

Draft Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026

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Introduction

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

A Sustainable Community Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area. This vision could be for 10-20 years.

According to guidance from Government, the Strategy should tell the 'story of the place' – the distinctive vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis.⁽¹⁾ As a result, Government requires Sustainable Community Strategies to contain the following elements:

- **Long-term vision based firmly on local needs.** This will be underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations.
- **Key priorities for the local area** based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term – these will inform the strategy's delivery agreement – the Local Area Agreement.

The Draft Gedling Strategy

This document is an outline framework of the new Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy. It has been produced by Gedling Partnership for consultation with partner organisations and community stakeholders.

The purpose of this document to enable partner organisations and community stakeholders to comment on the emerging new long-term Vision and Priorities for the Borough. The draft Vision and Priorities have been derived from a broad range of evidence about the Borough, drawn from the following sources:

- Current Vision, Priorities and Values outlined in the Gedling Community Strategy 2006-8.
- Findings from the State of Gedling Borough Report.
- Feedback from the State of Gedling Borough Consultation.
- Strategic priorities in the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.
- Strategic priorities of partner organisations, including links to the Local Development Framework and the Housing Strategy.
- Future Government priorities and legislation, including regional and sub-regional priorities.

1 Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, Statutory Guidance, HM Government, 2008.

1 Vision

Our 2026 Vision for Gedling Borough is:

Gedling Borough a place where people are happy to live, work and do business:

- **A place of safe and strong communities**
- **A place where people are treated fairly and have the opportunity to get involved**
- **A place where we take care of our environment**
- **A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle**
- **A place that contributes to a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham**
- ***A place where organisations continue to work together with other partners across Nottinghamshire***

2 . Priorities For Improvement

2 Priorities For Improvement

Defining the Strategic Priorities

2.1 Our draft strategic priorities have been developed from a broad range of evidence, drawn from the findings of the State of Gedling Borough Report, the State of Gedling Borough consultation and other national, regional, sub-regional, county and local priorities. Our draft priorities are listed below with reference to some of the key evidence that informs them. The key issues for future consideration are of high impact on the Borough and have been classified according to long-term and short to medium-term time scales.

2.2 Key issues relating to national, regional, sub-regional, county related strategies have also been used to inform these priorities. We are committed to assessing the impact of these particular key issues in the delivery of our priorities and further information relating to them can be found in Appendix A.

2 . Priorities For Improvement

We have outlined five priorities for improvement:

Safer and stronger communities living together in Gedling Borough

Where we are now:

- People in Gedling Borough get involved in a wide range of community and voluntary activities.
- Recorded crime in the Borough has fallen significantly over the last 3 years, with particularly marked falls during 2007-8.
- Road traffic accidents overall have reduced by a quarter between 2005 to 2008 and there has also been a fall in those accidents which have involved children and young people .
- Facilities and activities for children and young people have benefited from significant investment recently.
- The majority of residents in Gedling Borough feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together.

What needs future consideration:

Long term issues specific to Gedling Borough

Community capacity, volunteering and community engagement has been highlighted as important and as a current priority for local organisations.

Having a sense of community and getting on with others has been highlighted as important.

People feeling safe and secure has been highlighted as a key issue. Fear of crime remains significantly high in the Borough.

The majority of residents do not feel they can influence decisions relating to the Borough.

Medium to short term issues specific to Gedling Borough

Preventing Homelessness and providing Choice Based Lettings are key Housing issues for Gedling Borough.

The number of young people who are victims of crime is increasing in the Borough.

There is a perception that there is not enough locally organised activities and facilities for young people.

The perception of teenagers hanging around on streets contributes to general fear of crime in the Borough.

2 . Priorities For Improvement

A fairer, more involved Gedling Borough

Where we are now:

- The Borough is now less deprived than it was three years ago. The rise in house prices in recent years has not been as high as across Nottinghamshire or nationally.
- Residents in Gedling Borough on the whole have good access to services and transport.

What needs future consideration:

Long term issues specific to Gedling Borough

Pockets of deprivation within Gedling Borough have deteriorated.

Gedling Borough has an ageing population, which has implications for the future provision of all services.

The specific needs of people living in both our urban and parish areas should be considered in order to avoid inequality between these communities.

Black and Minority Ethnic population within Gedling Borough is increasing.

Housing needs amongst the Borough's communities, taking into account mixed and balanced housing and homelessness, should be given careful consideration.

There is more limited access to services and transport in some of our rural parishes and also when using public transport within the Borough.

Medium to short term issues specific to Gedling Borough

There has been a sharp increase in the number of people from arriving members of A8 ⁽¹⁾ European Union countries living or registered to work in the Borough between 2004 and 2008.

1 A8 refers to the eight countries that joined the European Union in 2004.

A well looked after environment that meets the present and future needs of Gedling Borough

Where we are now:

- Gedling Borough's CO2 emissions are comparatively low and the proportion of the Borough residents who travel by bus to work is greater than both the Nottinghamshire and national averages.
- Recycling rates are high and further improving and waste to landfill has fallen.
- The built environment includes some conservation areas and steps are being taken to improve design standards. A significant proportion of recent development has been on previously developed 'brownfield' sites.
- Gedling Borough has good parks and open spaces which are well used and well maintained. Its streets are clean and satisfaction with the Borough Council's work to do this is high.

What needs future consideration:

Long term issues specific to Gedling Borough

Maintaining a high quality local built and natural environment is a priority for the residents and organisations working in Gedling Borough.

Leading sustainable lifestyles has been highlighted as a key issue.

Greatest energy consumption and CO2 emissions in the Borough are by domestic users.

The most common way for people in the Borough to travel to work is by car or van.

Making efficient use of existing housing resources is a key priority. Ensuring new housing meets the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Medium to short term issues specific to Gedling Borough

Clean streets and well maintained parks in the Borough have been highlighted as important.

Increasing recycling rates in the Borough and reducing waste to landfill continues to be a priority locally.

2 . Priorities For Improvement

The place for a healthy and active lifestyle

Where we are now:

- On average health indicators demonstrate that Gedling Borough is a healthy place to live when compared to England and the East Midlands.
- There has been an improvement in life expectancy of 18 months for women and 3 years for men since 1991.

What needs future consideration:

Long term issues specific to Gedling Borough
In Gedling Borough, 1 in 10 take part in physical activity, 1 in 4 smoke, 1 in 5 are obese and 17% binge drink. All of these are factors that can reduce life expectancy.
There is a 5 year gap in life expectancy between most and least deprived areas in the Borough.
A healthy lifestyle is highlighted as important to our community.
Mental health issues including depression, are most common in older people. Given Gedling's ageing population, the Borough is estimated to have the most people with these problems in Nottinghamshire.
Having accessible health services has been highlighted as important.
Improving housing conditions is a key priority.
Medium to short term issues specific Gedling Borough
Resident participation in sports and physical activity is a local priority for the Borough.

Being part of a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham

Where we are now:

- Gedling Borough is relatively prosperous and its position relative to other areas is generally improving.
- Children do better at school compared to the Nottinghamshire and national averages.
- The mean annual income in Gedling Borough is slightly higher than that for the United Kingdom.

What needs future consideration:

Long term issues specific to Gedling Borough
Education, Employability and Skills have been highlighted as a main issue for further consideration to help the area remain competitive.
Education, Skills and Training deprivation within the Borough neighbourhoods is high and, although still low, unemployment is now above the County average.
The Borough's slightly above average educational attainment should be considered for further improvement. This is because, the Borough is in fact 8% less deprived than the national average for a local authority area, but only 1% above the national average in terms its educational attainment.
Weekly and hourly wages in the Borough are below the national average.
There are pockets of income deprivation in the Borough.
There is a desire for quality shopping and retail centres.
Medium to short term issues
Economic development and business support have been highlighted as an issue.
The implications for the Borough of the recent changes for the UK economy, such as the 'credit crunch', a slow down in the housing market, rising unemployment, and high energy prices, need to be considered.
Encouraging homeless people into employment is a key priority.

3 Guiding Values for the Delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy

3.1 The following values will be followed when delivering each of these priority themes:

Partnership

3.2 This strategy will bring together and co-ordinate the partnership working of those organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors that share a commitment to achieving the Gedling Borough vision. The vision can only be realised by the coordinated efforts of all agencies working in partnership. It will focus on priorities that can only be effectively delivered by organisations working in partnership.

Community Involvement and Participation

3.3 This strategy will encourage local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities, through capacity building, training and consultation. It encourages involvement of our communities in the delivery of the priority themes, and seeks to allow our communities to influence future decision making. Gedling Borough includes community groups of interest, its urban and rural neighbourhoods, the voluntary sector and residents.

Equality in Delivering Priorities

3.4 This strategy will ensure all communities in Gedling Borough have the opportunity to have their say, access the services and activities that they require, and to participate in the delivery of the key priority themes. Where necessary this will involve removing the barriers that prevent people from participating in and accessing services on an equal basis.

3.5 The impact of the delivery of our priorities will be assessed against key equality strands, as defined by Government, as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Religion and Belief
- Sexual Orientation

3.6 In addition, this strategy has a commitment to social inclusion for all communities within the Borough. Gedling Partnership will identify those communities that are most in need in Gedling Borough and work together to assist them.

Guiding Values for the Delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy

3.7 In respect of the parish areas of the Borough, the partners are also committed to “rural proofing” the work of Gedling Partnership in line with Countryside Agency guidance. In its delivery, partners must consider a range of issues that may affect our rural communities, such as transport and access to services, when they develop their policies or projects.

Community Cohesion

3.8 This strategy will encourage people to live in harmony and to have a sense of belonging and pride in their local community. In its delivery, partners will promote and celebrate a positive image of the Gedling Borough's communities.

Efficiency and Quality

3.9 This strategy will be underpinned by a performance management framework, which will enable the high quality delivery of the key priority themes through effective planning, measurement, monitoring and evaluation. It will ensure decisions are based on evidence of need and that good value is delivered by seeking to avoid duplication and bureaucracy.

Communication and Marketing

3.10 The partners are committed to keeping the Borough informed as to what they are doing and how the Strategy is being delivered. They will promote a positive image of the Gedling Borough's communities. To ensure effective delivery of the priority themes the Strategy promotes the sharing of information, ideas, skills, knowledge and good practice between partner organisations.

Flexibility

3.11 This strategy sets out a vision for Gedling Borough. However, local and regional circumstances and national government legislation can change over time and such changes are likely to affect delivery of the Strategy. As a result, these principles allow for Gedling Partnership to identify future change at a local, regional and national level and adapt the Strategy accordingly.

Sustainability

3.12 Ensuring the delivery of the Strategy's priorities leads to a more sustainable Borough by following the principles of - living within environmental limits; a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

4 . State of Gedling Borough Review

4 State of Gedling Borough Review

4.1 The State of Gedling Borough Review provides, in part, the key evidence base to inform the new long-term vision and priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy. The report includes three types of evidence – empirical facts; performance measures; and perceptions based on public opinion and findings of public consultation.

4.2 A copy of the current Draft State of Gedling Borough Report document is available on request or to download from www.gedlingpartnership.org.uk. It is presented by themes selected by Gedling Partnership in 2007 when it agreed to review its existing Community Strategy. The main conclusions under these themes are outlined in the next section. A detailed Village and Suburb Report is also available. Both of these documents are key to informing the new Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough and will be refreshed during October 2008, to ensure all information is fully up to date to inform the final Strategy. The final versions of both will be published with the new Strategy at the end of the year.

4.3 In March 2008 Gedling Partnership produced the State of Gedling Borough consultation summary. This document was a summary of the first draft of the State of the Borough report for Gedling Borough, 2008. It provided an overview of the key facts about relating to the Borough, in an easily digestible way for the purposes of consultation.

4.4 During April and May 2008 Gedling Partnership undertook consultation regarding the key findings contained in the summary report. As part of this consultation the Partnership arranged:

- 25 roadshows at various locations across the Borough
- 27 presentations to meetings of resident groups, parish councils and partnership meetings
- the distribution of 2,500 Consultation Summaries
- a 'Growing Up in Gedling' event focusing on priorities for Children, Young People and Families
- the distribution of the State of Gedling Borough questionnaire to feed back comments

4.5 The feedback has been collated and been used to inform the draft Vision and Priorities for Improvement contained within this document. By the end of 2008 a State of Gedling Borough Consultation Feedback report will be published as a supporting document to the final Sustainable Community Strategy.

5 Partnerships and Partner Organisations

What is Gedling Partnership?

5.1 Gedling Partnership is the local strategic partnership (LSP) for Gedling Borough. Its role is to provide the forum for collectively reviewing and steering public resources, through identifying priorities in the local Sustainable Community Strategy – this is in line with Government guidance.

5.2 Gedling Partnership was established in 2002. The Partnership is made up of a wide range of local organisations with the mutual aim of making the Borough a place where people want to live and do business. During 2008, the Partnership is reviewing its Community Strategy, the result of which will be a new Sustainable Community Strategy for Gedling Borough, which includes a long-term vision and key priorities for the local area.

5.3 Gedling Partnership operates according to its Partnership structure. Within this structure the Board determines the key strategic priorities and directions for the LSP. The Board has a commitment to ensure all local organisations, groups and residents have an opportunity to contribute to the Partnership, whether through consultation or participation.

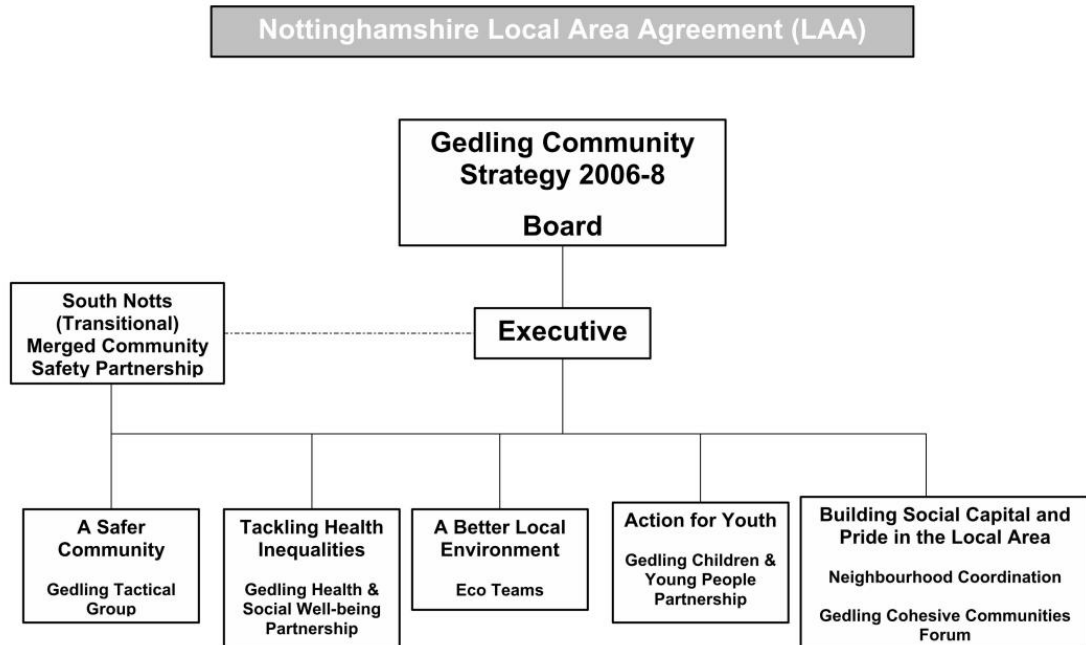
5.4 The Executive determines the projects that are derived from the priorities set by the Board. The membership of the Executive includes a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Partnership, appointed by the Board, and representatives who have a lead role in delivering specific Gedling Partnership priorities.

5.5 The Delivery Partnerships are the individual themed sub-groups within the LSP with the primary function to directly deliver projects and initiatives that have been developed in line with the Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy.

5.6 Within the Board, Executive and Delivery Partnerships organisations that come together and pool resources in order to achieve the priorities set out in this Strategy.

5. Partnerships and Partner Organisations

Figure 1 Gedling Partnership Structure Diagram



Nottinghamshire Partnership

5.7 The Nottinghamshire Partnership is the local strategic partnership for Nottinghamshire County.

5.8 It comprises of key partner organisations covering district councils, the voluntary sector, the business community, primary care trusts, schools and further education colleges, police, fire, Connexions, Jobcentreplus, among many others.

5.9 The purpose of the Nottinghamshire Partnership is to act as a forum for sharing information, creative thinking and policy development. It brings senior representatives of all the partner organisations together to discuss issues of common interest.

5.10 This Partnership leads on the development of the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy and the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Local Area Agreement is a three year action plan which sets detailed targets to help achieve the outcomes for partner organisations across the County.

5 . Partnerships and Partner Organisations

Greater Nottingham Partnership

5.11 The Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP) was formed with the aim of improving partnership working across the Nottingham conurbation and attracting more government regeneration funding into the area.

5.12 It is a Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) established to help coordinate and facilitate the delivery of economic regeneration across the East Midlands region. The role of a SSP is to help deliver the aims and objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy at a local level through partnership working; encouraging, developing and supporting new initiatives and projects that address the specific economic needs of their sub-regions.

5.13 The GNP is a strategic rather than a delivery body. By working with our partners, we aim to help coordinate and facilitate strategy development across the Greater Nottingham area, creating a shared vision for Nottingham and ensuring the bending of mainstream funding.

5.14 The Greater Nottingham sub-region encompasses the City of Nottingham plus the surrounding administrative districts of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe. The Hucknall electoral wards of the district of Ashfield are also included within Greater Nottingham.

Greater Nottingham Executive

5.15 To enable seamless conurbation-wide delivery and political transparency, a new governance structure which is now known as “the Greater Nottingham Executive” has been established. This has been set up in the form of a joint committee of Local Authorities and is made up from representatives of the existing political leadership from the Districts within the Greater Nottingham area, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.

6 . The Housing Strategy

6 The Housing Strategy

6.1 In line with guidance from HM government entitled "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities" dated July 2008, Gedling's Housing Strategy will form part of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6.2 This guidance followed the 2006 Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" which recognised the importance of housing as being "at the heart of achieving the social, economic and environmental objectives that shape a community and create a sense of place".

6.3 The Housing Green Paper "Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable" further emphasised the importance of the strategic housing role in terms of delivering new market and affordable housing, making the best use of existing stock, and responding to the needs of all residents across all housing tenures.

6.4 Gedling Borough Council is working to ensure that local priorities are aligned to sub-regional, regional and national housing priorities to make the most effective use of local and national resources.

6.5 The final Sustainable Community Strategy will include a full appendix detailing the priorities included within Gedling's Housing Strategy.

Appendix A Other Key Issues

A.1 Below are the key issues drawn from national, regional, sub-regional and county priorities, which have informed the draft priorities for improvement set out in this document.

Safer and stronger communities living together in Gedling Borough

A.2 Community Safety is a priority for partner organisations across Greater Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

A.3 National Government has given organisations a duty to involve their local communities.

A.4 The Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement highlights priorities relating to crime, anti-social behaviour and people getting on well together within local communities

A Fairer, more involved Gedling Borough

A.5 "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods" is a National Government Housing priority for our ageing society.

A.6 Providing the best start in life for children and young people is a priority for organisations across Greater Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

A.7 "Every Child Matters" is a key priority for National Government.

A.8 There is a requirement for local organisations to apply national standards of equality and diversity in the work they carry out.

A.9 Supporting vulnerable people to live independently is a priority within the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

A.10 Narrowing the gap between the most and least deprived communities is a theme of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

Appendix A . Other Key Issues

A well looked after environment that meets the present and future needs of Gedling Borough

A.11 The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has identified a need for additional housing development for Gedling Borough and Greater Nottingham.

A.12 The need to set targets for additional homes is a priority for the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

A.13 Priorities relating to CO2 emissions, refuse, recycling, composting and traffic congestion exist within the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

The place for a Healthy and Active Lifestyle

A.14 National Government has identified key areas for improving the nation's health under the banner of 'Choosing Health'.

A.15 A healthy population is a key priority for organisations working in Greater Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

A.16 Reducing health inequalities is a priority in the Nottinghamshire Local Area Agreement.

A vibrant and prosperous Gedling Borough

A.17 Promoting the continued economic vitality of Greater Nottingham is a priority for local organisations.

