

Our Gloucester – Our Future

Introduction from the chair of the Gloucester Partnership

Dear Colleague,

The Gloucester Partnership was established in October 2001, bringing together public, voluntary and community, and private sector organisations that operate locally in an attempt to effectively meet community needs and aspirations.

Under the Local Government Act 2000, a duty was placed on Local Authorities to “prepare community strategies” and these should ensure that the various bodies who provide services to the public are “better co-ordinated; responsive to the concerns of local communities; are delivered in ways that suit the people who depend on them; and take account of the needs of future generations”.

The Act makes it clear that “Where deprivation and social exclusion are significant factors for any community, the community strategy will need to address how these are to be tackled and how the quality of life of those in deprived communities is to be improved.”

A major outcome of the work of the Gloucester Partnership to date has been the production of the community strategy, **Our Gloucester - Our Future**. This is essentially an attempt to put together a strategy as a vision for the future; building on the strengths of the city, and attempting to identify any weaknesses, so that through Partnership working and support, action can be taken to make a difference. All Partners involved will need to do things differently, act in different ways and make it happen.

The draft Community Strategy was produced using a wide range of strategies already in existence, and also a thorough investigation of any consultation carried out in recent times. It was the subject of a comprehensive consultation exercise resulting in hundreds of comments.

The responses to the consultation have undergone a thorough analysis and a great deal of work has been undertaken to produce **Our Gloucester - Our Future**. All the comments from the consultation were considered and the document has been changed and improved as a result.

Our Gloucester - Our Future has now been adopted by the Gloucester Partnership, and work can begin on identifying the co-ordinating agencies, and producing detailed action plans that will be used to deliver our ambitions.



Bernie O'Neill

Chair of the Gloucester Partnership
(October 2001-May 2003)



Steve McHale

Chair of the Gloucester Partnership
(June 2003 -)

Our Gloucester – Our Future

1. What is Our Gloucester - Our Future?

This strategy is about the future of Gloucester. It is a plan developed by the Gloucester Partnership to help all individuals, employers, organisations and communities in Gloucester work together to secure the social, economic and environmental well being of the City.

2. Our vision

Over the next 10 years we aim to create a fair, just and thriving community in Gloucester where no one is seriously disadvantaged

3. Our values

To achieve our vision we will be guided in all our work by the following values:

- ▶ Work towards an equal and inclusive society
- ▶ Realise the potential of people and communities
- ▶ Make the most of what we have got
- ▶ Promote sustainability
- ▶ Ensure anti-discriminatory practices inform everything we do

In particular, we will tackle social exclusion, and work towards an inclusive society with equality of opportunity and social justice for everyone.

Our Gloucester - Our Future sets out priorities and targets to achieve this. By working together we have the best possible chance of success, because we will have shared aims, can join up resources, and work together to address the same priorities.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION is when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as: racism, poor skills, poor environment, low educational attainment, crime and fear of crime, family breakdown, poor access to services, poor health, unemployment, poor housing, low pay, poor access to information

By **COMMUNITIES** we mean a collection of people who live in the same neighbourhood or/and share the same concerns and interests

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4. How did we develop Our Gloucester - Our Future?

The process for developing a community strategy for Gloucester began in April 2002 at the Gloucester Partnership spring conference. Following this the draft strategy was produced using consultation that had been undertaken across the city, and over 60 city and county-wide strategies. Consultation on the draft Community Strategy took place between November 2002 and January 2003 during which time more than 800 copies were circulated to Partner organisations, over 500 voluntary and community groups, City Council ward councillors and forums. The draft Community Strategy was the focus of the autumn 2002 Partnership conference and a public consultation event held in the city centre.

People in different neighbourhoods told us what was important to them, and many of their priorities were similar and included:

- ▶ Street care
- ▶ Tackling eyesores
- ▶ More and better open space
- ▶ Crime reduction
- ▶ Better education
- ▶ Better access to information about services
- ▶ Improved housing
- ▶ Better access to health services
- ▶ More facilities for young people
- ▶ Improved public transport

In addition, organisations and service providing agencies told us about their priorities and about the views and aspirations of their users

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identifies six priorities to achieve its vision. Within each priority area, we have identified our ambitions for the next ten years. Many of these are already being addressed by existing partner agencies, or by other partnerships.

The Gloucester Partnership will not duplicate what others are doing. Instead, we will take actions that add value, maybe because they address gaps or conflicts, or because by joining up we can make more of an impact, or because individual agencies can only address the symptoms of a problem, and by joining up we can tackle the causes.

Under each ambition we have:

- ▶ Identified our specific ambitions for the city in the We Will sections. Many of these link to the current targets and others will be used to set new ones over the next 10 years
- ▶ Identified targets for the Partnership which we aim to deliver in the next 5 years
- ▶ Identified the key partnerships that we can work with to deliver our ambitions
- ▶ Identified examples of the strategies that have been used to develop and inform the Community Strategy
- ▶ Highlighted links to other ambitions in the strategy to show how the separate sections come together to form the whole vision

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5. About Gloucester

Gloucester has many strengths and some weaknesses and the aim of this strategy is to address those weaknesses whilst building on its strengths. Gloucester has:

- ▶ A strong and growing economy
- ▶ A rich diversity of communities, and many different cultural traditions
- ▶ A wealth of sporting and heritage assets, including Gloucester Rugby Club, GL1 Leisure Centre, the Tennis Centre, the Cathedral and the historic Docks.
- ▶ A beautiful setting and natural resources, including the river Severn, the Sharpness canal and the Severn Vale
- ▶ Areas of deprivation, including 4 electoral wards (Barton, Westgate, Eastgate and Matson) in the 20% most deprived nationally, of which two (Barton and Westgate) are in the worst 10% ⁽ⁱ⁾
- ▶ Poorer health than the regional and county average
- ▶ The second highest crime rate in the South West ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

Over the next 10 years the City is expected to go through many changes:

- ▶ The population is expected to increase from 109,890 in mid 2000 to around 115,500 by 2013 ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾
- ▶ The number of young people under 16, which is above average at present, is due to decrease (from around 25,000 in 2002 to 22,500 in 2013) ^(iv)
- ▶ The number of people over 65 which is below average at present is expected to increase (from around 16,300 in 2002 to 19,000 in 2013) ^(iv).
- ▶ The percentage of residents from Black and Minority Ethnic communities (9.9% in 2001 census; 8.7% of 0-15 year olds in 2002 ^(v)) is expected to increase.
- ▶ Major development will take place, for instance in the Docks and Quedgeley areas, and with the South West By-Pass
- ▶ The University of Gloucestershire will grow and Gloscat plans to develop and relocate to the Docks
- ▶ It will become increasingly important to balance the requirement of people who live, work, study in, or visit Gloucester

