

## Charnwood Together 2011

Charnwood Together was established in 2002, as the Local Strategic Partnership for Charnwood, in line with Government guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships. It produced its first strategy in 2003, the second was written in 2005 with a review and a new Sustainable Community Strategy written in 2008 to deliver until 2013/14.

This 'New' strategy aligned with the Local Area Agreement for Leicestershire with emphasis on developing new ways of joint service delivery at a local level. Its themes were in line with other partner's plans including the Council's own Corporate Plan and also mirrored themes from Leicestershire Together.

Recent government changes have eliminated the requirement for Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), however at the May 2011 AGM of Charnwood Together it was agreed that the partnership would continue in some capacity and the following paper sets out the proposed remit of the new Board.

### Charnwood Together's Vision

**“An improved quality of life for everyone living and working in Charnwood”**

### Charnwood Together Board's Primary Functions

To achieve this Vision, Charnwood Together has set in place these primary functions

#### • Strategic Leadership & Intervention

- Targeted high level thinking & intelligence-led pro-activity by partners working together to add value.
- Provide governance and monitoring of the delivery of Strategic Objectives (Appendix B) through the 5 Theme Groups
  - Economy & Skills
  - People, Place & Environment
  - Children & Young People
  - Health & Well Being
  - Community Safety

#### • Locality advocate

Providing Charnwood-wide (reactive and proactive) response to county-level planning and commissioning and delivery, where partners can add value and fill any gap in existing partnerships:-

- i) Responding to external initiatives (national, regional & county Level)
  - ii) Acting as the governance framework and platform for local commissioning
- AND
- iii) Delivering locality commissioning

### • **Co-ordination of Existing Partnerships**

Working with key partnerships such as Loughborough Town Centre Partnership, Action for a Better Charnwood, so that they are delegated and empowered to act on behalf of Charnwood Together as appropriate, feedback what they've done, and inform if unable to respond or act on an issue.

The Board will continue to maintain the Charnwood Together website, ensuring that it provides a platform which supports the Theme Groups and Board meetings and highlights the work of the Board and its membership.

### **Charnwood Together Board Membership**

The structure of Charnwood Together is presented in Appendix A and includes the Board, Theme Groups and the Networking and Development Forum. The board will have a Chair and Vice chair elected from and by the membership. The Board membership will nominate chairs for the themed groups and the Charnwood Together Networking Forum

### **Membership**

- Leicestershire Police
- Voluntary Sector
- Environmental Sector
- Charnwood Borough Council
- NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland
- Leicestershire County Council
- Further & Higher Education Sector
- Private Sector
- Chamber Of Trade & Commerce
- Town Centre Partnership/BID Board
- Job Centre Plus
- Any other key local partners as appropriate

### **Authority & Accountability**

- The Board will have no authority over any organisation. All its (key) decisions will need the approval of the board (or Chair of the Board in certain instances).
- The Board will be recognised as the local commissioning body for Leicestershire Together as appropriate.
- The Board will be the strategic lead for governance of the partnership and the Theme groups
- The Board will set and review the performance of the Theme Groups
- The Board will co-ordinate a Networking Forum and provide a twice yearly seminar to highlight achievements and to debate key issues and initiatives for the borough



- The Board will support an E-network of interested agencies and people, providing a quarterly e-newsletter

### **Delegated Powers**

- The board will have decision making powers and not operate as a debating forum.
- The Board shall have delegated responsibilities for approving funding requests and locally determined commissioning arrangements including the Borough's Locality Partnership programme.
- Agenda setting will be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair

### **Meetings:**

- The group will meet on a bi- monthly basis.
- Meeting venues will be provided by board members on a rotation basis

### **Support:**

- Administrative support will be provided by the Borough Council.

## **Theme Groups**

### **Membership**

The 5 Theme Groups will agree their membership and terms of reference ensuring sustainability and ability to deliver.

Theme Groups will have no more than 15 participants/ organisation.

The Board will elect a Theme Group Chairs from the Board or, where appropriate co-opt chairs, if external expertise would make a better fit to the role. The Board will ensure that the elected Chair can commit to the work load of agenda setting, venue and servicing of the meeting. The Chair will sit as a member of the Charnwood Together Board representing and reporting the Theme Groups performance.

### **Theme Group Meetings**

To be able to sustain and deliver their work, Theme Groups will have meetings that compliment the timetable of Board meetings to enable the Board to make informed decisions based upon the Theme Groups reported performance.

### **Theme Group Work Programme**

The Terms of Reference for the Theme Groups will be translated into a work programme with a monitoring system that will be governed and delivered by the Groups.



## **Network & Delivery Forum**

### **Membership**

The Forum will comprise of individuals, service providers, agencies and other organisations who are representative of the people of Charnwood. The Forums terms of reference will be defined by the Charnwood Together Board with an opportunity for the Forum to consider and provide feedback.

### **Meetings and Focus**

The Forum will meet twice a year at 2 Conference/Seminar events which will be co-ordinated by the Charnwood Together Board. The events will look at achievements and also consider any key issues and initiatives for the Borough that may be generated locally, regionally or nationally.

### **Communication**

The Forum members will be invited to join an E-network group who will be regularly updated with a quarterly newsletter.

## Charnwood Together Themes

Charnwood Together will continue to work in line with the themes identified in the previous Sustainable Community Strategy; People Matter, Place and Environment Matters and Prosperity Matters. The Objectives from the previous strategy have been reviewed and brought into line with other local strategies including those proposed by Leicestershire Together. These cross cutting objectives show commitment to both sustainable development and sustainability helping to define the issues that Charnwood Together and its Theme Groups will give priority to.

### People Matter

**Aim:** To nurture healthy, strong and accessible communities – Building cohesive and engaged communities led by active citizens and civil renewal.

**Why?** The concept of healthier, stronger and accessible communities is integral to our vision and it is a building block of renewal and improvement.

Within this concept we aim to work toward improving health and wellbeing in communities, narrowing health inequalities and access to key local services. We will look to respond to local needs and encourage better lifestyles, with focus on the quality of life of older people and the involvement of Children and Young People in the design and delivery of services.

Developing stronger communities through engagement and activism is integral improving the wellbeing and stability of communities. There is considerable local evidence about what makes Charnwood a socially strong place but which also identifies the underlying fault lines that need to be addressed to safeguard that sense of cohesive communities.

Some communities have distinctly higher levels of poor health and are less socially cohesive. Some people within these communities face multiple 'life' problems including drug/alcohol dependency, depression, teenage pregnancies, long term illness, mental and physical health problems, low levels of economic activity, debt and isolation. Good, accessible, advice services play a crucial role in enabling these people to deal with pressing problems.

There are lead agencies for many of these issues but there is a continuing need to facilitate coordination of effort and delivery due to the complexities.

People Matter
SO1: to secure the provision of accessible facilities and services to meet the needs of all local people, having regard to the particular needs of the young, old and "hard to reach".
SO2: to promote health and well being, for example by ensuring that residents have access to health care, local parks, green spaces and natural environment, the countryside and facilities for sport and recreation, creative and community activities.
SO3: to plan and commission services through children's centres, involve key partners across the borough and secure integrated youth support and service activities for 0-19's.

## Place & Environment Matters

Aims: - Creating safe and liveable areas – reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; provide greener, cleaner, safer living environments and sustainable communities.

Why? Residents locally often give priority to improvements in crime reduction and tackling antisocial behaviour; the local physical environment; housing and neighbourhood management; and the provision of constructive activities for children and young people.

Contact with the natural world has long been recognised as having a positive effect on community cohesion and on reducing the level of ill-health and anti-social behaviour. The quality of public spaces affects all of us wherever we live and work. Safe, well maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where we live, which, in turn, is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities. People set great store by the quality of public spaces and recognise them as places that should enhance the quality of life in our neighbourhoods, villages and towns.

There is a desire to protect local identities, landscapes and environments whilst accommodating the need for more housing and employment land.

The issues around creating cleaner, greener and safer areas links to local actions to improve our living environment and the contribution we can make locally to global environmental issues in particular recycling, climate change and energy efficiency.

Place & Environment Matters
SO4: to reduce social exclusion and deprivation and increase community engagement particularly in those parts of the Borough identified as areas of relatively higher need in particular the priority neighbourhoods.
SO5: to protect and reassure our communities through the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.
SO6: to promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities having regard to changes in demographics, for example influencing the type of housing provision.
SO7: to reduce contributions to climate change through minimising waste and encouraging re-cycling in support of achieving a carbon neutral borough.
SO8: to represent and influence the transport needs of the Borough in particular to improve access by public transport to key services and facilities including the key employment centres.
SO9: to protect the special and distinctive qualities of all landscapes, maintain the range of ecological sites and habitats and seek to deliver biodiversity range.
SO10: to create distinctive and quality places for local people by requiring high design and increasingly higher environmental standards in new development and by encouraging improvements in existing properties to be more environmentally friendly.

## Prosperity Matters

Aim: - Maximising opportunities for a dynamic Charnwood economy - thinking and planning ahead to retain and enhance the strong Charnwood economy.

Why? A key contribution to achieving the Partnership's Vision will be a buoyant local economy, because:

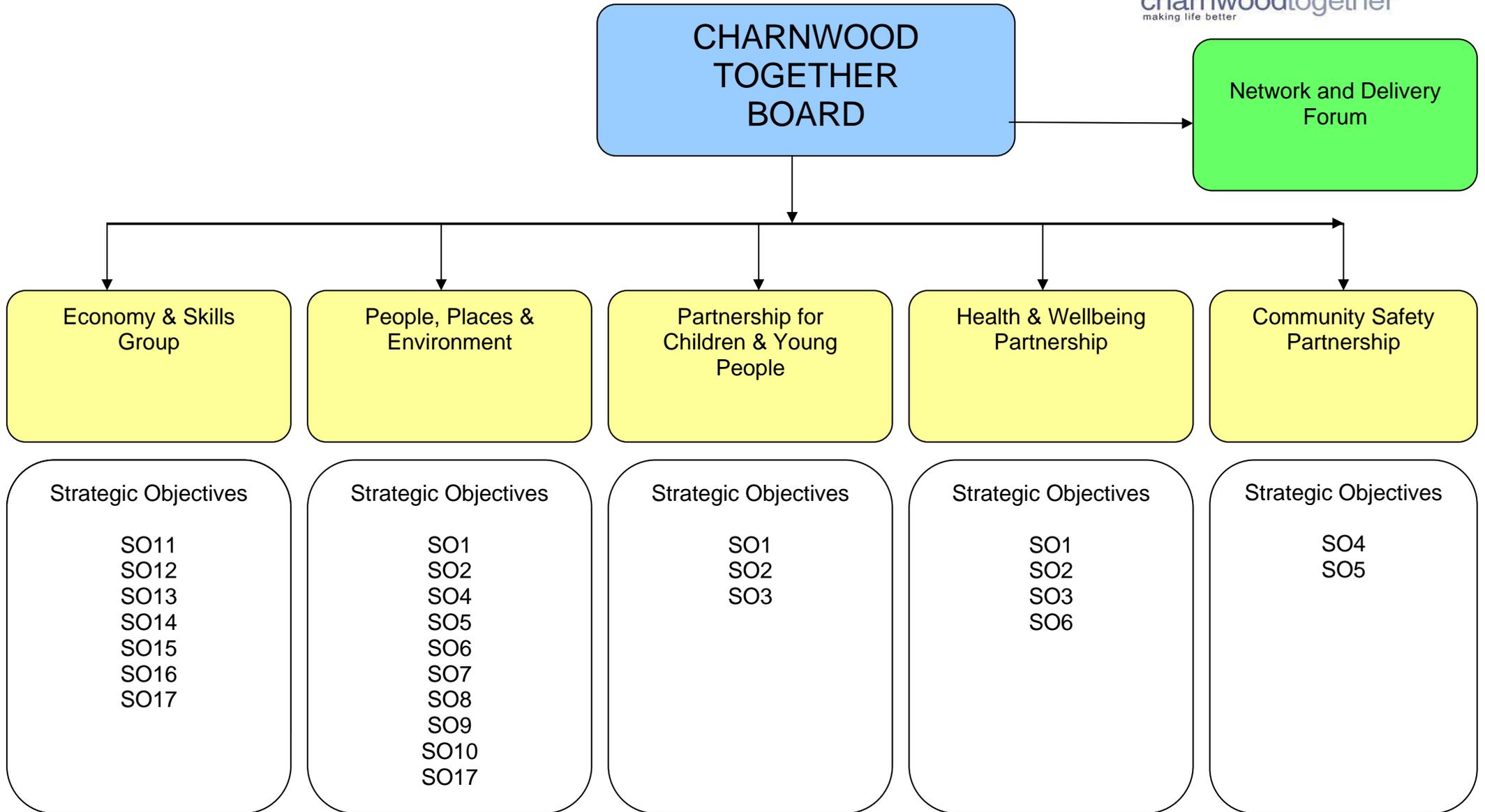
Successful employers improve prosperity by investing in jobs, buildings and services. It maximizes the opportunity for everyone to share in or benefit from Charnwood's prosperity. Economic prosperity should contribute to improve social and environmental quality of life of Charnwood. Accessible local services and facilities are key to the sustainability of towns and villages as communities.

The Partnership has a key role in acting as a catalyst to capitalise on our strengths and opportunities, address our weaknesses and work in support of regeneration and business initiatives.

Charnwood has the second largest economy within Leicestershire, after the City of Leicester. Loughborough University is a major employer and has a growing reputation both for the quality and range of its teaching but also its diverse areas of research including environmental technologies, engineering and sports science.

While seeking to build on these strengths in our economy there is the need to address some underlying weaknesses including business creation rates, sector structure and the supply of available, quality employment land and skilled workforces. Identifying and addressing the skills levels of people in Charnwood will be a significant focus and priority due in part to the increasing unemployment levels both locally and nationwide.

Prosperity Matters
SO11: to sustain and enhance Loughborough town centre as a prosperous, attractive and vibrant destination for shopping, entertainment and leisure as well as a place to live.
SO12: to capitalise on the benefits of Loughborough University, especially those associated with its reputation as a centre of sporting excellence, research into innovation, new technologies and sustainability.
SO13: to ensure that there is a network of vibrant 'local' centres so residents have access to a range of shops, services and facilities.
SO14: to meet needs for homes, including affordable housing in line with regional requirements.
SO15: to provide all communities in Charnwood with access to quality jobs and improved standards of life by safeguarding key employment sites and creating opportunities for new high quality employment sites, including a new Science Park at Loughborough.
SO16: to encourage the local economy towards a higher share of higher-value, higher quality, innovative industries and services and ensure labour market balance by providing for a mix of jobs and access to training and education including those for less skilled members of the community.
SO17: to encourage thriving and diverse sustainable rural enterprise and farming and the promotion of local foods and local energy sources.



<b>Charnwood Together STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>People Matter</b>
SO1: to secure the provision of accessible facilities and services to meet the needs of all local people, having regard to the particular needs of the young, old and “hard to reach”.
SO2: to promote health and well being, for example by ensuring that residents have access to health care, local parks, green spaces and natural environment, the countryside and facilities for sport and recreation, creative and community activities.
SO3: to plan and commission services through children’s centres, involve key partners across the borough and secure integrated youth support and service activities for 0-19’s.
<b>Place &amp; Environment Matters</b>
SO4: to reduce social exclusion and deprivation and increase community engagement particularly in those parts of the Borough identified as areas of relatively higher need in particular the priority neighbourhoods.
SO5: to protect and reassure our communities through the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.
SO6: to promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities having regard to changes in demographics, for example influencing the type of housing provision.
SO7: to reduce contributions to climate change through minimising waste and encouraging recycling in support of achieving a carbon neutral borough.
SO8: to represent and influence the transport needs of the Borough in particular to improve access by public transport to key services and facilities including the key employment centres.
SO9: to protect the special and distinctive qualities of all landscapes, maintain the range of ecological sites and habitats and seek to deliver biodiversity range.
SO10: to create distinctive and quality places for local people by requiring high design and increasingly higher environmental standards in new development and by encouraging improvements in existing properties to be more environmentally friendly.
<b>Prosperity Matters</b>
SO11: to sustain and enhance Loughborough town centre as a prosperous, attractive and vibrant destination for shopping, entertainment and leisure as well as a place to live.
SO12: to capitalise on the benefits of Loughborough University, especially those associated with its reputation as a centre of sporting excellence, research into innovation, new technologies and sustainability.
SO13: to ensure that there is a network of vibrant ‘local’ centres so residents have access to a range of shops, services and facilities.
SO14: to meet needs for homes, including affordable housing in line with regional requirements.
SO15: to provide all communities in Charnwood with access to quality jobs and improved standards of life by safeguarding key employment sites and creating opportunities for new high quality employment sites, including a new Science Park at Loughborough.
SO16: to encourage the local economy towards a higher share of higher-value, higher quality, innovative industries and services and ensure labour market balance by providing for a mix of jobs and access to training and education including those for less skilled members of the community.
SO17: to encourage thriving and diverse sustainable rural enterprise and farming and the promotion of local foods and local energy sources.