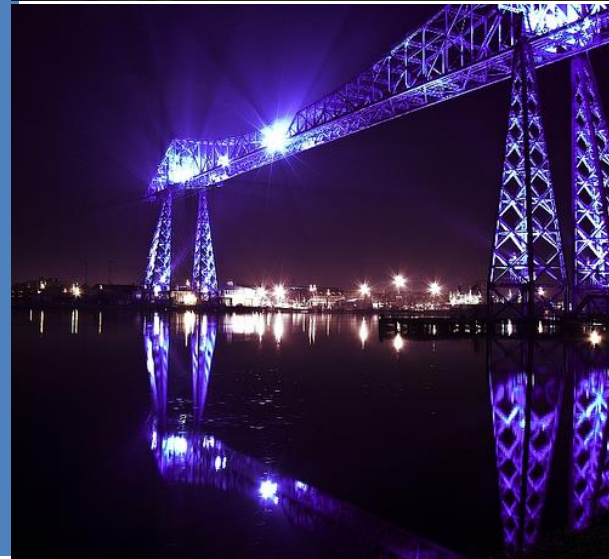


*A Sustainable Community Strategy for
Middlesbrough
2008 - 2023*



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OUR VISION FOR MIDDLESBROUGH

Our vision is

Middlesbrough will be a thriving, vibrant community where people and businesses succeed.

Creating Stronger Communities

Our vision of Middlesbrough is a place where all our people are healthy, confident and responsible citizens who can contribute to the development of Middlesbrough and its neighbourhoods.

Our people have the right to expect and receive decent public services that continually improve, regardless of who provides them.

Creating Safer Communities

Our people will feel safe. We aim to do this by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, improving community safety and ensuring that the local community is reassured and confident that their concerns and fears are being addressed.

Supporting Children and Young People

Our children and young people will have the best possible start in life with access to opportunities that will help them develop to their full potential.

We will focus particularly on young people and their families to develop citizens who care for their neighbours and look after their town.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

We will work with our residents to achieve substantial improvement in the health as well as a significant reduction in the health inequalities of people living in Middlesbrough.

We will improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in Middlesbrough.

Enhancing the Local Economy

Middlesbrough will be a learning community. Our people will have the skills and qualifications to take up the new, higher value jobs that we create.

We will work to create:

- a clean, safe environment in which people can go about their business without fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- physical regeneration of the town's run-down sites and buildings
- a business-friendly enterprise culture which welcomes would-be investors
- a transport network which can meet the needs of a town on the way up.

Securing Environmental Sustainability

We will improve the way Middlesbrough looks and feels, making it a better and safer place to live, work and invest. We recognise that everyone has a part to play to ensure that we make the future safer and leave a healthier and more sustainable environment for our children.

Our Approach

Our long term vision will be realised by taking action to address the causes as well as the effects of disadvantage and exclusion. This will narrow the gap between the most deprived communities and the rest – and we will all work to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged simply because of where they live.

Middlesbrough will succeed through its people

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ABOUT MIDDLESBROUGH

Middlesbrough is a town near the north-east coast of England with a population of 138,400, which makes it the ninth smallest unitary council in England. The population has declined significantly since 1971 with a net loss of nearly 20,000, although this appears to have stabilised very recently.

Middlesbrough is located at the centre of the Tees Valley conurbation which has a population of around 657,000 centred around the River Tees. The town's population is made up of around 59,000 households and is the most densely populated borough in the region. It is bounded by the River Tees to the north and built up urban boundaries to the east and west. Its southern boundary is close to the edge of the built-up area, leaving virtually no room for expansion.

Approximately 7.5% of the population is made up of minority ethnic communities, which is the highest concentration in the north-east. Middlesbrough has 23 wards, of which 13 are amongst the most deprived 10% in England (IMD, 2007). Overall Middlesbrough ranks as the ninth most deprived community out of 354 districts in England.

The Tees Valley area's economic strengths were built on iron and steel, shipbuilding, heavy engineering and chemicals. It retains strengths in several of these areas

although activity is virtually all outside the boundary of Middlesbrough itself. Massive industrial restructuring in the area has changed the face of the town's economy.

THE HISTORY OF MIDDLESBROUGH AND ITS LEGACY

The issues raised by Middlesbrough's history, geography and settlement patterns weave together to form a complex, interlinking fabric of cause, effect and longer-term consequences, both positive and negative.

Its origins as a town created to respond to the industrial demands of a previous century made it the "infant Hercules" described by William Gladstone in 1862 when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, its economic prosperity was crucially dependent on a small number of big employers, which resulted in a correspondingly low level of entrepreneurship.

The rapid industrial decline of the second half of the 20th century left a legacy of high unemployment and associated deprivation and the lack of entrepreneurship made this issue more difficult to address. Working in partnership to tackle the causes and consequences of this multiple deep-seated deprivation, now affecting a third or even fourth generation, informs all of Middlesbrough Partnership priorities. The legacy of deprivation and compound

poverty also highlights the need for active community capacity building, particularly in the areas of highest social disadvantage.

As well as high levels of social deprivation, the decline of traditional industries left a low quality urban environment with few buildings of historical significance or high design values. Most industrial cities in the North of England grew up around towns of much older, generally medieval origin. This gave them a legacy of fine old buildings, and a diverse pattern of housing developed over many centuries. By contrast, Middlesbrough is highly unusual in that it did not really exist in any meaningful sense until the middle of the 19th century; its first house was not built until 1830. Its Victorian economic history was dominated by heavy industry rather than commerce.

The nature of the economy left behind industrial plant, rather than buildings, which was soon demolished once it became redundant. This contrasts with (for example) the cotton mills of Lancashire which lent themselves to conversion for other uses, and which contribute so much to the townscape of many Pennine towns. The limited extent of commercial activity in Middlesbrough left very few fine Victorian commercial buildings. This means that the 'place' agenda is particularly significant for Middlesbrough today. When seeking to create a high quality sense of place, essential to attract and retain investors, many other towns and cities have a rich legacy of built heritage. Middlesbrough has virtually nothing, and therefore has to work very hard to create this almost from scratch. This is

why, for example, the construction of the art gallery, MIMA, and the new town square was so important.

Similarly, the residential core of Middlesbrough consisted almost exclusively of mean, tightly packed terraced streets, with front doors opening straight onto the pavement, unrelieved by even small patches of front garden. By the 1940s, the Council of the time recognised that much of the housing stock was of very poor quality, and poorly maintained. Successive councils undertook massive clearance and redevelopment exercises between the 1950s and the 1970s.

When the pendulum of policy and public opinion swung against wholesale redevelopment in the late 1970s, Middlesbrough was still left with around 12,000 Victorian terraced houses in a tight semi-circle enclosing the town centre. These houses were for many years the starter home of necessity for many newly formed young households. However, they are now being largely bypassed as more and more people are able to afford to move straightaway into a more modern house with better amenities and lower running costs.

MIDDLESBROUGH TODAY

Notwithstanding its challenges, Middlesbrough also has advantages to build upon. At the centre of the Tees Valley, it is the acknowledged sub-regional capital with high levels of community identity and growing community confidence. For example, according to the Townwide Survey undertaken in 2007, 72% of residents believe that the town is improving (up from 64% in 2005). It has a thriving town centre which is the main retail centre for the area and a successful, expanding university.

MIMA, the recently opened art gallery in the town centre, together with the redesigned Square, has given a new heart to the town and provided an ideal venue for a series of high profile events in the year since it was opened for business. These include the Last Night of the Proms when over 5,000 people enjoyed a spectacular evening.

Although there is a shortage of quality development land overall, Middlesbrough does have quite extensive remediated waterfront sites already being developed e.g. Middlehaven. Overall, the physical face of the town is being visibly transformed by major schemes either recently completed, in progress, or planned for the near future. This sense of a town on the move has contributed to the proportion of residents who believe Middlesbrough is a good place to live (81% in the Townwide Survey, up from 68% in 2005).

The picture of modern-day Middlesbrough is of a diverse community moving strongly forward with the potential to achieve much more. However, it is also a community making a very high demand on the services of public sector partners by comparison with other more affluent areas. Its comparatively large minority ethnic community requires a sensitive approach to service access issues but generally levels of community cohesion are high.

To realise its potential, Middlesbrough needs high quality public services as well as strong community leadership to lead the development and implementation of a successful physical, economic and social regeneration strategy. This needs to exploit advantages and opportunities, whilst being realistic about the challenges and limitations. Realism and ambition need to be appropriately combined to ensure maximum impact.

CHALLENGES

Middlesbrough is a town presenting many challenges. The fact that it is the ninth most deprived community in the country with 13 out of 23 wards in the most deprived 10% tells its own story. As demonstrated, its history, geography and settlement patterns go much of the way to explaining why this is the case.

Nevertheless, there are many recent successes to point at. Physical developments are very visible and the people-focused work being undertaken to promote a corresponding social regeneration can be readily demonstrated. None of this would be possible were it not for the strong and effective partnership working in the town, the sub-region and the region.

Middlesbrough Partnership is acknowledged as performing well, and this builds on good practice of both partnerships and individual organisations.

None of this is to suggest that there do not remain significant areas which require improvement in terms of community outcomes, even when the direction of travel is positive. Important examples include lower than average educational attainment, poor health outcomes and higher than average crime levels, all of which are reflected in the priorities of the Middlesbrough Partnership.

Middlesbrough Partnership recognises that working with local people is essential to improving outcomes and the town's very high profile Mayor leads by example. He is

personally committed to meeting individuals and groups on a regular basis and feeds back their perspectives to partners.

Middlesbrough is proud of its success and optimistic for its future. Middlesbrough Partnership knows where its challenges lie and has credible plans in place to address them, which recognise the contributions of all partners and community stakeholders.

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HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER

WHAT IS THE MIDDLESBROUGH PARTNERSHIP?

The Middlesbrough Partnership is the local strategic partnership (LSP) for the town. It brings together key organisations and communities across Middlesbrough to agree the priorities for the town, and the strategy to tackle the key issues. This is called the Sustainable Community Strategy

What does the Partnership do?

The Partnership does not deliver services itself, but it provides a framework for partners to coordinate how services are developed and delivered across the town. It provides an opportunity for service providers to work with representatives of local communities to identify the priorities for the town, and to ensure joint commitment to particular strategies and action plans.

HOW DOES THE PARTNERSHIP WORK?

All organisations that meet certain criteria are eligible to become members of the Middlesbrough Partnership. They can contribute to the Partnership in different ways:

Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum meets four times a year, and it is an opportunity for members to receive progress reports about the Sustainable Community Strategy. There is also the opportunity for partners to raise key issues for consideration by the Middlesbrough partnership as a whole.

Action Groups

Each theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy is supported by an Action Group:

Creating Stronger Communities – the Stronger Communities Group has been set up to develop and monitor this theme.

Creating Safer Communities – the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership, the town’s statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership supports this theme on behalf of the Middlesbrough Partnership.

Supporting Children and Young People – the Children’s Trust Board takes responsibility for this theme.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality – the Health and Social Care Partnership has been set up to support this theme

Enhancing the Local Economy – the Economic Vitality Action Group grew out of an Employment and Skills Group, but now has the wider remit of the broader economic agenda.

Securing Environmental Sustainability – the Environment Action Group was set up to develop and monitor this theme.

The membership of each Action Group reflects the range of organisations and interests that can have an influence on the issue.

Partnership Executive Board

The Partnership Executive Board includes representatives of the key organisations and sectors in the town, and representatives of each of the Action Groups and is responsible for the development and performance management of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the partnership’s contribution to the Local Area Agreement.

It works with the Action Groups to monitor progress, and reports to the Partnership Forum twice a year.

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**MIDDLESBROUGH PARTNERSHIP
PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**Creating Stronger
Communities**

(Stronger Communities
Group)

**Creating Safer
Communities**

(Safer Middlesbrough
Partnership)

**Supporting Children
and Young People**

(Children's Trust Board)

Partnership Executive Board

**Promoting Adult Health
And Well-Being / Tackling
Exclusion and Promoting
Equality**

(Health and Social Care
Partnership)

**Enhancing the Local
Economy**

(Economic Vitality Action
Group)

**Securing
Environmental
Sustainability**

(Environment Action
Group)

HOW WE DEVELOPED OUR COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Middlesbrough's previous Community Strategy was developed in 2005, and shaped the work of the Middlesbrough Partnership and its partner organisations.

In 2006/07, a Local Area Agreement was developed for the town. In Middlesbrough, the Local Area Agreement was based on the themes of the Community Strategy rather than the four themes used by the Government. This ensured that the agreement was able to reflect local priorities.

In 2007, the Local Area Agreement was revised to be in line with new legislation. The Middlesbrough Partnership agreed that the Sustainable Community Strategy should be developed at the same time as the Local Area Agreement, and that the documents should be seen as linked. The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies the long term vision and priorities for the town; the Local Area Agreement provides the three year priorities and targets.

The priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy were based on the 2005 Community Strategy, but were adapted to respond to changes that have taken place.

In October 2007, a stakeholder conference was held to consider priorities across the partnership for both the

Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. Using a process adapted from 'open space' principles, the conference has participative and allowed participants to influence a number of key priorities as well as to suggest their own.

In February 2008, the Partnership Executive agreed the themes for the priorities, linking these to the Single Set of National Indicators (198 areas of work that are measured across the country). The priorities were then revised through the Action Groups, and the Partnership Board agreed the final priorities in March 2008.

Draft chapters were produced, bringing together information from the 2005 Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and related plans.

In September and October, a series of workshops were held with partners from all sectors. These workshops were based around the individual themes and considered a number of key issues, including the relationship with One Planet Living™ principles, which helped to idea the key areas where the priorities might have an impact on sustainability

TITLE

LINKS TO SUB REGIONAL WORKING

Tees Valley Unlimited

Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) is a public, private and voluntary sector partnership which coordinates plans to develop the economy of the area.

It has identified three specific areas where progress can be achieved through Tees Valley organisations working together:

- Housing, including the Gresham area of Middlesbrough
- Regeneration, including the Stockton-Middlesbrough initiative (SMI)
- Transport, including the Tees Valley Bus Network improvements, assessing the potential for a rail-based Metro scheme and highway network requirements.

This will be achieved through the Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement (MAA) which was signed off by Government in July 2008, and which is designed to provide greater freedom and flexibility in the way local funding is used.

Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework sets out a vision for the development of the town, particularly in relation to major proposals concerning where and how developments take place. This vision is one that is shared with this Sustainable Community Strategy, and its implementation will support the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

The key issues identified in the Local Development Framework are:

- addressing population decline;
- creating a prosperous Tees Valley city region;
- creating sustainable communities;
- meeting local transport needs more effectively;
- promoting the economic vitality of Middlesbrough;
- reinforcing the role of Middlesbrough town centre within the Tees Valley city region;
- improving health;
- maximising educational achievement;
- transforming the local environment; and
- creating a balanced housing market.

These have a very strong relationship to the priorities of the Sustainable Community, and will ensure that the physical regeneration of the town matches the aspirations of residents. The framework and the Sustainable Community Strategy both cover the period to 2023.

The Local Development Framework identifies localities for future work, recognising how the town can achieve its vision. This includes identifying areas which can support commercial or residential growth, and consideration of the facilities that are required on a neighbourhood basis.

The links between areas within the town, and Middlesbrough and other areas are important to achieving success, and the framework includes an assessment of the town's transport needs.

As well as identifying where developments are likely, the framework also sets out some principles, including the protection of the historic environment and the importance of good design which will contribute to the character and appearance of an area.

The framework is supported by a number of technical documents which focus on particular aspects including regeneration, the environment and minerals and waste sites.

HOW WE WILL MONITOR PROGRESS

The Sustainable Community Strategy relies on contributions from a number of partners and partnerships. They have their own plans and strategies, and these are highlighted under each theme. The Partnership's Action Groups will have responsibility for monitoring the individual themes.

The shorter term monitoring of this strategy will be managed through the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The LAA is an agreement between central Government (represented by Government Office for the North East) and the local areas (represented by Middlesbrough Council and its partners through the Middlesbrough Partnership).

The LAA includes 35 'designated targets' – agreed with Government Office) which reflect the major issues facing Middlesbrough in the period 2008 – 2011. There are also 16 'attainment targets' that focus on learning, and 11 'local targets' developed in Middlesbrough.

Partners develop plans to ensure that we will achieve these targets. The Action Groups will check progress against plans on a quarterly basis.

Twice a year, in December and June, the Partnership will hold Accountability sessions with each Action Group. At these meetings, the Action Group will report on:

- progress against targets
- any issues affecting progress
- contribution to the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities
- links to other themes
- any emerging issues or new priorities.

A report from the Accountability sessions will be presented to the Partnership Forum in January and July each year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our sustainable Community Strategy is designed not only to improve life for people who live in, work in or visit Middlesbrough, but also actively to involve them in deciding the vision for Middlesbrough's future.

Our approach to community engagement recognises that there are different communities to which people feel allegiance - for example, neighbourhoods, faith communities, communities of interest and nationalities. How we deliver our vision of Middlesbrough's future needs to take account of the need of the different communities, and the people within them.

Middlesbrough has many strengths and has been making good progress in this area, including:

- Clusters - the Cluster provide an opportunity for residents from across the town to consider the major issues facing the town.

- Middlesbrough Community Network- the mechanism for engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- networks in neighbourhoods and different communities of interest through the Community Empowerment Network, the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network and Neighbourhood Management pilots, for example.

Middlesbrough Partnership, along with key partner agencies, community networks and organisations, will ensure that its ongoing commitment to community engagement is being developed and delivered in the most effective ways possible, and that Middlesbrough communities are able to play a full role as partners in the regeneration of the town.

NARROWING THE GAP

There is an acknowledgement that nobody should be disadvantaged by where they live. However, where people live has a major impact on their quality of life and there are major differences between communities. Nearly half of Middlesbrough is defined as being within the most deprived 10% of the country, based on factors including income, employment, health, education, housing, crime and leisure. This represents a major challenge in working to 'narrow the gap' between neighbourhoods in Middlesbrough and between Middlesbrough and the rest of the country.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund was used from 2000 to 2008 to support projects which could improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged areas. From 2008, financial support is provided through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. This recognises that access to jobs is a major issue for people in disadvantaged communities, and that improved employment opportunities can provide other benefits.

Some projects have been set up in neighbourhoods to take a coordinated approach based on the needs of particular areas. Stronger Together in East Middlesbrough (STEM) and West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust (WMNT) have both made significant impact in their areas.

In setting our priorities and devising our plans, we have paid particular attention to issues that have a disproportionate impact on some communities. For example, in the most disadvantaged area, people are likely to have a shorter life with more illness. We will focus on some of the causes of ill health to improve that situation. The bid for *Healthy Town* status sets out how we will promote good health across the town, but with particular emphasis on communities with poor health.

As part of the strategic assessment for community safety, we will identify the areas that have a disproportionate level of crime, and pay special attention to their needs. These areas will be reviewed regularly to ensure that we respond to any changes.

By tackling some of these issues in the most disadvantaged communities, we can have an impact on the town as a whole.

MAKING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY SUSTAINABLE

Our Community Strategy is designed to make major improvements in the town, but it will also have a much wider impact. We will ensure that we take account of the way that our priorities will affect outcomes - locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

We will use One Planet Living principles to assess the wider effects of our Sustainable Community Strategy.

One Planet Living™ (OPL)

One Planet Living is a joint initiative of BioRegional, an independent environmental organisation, and WWF, the global conservation organisation.

One Planet Living has been developed to meet the challenge that faces us all: how can people everywhere enjoy a high quality of life, within the carrying capacity of one planet? Eco-footprinting shows that if everyone in the world consumed as much as the average UK resident we would need three planets to support us.

The vision of *One Planet Living* is a world in which people everywhere can lead happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the Earth's resources.

The OPL programme is based on ten guiding principles, which act as a framework to highlight the sustainability challenge in a given situation and as a mechanism for developing and presenting solutions.

These principles are:

- Zero carbon
- Zero waste
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable materials
- Local and sustainable food
- Sustainable water
- Natural habitats and wildlife
- Culture and heritage
- Equity and fair trade
- Health and happiness.

Each of the themes of our Sustainable Community Strategy have been considered in relation to the ten principles. We have identified how they may be able to support One Planet Living, and how they may impede progress. We will consider these implications in more detail as we develop our specific action plans.

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CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

LOCAL CONTEXT

Like many large towns, Middlesbrough has seen many changes in the last part of the 20th Century. The decline of the traditional industries has had a major impact on local communities, and the way people live their lives.

Middlesbrough has a population of XXXXXX, with a slightly younger age profile than the Tees Valley, and England and Wales as a whole. This includes a higher than average proportion of working age single people and lone parent households than the country as a whole.

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

United Nations
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The population of Middlesbrough has declined by more than 30,000 since 1961, although the rate has slowed down since the 1980s, and now averages about 800 people a year. Births continue to outnumber deaths, so people

leaving the town is the key reason for Middlesbrough's declining population.

Middlesbrough has high levels of deprivation, with nearly half the town being recognised as in the most deprived

MIDDLESBROUGH'S COMMUNITY

- Middlesbrough has a population of XXXX
- 6.3% of the population is from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, the highest proportion in the Tees valley, but fewer than the national average (8.7%)
- 83% of residents said they were satisfied with their local area in the 2007 Townwide Survey
- In 2007, 43% of residents said that they felt involved in community life, up from 36% in 2007
- Over 9,500 volunteers contribute more than 4 million hours of unpaid work to their local community every year

10% nationally. This presents real challenges that local services need to be able to tackle.

Large-scale projects have worked in specific areas including STEM (Stronger Together in East Middlesbrough) and West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust. Neighbourhood management programmes in some of the most disadvantaged areas encourage local people to get involved in the future of their community.

Middlesbrough's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) comprises an estimated 900 voluntary and community organisations, from local branches of national and regional agencies to local charities and small resident-led groups, working on a range of issues including social care, child protection and leisure.

As well as direct provision of services, they also provide support to local people to take an active part in the life of the town as volunteers and activists. Much of the work of the VCS is aimed at involving people who might not take part in more formal activity. Middlesbrough recognises the importance of a strong infrastructure in fostering a vibrant voluntary and community sector.

Culture, arts and learning play a significant role in the town. Large scale events like *Music Live* provide a focus for community life, as well as promoting the town across the region. The annual Mela celebrates the contributions made by a wide range of communities to the life of the town, attracting up to 30,000 people. The Urban Farming

project provides new opportunities for local people to get involved with their local community. *Supergay*, a festival celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual community life was held in Middlesbrough for the first time in 2007, and is now planned to be an annual event.

OUR VISION FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES IN MIDDLESBROUGH

We are working towards developing a town where everybody:

- has a real sense of belonging and is proud to live in Middlesbrough;
- feels enabled and empowered to participate in all aspects of life be it through work, learning, leisure, faith or family;
- feels safe, and valued, whatever they do, whoever they are, whatever they look like;
- has the same life opportunities and that these opportunities are not dependent on background, culture or where people live;
- is free from prejudice and racism and that this is actively challenged and not allowed to divide communities.'

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- PST 1** To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery
- PST 2** To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with service providers being more responsive to neighbourhood needs, and with improved service delivery
- PST 3** To support the development of an increasingly robust, optimistic and effective Voluntary and Community Sector
- PST 4** Promote regeneration through culture, arts and learning by means of cultural activities that contribute to the quality of life and well-being of individuals and communities

OUR TARGETS

- TST 1** Increase the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions (Baseline to be set 2008/09)
- TST 2** Increase the percentage of Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- TST 3** From a baseline of xx in 2008. maintain the number of 'live' volunteering opportunities registered with the Volunteer Centre to 2015
- TST 4** Increase the number of volunteers registering with the Volunteer Centre from 99 in 2005/06 to 550 in 2015
- TST 5** Value and number of contracts indicator
- TST 6** Culture indicator

WHAT WE WILL DO

Through the Stronger Communities Group, we will coordinate engagement activity to provide opportunities for residents to work with local service providers to ensure that the views of service users are taken into account.

We will build on the work in the current Neighbourhood Management areas, using neighbourhood plans to enable local residents to take an active part in shaping the services provided for them.

Ensure the implementation of the Compact through an action plan to ensure the Compact principles are embedded throughout organisations to improve partnership working with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

We will use the Single Equality Scheme Framework to ensure a consistent approach across organisations to the needs of diverse communities.

A new Cultural Strategy will provide a focus for using a full range of activities, including art and sports, to support local communities and encourage active participation.

PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Local Development framework – Statement of Community Involvement
Middlesbrough Community Cohesion Action Plan
Middlesbrough Compact
Middlesbrough Cultural Strategy
Tees Valley Voluntary and Community Sector
Infrastructure Development Strategy 2008 - 2014

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Safer Communities

A safer community directly contributes to creating a stronger community: by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, people feel safe and secure within their community, with the opportunity for a greater sense of belonging. A stronger community is inclusive and will not tolerate crimes motivated by hatred of particular groups.

Supporting Children and Young People

A strong community will ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard. Young people have a positive contribution to make to building and sustaining stronger communities, and will be supported to make that contribution.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-Being Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

Good health and well-being results in many benefits – for example staying in employment and participating in community as active citizens.

Local Economy

The Voluntary and Community Sector is a significant contributor to the local economy, both as employers and service providers. Investing in the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector can help to improve the economies of local communities. A stronger community will ensure that everybody can benefit from economic success – through jobs, services and improvements to the environment.

Environmental Sustainability

Climate Change has the potential to have a significant negative effect on communities, especially those individuals and groups that are already disadvantaged. Tackling this global issue locally through working towards a more sustainable environment will also provide many opportunities to build stronger communities. Initiatives such as growing food locally, promoting local recycling and reuse schemes and encouraging the use of sustainable

transport can all provide greater opportunities to develop our communities.

This may be through involving people more in decision-making, developing local co-operative systems that bring communities together, providing learning opportunities through environmental activities and promoting volunteering.

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CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Crime, anti-social behaviour and the use of illicit drugs are recognised as key concerns of the public. The impact on communities can lead to an increase in fear of crime, which requires a partnership response.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Residents feel that Middlesbrough is a safe area to live. This is reflected by the fact that during the three years 2004/05 – 2007/8, crime in Middlesbrough reduced by 15% with 4,639 fewer victims. Despite these improvements, big challenges around crime and anti-social behaviour remain as Middlesbrough is still perceived to be a relatively high crime area. This is linked to significant levels of deprivation as well as drug and alcohol misuse.

In Middlesbrough those aged 18 - 24 years are the most vulnerable and are at a greater risk of becoming victims of crime. They are also more likely to be offenders.

Many people use the town centre, as it provides a focus for commerce and leisure. This leads to higher levels of crime and disorder in the town centre, compared to other parts of the town.

Both day and night-time economies in the town centre are key influencing factors behind the disproportionate levels of crime. Regeneration plans for Middlesbrough town centre will increase the size of the geographical area of the town centre and will lead to a significant increase in the numbers of people living, visiting and working within the town centre. The mixed economy gives a real opportunity to reduce crime, based on a greater sense of community.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- In 2007/08, there were 147 serious violent crimes reported - 1.076 per 1,000 population
- In 2007/08, there were 4,365 serious acquisitive crimes reported - 31.71 per 1,000 population
- In the 2007 Middlesbrough Townwide Survey, 89% of the population said they felt that their neighborhood was "very safe" or "fairly safe", compared with 92% in 2005
- 21% of recorded crime occurred in Middlesbrough town centre, an area covering less than 2% of the town
- 15.3% of crime is experienced by repeat victims
- Residents consulted through the Face the People sessions highlighted litter as their anti social behaviour priority and criminal damage as their crime priority. When young people were asked they highlighted teenagers hanging around the streets and drug dealing as their top priorities.

Disadvantaged communities suffer higher levels of crime, and the impact on victims can be made worse by the financial costs of putting things right and replacing goods. Some people in these areas are repeat victims, with the additional pressures that may cause. A Strategic Assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in Middlesbrough led to the identification of eight priority neighbourhoods that will provide an initial focus. These are:

- Beckfield,
- Berwick Hills,
- Brambles Farm,
- Gresham,
- Grove Hill,
- Hemlington,
- Pallister,
- University.

OUR VISION FOR A SAFER MIDDLESBROUGH

Our vision is for Middlesbrough to be a place where all people are – and feel - safe. We will achieve this by working hard to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve community safety and ensure that the local community is reassured and confident that their concerns and fears are being addressed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- PSF 1** Diverting young people away from crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and reducing the vulnerability of young people to prevent them becoming victims of crime
- PSF 2** Reducing repeat victimisation
- PSF 3** Reducing re-offending
- PSF 4** Town centre safety
- PSF 5** Neighbourhood safety

WHAT WE WILL DO

KEY TARGETS

- TSF 1** To reduce serious violent crime by 3% in 2008/09 compared with 2007/8
- TSF 2** To reduce serious acquisitive crime by 10% in 2008/9 compared with 2007/08
- TSF 3** To reduce criminal damage by 10% in 2008/9 compared with 2007/08
- TSF 4** To reduce overall crime by 8% in 2008/9 compared with 2007/08
- TSF 5** To increase the number of adult drug users in effective treatment by 9.4% in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08

The Safer Middlesbrough Partnership consists of partner organisations including Middlesbrough Council, Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust, Cleveland Fire Service and the Probation Service. They are supported by a wide range of other services from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

We will work across the town to ensure that we achieve our vision of a Safer Middlesbrough, focusing resources where they are needed and responding to changes in local situations.

Plans in place to tackle the key issues, include:

Diverting young people away from crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and reducing the vulnerability of young people to prevent them becoming victims of crime

- Targeted Youth Support will be introduced in Middlesbrough to provide support for those at risk of becoming involved in offending and challenging behaviour in appropriate cases.
- Build an effective programme of tackling underage drinking and responsible drinking by young people under the age of 25 years.
- Ensure that diversionary activities are reaching out to those most at risk of causing community safety problems.

Reducing repeat victimisation

- Continue to tackle domestic and sexual violence through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and the Sexual Assault Referral centre.
- Continue to encourage victims of hate crime to report incidents through accessible reporting centres and increase communication between diverse groups and service providers to increase confidence.
- Identify repeat victims and deliver a coordinated partnership response to reduce their vulnerability.

Reducing re-offending

- Deliver an effective Prolific and Priority Offending Scheme and Drug Intervention Programme.

- Develop and support programmes which assist in the local delivery of the seven reducing re-offending pathways i.e. employment, housing, drugs, alcohol, families, debt etc.
- Coordinate a process to deliver swift retribution in situation where a repeat offender fails to respond to service support and continues to offend.
- Promote drug and alcohol treatment services in Middlesbrough in order to encourage those with drug and alcohol problems to access treatment.

Town centre safety

- Provide a dedicated, multi-agency Problem Solving Group to tackle specific town centre issues.
- Maintain CCTV monitoring practices, which are intelligence driven.
- Work with the licensing trade and businesses to develop programmes, which increase community safety and reduce crime i.e. Best Bar None, Pubwatch, Safer Shopping Scheme

OUR PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Alcohol Strategy 2007

Children & Young Peoples Plan 2008 – 2011

Cleveland Policing Plan 2008-2011 *Putting People First*

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Plan 2008/09

Fire Service Integrated Risk Management Plan

Safer Middlesbrough Partnership Strategic Assessment 2007

Youth Justice Plan 2008/09

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Stronger Communities

Where people take an active part in their community they can raise community values, improve safety and provide reassurance. The community would then be better able to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting Children and Young People

Young people are disproportionately represented as both victims and perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour. Targeted Youth Support will be delivered aimed at diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour and also reducing their vulnerability of becoming victims.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-Being Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

The misuse of alcohol is a key factor in a high proportion of violent incidents criminal damage and burglary and requires a coordinated approach.

Misuse of drugs is a significant factor in many crimes. Delivering effective drug treatment services and tackling the supply of illicit drugs can have a positive impact on crime.

Enhancing the Local Economy

The town centre is a focus for commercial activity. A thriving day and night-time economy, has the potential to generate high levels of crime. Effective coordination of partnership resources from the public and private sectors helps to tackle town centre

crime and anti-social behaviour and improve the town centre for businesses, residents and visitors.

Securing Environmental Sustainability

Residents will feel greater satisfaction with parks, streets and other public spaces if they feel safe from crime anti-social behaviour.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Government launched *Every Child Matters* in 2003, identifying five key outcomes for children and young people:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Every Child Matters underpins the work of all the organisations that provide services for children to improve outcomes. This is recognised in the Mayor's *Raising Hope* agenda.

"The foundation of our pillars is the education and care of our children and young people and our support for vulnerable people in Middlesbrough"

Ray Mallon, Mayor

Approximately a quarter of Middlesbrough's population is aged 19 or under, a total of almost 35,000 young people.

Children in Middlesbrough face the same challenges as children throughout the country, and the results can be a cause for concern.

The percentage of young people leaving school with five A* - C GCSEs (including English and Maths) is below the national average, with a number of schools below the Government's base target for all schools of 30% by 2011.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- 16% of the school population comes from minority ethnic communities.
- 7% of children and young people have some form of impairment or disability that affects their day-to-day activities.
- 31.7% of Middlesbrough's children live in households that are dependent on means-tested benefits
- 15.8% of children in care achieve five A* - C GCSEs (including English and Maths) compared with 30.9% of all Middlesbrough children.

Middlesbrough has had one of the highest rates for young people aged 16 – 18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Work has taken place to identify the status of young people, and to minimise the number of young people whose status is not known.

Teenage conception has been a high priority as Middlesbrough has had a rate considerably above the national average. Although the rate has fallen locally, this has been reflected in a drop in the national rate and so the relative position is still poor

Whilst these circumstances present significant challenges, there are already strong signs of improvement.

- Significant progress has been made in reducing the number of under 18 conception rates – 25% since 1998
- 98% of schools are engaged in the Health Schools Programme and 67% achieving the new Healthy Schools Status - this is above the national average
- More children and young people feel safer in Middlesbrough and at school
- A year on year improvement in the number of pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE results (????x% in 2003 to 53.6% in 2007)
- The number of young people not in education employment or training has reduced to **XXX from XXX**

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MIDDLESBROUGH

Our aim is to ensure that all our children and young people have the best possible start in life, with access to opportunities that will help them develop to their full potential. All our young people, regardless of their background or family circumstances, should be able to realise their potential.

For some youngsters this will involve overcoming significant barriers and we will provide additional support to those young people, so that no one is left behind. We cannot afford to waste our young talent, and we will ensure that services are in place to provide the necessary help.

However it is parents who, ultimately, have the responsibility for bringing up their children and we will do all that we can to support parents and carers in this duty. Children's services are increasingly reaching out to support families, becoming locally based and more accessible.

Growing up involves periods of transition, and we will ensure that children are helped through the changes in their life. Families are important, and where there is family breakdown, we will ensure that children and young people are supported.

Children's Centre in every neighbourhood and local schools will provide access to a wide range of community services to give all children and young people the best start in life.

OUR PRIORITIES:

- PCY 1** Be Healthy - Ensure good physical, mental, emotional and sexual health of children and young people
- PCY 2** Stay Safe - Ensure that children and young people are kept safe from deliberate, neglectful or accidental harm or exploitation
- PCY 3** Enjoy and Achieve - Enable children to enjoy and fully participate at school and in registered childcare settings to achieve their full potential
- PCY 4** Make a Positive Contribution - Enable children and young people to contribute positively to their local community
- PCY 5** Achieve Economic Well-being - Ensure that children, young people and their families are equipped to continue into further education, employment or training

OUR TARGETS

- TCY 1** To reduce by 50% the prevalence of obesity among children under the age of 11 (using the Middlesbrough PCT height and weight survey (2005) in Year 7 children as baseline) by 2015
- TCY 2** To reduce the under 18 conception rate in Middlesbrough from the 2003 baseline of 57.9 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 to no more than 5% above the national average by 2015
- TCY 3** **Stay safe**
- TCY 4** 67% of 15 years will attain 5 or more A*-C in GCSE or equivalent by 2012
- TCY 5** 98% of pupils aged 16 leaving school with a recognized qualification
- TCY 6** The number of 16- 18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) will be reduced to no more than 5% by 2015

WHAT WE WILL DO

The Children's Trust Board will continue to ensure that partners have a mechanism for working together on the major issues that affect our children.

By 20xx our school will have been transformed with new buildings and improved services for the whole community.

By 2012 all schools will have achieved the new standard Healthy Schools status

We will develop new Diplomas – academic qualifications that place learning in the context of a real life vocational area - to extend the opportunities of our young people to gain the skills they need. By 2013, every young person will have an entitlement to the opportunity to pursue any one of 14 lines of learning. There will be a greater emphasis on Functional Skills in English, mathematics and ICT, designed to increase the employability of our young people in a wide variety of areas.

We recognise that learning does not only take place in schools, and other organisations will play a major part. Middlesbrough's Library Service will promote literacy through schemes such as Bookstart and Premier League reading stars.

Good mental health is vital if children and young people are to be able to develop their potential. We will ensure that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) can provide appropriate support for children and young people, including those requiring support in a crisis.

Children's Centres will provide a focus for supporting families with children, offering family learning, childcare and welfare benefits advice. These services will be targeted at the areas that show high levels of deprivation.

We will develop a partnership response to child poverty by identifying the organisations that can take a lead and coordinate activity across all sectors.

OUR PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011
Children, Families and Learning Plan
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategies
Early Years Development and Childcare Plan
Inclusion Strategy
Looked After Children Strategy
LSC Tees Valley Annual Plan
Middlesbrough's 14-19 Learning Partnership Strategy
Middlesbrough's Healthy Schools Programme
NEET Reduction Strategy for Middlesbrough
Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan
Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
Young Person's Alcohol and Drug Strategy
Youth Justice Plan

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Stronger Communities

Children and young people need to be able to influence the decisions that will affect their future, and by the same token they can offer a great deal to the future community of the town.

Creating Safer Communities

There are particular issues for young people 18 – 24 who are more likely than any other age group to be the victim of crime, or to be the perpetrator of crime.

Younger children may have to face the impact of criminal behaviour in their neighbourhoods or in their families. Dealing with these issues will help give children and stronger start in life.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-being Tackling Exclusions and Promoting Equality

The transition into adulthood involves making a number of choices, many of which will have an impact on health. Working with children can provide a sound basis for many decisions, particularly lifestyle factors such as smoking, drinking, diet and physical activity that can make a major difference.

Enhancing the Local Economy

The educational attainment of children will have a major impact on their ability to secure sustainable employment. A highly skilled labour force relies on a strong foundation of good schools.

Good quality housing is important for everybody, but especially necessary to support children to have a stable family life and to reduce the risk of illness or injury.

Children and young people rely on public transport more than most other groups. A good transport network will allow them to maintain social links and to use facilities across the town.

Securing Environmental Sustainability

Children and young people – and their families -are significant users of parks and open spaces and will benefit from maintaining excellent facilities.

Children and young people already show great concern for broader environmental issues and may be able to act as champions with their families and in their communities.

PROMOTING ADULT HEALTH AND WELL BEING; TACKLING EXCLUSION AND PROMOTING EQUALITY

LOCAL CONTEXT

Middlesbrough has a high number of wards which are recognised as being amongst the most deprived in the country, and this deprivation has a major impact on health. On average, life expectancy in Middlesbrough is nearly three years shorter than the national average; within Middlesbrough it is estimated that, on average, people in the least deprived areas live nine years longer than people in the most deprived areas. The number of people reporting limiting long-term illness is higher than the national average, indicating the impact of health on quality of life.

HEALTH

“is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.”

Lifestyle has an important part to play in people’s health. Middlesbrough has high rates of smoking, alcohol and drug misuse. Poor diet and low rates of physical activity contribute to higher levels of obesity, which increase the risk of cardio-vascular disease and some cancers.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- Middlesbrough has higher than average smoking rates (34.8%, compared to 24.2% nationally)
- The rate of drug misuse is high (22.3 per 1,000 population aged 15 – 64, compared with 9.9 nationally)
- Rates of physical activity are low with 9.5% of people over 16 reporting being physically active, compared with 11.6% nationally.

Middlesbrough has a good track record of providing services for the increasing number of older people in the town, helping people to maintain their independence. 2001 Census statistics indicate an estimated 1,990 people over 75 years of age with a health or disability problem live alone in Middlesbrough.

Although there have been improvements in health over the past ten years, these are consistent with progress at a national level and so the gap between Middlesbrough and the rest of the country is as significant as previously.

Sports activities play a significant part in the town with events such as the sports mela and the Tees Pride 10k bringing together large numbers of people.

OUR VISION FOR A HEALTHIER MIDDLESBROUGH

The aim is to improve the health of the population generally, while narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the town as a whole. This will not only mean longer life expectancy, but also ensuring that people benefit from improved lifestyles.

The importance of people's mental health will be recognised, and we will take a positive approach to promoting good mental health, enabling people to enjoy a full and rewarding life.

A number of programmes will in place to support healthier lifestyles at all ages – from the Healthy Schools initiative targeting children to the GP Referral Scheme working with the wider community and the Falls Prevention Service working with older people.

Screening programmes are in place to identify and work with people who are high risk for cardio-vascular disease, but have not yet been identified as such.

Physical activity makes an important contribution to health, and sport will provide a focus for making more people, more active, more often.

Services will still need to be in place to help people when they are ill. We will work with people to ensure that services are provided in a way that meets their individual needs.

Being in work can have a significant impact on health. We will work to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to take up paid employment.

As well as the services that are provided, we will encourage people to take responsibility for things that they can do to promote a healthier town – both as individuals and as citizens.

OUR PRIORITIES

- PHS 1** Help promote health, well-being, independence, inclusion and choice
- PHS 2** Ensure that, when people fall ill, they receive safe and effective services, when and where they need help and are empowered in their choice.
- PHS 3** Ensure that the gap is closed between levels of health of Middlesbrough residents and the national average, as well as the gap between priority neighbourhoods and the Middlesbrough average
- PHS 4** Improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in Middlesbrough
- PHS 5** Address specific community and social housing needs

OUR TARGETS

- THS 1** To reduce by at least 15 per cent the gap between the fifth of areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the Middlesbrough population as a whole by 2015
- THS 2** To enable 70% of population to be physically active by 2020 (5 x 30 minutes per week)
- THS 3** To reduce by 50% the number of problematic drug users in Middlesbrough (from a 2004/5 baseline) by 2015
- THS 4** People with a long term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition (baseline to be set in 2008/09)
- THS 5** 16+ current smoking rate prevalence (baseline to be set)

THS 6	To increase the percentage of offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence from 26% in 2006/07 to 40% in 2010/11
THS 7	To increase the percentage of adults with learning disabilities in employment from 5.3% in 2006/07 to 12% in 2010/11
THS 8	To increase the percentage of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment from 5.3% in 2006/07 to 8.5% in 2010/11

WHAT WE WILL DO

We will build on current work to improve health in the town particularly for people in the most disadvantaged areas. We will work to gain designated *Healthy Town* status, developing a whole-town approach to public health issues, with local communities as key partners.

Mechanisms such as the Local Involvement Network (LINK) will provide an opportunity for the broader community to influence the services that are provided to them.

The development of a Community Sports Network will provide more opportunities for people to get involved in sport and physical activity at all levels.

Screening programmes will be in place to identify gaps so that we can identify people who are most at risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). We will offer help to inform lifestyle choices and options as well as advice and treatment to enable people to enjoy better health and make sustainable lifestyle changes.

We will use the Supporting People programme to ensure that our most vulnerable people are able to live as independently as possible.

OUR PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- Active Middlesbrough Strategy
- Alcohol Strategy
- Better Health, Fairer Health - A Strategy for 21st Century Health and Well-being in the North East
- Children and Young People’s Plan 2008 -2011
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- North East Regional Sports Strategy
- Physical Disability Strategy 2008 - 2018
- Public Health Strategy (Middlesbrough Council and Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust)
- Supporting People Strategy 2004 - 2009
- Themes for the Future - Older People’s Strategy 2007 - 2017

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Stronger Communities

Many public health issues need the active involvement of local communities to ensure health improvements. Active communities will be able to play a role in shaping the services that are provided to them.

Creating Safer Communities

There are very strong links between the misuse of drugs and alcohol with crime and disorder. A safer community can help support good mental health, as people can feel more secure in their community

Supporting Children and Young People

Investing in the health of children can provide foundation for good health in later life, and healthy parents have more opportunity to raise healthy youngsters. Schools can also play a role in supporting the health of children and young people.

Enhancing the Local Economy

Good health helps people to get, and stay in, employment. Equally, employment can help people maintain their health by giving them some financial freedom to make choices, as well as important social contact.

Housing is a basic need that has a major impact on people's health, and programmes such as *Affordable Warmth* can make a real difference.

Transport links are important to people's well-being, not only allowing them to access employment and key services, but also helping them to maintain social contact with family and friends.

Securing Environmental Sustainability

Clean air and a pleasant environment can support good health, as well as providing opportunities for taking part in physical activity which can also support good health – for example, in parks and open spaces.

ENHANCING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Economic vitality

LOCAL CONTEXT

Middlesbrough has gone through a number of changes over the years, and aims to be a place where people want to live, work, shop and visit; and where businesses will prosper. Middlesbrough needs further investment to modernise the physical environment; improve its appeal; and make it. This will help reinforce the position of Middlesbrough town centre as the principal retail centre, and the Stockton – Middlesbrough urban core as the principal centre for cultural, leisure, and civic administration facilities for the Tees Valley City Region.

There are three elements which are recognised as being vital to supporting the local economy – these are:

- the economic vitality of the town,
- housing, and
- transport.

These are brought together as one theme.

Unemployment in Middlesbrough is high when compared to either the Tees Valley or the national picture. Growth in employment was the highest in the Tees Valley, at 16.1% during the period 1995 – 2005. The town centre now provides most of the town's employment with the service sector predominating. Middlesbrough is a comparatively low wage economy even by comparison with the rest of the Tees Valley, which is itself lower than the national average.

ECONOMIC VITALITY IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- Overall employment rates rose from 64.45 (in 2004) to 67.3% in 2006
- 5.3% of jobs are in manufacturing, which is less than half the national average
- 90% of employment in Middlesbrough is in the service sector

Economic recovery is made more challenging by the limitations imposed upon potential development by the shortage of available land. The high density of existing development and the limited room for expansion are major considerations. Available brownfield land may require costly remediation work and greenfield land is often protected by planning policy.

These limitations are being tackled by a range of measures, mainly in partnership with other organisations, aimed at increasing the overall development potential of the borough. Some of these have already come to fruition and others have made substantial recent progress.

Housing

Partly as a consequence of its existing stock, Middlesbrough has struggled to compete with neighbouring boroughs in making available a modern housing offer on a sufficient scale. This has contributed to its falling population as people moved outside the town's boundary. In response, it is implementing some ambitious schemes and pursuing policies aimed at addressing the imbalance in its housing offer.

HOUSING IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- 37.6% of housing is terraced, compared to 26.1% in England and Wales
- 12.4% of housing is detached, compared with 22.8% in England and Wales

Transport

Transport is recognised as an important factor which underpins a number of priorities, particularly access to education, employment and services. Patronage for bus services has declined, although rail journeys and cycle journeys have increased in number. Transport is an issue which needs to be seen in the broader, sub-regional and regional, context as a large proportion of journeys are to/from neighbouring areas. It is with factors like this in mind that proposals such as the Tees Metro are being developed

Road safety has previously been identified as a significant issue, particularly in relation to Black and Minority Ethnic communities. There has been good progress made with the numbers of killed and seriously injured (KSI) falling; however, the numbers are so small that any incident may be seen to have a significant effect.

TRANSPORT IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- In 2006/07, there were 10,386,000 bus passenger journeys in Middlesbrough
- 33% of households reported not having a car
- 68% of bus users said that they were satisfied with the service overall, up from 57% in 2005

OUR VISION FOR MIDDLESBROUGH'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS

Our vision for Middlesbrough is

- a growing population, which is increasingly diverse.
- full employment has just been achieved
- Middlesbrough is in the top 25 shopping centres in the UK;
- Middlesbrough is recognised as one of the North of England's top five cultural destinations.
- Communities are truly sustainable as a result of significant investment programmes in improving social housing, clearance of obsolete stock and the provision of new family housing and city living opportunities. People want to live here - neighbourhoods are safe, secure and well managed.
- Housing markets are buoyant;
- Middlesbrough is at the heart of a connected city region transport network. The public transport system has been transformed
- Over 50% of residents travel to work, learning or leisure using public transport;
- Increased inward investment.
- Schools, further and higher education facilities compare favourably to the best in the north of England.
- The role of Middlesbrough and Stockton at the centre of the Tees Valley city region is further enhanced by the high quality of both its built and natural environments.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Economic vitality

- PLE 1** Establish an environment that encourages and supports economic vitality.
- PLE 2** Provide business support that encourages more businesses to set up, locate and grow here.
- PLE 3** Ensure that local people have the skills for and can access jobs and opportunities
- PLE 4** Change attitudes by promoting Middlesbrough's success
- PLE 5** Promote regeneration through culture, arts and learning by means of major projects and flagships that act as economic drivers by contributing to the town's image and environment.

Housing

- PLE 6** Rejuvenate the housing stock
- PLE 7** Ensure that the type and mix of new housing provides choice
- PLE 8** Improve and maintain existing housing.

Transport

- PLE 9** Provide a transport network which meets the needs of a town on its way up:
 - Access to work and important services
 - Avoiding congestion
 - Improving road safety
 - Managing environmental impact
 - Highway maintenance and increased use of cycling and walking.

OUR ECONOMIC VITALITY TARGETS

- TLE 1** To achieve an employment rate of 80% by 2016, from 65.1% in 2006
- TLE 2** An unemployment rate (based on International Labour Organisation definition) of 4%, from 8.4% in 2006

OUR HOUSING TARGETS

- TLE X** Reduce the percentage of non-decent housing stock sector dwellings to 0% by 2010

OUR TRANSPORT TARGETS –

- TLE** Increase in rail patronage by 19% by 2010/2011 against a 2004/5 baseline
- TLE** Reduce the overall number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) by 2010 using a 2001- 2004 average baseline.
- TLE** Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) by 25% by 2010 using a 2001 – 2004 average baseline.
- TLE** Increase the level of cycling by 10% against a 2004 baseline.

OUR PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Local Development Framework
Middlesbrough Employment Strategy
Middlesbrough Homelessness Strategy 2008 - 2013
Middlesbrough Housing Strategy 2008 – 2011 *Quality Homes and Neighbourhoods*
Middlesbrough Urban Regeneration Strategy - 2008
Local Transport Plan - 2006 – 2011

WHAT WE WILL DO

Economic Vitality

Complete the development of the creative industries quarter 'Boho' by 2016

Improve business environment by securing Townscape Heritage initiative grant aid to at least four improvement schemes in Albert Road/ Queen's Square and Exchange Square by 2009

Aim to improve the cultural offer in town centre by completing a feasibility study in to the improvement of the Town Hall linked to the cultural quarter by March 2009.

Create over 300 jobs through the development of a casino by 2012

Provide a wide-ranging portfolio of employment sites that will enable the town to compete for regional, sub-regional and local investment.

Provide a nationally significant public art project, Anish Kapoor's *Temenos*, one of the Teesside Giants, in summer 2009.

Housing

By 2021 demolish 1,500 older housing in Gresham and Middlehaven and build 750 new dwellings

Complete phase 1 of greater Middlehaven by 2013

By 2016 complete the redevelopment of Middlesbrough College sites and provide over 500 dwellings.

By 2023, we will build up to 810 dwellings at Greater Hemlington (740 at Hemlington Grange).

By 2021, we will demolish approximately 400 dwellings and build 490 new dwellings in Grove Hill.

Transport

Improve access to North Middlesbrough by developing a new interchange by 2009

Develop a high quality bus network by 2012 through the proposals set out in the Major Bus Bid

DRAFT

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Stronger Communities

The regeneration of the town can offer opportunities to communities, increasing a sense of belonging to the town.

Creating Safer Communities

Making the town centre safer can make it a more attractive prospect for business and leisure, which may attract more people which may in turn support a safer town centre.

Supporting Children and Young People

Young people need to have the right skills the access the employment opportunities that are available in the town.

A good public transport network can enable children and young people to make the best of the opportunities available in the town. The use of concessionary fares can help people to make a positive choice to use the public transport network.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

Employment can have a major impact on health, and can offer particular benefits for people with disabilities or mental health issues.

Providing decent accommodation can enable vulnerable people to live more independently, improving their overall quality of life.

People who are ill or who have disabilities may rely on public transport to enable them to use the services they require.

Securing Environmental Sustainability

The growth of the local economy needs to take account of the potential impact on the environment. Making efficient use of local resources can help to maximise benefits while protecting the environment.

Good quality housing can be more energy efficient, having a positive benefit for both the families who live there and the wider environment.

Improved public transport can help avoid the unnecessary use of private cars, particularly for short journeys within the town.

SECURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With its industrial past, Middlesbrough shows the major impact that manufacturing can have on the local environment, as well as on people's perceptions. People's lives can be shaped by the environment in which they live.

In many towns and cities, residents say that litter and other waste can have an effect on how people view the area in which they live, with over half of residents seeing this as a serious or slight problem. This has been a priority for Middlesbrough, and the introduction of Area Care teams has made major improvements to the cleanliness of the town.

Parks and public spaces are important to the life of the town. Centre Square, as well as providing the setting for MIMA, it acts as a venue for public events ranging from *Proms in the Park* and *Music Live* to the *Urban Farming* project.

"Sustainable communities are places in which people want to live, now and in the future. They embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level. This means they improve quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations."

Sustainable Communities
A shared agenda, a share of the action
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Throughout the town, Middlesbrough's parks provide opportunities for local residents – from informal use to large-scale events such as the Mela in Albert Park and the Cleveland show in Stewart Park.

Middlesbrough's becks are important wildlife corridors. The water vole, which is a protected species and declining nationally, is thriving in urban Middlesbrough. Kingfishers and herons can be regularly seen on all becks.

THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIDDLESBROUGH

- 13% of Middlesbrough residents said that they saw litter and rubbish as a serious problem, and a further 39% saw litter and rubbish as a sight problem.
- Five parks in Middlesbrough have been awarded green flags
- Recycling and composting has increased from 4.3% (2003/4) to 15.5% (2006/7)
- 54% of Middlesbrough residents said that they were 'very concerned' or 'fairly concerned about climate change

Following on from a successful pilot project, Middlesbrough has developed a green waste collection service to support composting across the town.

The new development at Middlehaven is based on *One Planet Living* principles, building in a range of elements to reduce the potential negative impact on the environment. This will be the largest 'zero carbon' mixed-use development in the country. It shows a commit to seeing the very positive benefits of protecting the environment.

OUR VISION FOR MIDDLESBROUGH'S ENVIRONMENT

We will build on the improvements that we have made, and make Middlesbrough a town which provides a pleasant environment for residents and visitors. These improvements will take into account the future impact on the lie of the town and the planet.

Having made changes in the town centre, both in design and care, we will work to improve areas across the town so that they can benefit from the same high standards.

The transformation of Middlehaven from industrial wasteland to thriving, forward -looking community will show how the town is ready for the challenges of the 21st Century. This will be supported by the work of the Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative (SMI), including the development of the Tees Barrage as a major leisure facility in a landscaped setting, which will use technology to harness the power of the river to generate electricity.

We will manage waste responsibly, both by minimising the amount of waste that is produced, and by ensuring reuse and recycling of materials.

Through partnership working, the impact on the climate will be minimised through projects such as green transport plans, clean energy and waste reduction.

OUR PRIORITIES:

- PE 1** Improve the standard of cleanliness throughout the town
- PE 2** Develop a high-quality network of public realm, open space and parks to serve the needs of the community
- PE 3** Increase the amount of household waste that is recycled and composted
- PE 4** Reduce carbon emissions and adapt for the adverse effects of climate change

OUR TARGETS

- TE 1** -Decrease the percentage of areas assessed as having litter from 8% in 2006/07 to 6% in 2010/11.
- TE 2** The percentage of Middlesbrough residents satisfied with parks and open spaces (baseline to be set 2008/09)
- TE 3** Decrease the amount of residual household waste per head from 900 kg in 2006/07 to 790 kg in 2010/11.
- TE 4** -Increase the percentage of household waste recycled or composted from 15.5% (2006/07) to 26% in 2010/11.
- TE 5** By 2012, reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions by 12.5% compared with a baseline of 2002

Recognising the importance of our parks and green spaces, we will identify and secure funding to maintain and improve them, involving local people in our planning.

We will work with partners to promote 'waste awareness and minimisation' and encourage householders, schools and local businesses to reduce the impact of their behaviour with regards to the waste stream.

Through initiatives such as the Affordable Warmth Strategy, we will encourage energy efficiency, particularly recognising the challenges for the disadvantaged communities.

KEY STRATEGIES AND DOCUMENTS

Green Spaces, Public Places A Strategy for Public Open Space in Middlesbrough
Middlesbrough Climate Change Action Plan
Child's Play A Play Policy and Strategy for the Children and Young People of Middlesbrough 2006 - 2011
Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy 2008
Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy

WHAT WE WILL DO

We will build on the improvements made in the town centre through the Area Care programme to ensure that all areas of the town can benefit from high standards of cleanliness.

LINKS TO OTHER THEMES

Creating Stronger Communities

Residents can have a major impact on their environment, both as individuals and as members of organisations; the environment can provide an effective focus for community engagement.

Creating Safer Communities

A well-designed and maintained environment can limit the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. People may be more willing to take care of an environment to which they feel they belong.

Supporting Children and Young People

Play is an important part of growing up, and well-managed play spaces can give them a range of opportunities.

Promoting Adult Health and Well-being / Tackling Exclusion and Promoting Equality

Green spaces can provide good opportunities for physical activity to support good health, and these opportunities need to be available to all members of the community, and where necessary consideration needs to be given to special requirements.

Enhancing the Local Economy

A clean well-managed environment is likely to be more attractive to investors and visitors, as well as providing a better environment for living.

Public transport can help limit energy use, which can contribute towards improved air quality in the short term, as well as helping to minimise the long term effects of climate change.

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GLOSSARY

BERR (Department for) Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform

DSO Departmental Strategic Objective

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

EVAG Economic Vitality Action Group

GO-NE Government Office North East

GVA Gross Value Added

IMD Indices of Multiple Deprivation

JSU (Tees Valley) Joint Strategy Unit

KSI Killed or seriously injured

LAA Local Area Agreement

LDF Local Development Framework

LGUSS Local Government Users' Satisfaction Survey

LSC Learning and Skills Council

MAA Multi-Area Agreement

MCN Middlesbrough Community Network

MVDA Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency

NEET Not in Employment, Education or Training

NI National Indicator

PCT Primary Care Trust

PPO Prolific and Priority Offenders

PSA Public Service Agreement

RDA Regional Development Agency

RSS Regional Spatial Strategy

SCG Safer Communities Group

SCS Sustainable Community Strategy

SMP Safer Middlesbrough Partnership

WNF Working Neighbourhoods Fund

VAT Value Added Tax

VCS Voluntary and Community Sector



YOT

Youth Offending Team

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