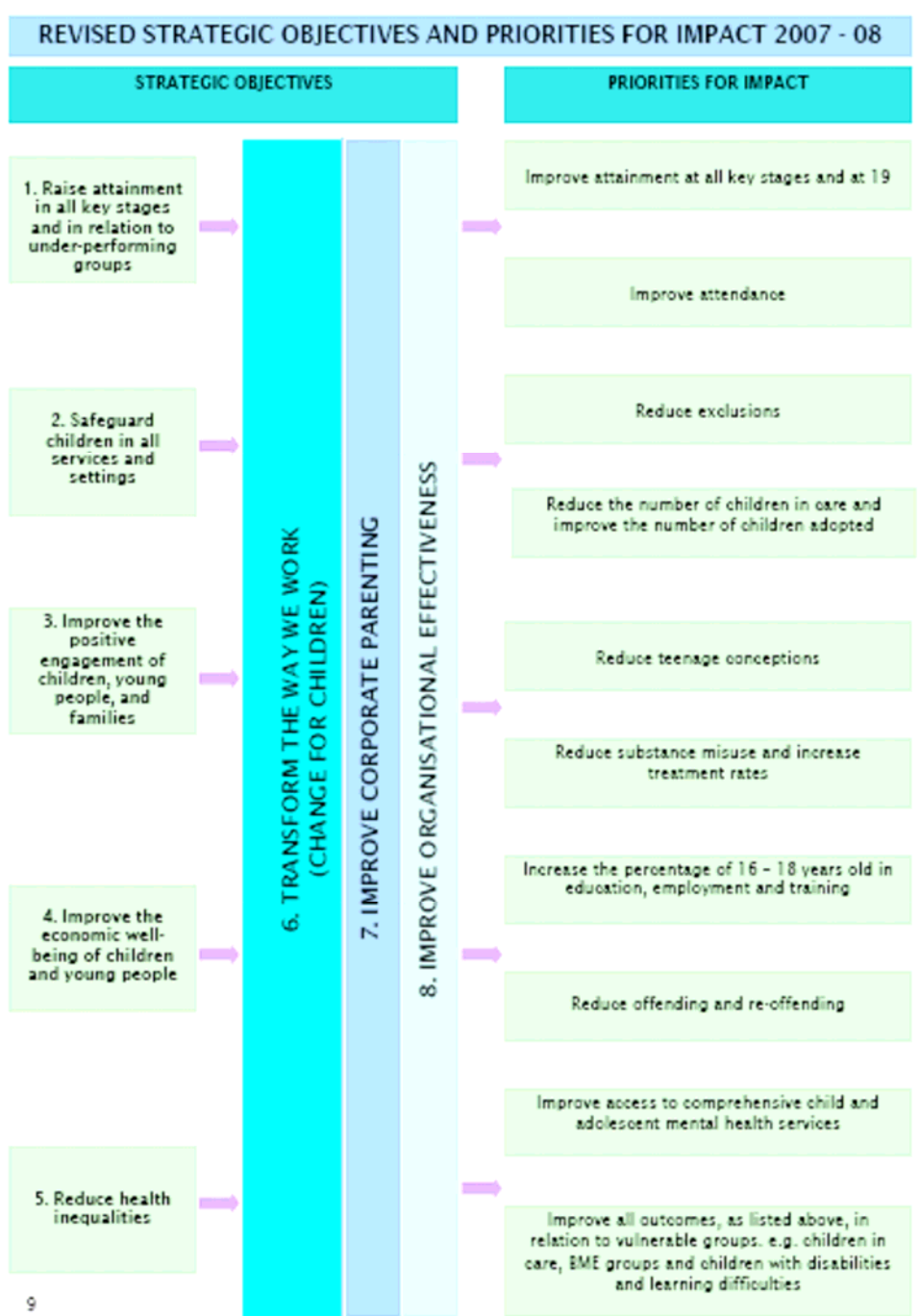
6 LEARNING CITY – city for children and young people

6.1 Educational attainment in Bristol schools is a central challenge for the Council and partners. Attainment is improving, but there is still some way to go before the level of achievement reaches levels seen in other major cities.

6.2 The Children and Young People's Plan is the chief strategic document for interventions in this areas, and it is important the Sustainable Community Strategy emphasise the same messages with regard to this aim.

6.3 A refreshed CYP Plan is currently subject to consultation. The draft document identifies eight strategic objectives. The first five represent key component of the strategic agenda, while the latter three capture cross-cutting elements:

- ▶ Raise attainment in all key stages and in relation to under-performing groups
- ▶ Safeguard children in all services and settings
- ▶ Improve the positive engagement of children, young people and families
- ▶ Improve the economic wellbeing of children and young people
- ▶ Reduce health inequalities
- ▶ Transform the way we work (Change for Children)
- ▶ Improve the way we work
- ▶ Improve organisational effectiveness



7 SAFE AND HEALTHY CITY

7.1 Crime, safety and anti-social behaviour are at the very top of residents' priorities for change. The Sustainable Community Strategy will respond by prioritising initiatives to make Bristolians **feel safe and be safe**.

7.2 Bristol's priorities for community safety are currently being reassessed as part of a Strategic Assessment, which is required by March 2008. Current activity is guided by the Bristol Crime and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008, which sets challenging objectives in a number of areas.

- *Reducing the fear of crime* – which we do both by reducing overall crime and developing a communications strategy to reassure the public, targeting sections of society who are especially affected by their fear of crime
- *Reducing acquisitive crime* – which we do by continuing our target hardening and “designing out crime” initiatives, as well as focusing on the drug misusing and prolific offenders who have a disproportionate impact on the community
- *Reducing the harm caused by drugs misuse* – which means developing high quality treatment programmes, disrupting the drugs markets in Bristol and minimising the impact of these markets and use of drugs on the community
- *Building stronger, safer communities* – by tackling anti-social behaviour and creating a safer environment, reducing the impact of begging, prostitution and other nuisance behaviours, reducing violence, especially domestic and alcohol related violence, and responding to hate crimes
- *Young People* – by focusing and coordinating efforts to stop young people becoming involved in criminal activity and drugs use, and responding effectively when they do require help and assistance.

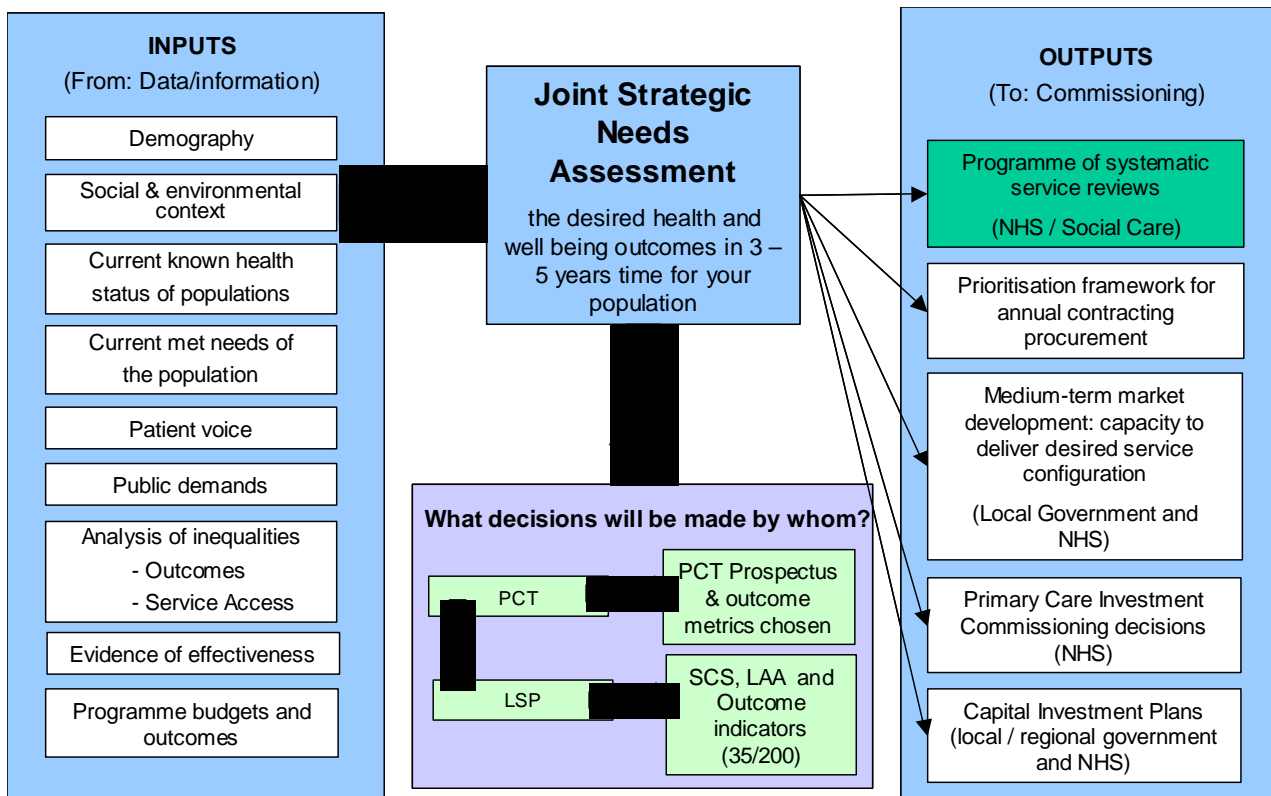
7.3 Health Promotion

Health and wellbeing was identified as a long-term aim of the previous Community Strategy, with specific focus on healthy lifestyles.

The Health and Wellbeing Delivery Group has taken this agenda forward by identifying specific priority health issues for Bristol, and using this to guide its approach to commissioning interventions.

- ▶ Physical activity
- ▶ Tobacco control
- ▶ Food and nutrition
- ▶ Weight management
- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Breastfeeding

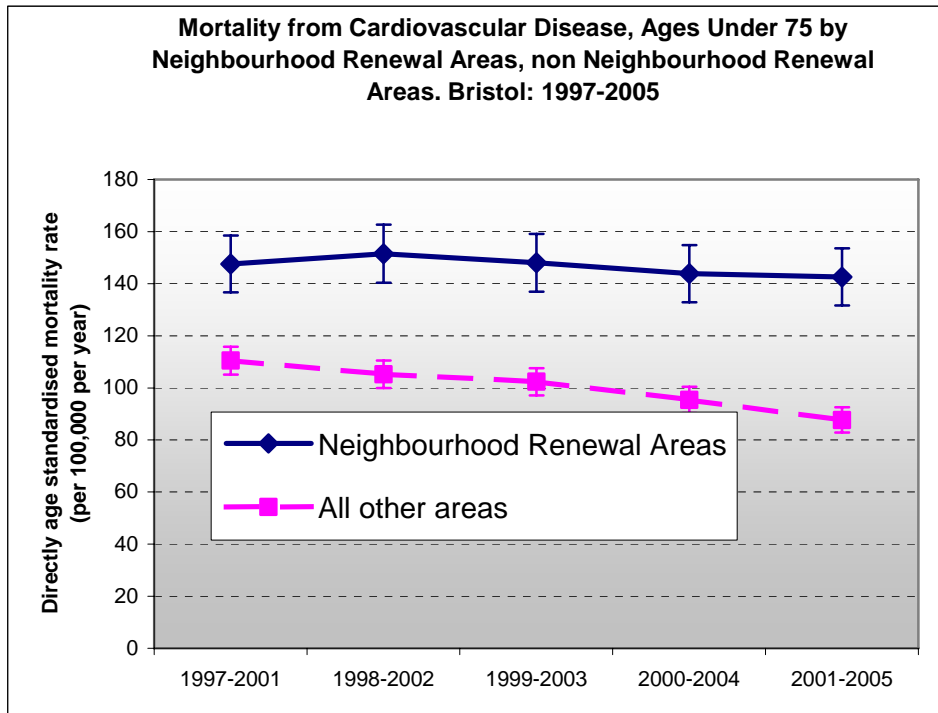
The sophistication of Bristol’s understanding of health and related issues is being improved by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – a requirement for the Council and PCT to work together to produce a common analysis of short, medium and long-term health needs, based on health intelligence and the views of local patients and residents.



7.4 Health Inequalities

Improving public health includes identifying and responding to areas of significant inequality between neighbourhoods and groups of people.

For instance the diagram below shows cardiovascular disease in neighbourhood renewal and other parts of the city – showing that this is much more prominent in the more disadvantaged parts of the city.



7.5 Older People

In 1901, 4% of Bristol's population was aged 65 years and over – by 2029 this age group is expected to reach 14%, with the over 85 age group growing the most.

Maintaining good health in middle years is key to wellbeing and independence in later life. An Older People's Strategy¹⁴ has been prepared to ensure that the health needs of this growing sector is being planned for, and quality of life issues are addressed. The outcomes most important to older people in Bristol have been identified as:

- Improved health
- Improved independence
- Improved quality of life
- Making a positive contribution
- Exercise of choice and control
- Freedom from discrimination
- Personal dignity

Reshaping public services to respond to changes in the size and needs of the older people's community is a key dimension to meeting those needs. Key aspects of the package of services for older people are:

- ▶ Self directed care
- ▶ Home care
- ▶ Residential futures

¹⁴ [Bristol Older People's Strategy](#) – published in 2006

7.6 Housing for vulnerable people

Housing Related Support is funded by Supporting People, which offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve their quality of life and remain independent through the provision of a range of support services.

The Supporting People Five Year Strategy is currently being refreshed, but the current key objectives still guide the programme:

- ▶ To ensure existing housing related support services are maintained within budget, and that all are included in a review timetable. All services are to complement and contribute to Bristol City Council's (BCC) wider corporate objectives
- ▶ To develop flexible support services to sustain and develop people's abilities to live in their own homes across all forms of tenure.
- ▶ To provide housing related support and advice services, that promote independence and choice for all vulnerable adults.
- ▶ To integrate the Supporting People programme into the existing strategic and planning framework to reduce levels of social exclusion, poverty, institutionalisation, rent arrears, evictions and homelessness.
- ▶ To develop a sustainable consultation and participation system with service users, providers and other commissioners in order to develop strategic services and monitor performance.

Supporting People has a distinctive contribution to make the Sustainable Community Strategy – particularly in supporting and developing vulnerable people's capacity to live independently, which is a key element in making Bristol a safe and healthy city.

8 A CITY OF THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

8.1 Environmental context

Bristol places considerable demands on the environment – it takes an area roughly 191 times as big as the city to provide its food, energy and natural resources and to absorb its waste and pollution. The Bristol Partnership is working to reduce the ecological footprint of the city, focussing effort on minimising greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste and achieving a sustainable transport system.

Bristol has a wonderful network of waterways, a unique harbourside, and the highest proportion of parks and green spaces of any city of comparable size in the UK. We are working to protect and enhance these environmental assets for the benefit of all.

We aim to ensure that development strategies incorporate sustainable principles, and that regeneration delivers a high quality urban environment with vibrant, self-supporting communities and neighbourhoods. Everybody in Bristol has a part to play, so we promote individual and collective responsibility to invest in the environment.

8.2 Environmental perceptions

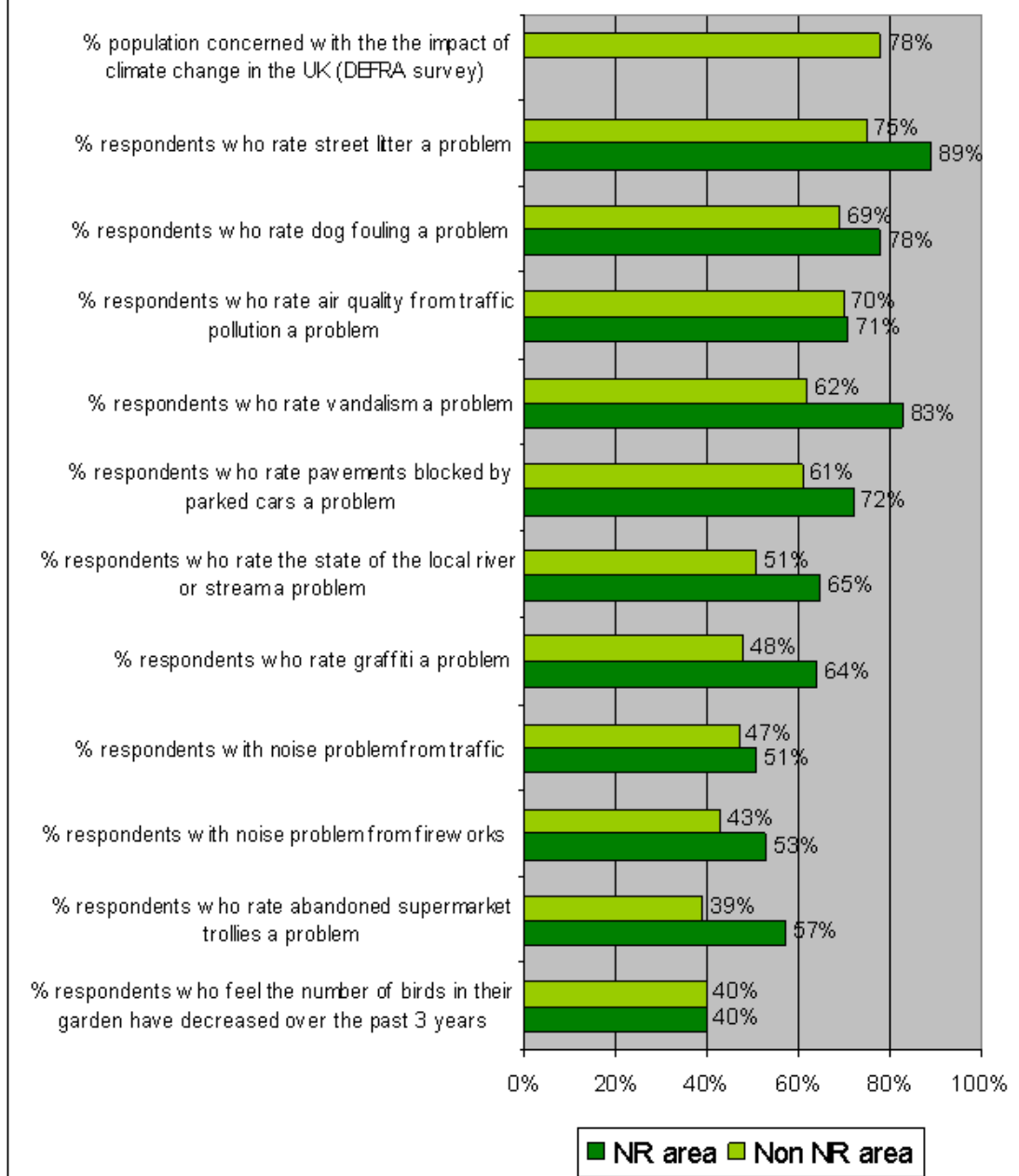
The Quality of Life Survey has, for several years, examined Bristol citizens' views and concerns about a range of environmental issues, predominantly at the neighbourhood and city level. Analysis of that data by demographic and geographical groupings enables us to identify the priorities of these groups. The initial analysis is based on the principal groups of men/women, BME, disabled people, under 50/over 50, NR Area/ Non-NR area.

Residents were asked to identify their level of concern about a list of 11 issues, which relate to pollution, street scene, traffic, vandalism and wildlife.

People who live in NR areas are much more concerned about the quality of the local environment in their neighbourhoods on every issue except traffic. Despite some small differences in overall scores the priority given to issues which concern people are very similar in NR areas and the rest of the city, and in each of the groups analysed (see graph over page). The top 5 are:

- Litter
- Dog fouling
- Pavements blocked by parked cars
- Traffic pollution
- Vandalism

Rank of environmental problems in Bristol 2005/2006



The survey also examined satisfaction with streets and public places, parks and green spaces, playgrounds and play areas and the appearance of new buildings. The key issue here is that people living in NR areas are much less satisfied than those in other parts of the city with all factors except new buildings.

In conclusion, there are a group of key issues, which the partnership can tackle, that would improve the perceived quality of the environment in neighbourhoods across the city. Neighbourhood renewal areas are experiencing a higher level of concern and are therefore potential priority areas.

8.3 Key elements of a City of Neighbourhoods

Building on the issues identified above, the key aims of this part of the Sustainable Community Strategy can be identified –

- ▶ Quality of public realm
- ▶ Specific environmental problems and actions in individual neighbourhoods
- ▶ Waste management and disposal

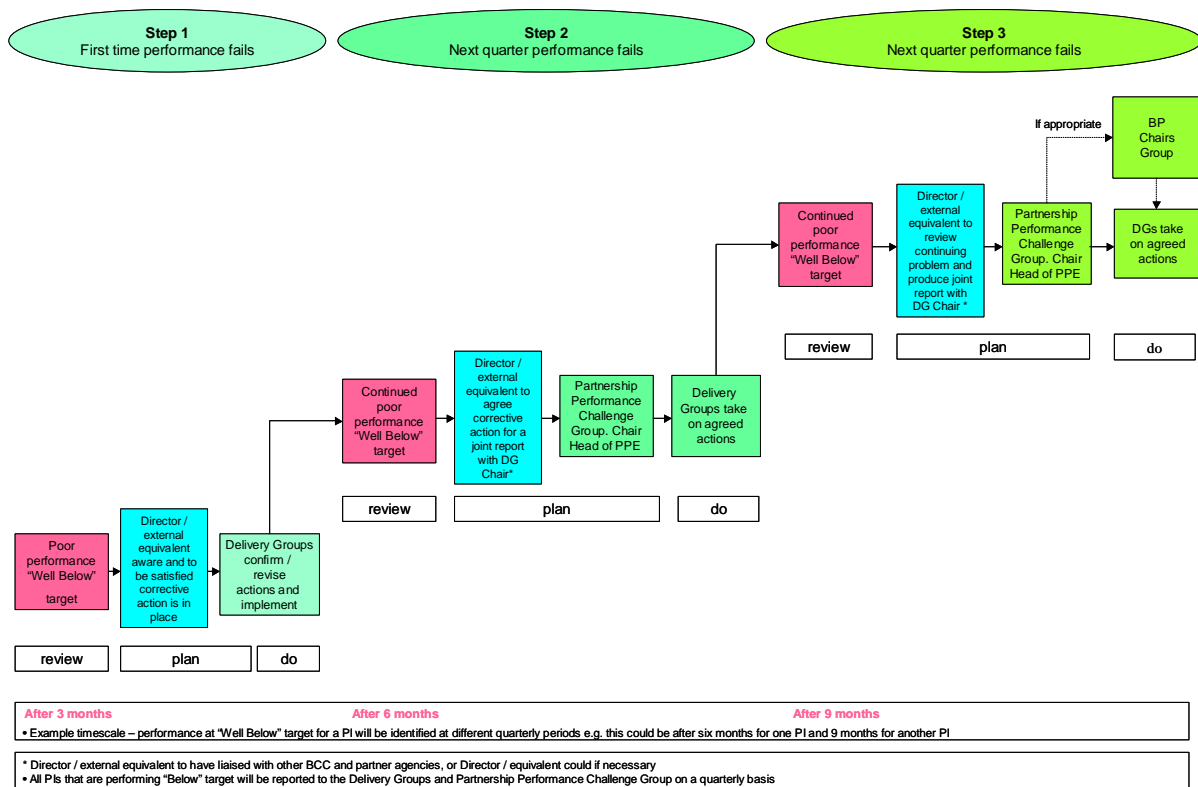
9 RAISING OUR GAME – a city that expects the best

9.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy helps partners meet residents’ expectations for excellence – supporting initiatives, challenging performance and sharing information and resources.

9.2 The Bristol Partnership has strengthened its performance management framework during 2007, to ensure delivery of the Local Area Agreement.

9.3 The Delivery Groups are the engine rooms of performance management and are responsible for performance in their area. The Escalation Procedure supports performance by providing a strong inter-agency challenge function.

Bristol Partnership Escalation Procedure for LAA performance indicators which are identified as “Well Below” target



9.4 The Bristol Partnership used this performance management framework to provide the partnership's self-assessment for review by the Government Office for the South West – this approach demonstrates a robust local framework and a solid working relationship with GOSW which is being built on to negotiate the new Local Area Agreement in early 2008.

9.5 Those partners from public agencies are increasingly working together to transform public services for the public – an issue that has risen in public profile with the publication of central governments' Service Transformation Agreement¹⁵. The Sustainable Community Strategy encourages these efforts, and enables the Bristol Partnership to add value to partners initiatives in this area.

9.6 The maturation of the performance management framework requires an embedding of arrangements to delivery the LAA, together with deepening of arrangements to share information and resources:

- ▶ Sharing information
- ▶ Pooling resources
- ▶ Delivering Local Area Agreement
- ▶ Service transformation

10 CONCLUSIONS

10.1 A successful Sustainable Community Strategy is a critical component in Bristol's strategic planning framework – influencing the definition of delivery objectives for the city (in the LAA), the expression of spatial objectives (in the BDF) and the specific plans whereby partners contribute to the realisation of these plans (through Corporate Plans, Departmental Plans and equivalent processes).

10.2 Partners have undergone a process to reevaluate priorities for Bristol – leading to a refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy, which is capable to providing a clear and convincing formulation of *the city's ambitions and aims*.

10.3 A successful Sustainable Community Strategy will enable negotiation of a Local Area Agreement that meets the city's needs –

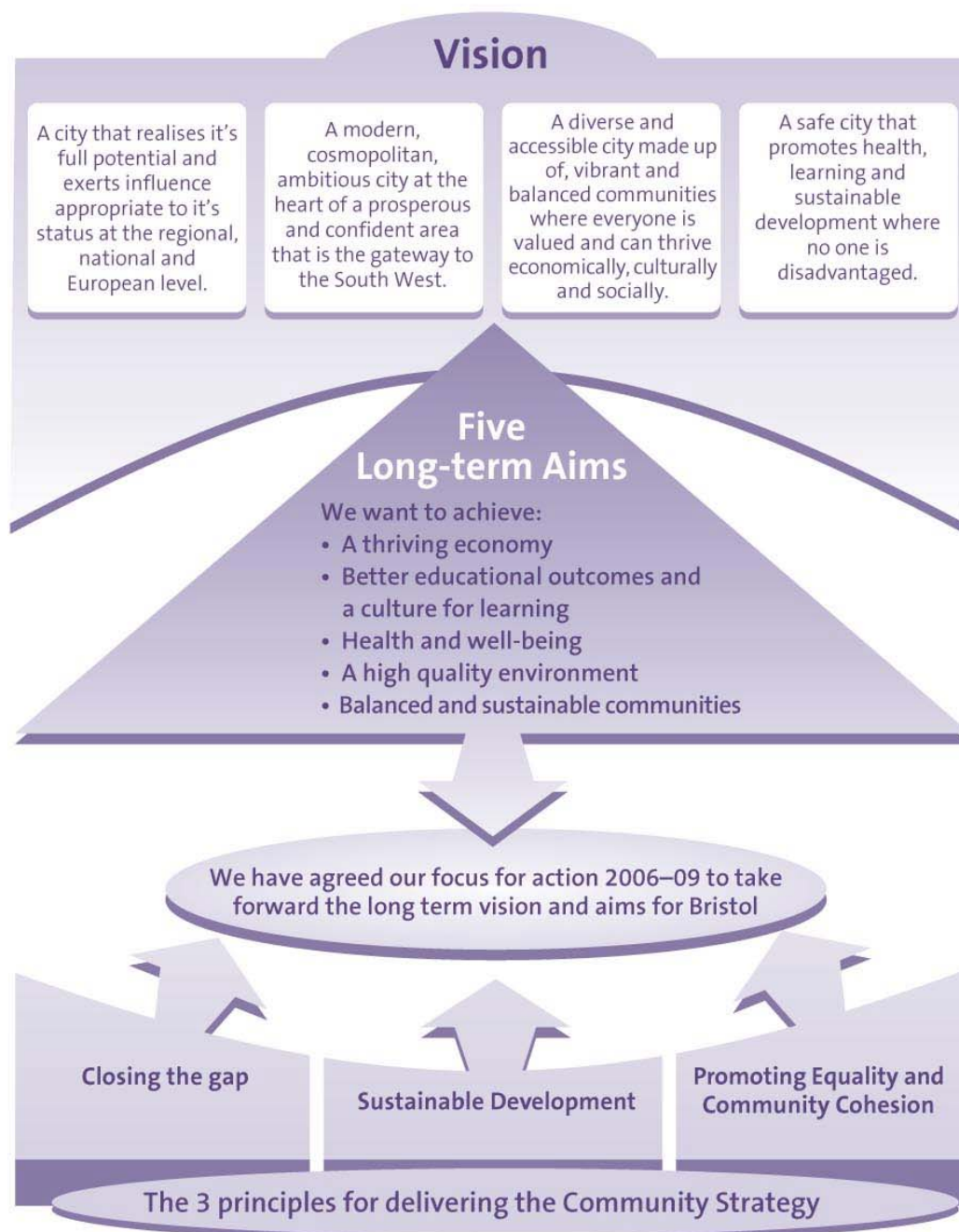
Bristol – an ambitious city: raising our game for the benefit of all.

¹⁵ HM Treasury 2007, [Service Transformation Agreement](#) – part of the national set of Public Service Agreements.

PART THREE – PRIORITIES OF EXISTING COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- The diagram below represents the current Community Strategy.
- It should be noted that the current strategic planning framework – most notably for the LDF – has been developed with this model in mind. This may influence the extent to which this framework may be altered.

A Summary of the Vision and Long Term Aims for Bristol



PART FOUR – BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND SOURCES

11 LESSONS FROM EVIDENCE

11.1 There are a variety of sources of data that partners can and do use to evaluate local conditions and identify key issues that matter to Bristol.

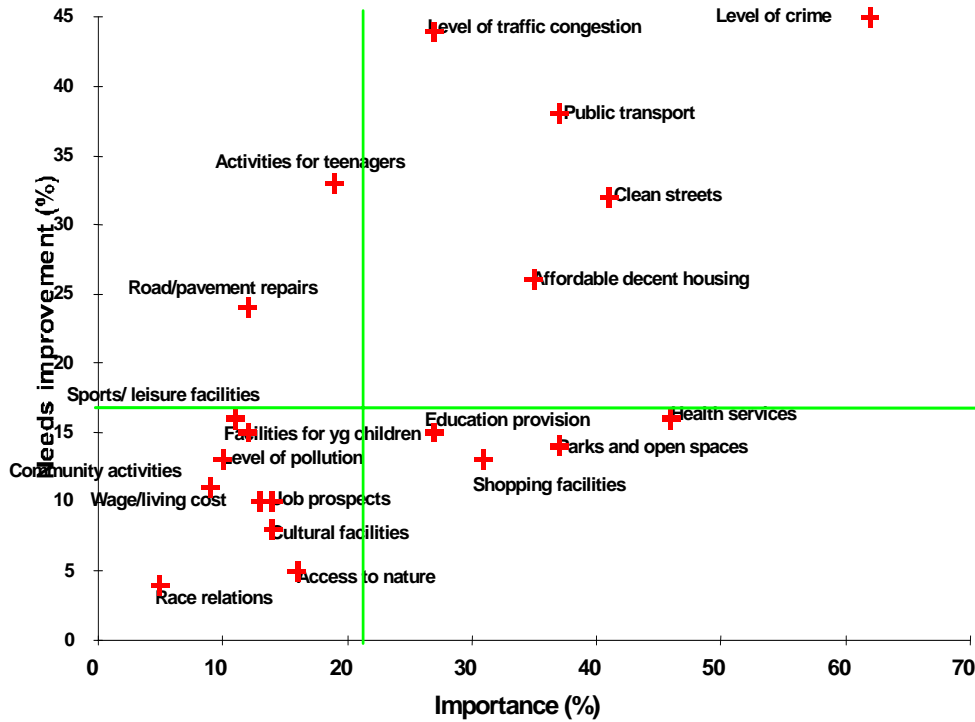
11.2 It is vital the refreshed SCS takes account of the local evidence bases. External assessment has identified evaluative use of information as a key development area:

“The LSP must continue to develop its capacity to make decisions based on sound evidence.”

[GOSW Review of the Bristol Partnership 2006]

Type of evidence	Example and source	Contribution
Satisfaction and perceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality of Life Survey – BVPI General Survey – Catching in the Rye – relating to children and young people – Citizens' Panel 	<p>Linking priorities to views of Bristol residents. The Chairs' Group has received analysis of satisfaction, which concludes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The existing five long-term aims remain broadly fit for purpose – Two issues warrant greater prominence in the SCS – these were community safety & cohesion, and transport. <p>'Catching in the Rye' includes evidence on young people's views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More children are saying they like school and want to stay on – Gender and age differences exist, e.g. in leisure time where girls prefer a much wider variety of activities – BME children dislike school the most; a higher proportion of BME pupils expect to be unemployed when they leave school <p>Local authorities currently carry out three-yearly surveys as part of the Best Value regime (this is being replaced by the two-yearly 'Place Survey' being developed for the National Indicator Set¹⁶).</p> <p>The BVPI Survey is a good source of information on the issues that matter most to people.</p> <p>Analysis of the survey suggests that the most critical issues for most people are crime, traffic, public transport, street cleaning and housing. This is described in the diagram overleaf.</p>

¹⁶ Central government has identified 198 [National Indicators](#) as a common basis on which to gauge local characteristics across all sectors. These replace around two thousand previous indicators.



Demographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census information - Office for National Statistics, neighbourhood information 	<p>Identifying changing population issues – e.g. rising population and changing patterns of migration.</p> <p>Latest evidence from ONS in relation to Bristol's population include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population: 410,500 (the 7th largest city in England, outside London) - 10.7% BME (England 10.9%) - 33.3% one person households (England 30%) - £24,700 median earnings (England £24,400) - 4.8% unemployed (England 5.3%) - 36% qualified to degree/NVQ4 (England 27%) - 13.5% use public transport to get to work (E&W 14.5%) - 20.2% walk or cycle to work (E&W 12.8%)
Development and Land Use	<p>Spatial Atlas http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/planning-policy-documents/new-policy-docs/spatial-atlas.en</p> <p>LDF Annual Monitoring Report http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Council-Democracy/Statistics-Census-Information/land-use-monitoring-multi.en</p>	
Neighbourhood renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of the Neighbourhoods 	<p>Capturing differences between areas – e.g. patterns of worklessness are concentrated in specific wards (e.g. Lawrence Hill where worklessness is 38%) but the trajectory in NR</p>

		wards is more positive than in non-NR wards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How much of this is caused by public interventions? – Are public interventions focussed on right themes, e.g. Incapacity Benefit? – How does this affect the feasibility of closing the gap?
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Intelligence West, e.g. Annual Economic Assessment – SWRDA Economic Review – South West Observatory Business and Economy – NOMIS, National Manpower Information Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bristol is more economically successful than similar English cities (but less successful than some similar European cities). – Bristol's rate of growth has been slowing in recent years. – Success is not shared equality across the city. <p>Emerging themes may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improving skills – Alleviating worklessness – Improving infrastructure – Protecting quality of life, while increase house building and commercial developments.
Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Health of Bristol (local) – South West Public Health Observatory (regional) – Bristol Health Profile (national) – National Survey of Patients 	<p>Local priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Physical activity – Tobacco control – Food and nutrition – Weight management – Alcohol harm reduction – Breastfeeding

12 LESSONS FROM POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

12.1 There a variety of substantive **policy** drivers that shaping Bristol's priorities.

Theme	National and Regional Drivers	Local Drivers	Issues
Spatial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Barker Reviews – <i>Housing supply</i> and <i>Land-use planning</i> – Regional Spatial Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bristol Development Framework (spatial representation of SCS) – Bristol Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustaining economic growth (26,600 new jobs) – Accommodating population growth (27,500 new homes, 2006-2026)
Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive Spending Review – Comprehensive Area Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Local Area Agreement (delivery plan for the SCS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying the '35 plus 17' LAA targets and including a 'Bristol flavour' – Embedding performance management across DGs – Efficiency targets – 3%
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Spatial Strategy – Regional Economic Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Employment Land Study – Economy Delivery Group action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustaining economic growth – Tackling barriers to sustained and shared prosperity – Tackling worklessness
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Bristol Accord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Green Capital agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Securing Bristol's 'green'

			identity – Leading change
Learning	– Change for Children	– Children and Young People’s Plan – JAR, leading to CPA/CAA	– Educational attainment – Securing an APA score of ‘2’ and working towards ‘3’ in medium term
Transport	– Draft Local Transport Bill – Transport Innovation Fund	– Joint Local Transport Plan for the West of England	– West of England ‘vision’ submitted to government
Crime and Community Cohesion	– RESPECT agenda – Commission on Integration and Cohesion – <i>Our shared future</i>	– Crime and Drugs Strategy – Bristol Mujtama – Community Cohesion Strategy	– Reducing crime and ASB – Promoting community cohesion
Health	– <i>Our Health, Our Care, Our Say</i> – National Service Frameworks – <i>Choice Matters</i>	– Director of Public Health’s report – Smokefree Bristol – Physical Activity Strategy – Older People’s Strategy	– Health as ‘complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity’ (World Health Organisation)
Population Change	– HM Treasury 2007 – <i>Long term challenges for the UK</i> – South West Observatory – <i>State of the South West</i>	– Bristol Development Framework (spatial representation of SCS) – Bristol Housing Strategy	– Rising population in the West of England – Changing pattern of migration – Local population ‘churn’

12.2 The **performance** assessment framework is moving toward a more partnership-led approach – the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for local government is being replaced by a Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) for all local delivery partners.

12.3 The most recent, comparable figures for performance are for 2006/07, however it is important to bear in mind that Bristol City Council expects the ‘childrens’ score to increase to ‘2’ in November 2007, and that therefore the overall score will also **increase to ‘2’**.

Authority	Direction of Travel	Star Category	Corporate Assessment	Use of Resources	Children & Young People	Social Care (adults)	Benefits	Culture	Environment	Housing
Birmingham City Council	Improving adequately	2 star	2	3	3	2	4	2	3	2
Bristol City Council	Improving well	1 star	2	3	1	2	3	2	2	3
Leeds City Council	Improving adequately	3 star	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Liverpool City Council	Improving adequately	2 star	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	1
Manchester City Council	Improving adequately	3 star	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2
Newcastle City Council	Improving adequately	3 star	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2
Sheffield City Council	Improving well	4 star	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	3
				Level 1 services			Level 2 services			

Produced by: Bristol Partnership and Bristol City Council