

Community Planning

What is the Community Plan?

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare a Community Strategy for their area, that would promote economic, environmental and social well-being and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Other key agencies were required to assist with this process. The aim being one over-arching plan for the area which would draw together all the strategic plans for all the key players and encourage a more coherent and partner approach to planning and deliver tangible outcomes for local residents.

Successful Community Plans require the development of mechanisms for involving all sectors of the population in the process of identifying priorities and actions. The Voluntary Sector is seen as having a vital role in enabling access to the views of communities of geography and interest, especially those at the margins of society.

Community Planning in Pembrokeshire

Following much consultation, the first draft of the Pembrokeshire Community Plan 2003 - 2008 was published in June 2003 and the final document in October 2003.

Partner agencies which gave support to the Community Plan included:-

- Countryside Council for Wales
- Dyfed Powys Police
- ELWa
- Environment Agency Wales
- Job Centre Plus
- Mid and West Wales Fire Brigade
- Milford Haven Port Authority
- PAVS
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
- Pembrokeshire College
- Pembrokeshire and Derwen NHS Trust
- Pembrokeshire Local Health Board
- Welsh Development Agency

The current Community Plan Partnership Leadership Group comprises generally Chairs and Chief Executives of these organisations. The Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council takes the Chair and is supported by the Chief Executive and the Head of Policy. This group is responsible for strategic direction. It meets twice per annum and has recently established a Task Group to examine and plan for the potential 'boom and bust' effects of the large scale developments [e.g. LNG, Bluestone, power stations] planned for the next 4 years.

The Leadership Group has commissioned an interim review of the Community Plan to take place during summer 2005.

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Community Planning in Pembrokeshire contd

The Community Plan identifies 5 strategic priorities which the partnership aims to deliver for Pembrokeshire:-

A Developing Vibrant Communities

B Improving Communication links to, from and within the county

C Developing Economic growth based on local need

D Encouraging People to reach their potential

E Promoting a clean, healthy and valued environment

In addition, there are 4 cross-cutting themes which comprise value for money, sustainability, equality and social inclusion.

5 sub groups have been created to monitor progress, review and evaluate achievements, develop and co-ordinate action plans for each priority area. Each sub group is coordinated by a Pembrokeshire County Council Officer, who is supported by a lead Director and the Corporate Planning Manager. Membership is drawn from partner agencies and, where appropriate, other relevant organisations.

Where appropriate, the Community Plan priorities are underpinned by relevant strategic plans and strategic partnerships e.g.

Priority A - Community Safety Plan and Partnership

Priority B - South West Wales Integrated Transport Plan and the Pembrokeshire Community Transport Strategic Partnership

Priority C - Pembrokeshire Partnership Management Board [for Objective 1] and Pembrokeshire Economic Development and Regeneration Plan

Priority D - Community Consortia for Education and Training, Pembrokeshire Strategic Partnership Board [for Health, Social Care and Well-being] and Health Challenge Pembrokeshire

Priority E - Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

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How can the Voluntary and Community Sector in Pembrokeshire contribute to Community Planning?

The Voluntary and Community Sector is represented on the Leadership Group by the Chair of Trustees and the Director of PAVS. PAVS staff and / or Voluntary Sector representatives sit on all Priority Sub Groups and relevant committees / strategic planning groups.

PAVS holds two open consultation events per year in order to obtain the views of the sector. Other events are used to gauge sector opinion and identify appropriate Voluntary Sector representatives to contribute to strategic partnerships and strategic planning.

The Voluntary and Community Sector is especially well placed to ensure that the Community Plan is informed by the views of Pembrokeshire residents and users of the services provided by the local authority and other agencies. The Sector is also able to ensure that the Community Plan is owned by the community at large.

In many instances Voluntary and Community groups, especially those who hold Service Level Agreements with the Local Health Board or local authority, will contribute to the delivery of community plan targets.

Want to know more?

Copies of the Community Plan can be obtained from the PCC Corporate Planning Manager or viewed on the County Council website www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk or in public libraries.

A reference copy is available in the PAVS Centre for Voluntary Action | Haverfordwest High Street and further information from the PAVS Partnership Support Officer.

Members of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group may also be contacted.