

## Northampton Local Strategic Partnership



A Sustainable Community Strategy for

# Northampton

2008 - 2011

This plan outlines our vision up to 2031 and how we aim to achieve this. It will be refreshed periodically to reflect changes and progress. This plan focuses on activity that will take place during the first phase of the vision, up to 2011. The intention of this plan is not to repeat what individual organisations are doing but to add value. This means that energies can be focused on the areas where we can make the most impact collectively.

Northampton in 2031! - A place of **PRIDE** • **RESPECT** • **EXCITEMENT** • **VITALITY** • **FUN** • **PASSION**.

The spirit, commitment and determination of the people of Northampton will be there for everyone to see. Northampton will build upon its historic market town roots to become a 21st century market city with diverse multi-cultural communities giving leadership to Northamptonshire as its principal urban centre.

People who visit Northampton will look upon it as a place where they would want to live, work and bring up a family and those who live here will want to stay. We will celebrate all that is good about Northampton and Northampton will be all these things because:

## By 2011 it will...

- **Be recognised for good quality, environmentally friendly housing:**  
We will continue to promote good affordable, well-designed housing for all. With attention to the environment and the use of sustainable resources
- **Be well served by modern and efficient public services:**  
Local councils will have their role as community leaders, working in partnership to deliver this vision for Northampton. Their decisions will be easy to understand, transparent and will involve local people.
- **Be safer:**  
People will use the city centre and move around all of Northampton at night without fear.
- **Be cleaner:**  
All of Northampton will be clean and litter-free. We will work together to build a community culture of no tolerance of those who litter and pollute our streets.
- **Be healthier:**  
Our green spaces, the street -scape and urban design will help to make the healthiest environment so that people have good physical and mental health and live longer.

## By 2021 it will...

- **Be a city:**  
With a population approaching 240,000 over the next 15 years, Northampton will become city sized and as such we will develop an infrastructure that ensures that during this rapid period of growth there are enough schools, health care services, emergency services, roads, affordable quality housing and green space to support the rest of our vision. There will be excellent public services, healthy, skilled and prosperous residents who are proud of where they live and aspire to improve their lifestyle and opportunities.
- **Be a place made up from caring communities:**  
Communities will be developed and built upon respect and understanding of people of all ages, status and ethnicity. We will invest in, support and promote the family in all the forms that it takes so that there is the opportunity and desire to stay together, learn from and support each other.

## and by 2031 it will...

- **Be a major regional cultural and economic centre:**  
Northampton will be a centre for educational excellence our schools will help develop good citizens and produce exceptional results. Our colleges and university will work with local businesses to increase the skills base and develop and retain the jobs and workers of the future, improving the quality of life for all.  
  
Our traditional architecture will be mixed with new urban design. The Cultural Mile will snake through the city, joined together by our integrated transport system. Included within the Cultural Mile will be a heritage trail that celebrates our boot and shoe past. We will take full advantage of all that the River Nene has to offer and develop a water-based experience for all ages. All this plus a specialist niche shopping experience like no other makes Northampton a tourist destination of choice.
- **Be supported by its excellent transport system:**  
People will be able to move about the city and all of Northampton easily, hopping on and off an environmentally friendly transport system. They will have more choice of how they travel. They will free us from our dependence upon our cars to move around Northampton. Pollution and congestion will be virtually eliminated.

**LIVING AND THRIVING:**

**Northampton** is unique and we are ambitious for its future. We intend to transform **Northampton** into a world class place that plays a vital leading role in Northamptonshire in growing and contributing to the UK economy. Its location, at the heart of the country, means that it is ideally placed to drive growth, enterprise and productivity across the county. **Northampton** has already demonstrated a dramatic capacity for economic success; the area has seen substantial rates of population growth. New areas of housing are needed to accommodate this growth but development must be planned in a sustainable way and contribute to growing community cohesion.

**LIVING AND THRIVING**

- Deliver sustainable growth
- Promote sustainable transport
- Lead and facilitate sustainable development
- Promote the development of business and inward investment in Northampton
- Ensure that social, physical and green infrastructure are adequately and timely provided to meet people's needs
- Use land and buildings effectively and maximise opportunities for re-using land that has been previously built on
- Encourage locally distinctive, high quality design and sustainable construction that is environmentally sensitive
- Strengthen and diversify the economic base of Northampton; taking advantage of opportunities for knowledge-based industries, owing to its position within the Oxford/Cambridge arc.
- Improve quality of life of people living in suburban and urban areas; making places attractive, clean and safe.
- Improve quality of and access to housing
- Develop and enhance a distinctive and diverse cultural and leisure offer
- Involve our voluntary and community sector in planning, decision making and delivery of services
- Improve our schools and match our training opportunities to economic needs

**ACTIVITIES**



## Case Studies

**Upton:**

Award winning and nationally recognised scheme where planning code was set by the council for a requirement to use sustainable materials, sources, insulation values for energy efficiency, sustainable urban drainage solutions. Upton is located on the south-west fringe of Northampton. Upton was formerly a greenfield site. The Commission for New Towns was granted an outline planning permission for development of Upton, this was updated in 2003 following formation of the partnership of English Partnerships with Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and The Princes Foundation, following an Enquiry by Design public consultation which established promoting a high quality sustainable urban extension with the commercial element of the development located along the Weedon Road frontage. The Upton Design Code was formulated by the partners and NBC adopted the Code as supplementary planning guidance for the Upton development area. Work is underway on another key feature of the development, the sustainable urban drainage system which is an environmentally-friendly technique aimed at reducing the amount of "run-off" surface water generated by a development. These include measures such as the use of reed beds, which have the added advantage of creating attractive wildlife habitats. Work has been completed on new infrastructure, including a roundabout on Upton Way and a spine road, which links the development site between Upton Way and Weedon Road. Improvements have been made to the nearby Duston Mill reservoir to increase its effectiveness in line with new standards introduced by the Environment Agency enhancing the land's function as an existing flood plain.

**New Life Buildings:**

Partnership work involving NBC, police, Leicester Housing Association and local residents whereby the council engaged with a partner able to attract funding to refurbish property which had become difficult to let, had reports of high levels of antisocial behaviour and was in poor condition, turning it into a successful mix tenure venture that includes housing tenancy support and ensures that nominations benefit people on the housing register.

The Newlife Apartments, formerly known as Beaumont and Claremont Court, in Northampton has received a "Highly Commended" award in the Regeneration category at a RICS Awards 2007 ceremony and a "Mention" at the Civic Trust Awards during 2007. Ground floor apartments have been adapted specifically for residents with disabilities, incorporating wider doors for wheelchair access, specially adapted kitchens and wet rooms and emergency pull cord facilities. Security of the blocks was a big issue as over time they had become a focus for drug dealing, prostitution and antisocial behaviour. Access to the apartments and communal areas is now controlled via electronic gates operated by personalised key fobs. 24 hour remotely linked CCTV cameras are on every floor and intercoms provide further peace of mind for residents. A local employment scheme was in operation and together with a supply chain that employed several people from the local community.

**FIT AND HEALTHY:**

In **Northampton**, there are differences in Health experiences within the town and the quality of life is affected by a wide range of issues, including where we live, our level of education, and whether we have a job. We are building on the learning from joint initiatives to involve people and improve health and quality of life and we are offering support and information to help people make decisions about whether to smoke, what to eat and drink, what contraception to use and what level of physical activity is best for them. As partners, we will work closely to ensure that advice and support is available, along with consistent information on how to access services.

**FIT AND HEALTHY**

- Improve people's health and lifestyle
- Improve educational achievement and enjoyment
- Improve life chances
- Provide training and education opportunities for employment and sustainable economic development
- Increase job opportunities in line with national, regional and sub-regional strategies
- Promote equality of opportunity and improved participation in the community in the decision making process
- Design health into new growth and regeneration

**ACTIVITIES**

Alcohol and drug strategy	Strategies on Smoking	Physical activity
Mental Health Projects	Strategies on obesity	Strategies on sexual health
Strategies on breast feeding	Education extended services/ Well being centre	Health impact assessments

**Case Studies**

- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) opened at half term in 2007 on Spencer Brook. Funding achieved jointly by NBC and NCC from Barclays for Sports. Residents, Safer Community Team (SCT) and councillors report regular usage, before school, after school, evenings and weekends. The £20,000 that Barclays for Sports also provided for programming activity on the MUGA will be used to help lever funds from the Community Investment Fund for a joint project by NBC, NCC, SCTs and residents for a three-year physical activity project in Spencer and in Eastfield.
- Far Cotton recreation and community centre: opened in 2007 as a multi-use facility, including a library, community meeting space, sports changing facilities and set to expand over time

**SAFE AND SECURE**

Quality of life and safety in the town are priorities and one of the most important things that make the town a place where people want to live. Although there has been a reduction in crime levels, it is necessary to look at how people's perceptions are affected. The Northampton Safer Stronger Partnership has been reconfigured to lead on major aspects of this work.

**SAFE AND SECURE**

- Significantly reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce harm and impact of alcohol and class A drugs
- Improve the environments that people live in (built and natural)
- Improve partnerships to deliver joined-up services
- Improve cohesion and pride in communities and the town
- Improve offender management
- Partnership working to specifically improve quality of life for children and young people

**ACTIVITIES**

Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership projects	CCTV Scheme	Joint Waste Management Strategy
Neighbourhood Warden Schemes	Hate Crime Schemes	Neighbourhood Management
Community Events	Community Cohesion	

**Case Studies**

- Neighbourhood Renewal has supported the Friends of Eastfield Park to develop plans to improve park. This has involved developing and carrying out a community survey, holding two major clean up days (spring and autumn) and supporting the group to develop plans for the park. The community clean up days were particularly successful- with volunteers from the University and well as local residents.
- Operation Nightsafe: The partnership works hard to ensure Northampton town centre is a vibrant, safe place to visit at all times of the day. Different agencies came together to deliver 'operation nightsafe'. In this operation the police, local licensing officials and trading standards staff came together to ensure those premises operating under the licensing regime were operating responsibly within the law. For the first time we saw police and ambulance crews 'teamed' together to bring a joint, effective response to all incidents requiring their attention. The local 'Pub Watch' scheme worked with the licensing trade to bring about many local initiatives to make the environment less volatile and positively encouraged responsible drinking in the town. The operation saw increased high visibility patrols across the town at vulnerable times. All told this was a great effort by all the agencies make a real difference by working together.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Increasing the involvement of children and young people in decision-making, local democracy and removing barriers to accessing services, to help them to know what's on offer for young people, things to do and who they can talk to for support are priorities at both county and local area levels, with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board providing a countywide focus to which Northampton partners are committed. From spring 2008 services will be encouraged to work to accredited outcomes to prove achievement against the countywide Charter of Youth Involvement.

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Demonstrate progress against the seven elements of targeted youth support in east Northampton
- Develop an action plan for implementation of the Integrated Youth Offer across Northampton
- Implement universal youth offer in consultation with young people with a localised needs' focus
- To work with partners to promote positive activities for children and young people

### ACTIVITIES

Integrated Youth Officer

Improving educational attainment for 15 to 18 year olds

Changes to physical infrastructure of schools and colleges

Development of Our Space

Healthy schools award

Play strategy: Local play schemes - youth shelters - skate board facilities

To reduce the number of young people not in education or training (NEET)

Cross cutting issues relating to mental health, childhood obesity, youth crime

### Case Studies

- Young people have been involved 'X marks the spot' - the hidden history of Spring Boroughs. This project has run by the museum, funded by the Lottery as part of a programme of activities for young people in the area, co-ordinated through Neighbourhood management. The resulting dvd has been shown locally at the Forum cinema and the group has been interviewed by ITV news. The dvd has been entered into a young film makers competition and the group have been short-listed into the top 5 and this has already been screened in Nottingham and London. We will find out shortly whether this will be screened on BBC 2 before Christmas, fingers crossed!!
- A new social enterprise is beginning in Far Cotton. The Gener8 Project in Delapre will take children who have either been excluded or struggle to cope in mainstream Schools, offering them the chance to take their GCSE's or gain vocational qualifications. In addition the project offers a café to provide a place for all youngsters in the area to gather and counselling will be available on a variety of issues. The hope is that by providing young people with somewhere to go issues around Anti-social behaviour in the area will be reduced
- Community involvement from Young people has been key in the development of Victoria Park in St James. A community activity Day took place that involved Young People having the opportunity to say what they wanted to see in the Park. The Redevelopment is due to complete in March 2008

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