

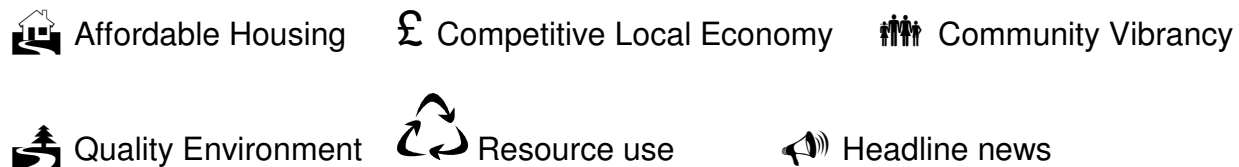
Agenda Item 5




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|---------------------------|--|
| Item | Sounding Board Survey results |
| Update | 17 September 2007 |
| Item for SHSP to consider | <p>Background</p> <p>The South Hams Citizens' Panel, 'Sounding Board', was established in 2002 as a means of consulting a representative sample of South Hams residents about a variety of issues affecting them and their local area. There are currently 947 panel members who have agreed to take part in regular Sounding Board surveys. The panel is largely representative of the wider South Hams population in terms of age, ethnicity and gender and is refreshed every three years.</p> <p>The recent Sounding Board survey comprised of questions relating to Quality of Life in the District, as recommended by the Audit Commission and achieved a 66% response rate.</p> <p>The results from the survey will be used to inform the "State of the District" report contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy, and by SHDC's Improvement Unit, to build a profile of the District. The results will also be useful in relation to work surrounding the recent Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', within which local leadership, neighbourhoods and empowering communities are key themes.</p> <p>Survey results</p> <p>The survey results largely paint a positive picture regarding quality of life in the South Hams. Some of the key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In respect of changes to quality of life, access to the environment was the aspect for which the greatest number of respondents indicated that there had been improvements over the last three years, followed by activities for teenagers and community services. • The top three aspects that affect people's quality of life for which respondents believed there had been most deterioration in the last three years, were the level of traffic congestion, wage levels combined with the cost of living and the level of anti-social behaviour. • The quality of life area deemed to be most in need of improvement was affordable housing; this reflects the Sustainable Community Strategy priority to secure a supply of housing for local people at affordable levels. |











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|---------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was little perception of discrimination in the South Hams, particularly with regard to ethnic or religious communities, gender or sexual orientation. Age was the category that received the highest number of people who thought there was discrimination (13%). • The journeys that people use their vehicles for most are recreation, main shopping trips and work. The journeys that people are more likely to walk for are trips to the park, local shop and post office. • Most respondents thought that SHDC keeps them informed to some degree, with a fifth saying that they did so 'a great deal' (21%) and over half saying 'to some extent' (60%). Furthermore, over a half of respondents indicated that SHDC involves residents and takes their views into account when making decisions (56%). • 72% of respondents agreed with the statement "By working together, people in my neighbourhood can influence decisions that affect the neighbourhood". In 2004, the percentage of respondents who agreed that people could influence decisions affecting their local area was 30% - giving an overall rise of 42% of respondents indicating that they agree they have an influence in their local area. |
| <p>Action recommended</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSP to note particular the improvement in the percentage of respondents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area. |













‘State of the District’ Summary from the Sustainable Community Strategy Using a selection of local quality of life indicators

Key to symbols:



Information provided through the Audit Commission or South Hams District Council local surveys.
Some ‘baseline’ data relates to 2003/04, others to 2004/05 due to differences in collection / analysis methods.
Where a trend is available from previous information collected, this is shown by   .

| Ref | Quality of Life description | ‘Baseline’ | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--|--|---|---|------|------|
|  | Number of affordable dwellings completed. | 133 (2005/06 data) | 18 (2006/07 data) | | |
|  | a) Average house price b) Average wage House price to wage ratio | a) £248,982 b) £16,487 15:1 | a) £268,352 b) £19,024 14:1 | | |
| £ | The percentage of the working-age population that is in employment. | 78.1%  | 82.8%  | | |
| £ | a) The total number of VAT registered businesses in the area at the end of the year; b) The percentage change in the number of VAT registered businesses. | a) 3,955  b) 0.1%  | a) 3,685  b) 6.8%  | | |
| £ | The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, job prospects have got better or stayed the same. | 61.2%  | 45%  | | |

| Ref | Quality of Life description | 'Baseline' | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|------|------|
|  | The percentage of people surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area. | 21.9% | 72% ↑ | | |
|  | The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, community activities have got better or stayed the same. | 92% | 85% ↓ | | |
|  | The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years: a) public transport has got better or stayed the same; and b) the level of traffic congestion has got better or stayed the same. | a) 67.4% b) 32.7% | a) 55% ↓ b) 33% ↑ | | |
|  | The percentage of people surveyed who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. | 69% | 64% ↓ | | |
|  | The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, parks and open spaces have got better or stayed the same. | 93% | 87% ↓ | | |
|  | The percentage of river length assessed as: a) good biological quality; and b) good chemical quality. | a) 85.6% ↓ b) 98.7 ↓ | a) 89.6% ↑ b) 99.2% ↑ (2005 data) | | |
|  | a) Kg of household waste per head collected; b) the proportion recycled; and c) the proportion composted. | a) 408.2 ↓ b) 20.5% ↑ c) 5% ↑ | a) 415.4 ↑ b) 23.6% ↑ c) 10.4% ↑ (2005/06 data) | | |
|  | Average annual domestic consumption of: a) gas; and b) electricity (kWh). | a) 17,682 b) 5,504 ↓ | No data available at Aug 2007 | | |
|  | Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption, litres). | 160 | No data available at Aug 2007 | | |
|  | The percentage of the population over 60 who live in households that are income deprived. | 10.5% | No data available at Aug 2007 | | |
|  | The percentage of children that live in families that are income deprived. | 12.1% | No data available at Aug 2007 | | |
|  | Election turnout. | 44.7% ↑ (European) | No elections in 2006 | | |