

Definitions of the components for the New Sustainable Community Strategy

1. Active, Inclusive & Safe

Active, Inclusive and safe sustainable communities offer:

- A sense of community identity & belonging
- Tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures and beliefs
- Friendly, co-operative and helpful behaviour in neighbourhoods
- Opportunities for cultural, community, sport and other activities, including for children and young people.
- Low levels of crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour with visible, effective and community friendly policing.
- Social inclusion and good life chances for all.

2. Well Run

Well Run sustainable communities enjoy:

- Representative, accountable governance systems which both facilitate strategic, visionary leadership and enable inclusive, active and effective participation by individuals and organisations.
- Effective engagement with the community at neighbourhood level, including capacity building to develop the community's skills, knowledge and confidence.
- Strong, informed and effective partnerships that lead by example
- Strong, inclusive community and voluntary sector
- Sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

3. Environmentally Sensitive

Sustainable communities that are environmentally sensitive:

- Actively seek to minimise climate change, including through energy efficiency and the use of renewables
- Protect the environment, by minimising pollution on land, in water and in the air
- Minimise waste and dispose of it in accordance with current good practice
- Make efficient use of natural resources, encouraging sustainable production and consumption
- Protect and improve bio-diversity (eg: wildlife habitats)
- Enable a lifestyle that minimises negative environmental impact and enhances positive impacts (eg: by creating opportunities for walking and cycling and reducing noise pollution and dependence on cars)
- Create cleaner, greener, safer neighbourhoods (eg: by reducing litter and graffiti and maintaining pleasant public spaces)

4. Fair for Everyone

Sustainable communities that are fair for everyone:

- Recognise individuals rights and responsibilities
- Respect the rights and aspirations of others (both neighbouring communities, and across the wider world) also to be sustainable
- Have due regard for the needs of future generations in current decisions and actions.

5. Well designed and built

Sustainable communities that are well designed and built offer:

- Sense of place – a place with positive feeling for people and local distinctiveness
- User-friendly public and green spaces with facilities for everyone
- Sufficient range, diversity, affordability and accessibility of housing within a balanced housing market
- Appropriate size, scale, density, design and layout including mixed-use developments that complement the distinctive local character of the community
- Buildings and public spaces which promote health and are designed to reduce crime and make people feel safe
- Accessibility of jobs, key services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.

6. Thriving

Sustainable communities that are thriving feature:

- A wide range of jobs and training opportunities
- Sufficient suitable land and buildings to support economic prosperity and change
- Dynamic job and business creation with benefits for the local community
- A strong business community with links into the wider economy
- Economically viable and attractive town centres

7. Well Served

Sustainable communities that are well served have:

- Well performing schools, further and higher education institutions and other opportunities for lifelong learning
- High quality local health care and social services, integrated where possible with other services
- High quality services for families and children
- Good range of affordable public, community, voluntary and private services which are accessible to the whole community (ie: retail, fresh food, commercial, utilities, information and advice).
- Service providers who think and act long-term and beyond their own immediate geographical and interest boundaries, and who involve users and local residents in shaping their policy and practice.

8. Well connected

Sustainable communities that are well connected offer:

- Transport facilities including public transport, that help people travel within and between communities and reduce dependence on cars
- Facilities to encourage safe local walking and cycling
- An appropriate level of local parking facilities in line with local plans to manage road traffic demand
- Widely available and effective telecommunications and internet access
- Good access to regional, national and international communications networks.