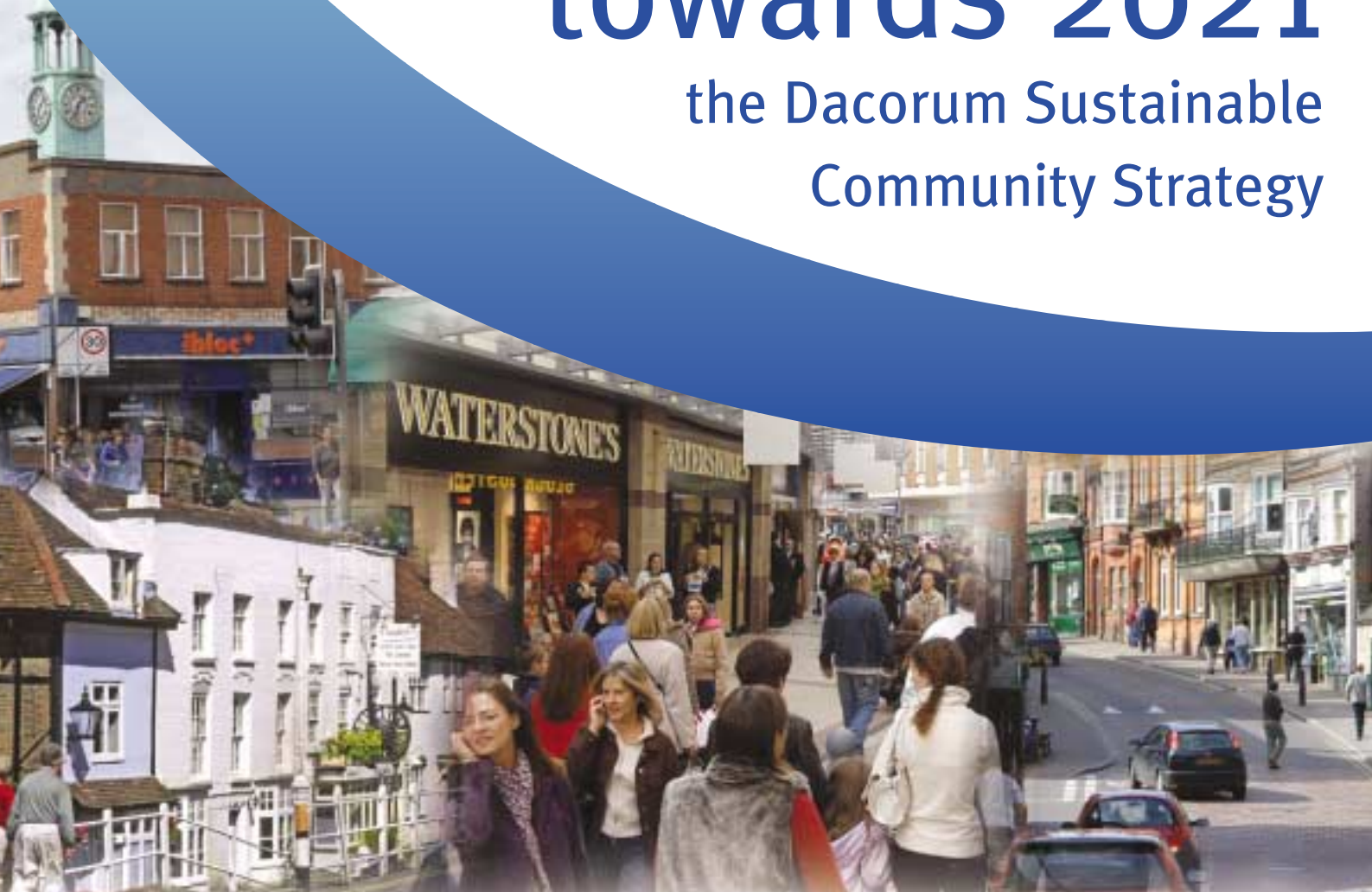




the
Dacorum
Partnership

towards 2021

the Dacorum Sustainable
Community Strategy



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Welcome from Councillor Andrew Williams

Chair, Dacorum Partnership

Dacorum is a great place to live!

That's what you told us during our consultation for this new Community Strategy. There is a good mix of rural and urban environments, lots of work and leisure opportunities, low crime, good health and a good quality of life here. But that's not the whole story.

There are communities here that are disadvantaged, people suffering the effects of poverty and poor health, lacking the skills to help our communities prosper. We are still recovering from the Buncefield explosion and we need to continue to support our business communities. There are also real concerns about how we protect our natural environment whilst we are building more homes for our increasing population.

Our Community Strategy is the result of a great deal of work with our communities. We asked you to tell us your aspirations for the future of Dacorum and we asked you to tell us what concerns you most. We looked at the statistical data and trends in our society to see what the future holds for us.

We have also considered our place in the wider community – our place in Hertfordshire, our place in England – so that we can be prepared for the growth of our area. Being prepared means we can better respond to that growth in a sustainable and responsible manner.

We have taken all of that information and identified what we need to do to keep Dacorum a good place to live work and visit. **Towards 2021** is the result.

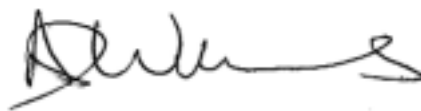
This strategy outlines what the Dacorum Partnership is doing to meet the challenges of the future. It gives detail about how we are working together to prepare, to provide leadership and quality services for our communities – and to make sure that we use our resources wisely.

Short-term actions and long-term goals

Towards 2021 sets out Dacorum Partnership's long-term ambitions for our community. It describes a place and character for Dacorum for 2021. It is important that we take action now to ensure that we can achieve our ambitions.

This Community Strategy sets out our short-term action planning for the next three years: 2008 - 2011. By 2011 we will have started to make real progress towards meeting our long-term ambitions. A new three-year action plan will be created to continue that progress from 2012.

Dacorum is a great place to live, work and visit and I hope that the work we have planned will keep our community a great place for the future. Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to make their opinions known on these important issues. We will do our very best to deliver the kind of quality services that everyone in Dacorum wants and deserves.



Towards 2021 – a vision for Dacorum

The Dacorum Partnership exists to promote the ‘social, economic and environmental well-being’ of Dacorum. ‘Well-being’ is important to maintain a vibrant and sustainable local community.

Social well-being includes things like ‘happiness’ and how fulfilled individuals feel. Happy and fulfilled people live longer, have stronger social networks and are more engaged in their communities. This in turn leads to better health, develops a more entrepreneurial society and promotes greater levels of active citizenship.

Economic well-being includes having a thriving and varied business base and the right mix of occupations and livelihoods. This encourages a good quality of life and attracts visitors and workers here to Dacorum.

Environmental well-being is about taking action now to safeguard our local and global futures. We want to encourage growth and activity whilst protecting our natural resources for the future.

That’s why the Dacorum Partnership has adopted the following vision:

“Working together to make Dacorum a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe place to live, work and visit”

Towards 2021 – our aspirations for Dacorum

What makes Dacorum distinctive? What makes it a good place to live?

The Dacorum Partnership values balancing economic, social and environmental welfare, and sees individual interests as being connected to a strong and co-operative society.

We aspire to high levels of welfare within communities that have shared values, fair opportunities and sound environmental management. Social objectives are mainly met through public, voluntary and community sector organisations. Our communities retain their distinctiveness through a mixture of regulatory, shared values and democratic mechanisms and processes.

Dacorum has a good mix of rural and urban environments and the Partnership wishes to protect this variety. We want building growth to be undertaken sensitively and in keeping with our environment whilst providing enough dynamism to keep communities viable and prosperous.

We want to enhance the distinctiveness of our towns. Hemel Hempstead retains links to its new town origins, while Berkhamsted and Tring are characterised by strong links to Fair Trade and Neighbourhood Watch. Villages and neighbourhoods have characters of their own and the Partnership wants to enhance our understanding so they can be retained.

Dacorum also has a thriving and dynamic voluntary sector which the Partnership wants to maintain. Opportunities to develop this sector and new ways of working will be explored.

We want to have an excellent reputation which we will seek to promote by improving our relationships with the local media

Our communities attach significance to environmental concerns and wish to reduce our impact on our local and global environment. In particular we want to put plans in place to adapt and prepare for future changes to our climate.

Dacorum - a place to be proud of

Dacorum is a mixture of urban and rural communities. Hemel Hempstead was one of the first new towns which brought rapid growth to the area. The market towns of Berkhamsted and Tring, with their agricultural heritage, and another 14 parish council communities are situated in rural parts of Dacorum.

Over a third of our 210 square kilometres are designated part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are excellent transport links via the motorway and railway network and Luton Airport is within easy reach. The Grand Union Canal also crosses the Borough.

With 138,400 residents, Dacorum has the highest population of all Hertfordshire's districts (Office of National Statistics 2006). 15.6% of residents are aged 65 or more and 18.6% are under 15. There are 58,873 (2003 figure) dwellings, of which around 18% (10,500) are owned by the Council.

Based on current trends the population is forecast to increase between 8,900 and 10,300 people over the next 20 years. This figure is expected to increase as more homes are built over the next few years. One of the most significant features is the growth of the population in the over 65 age group – up to 8,900 (41%) more people, and 3,500 (56%) more people (ONS) in the over 80 age group.

Dacorum is among the 50 most affluent areas in the country, but it still has some deprived communities. Although health is generally good, there are significant differences in life expectancy between the most deprived and most affluent wards.

Our economy

Dacorum's economic performance is good, being in the top 40% of districts across the country. We have a slightly larger than average economy and one of the largest in Hertfordshire. Productivity has been growing quite slowly in recent years though and job numbers have decreased slightly.

Business density in Dacorum is high with above national and regional results. There are lots of small businesses, although the rate of formation of businesses and the number of small businesses surviving has been below average in recent years.

Local people have high skill levels ranking Dacorum in the top 20% nationally. GCSE attainment is good with over 61% achieving five or more GCSEs. The employment rate is well above the national average. However both long-term and youth unemployment are around the national average.

Dacorum's economy is a real strength; it is large and productive with a healthy knowledge-driven sector. This strong economic performance has produced a labour market of local residents with exceptional skill levels. The only area where Dacorum under performs is economic change where jobs growth has been poor.

Our community

- The Dacorum community is slightly younger than the national average although about average for Hertfordshire
- The age profile is skewed with both the 0 to 14 and the 25 to 44 years age group having higher than average numbers
- The birth-rate in Dacorum is slightly higher than the national average although the 15 to 24 and the 45+ age group have slightly lower than average numbers. The growth rate of the population is just above the national average of around 4%
- The non-white population in Dacorum is around half the national average

Dacorum - a place to be proud of

- Our average household size in Dacorum is relatively high – mainly due to the young population
- Over 32% of our working population are in managerial or professional occupations, 4% higher than the national average but lower than the Hertfordshire average
- We are relatively wealthy. We have a higher than average level of homes with two or more cars and bigger houses (with a higher than average number of rooms per household)
- Our income is higher than the national average but slightly lower than the Hertfordshire average (2003/04 figures)
- Overall levels of deprivation are low (ranked 306 out of 354 English districts)
- Dacorum is one of the most healthy areas in the country
- Levels of crime are moderate by national standards
- Dacorum has a young, ethnically diverse population by national standards which has been growing at a rate around the national average
- Deprivation is generally low
- Our economic performance gives our residents exceptional levels of social well-being

Our environment

Housing in Dacorum is expensive by national standards. The 2006 average house price in Dacorum was over £253,000 compared with a national average of around £193,000. Whilst earnings growth has kept pace with national figures, house prices have more than doubled over the same period.

Dacorum has experienced low growth in commercial and industrial space. Office space has grown slightly but at only a quarter of the national average.

Dacorum has good transport links and many residents work outside the Borough. However the proportion of residents working elsewhere is the lowest in the county, making Dacorum more 'self contained' than the rest of Hertfordshire.

Dacorum scores relatively well for local amenities (cinemas, theatres, libraries and employment in hotels and restaurants). Even though we are surrounded by beautiful countryside our score for natural beauty is below the national average. This is typical of a largely urban area, particularly one where its environmental assets (such as green space and natural beauty) are offset by poor air quality caused by high levels of commuting.

Overall our performance is mixed. We have good services and are well connected. However, very high house prices have led to poor affordability. Also growth in commercial floor space has been relatively poor. Dacorum records a modest level of local amenities and a below average natural environment.



Our cross-cutting themes

The Dacorum Partnership brings together a range of organisations to work together:

Communities Together • Dacorum Housing Forum • Dacorum Business Networks (WENTA) • Town & Parish Councils • Dacorum Children's Trust Partnership • Age Concern Dacorum • Hertfordshire County Council • Dacorum Environmental Forum • West Herts College • Job Centre Plus • Dacorum Borough Council • Community Action Dacorum – 'CHACE group' • West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust • Hertfordshire Constabulary • Hemel Hempstead Churches Together

There are specific ambitions identified for action and a number of themes that are common to all our work. These common themes are split into Our People and Our Place.

Our cross-cutting themes for **Towards 2021** are listed below:

Our People

Promoting healthy and caring lifestyles

- We will improve tolerance amongst our communities
- We will encourage personal responsibility and value our surroundings
 - We will encourage good parenting
 - We will support a vibrant voluntary and community sector
 - We will encourage cycling and walking

Developing community cohesion

- We will encourage schemes that build pride and involvement in our communities
 - We will encourage volunteering
- We will establish a 'Dacorum Day' – improving and celebrating our community
 - We will build family activity
 - We will value and celebrate diversity

Our Place

Rejuvenating Dacorum

- We will realise the 'Hemel 2020' vision, including the revitalisation of the town centre and regeneration of Maylands business area
- We will develop and implement vision strategies for Berkhamsted, Tring, the large villages and rural parts of the borough to maintain locally distinct towns and villages
- We will create a neighbourhood pattern in our settlements which is based on community identity and access to services

Acting on climate change

- We will work towards making Dacorum a carbon neutral community by 2021
- We will encourage the use of public transport and car sharing schemes
 - We will encourage development of environmentally-friendly business practice
- We will develop a public involvement campaign using information about our ecological footprint
 - We will encourage our voluntary sector partners to sign up to the Third Sector Declaration on climate change

Through our consultation we identified ten 'quality of life' ambitions. These all contribute to the environmental, social or economic well-being of Dacorum.

Some of the ambitions concentrate on improvement for Our People. Others concentrate on improving Our Place, making Dacorum a better place to live, work and visit.

Here are the ten ambitions and what we plan to do about them.

Reducing crime and creating a safer Dacorum

www.saferdacorum.info

OUR AIM: To build a strong and cohesive community where people feel safe

How will we do this? By tackling crime and disorder and improving the quality of life for everyone who lives, works and visits Dacorum

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Community Safety Partnership

To deliver this aim we will:

- Produce an annual strategic assessment to address issues quickly
- Reduce crime (including anti-social behaviour and alcohol and drugs misuse)
- Increase feelings of safety (older people feel safe, younger people feel included)
- Address domestic violence
- Plan policing around a 'safer neighbourhoods' initiative

Our actions will include:

- Designing out crime by improving our streetscene
- Developing community activities to divert from crime, improve tolerance and prevent anti-social behaviour
- Building on drugs and alcohol awareness programmes in schools
- Working to balance perceptions of crime against actual crime levels
- Focusing on causes and symptoms of crime
- Developing positive parenting schemes
- Ensuring the appropriate facilities and the right level of resources are available
- Co-ordinating work in the most disadvantaged areas to improve community safety

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Produce an annual strategic assessment plan that delivers continuous improvement against the crimes that are of biggest concern in Dacorum

Ref: SCS Target (PSA 23)

Target 2

Reduce the number of people who consider vandalism, graffiti and damage to be a big or fairly big problem.

Our target is:

↓ 4%

Ref: LAA Target S-A1.1b(PSA 23)

Target 3

Reduce the number of people who think drunkenness and rowdiness in public places is a big or fairly big problem

Our target is:

↓ 4%

LAA Target S-A1.1c: (NI41)



Creating a cleaner and healthier environment

www.dacenvforum.org.uk

OUR AIM: To resolve local environmental issues and enhance the natural beauty and built environment of Dacorum

How will we do this? Through encouraging individuals and organisations to work together locally to improve the environment and help reduce global impacts

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Environmental Forum

To deliver this aim we will:

- Increase environmental awareness
- Reduce energy and water consumption
- Encourage sustainable travel
- Reduce waste volumes and levels of litter
- Maintain and improve biodiversity
- Encourage the use of local resources

Our actions will include:

- Developing education programmes that encourage personal responsibility and value for surroundings
- Co-ordinating work to support disadvantaged residents to benefit from improvements to sustainability
- Adopting sustainable energy approaches to all new buildings and encouraging sustainable construction practices
- Improving energy efficiency in all buildings
- Encouraging water conservation practices
- Maintain and seek to improve public transport
- Encourage more people to walk and cycle
- Encouraging the 'three Rs' – reduce, reuse, recycle
- Encouraging businesses to use less packaging and adopt more sustainable waste management
- Clamping down on littering and fly-tipping and removing dumped waste quickly
- Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and making them resilient to change
- Providing information and promoting initiatives to encourage people to choose sustainable produce and products
- Raising awareness of practices which have the potential to damage the environment

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the number of 'Green Flag' accredited sites



Ref: LAA Target S-B8.1b
(NI197 PSA 28)

Target 2

Reduce the per capita CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority area



Ref: NI 186

Target 3

Complete the Dacorum Environmental Forum action plan

Ref: SCS Target (PSA 28)



Delivering lifelong learning

www.dacorumlearningp.btik.com

OUR AIM: To create a learning community that enables those who live and work in Dacorum to maximise their potential and improve their quality of life

How will we do this? By supporting and inspiring individuals and communities, learning providers and local employers to work together to bring greater coherence and co-ordination to adult learning

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Learning Partnership

To deliver this aim we will:

- Support access to lifelong learning for all
- Listen to the learner and research local learning needs
- Provide information to partners, strategists and decision-makers to assist in planning
- Identify opportunities for progression and sustainable provision
- Share information and good practice
- Encourage 'skills for life' training
- Raise aspirations through information, advice and careers guidance
- Encourage active business involvement

Our actions will include:

- Encouraging use of college, school and community facilities and resources to provide local learning opportunities
- Supporting the use of a variety of learning styles to appeal to a wide range of people
- Involving people in decision-making about local learning opportunities and provision
- Involving businesses in addressing skills shortages
- Developing family and inter-generational learning opportunities
- Co-ordination and publicising of learning provision
- Co-ordinating work in the most disadvantaged areas to improve skills

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the number of young people completing or succeeding in training in construction, hospitality and health and social care sectors



Ref: LAA Target EA-7 (PSA 10)

Target 2

Complete the actions included in the Lifelong Learning Forum action plan

Ref: SCS Target (PSA 2)



Encouraging business and local employment

www.maylands.org and
www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

OUR AIM: To enable businesses to work more effectively together, to support development opportunities and encourage full employment

How will we do this? By developing a strategy with the business community and through training and development schemes that build a flourishing and sustainable local economy

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Business Networks

To deliver this aim we will:

- Build strong links between business and education
- Develop a care and retention strategy for home-grown business
- Develop a pro-active inward investment strategy
- Restore confidence and raise the profile through delivery of the Maylands Masterplan
- Encourage availability of affordable housing
- Ensure Dacorum is branded as a place for business to flourish
- Encourage an entrepreneurial spirit and support micro businesses
- Support availability of quality, well paid jobs with flexible working arrangements
- Support the 'Business Improvement District' bid

Our actions will include:

- Attracting and retaining a diverse range of businesses
- Supporting sustainable local procurement policies
- Developing infrastructure that encourages good business practice
- Improving our image through a better physical business environment, celebrating success and encouraging local pride
- Encouraging volunteering schemes that improve skills and job matching (linking people, skills and demands)
- Working with business partnerships
- Working with home-grown businesses to gain long-term commitment to Dacorum
- Facilitating sustainable transport connection between business and residential areas
- Looking at renewable energy by the development of a green business park
- Linking business, education and life-long learning to meet local needs with local jobs
- Encouraging balanced communities that include housing, jobs and transport

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the number of VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth and encourage 50 new business enquiries per year

↑ **50**

Ref: NI172

Target 2

Increase key public services delivered by voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises

↑ **1**

Ref: LAA Target E-A8 (NI7)

Target 3

Support the regeneration of Maylands Avenue Business Park following the Buncefield explosion

Ref: Local target

Target 4

Attract new businesses to Dacorum

5 in 2008/09
10 in 2009/10

Ref: Local target

Meeting housing need

www.hpcha.org.uk and www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

OUR AIM: To provide people with homes they can afford

How will we do this? By maximising the provision of good quality affordable housing in partnership with a range of stakeholders and providers

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Housing Forum

To deliver this aim we will:

- Provide sufficient new homes
- Provide homes that are well designed and meet the highest environmental standards
- Locate homes where there are accessible local services
- Create and support mixed tenure residential communities
- Promote social inclusion by addressing the housing needs of all groups
- Ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable housing
- Minimise the number of households becoming homeless
- Provide advice and support to vulnerable groups

Our actions will include:

- Supporting the delivery of the homes targets in the regional spatial strategy
- Supporting new homes through the planning system, which:
 - are adaptable to accommodate changing needs
 - provide good quality living space
 - meet the highest standards for sustainable homes
 - are located close to local facilities
- Increasing the provision of affordable units to rent or buy
- Reducing the number of long-term empty homes
- Making better use of existing housing by supporting sensitive adaptations and encouraging a mix of client groups
- Minimising homelessness through effective advice and support
- Encouraging creative and quality urban design
- Encouraging responsive home improvements for disabled people

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the percentage of all new homes that are affordable:

- ↑
- to 25% by 2011
 - to 35% by 2021

Ref: Delivery of Affordable Homes (NI 155)

Target 2

Increase the percentage of new homes that meet the Government's recommended sustainable code levels:

- ↑
- to 100% at Level 3 by 2011
 - to 100% at Level 6 by 2021

Ref: Delivery of Sustainable Homes

Target 3

Reduce the use of temporary accommodation by half by 2010

↓
Ref: NI 156

Promoting culture, arts, leisure and tourism

www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

OUR AIM: To encourage all those who live, work and visit Dacorum to become involved in cultural activities that:

- enhance social well-being
- enhance leisure, fun and enjoyment

How will we do this? Through a variety of clubs, arts and leisure opportunities and activities

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Cultural Forum (to be formed in 2008)

To deliver this aim we will:

- Ensure we understand what people want
- Create a cultural forum and specific forums for arts, sports, heritage and tourism
- Organise events and activities that are accessible and affordable
- Create inter-generational and family activity opportunities
- Maintain a strategic vision for the arts in Dacorum
- Be a champion for the arts and encourage engagement

Our actions will include:

- Establishing a cultural forum to represent views and develop action
- Developing sporting opportunities relating to the 2012 Olympics
- Developing the 'five times a week' exercise involvement programme
- Facilitating a major cultural venue in Hemel Hempstead
- Creating an Arts Network
- Encouraging the provision of recreation space in all new-build areas
- Promoting better and affordable leisure facilities for children and young people
- Promoting a range of multi-use spaces and halls
- Promoting sporting activities for all ages
- Encouraging volunteering opportunities, especially for young people
- Co-ordinating work in the most disadvantaged areas to promote culture arts and leisure opportunities

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Complete the actions included in the 'promoting culture, arts, leisure and tourism' action plan

Ref: SCS Targets DCMS DSO

Target 2

Adult participation in sports

Increase the number of adults aged 45+ participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation on three or more days a week

↑ 4%

Ref: LAA target H-B4 (NI8)

Target 3

Engagement in the arts

Develop a baseline in the first year and increase the engagement by the third year

↑ 1%

Ref: (NI11)

Encouraging community involvement

www.volunteerdacorum.org/involve

OUR AIM: To ensure that all local residents are well-informed, supported and encouraged to influence, contribute and be involved in community activities and decision-making

How will we do this? By enabling and supporting people and groups and developing opportunities for people to be involved

Theme lead forum: Community Involvement Forum

To deliver this aim we will:

- Identify and support projects and initiatives that promote community involvement
- Develop a strong, inclusive and vibrant voluntary and community sector
- Promote and celebrate diversity
- Build inter-dependence and strong values within communities
- Nurture a sense of belonging in our community
- Develop social justice and an inclusive culture through volunteering and community activity

Our actions will include:

- Improving communication to enable information sharing, advertising and networking
- Identifying sustainable resources to support projects which meet local needs
- Ensuring partnerships are informed and representative
- Developing an inter-faith forum
- Promoting opportunities for everyone to get involved in volunteering and community activities
- Providing training to raise awareness and improve good practice in volunteer management and community involvement
- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Communities Together forum
- Increasing the capacity of voluntary and community groups through training and the promotion of good practice

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the number of people who have undertaken formal volunteering in groups, clubs or organisations for at least an average of two hours a week or more over a 12 month period

↑ **3%**

Ref: LAA Target S-C9.1 (NI6)

Target 2

Increase the percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area

↑ **2%**

Ref: LAA Target S-C10.2 (NI4)

Target 3

Increase the percentage of people surveyed who feel their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

↑ **2%**

Ref: LAA Target S-C10.3 (NI1)

Target 4

- a) Identify external funding to support partnership projects
- b) Set up a Volunteer Manager's Forum to support people who work with volunteers
- c) Create a register of community events

Meeting the needs of children and young people

www.hertsdirect.org/childrenstrust

OUR AIM: To enable children and young people to feel healthy and happy and to live, learn and play in places that are safe and clean

How will we do this? By ensuring equal access to opportunities for children and young people to fulfil their potential and be empowered to become independent adults

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Children's Trust Partnership

Dacorum Children's Trust Partnership plans are aligned to the Every Child Matters outcomes:

Staying Safe • *Being Healthy* • *Achieving Economic Wellbeing* • *Making a Positive Contribution* • *Enjoying and Achieving*

Children and young people play a major role in informing and shaping our actions.

To deliver this aim we will:

- Ensure that children and young people are informed, consulted and involved
- Ensure that the needs of children and young people are clearly identified
- Encourage and value contributions from children and young people and ensure that their voice is heard
- Encourage closer communication and working relationships between all partners

Our actions will include:

- Safeguarding and protecting children and young people through positive parenting schemes, identifying needs at an early stage to offer co-ordinated and preventative support
- Encouraging family, inter-generational and community cohesion
- Ensuring a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of health, information and childcare
- Extending community use of schools
- Supporting the development of the Integrated Youth Support Service, Youth Charter and Youth Councils for Dacorum
- Implementing the Dacorum Play Strategy
- Reducing the number of young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless
- Enabling all children and young people to achieve their full potential and reduce the numbers of those who are not in employment, education and training.
- Developing appropriate housing for young people aged 16+ to stay in Dacorum
- Encouraging activities and facilities for young people especially in new growth areas
- Facilitating affordable and regular leisure opportunities and transport

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Deliver the targets in the Dacorum Children and Young People's Plan

Ref: SCS Target (PSA 12)

Target 2

Increase the number of five to 16 year olds who travel to school using sustainable modes of transport (cycling, walking etc)

↑ 2%

Ref: LAA Target C-A3

Target 3

Reduce the percentage of children aged 11 to 15 who state they have been bullied in the last 12 months



Ref: LAA Target C-CD6



Improving social care and health

www.wherts-pct.nhs.uk and the Public Health Report

OUR AIM: To provide a healthy and caring environment where people can live an independent, safe and fulfilling life

How will we do this? Through working in partnership to eliminate social care and health inequalities

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Healthier Communities and Older People Forum

To deliver this aim we will:

- Make better provision for young people's health
- Provide better education on health and social care issues
- Build locally relevant services meeting the current and future needs of the community
- Listen and respect individuals
- Encourage involvement in decision-making
- Provide local health support for individuals
- Take a full part in proposals for healthcare changes in the area

Our actions will include:

- Working towards resolving health inequalities in our community
- Raising awareness of the effects of climate change on health
- Developing integrated service delivery through one-stop shops, multi-tasking teams and sharing learning
- Improving awareness of availability through an older people's information pack
- Encouraging appropriate and effective locally-based health care provision across the Borough
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles including 'fitness for life' and reducing preventable health problems
- Co-ordinating work in the most disadvantaged areas to improve health
- Improving awareness of the impact of mental health in our community

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Increase the number of adults aged 45+ participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including walking and cycling) on three or more days a week

↑ 4%

Ref: LAA target H-B4 (PSA 18)

Target 2

Increase the number of adults who eat healthily from a local value of *22.9% to meet the national average value of 23.8%



*Health survey for England 2001/02(PSA 18)

Target 3

Increase the number of adults participating in physical activity from a local value of *10.3% to a national average of 11.6%



*Health Survey for England 2005/06 (PSA 18)

Meeting the needs of older people

www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

OUR AIM: To enable older people to live healthy, happy, dignified lives as active citizens

How will we do this? By ensuring equal access to opportunities and services, enabling older people to have informed choices and to contribute to our community

Theme lead forum: Dacorum Healthy Communities and Older Peoples Forum

To deliver this aim we will:

- Provide choices for older people to access the services they want and need
- Ensure that older people are informed, consulted and involved through setting up an Older People's Forum
- Encourage opportunities for participation
- Share good practice with partners about meeting the needs of, and involving, older people
- Clearly identify the needs of older people

Our actions will include:

- Encouraging inter-generational activities
- Starting an Older People's Forum focusing on the needs of older people
- Developing training and consultation projects with older people
- Engaging young people and schools in researching the needs of older people through links with the Dacorum Children's Trust Partnership
- Encouraging recognition of the contribution made by older people
- Encouraging better provision for older people particularly in leisure and training facilities
- Facilitating better public transport for older people
- Encouraging a culturally sensitive welfare meals service

How we will measure our progress:

Target 1

Start a forum involving 40 older people and five key members responsible for leadership

Target 2

Increase the satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood



Ref: NI 138

Target 3

Complete the first Older People's Forum action plan



Transport in Dacorum

During our consultation many of our communities mentioned transport as a real issue. Specifics ranged from the very local (such as parking schemes and speed limits) to the very strategic (such as public transport schemes and air travel).

The Dacorum Partnership has approached these issues in a variety of ways: some of them will be dealt with through planning mechanisms, some will be dealt with through existing highways maintenance structures, whilst others are included within the themes in this strategy.

The issue of traffic congestion is being addressed by the countywide strategic partnership, Hertfordshire Forward. They are addressing the issue by making Hertfordshire easier to travel around. Dacorum Partnership will be working closely with Hertfordshire Forward to ensure that issues in Dacorum are included in countywide solutions.

Hertfordshire Forward

Hertfordshire Forward is the countywide local strategic partnership working to improve services and opportunities for everyone in Hertfordshire.

There is one overarching objective of the partnership, which is to be a strategic alliance for the county, using influence (not power) to drive Hertfordshire's future.

Hertfordshire Forward is responsible for the Hertfordshire Community Strategy. Dacorum's **Towards 2021** and the county strategy complement each other.

Further information about Hertfordshire Forward and the countywide community strategy can be found at: www.hertslink.org/hertfordshireforward

Other plans and strategies

Towards 2021 is the key document that collates the aims and aspirations of communities and partners in Dacorum. It provides a vision for the future and is the overarching document for all other plans and strategies in the future.

The Local Development Framework is a key document which will help implement the aspirations and intentions of the community strategy and shape the growth of the Borough.

Future Local Area Agreements will look at the priorities included in **Towards 2021** to help develop priorities for action.

All the Dacorum Partnership theme forums (such as the Dacorum Community Safety Partnership, Children and Young Peoples Partnership) will use **Towards 2021** to inform their new plans.

Working together the Dacorum Partnership has developed a clear and coherent vision for Dacorum. **Towards 2021** will help to co-ordinate other plans and schemes to ensure they fit in with our community aspirations.

Communicating with you

To get the latest information and news from Dacorum Partnership, to follow progress on our action plans and to get useful background documents, visit:

www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

Do you want to get involved with the work of a theme forum?
E-mail **dacorumpartnership@dacorum.gov.uk** for details.

How we developed Towards 2021

We collected your views over an 18 month period. We asked Town and Parish Councils, schools, faith communities, business networks and others, to tell us about their community's top five issues.

We checked these views with the Council's Citizen's Panel, involved local Councillors through Overview and Scrutiny committees and organised a major conference in July 2007 for around 100 local people.

You gave us a long list of issues that were sorted into groups for action – some were dealt with by individual agencies, some by local communities – the most strategic and long-term issues have been included in this Sustainable Community Strategy.

We developed a better understanding of the Borough through using a range of research methods. We relied heavily on the Audit Commission's area profiles tool and the work undertaken by Local Futures. We also acknowledge the help of the NHS Health Profiles and The Ecological Footprint of Hertfordshire.

We will be delivering the strategy through co-ordinated work amongst agencies and through our ten forums. Each forum has its own action plan which you can read more about by visiting:

www.dacorumpartnershipnews.org.uk

The Dacorum Partnership will plan, drive and monitor the work included in this Sustainable Community Strategy. We will do this through a work programme that strives to build a strong, happy, healthy and just community whilst ensuring the place that we call Dacorum is able to prosper within environmental limits.



Jargon buster

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP	Those who take responsibility for their communities and take an active part in community or civic life
ARTS NETWORK	A group of arts organisations
BIODIVERSITY	Plants and animals and the habitats where they live
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	Creation of a prestigious landmark development
CARBON NEUTRAL	Refers to zero total carbon release, brought about by balancing carbon released with the amount removed
CITIZEN'S PANEL	A panel of residents of mixed age, race and gender that provides opinion for the Borough Council
COHESION / COHESIVE COMMUNITY	Communities that live and grow together
DIVERSIFICATION / DIVERSITY	The introduction of variety
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT	Measurement of our demand on nature. It compares human consumption of natural resources with the planet's ecological capacity to regenerate them
EMPOWER / EMPOWERMENT	Give or delegate power or authority
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	The management of our interaction with, and impact on, the environment
EVERY CHILD MATTERS	An approach set out by government to ensure the well-being of children and young people
FAIR TRADE	Market-based model of international trade which promotes the payment of a fair price as well as social and environmental standards
FACILITATING	Any activity which makes the tasks of others easier
GREEN FLAG	A quality standard for parks and open spaces
HEMEL 2020	Dacorum Borough Councils strategic plan to realise the opportunities for Hemel Hempstead
INFRASTRUCTURE	The basic structure or features of a system
LAA (Local Area Agreement)	A countywide initiative, designed to improve local services through strengthened partnership working
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK	Is the planning strategy for Dacorum
LOCALISED HEALTH SUPPORT	Health support provided or planned locally
LOCAL PROCUREMENT	Obtaining goods and services locally
LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	A group of statutory and non-statutory organisations working together for the benefit of local people

MICRO BUSINESS

A business with a small number of employees

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

A regional level planning framework for England

SOCIAL INCLUSION

An inclusive community is one in which no individual, family group or area is so excluded as to be unable to participate in the life of the community

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice refers to a society in which justice is achieved in every aspect including the law

THIRD SECTOR

Organisations not in the public or private sectors – usually voluntary and community organisations





Dacorum Partnership is made up of representatives from the following organisations, networks and groups:

- Communities Together
- Dacorum Housing Forum
- Dacorum Business Networks (WENTA)
 - Town & Parish Councils
- Dacorum Children's Trust Partnership
 - Age Concern Dacorum
 - Hertfordshire County Council
- Dacorum Environmental Forum
 - West Herts College
 - Job Centre Plus
- Dacorum Borough Council
- Community Action Dacorum – 'CHACE group'
 - West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust
 - Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Hemel Hempstead Churches Together

Your comments and enquiries relating to this strategy should go to:

Dacorum Partnership
Dacorum Borough Council
Civic Centre
Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
HP1 1HH

Email: dacorumpartnership@dacorum.gov.uk

Dacorum Partnership is administered by Dacorum Borough Council

This publication is about organisations in Dacorum working together. If you would like this information, or you would like to contact Dacorum Borough Council, in any language not shown below, please call 01442 867213.

If you would like this information in another format, such as large print or audio tape, please call 01442 228000. To contact Dacorum Borough Council via the Minicom service please call 01442 867877.

یہ پڑھنا ہے کہ ڈیکورم کے پیرشس (کیسائی حلقوں) میں مختلف کونسلیں کس طرح مل کر کام کرتی ہیں۔ اگر آپ یہ معلومات اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، یا کسی اور مسئلے پر کونسل سے رابطہ قائم کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی اس نمبر پر فون کریں 01442 867212۔

اگر آپ یہ معلومات کسی اور شکل میں چاہتے ہیں، جیسے بڑی چھپائی یا آڈیو ٹیپ تو برائے مہربانی اس نمبر پر فون کریں 01442 228000 یا 01442 867877 (صرف منی کام)۔

這刊物是有關Dacorum鄉村教區內不同的議會如何互相運作。如果你需要以你的母語寫成的資料，或有任何問題需要聯絡政府，請致電 01442 867212 查詢。

如果你需要這資料的其他形式，例如大字版或錄音帶，請致電 01442 228000 或 01442 867877 (聾人電話)。

આ પ્રકાશન ડેકોરમમાં પરગણા પેટાવિભાગની જુદી જુદી કાઉન્સિલો સાથે મળીને કેવી રીતે કામ કરે છે એના વિષે છે. જો તમને તમારી ભાષામાં આ માહિતી મેળવવી હોય અથવા બીજાકોઈ બાબત માટે કાઉન્સિલનો સંપર્ક સાધવો હોય તો, મહેરબાની કરીને ટેલિફોન નંબર 01442 867212 ઉપર ફોન કરો.

જો તમને આ માહિતી જુદી રીતે મેળવવી હોય તો દા. ત. મોટા અક્ષરો અથવા ઓડીયો ટેપ, તો મહેરબાની કરીને 01442 228000 અથવા 01442 867877 (માત્ર મીની કોમ) ઉપર ફોન કરો.

