



## **North Somerset Partnership Annual Event 2009**

### **'Improving our communities together - Delivering in changing times'**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The NSP Annual Event – 'Delivering in Changing Times' – took place on 23 November 2009 at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare. Approximately 90 delegates joined the North Somerset Partnership Board (NSP) for the event at which they had the opportunity to consider the impact of public sector financial pressures on delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and to identify local partnership solutions.

Phil Hall, Director of Finance & Resources of North Somerset Council, set the scene for delegates by outlining key financial pressures for public sector organisations whilst highlighting the significance of overall public sector investment in North Somerset by key partners.

Delegates chose six aims from the SCS that they felt would be most difficult to deliver within this financial climate and considered what local partnership actions could be taken to support delivery of these under the following work areas:

- Safer Stronger Communities
- Health & Wellbeing
- Transport, Economy & Environment

Within workshops delegates identified a variety of possible partnership actions and, from these, 29 were prioritised for further discussion and development.

#### **Key Messages**

The Event appears to have been well received and a number of key messages have emerged. These include:

- Ensuring people have a voice in planning services, facilities and physical development. Focus on quality of experience when planning services and facilities to ensure value for money.
- The importance of support for the development of the VCS, improving links from the statutory services and encouraging volunteering.
- Stakeholders were keen to see an 'invest to save' approach taken to develop preventative measures when addressing issues affecting the area.
- General emphasis on encouraging volunteering and ensuring people have a voice and are listened to, to ensure value for money and appropriate resource allocation.
- General emphasis on responding to needs and involving people in service design and delivery.

- Emphasis on addressing the social isolation of older people in urban/rural communities through voluntary organisation support services/village agents.
- Emphasis on education and early intervention, including managing the supply of alcohol and compliance with regulations on sales and providing support through better partnership approaches across sectors together with positive health promotion.
- Support for families and individuals and engaging young people through a range of activity.
- Emphasis on appropriate local services for older people, with better coordination between services and communication about services.
- Forward planning to develop a range of housing options to meet community needs, including bringing empty properties back into use
- Encourage new business to relocate to North Somerset through developing a recognisable, marketable identity
- Support for small business start ups and developments together with innovative use of empty properties
- Develop integrated communities with local facilities reducing the need to travel where possible but with well-publicised, integrated travel services connecting communities across the district. Encourage work and school travel plans.

After the workshops delegates returned to the Main Hall to hear Kay Wozniak, Vice Chair of the NSP outline how the information gathered from each of the workshop would be used to inform future action planning by the Partnership.

Delegates appear to have valued the opportunity to consider together the issues facing North Somerset in delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy in the current financial climate, as well as the opportunity to identify and discuss possible local partnership solutions.

For further information about the North Somerset Partnership please see our website [www.northsomersetpartnership.org.uk](http://www.northsomersetpartnership.org.uk)