

INTRODUCTION



1 Talbot Gateway

Since the launch of the Neath Port Talbot Community Plan in 2002, the Community Plan Partnership has been working hard, both collectively and individually to achieve the Plan’s objectives and targets. Whilst there has been a large measure of success, since it is a ten-year Plan, much remains to be done. The Plan has now been updated for the ten year period 2005-2015.

There is no doubt that the Community Plan has firmly established a “shared vision” of what we want Neath Port Talbot to be like in 2015. All partners, both in their day-to-day activities and, more importantly, in their strategies and service delivery plans, acknowledge the prime role of the Community Plan in setting a strategic direction for the future of Neath Port Talbot.

In reviewing the Plan, we have concentrated on refining the vision, objectives and targets to reflect changing circumstances over the last three years, taking account of new and emerging priorities.

We have also strengthened the Plan in some areas, highlighting for

example, the importance of housing and leisure and recreational activities, recognising the significant impacts that these services have on the quality of life of communities and individual citizens. We have also developed the “confident communities” theme, acknowledging the key role communities themselves play in achieving success.

During the public consultation exercise on the draft Plan, we were pleased to receive responses from organisations and individuals. Some asked for more specific and detailed information to be included in the Plan. However, it is not possible to go into great detail because the Plan’s main purpose is to set our shared vision for Neath Port Talbot and more information is available in the supporting documents that are listed for each theme. Responses provided a useful insight into organisations and individuals’ experiences of the key issues addressed in the Plan and suggestions were made about further action that could be taken. This information has been forwarded to the relevant supporting partnership for them to address during the implementation of their theme.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2015, what do we want Neath Port Talbot to become? The supporting partnerships for each Community Plan theme have considered this question from the perspective of Neath Port Talbot’s geographic communities and its communities of interest.

The quality of life in our valley communities is equally important to that in our urban areas. The interests of children and young people are no less important than those of older people, disabled people or those who are disadvantaged and our shared vision seeks to encapsulate all of these perspectives.

Themes and Principles

The revised Plan is built around the original six themes that continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of our local communities. The Environment and Transport themes are now listed separately, with the Confident Communities theme taking an overarching role, reflecting the importance of partners working with local communities across all themes. The themes are:

- Confident Communities
- Economic Prosperity
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Health, Social Care and Well-being
- Environment
- Transport
- Community Safety

The three guiding principles of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities also continue to underpin this revised Plan.

Partnerships and Monitoring

The aim of all partners is to improve the quality of life for the people and communities of Neath Port Talbot. Partnership working continues to be a key factor for achieving success in this.

The Community Plan Partnership has gained an enviable reputation for promoting effective partnerships, demonstrating the benefits of “joined-up” approaches to tackling the critical issues facing our local citizens and communities.

A robust structure of supporting partnerships is responsible for implementing the Community Plan themes as depicted in the attached chart. The voluntary and community has adapted a similar structure for its forums, facilitated by Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (Neath Port Talbot CVS), thereby ensuring close dialogue between the statutory and voluntary sectors.

New partnerships have emerged since the launch of the first plan in 2002. The Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership is charged with developing and implementing a health, social care and well-being strategy for Neath Port Talbot and is now the key driver in implementing the health, social care and well-being theme of the Community Plan.

The Children and Young People’s Framework Partnership has developed, and is implementing, strategies that holistically will address the needs of children and young people. A related development is the creation of a Youth Council with representation from young people from across Neath Port Talbot. The Older Persons’ Consultation Forum, another new partnership group, is working to establish an Older Persons Council. The 10 Communities First partnerships that have been formed are also helping local people identify improvements for their communities. Their contributions to the Community Plan crosscut all themes.

The Crime and Disorder Partnership has redefined its role and emerged as the “Safer Neath Port Talbot” Partnership with an improved, pragmatic focus on the community safety issues that need to be tackled, and better participation from all partners.

A Community Plan Strategic Steering Group comprised of representatives from key partners and supporting partnerships, chaired by the Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (Neath Port Talbot CBC), meets three times a year and its main task has been to organise and direct this first Community Plan review. This Group will now oversee the implementation of this revised Plan by the supporting partnerships.

All partnerships will continue to ensure that action taken to implement this Plan, contributes to realising the Welsh Assembly Government’s vision, as set out in “Making the Connections: Delivering Better Services for Wales”. The Wales Spatial Plan, “People, Places, Futures”, which describes the Welsh Assembly Government’s sustainable development aspirations for Wales, will also have an impact upon the implementation of this Plan, especially any proposals for the Swansea Bay area, which includes Neath Port Talbot.

All partners will also need to ensure that their strategies and plans complement and help achieve the aims and targets of this Plan. We all have a responsibility to hit these targets. Our performance will be monitored by the supporting partnerships and progress will be reported annually to the Community

Plan Partnership and will be reported widely to the public.

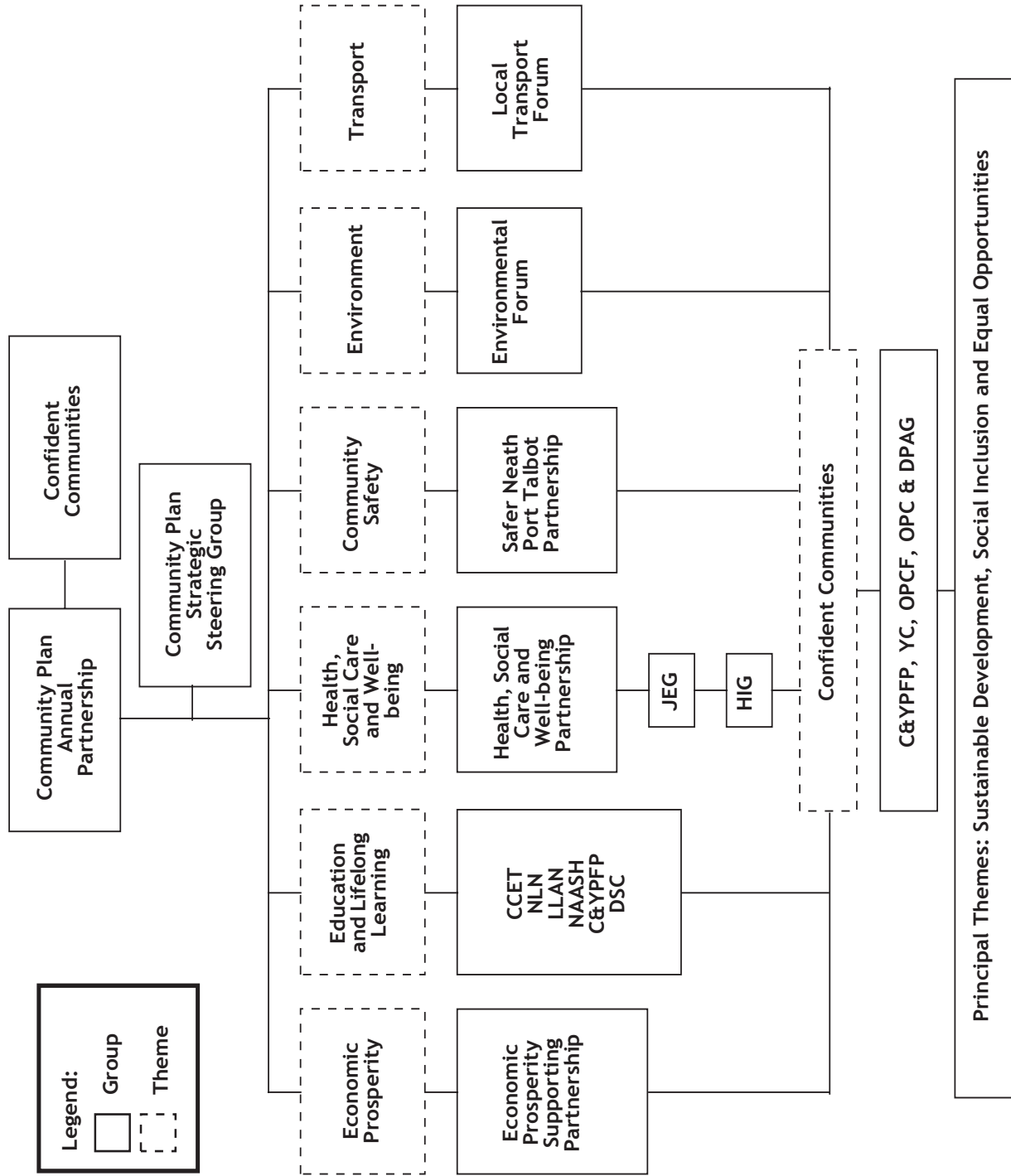
Baselines are still needed for some of the targets and progress measures so that progress can be effectively monitored. Where baselines have not yet been set, they will be by August 2005. In addition to specific indicators, overarching progress measures have been developed to help assess overall success in improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of Neath Port Talbot. Targets have not been set for these measures as performance can be markedly affected by external factors.

These monitoring arrangements will help us keep the Plan under review and adapt to changing circumstances. Formal reviews will be undertaken on a four-year cycle, with the first major review taking place in 2009.



OUR PROGRESS MEASURES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in the percentage of adults surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their neighbourhood - if they wish to. 2. Increase in the percentage of people surveyed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who feel that their neighbourhood has a strong sense of community • Who feel part of the community • Who feel that their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds can live together harmoniously 3. Monitor the extent of informal volunteering. 4. Reduction in the percentage of people surveyed who feel they cannot participate in community and leisure activities or access health services because of transport difficulties. 5. Our long-term aim is to prevent the level of prosperity in the county borough falling from its current level of UK Gross Value Added (GVA) per head and preferably to close the gap. 6. To reduce the level of unemployment in the county borough to the average for the UK as a whole. 7. To narrow the gap in economic inactivity between the county borough and the average for Wales. 8. To get nearer to the Wales average for the proportion of the working population claiming key benefits. 9. To gauge the health of the local | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> economy by monitoring changes in the stock of VAT registered businesses in the county borough. 10. To monitor the uptake of job related training in the previous 13 weeks for all those of working age. 11. Increased use of bus services. 12. Increased use of passenger rail services. 13. Increased number of workers covered by work place travel plans. 14. Increased number of school pupils covered by school travel plans. 15. Reduction in road collision casualties. 16. Increased freight tonnage moving by rail. 17. Increased general freight tonnage moving by sea. 18. Number of matched 'switch2share' participants. 19. Increased use of transport provided through community enterprise. <p>Other indicators of economic activity, which we will monitor over the life of the Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution of manufacturing to the local economy. • Business growth in the tourism and health care sectors. • The development of the social economy. • Progress with Coed Darcy. • New developments at Baglan Energy Park. |
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Glossary of Abbreviations for Community Plan Framework**Education and Lifelong Learning Supporting Partnership**

CCET	-	Community Consortium for Education & Training
NLN	-	New Learning Network
NAASH	-	Nedd Afan Association of Secondary Head Teachers
LLAN	-	Association of Primary Heads
C&YFPF	-	Children and Young People's Framework Partnership
DSC	-	District Sports Council

Health, Social Care and Well-being Supporting Partnership

H, SC&WB	-	Health, Social Care and Well-being
JEG	-	Joint Executive Group
HIG	-	Health Improvement Group

Confident Communities

C&YFPF	-	Children and Young People's Framework Partnership
YC	-	Youth Council
OPCF	-	Older Persons' Consultation Forum
OPC	-	Older Persons' Council
DPAG	-	Disabled Persons' Advisory Group