

Summary of the Vision and objectives of the West Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy 2007- 2010

Economic Vision: a prosperous West Somerset–

- By 2020 there will be a thriving local economy in West Somerset.
- People will be able to work close to where they live.
- The economy will benefit from creative and knowledge-based industries, which don't rely on high levels of commuting.
- People will be suitably skilled to work in these industries
- and will have access to continuing training to update their skills.
- As a result they will be well paid.

Social Vision: a welcoming, strong and balanced community –

- By 2020 West Somerset will provide enough opportunities for young people to stay in the district after their education.
- The population will primarily consist of older people,
- Everyone who lives in the district will feel safe and accepted as part of the local community.

Environmental vision: an increasingly self-sufficient West Somerset –

- By 2020 West Somerset will be noted for its rapid progress in introducing a low-carbon economy minimising damaging emissions.
- The economy will be thriving because of the new business opportunities this will have created.
- Businesses and individuals will have learned how to minimise their impact on the environment.
- The district will produce more of its own food and generate its energy locally.
- There will be sufficient affordable housing available for people in West Somerset.
- People will live in energy efficient housing and have a much lower impact on the planet's resources (ecological footprints).
- They will appreciate the benefits of the local region and reduce travel to elsewhere.
- Towns will be safe and
- The environment will be well managed to minimise the use of resources and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Summary of Somerset Local Area Agreement themes and outcomes most relevant to the LDF Core Strategy:

Healthier Communities theme

- An increased proportion of people taking part in physical activity

Stronger Communities theme

- A secure, long term future for Rural Housing Enablers
- Better use of public sector owned land for affordable housing

Children and young people theme

- Improved take up of physical activity, sport and cultural opportunities for 0-19 year olds.
- Promotion of better play opportunities for all children.

Economic Development and enterprise theme

- More effective and integrated inward investment services
- A more responsive public sector to the growth and investment needs of local and incoming businesses
- Greater workforce skills levels
- Promotion of growth and productivity of key small business sectors
- increased e-adoption by small businesses
- Improved level and accessibility of business support for rural enterprises
- Promotion of development and diversification of rural enterprises
- Promotion of the sustainable growth of Somerset's environmental economy
- Promotion of sustainable rural communities
- Simplified delivery of rural funding streams to businesses and communities