

Foreword



Welcome to our first Annual Report.

As Chair of Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP) I am pleased to share with you a year of successes within the Community Strategy, for which the BLSP is responsible.

You may be aware that Local Strategic Partnerships were set up by government to encourage closer collaboration between key partners in a local authority area. A total of 88 areas within the country have received a considerable amount of extra funding through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to help this process. The BLSP is not one of these, which means it is primarily a free will partnership with a strong desire to raise aspirations for the District and help promote a platform to maintain close mutual knowledge of the considerable positive developments affecting the District in the next few years.

The partners of the BLSP are constantly reviewing ways in which to lever in additional resources to the District, in order to support new and existing projects. The Bassetlaw Community Strategy clearly sets out targets for improvement for the period 2003-2007, and as you will read in the following pages we are already making headway on our goals. As both individual organisations and BLSP partners we are committed to ensuring that we '**Get the Best for Bassetlaw**'.

As current Chair (and longer term Vice-Chair) of the Bassetlaw LSP, I would like to thank the BLSP Board, its Sub-Groups, and the staff from various organisations who actively support it.

I would also like to thank Councillor Graham Oxby, who was the first Chair of the BLSP and wish Councillor Michael Quigley well as he takes over the position of Chair in January 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Newstead', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Newstead
Chair of Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership

Introduction

Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership

Focusing on the 6 key areas within the Community Strategy – Economic Regeneration, Learning & Skills, Environment, Health, Social & Community Development, and Community Safety – the BLSP aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in our District. More than 200 private, public and community organisations are working together to ensure Bassetlaw holds a great future for everyone who lives, works and learns here. The diagram in the following section shows the Structure of the BLSP including Task Groups.

Turning the Vision into Action

The BLSP has an ambitious vision, but one which we are confident we can deliver. Through consultation with Bassetlaw People and the commitment of the Partnership's members we are dedicated to ensuring:

“Bassetlaw will be a place where everyone has the opportunity to live, work, learn, and enjoy leisure time and take pride in creating a safe, fair and healthy environment”

In order for the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership to achieve its vision we are focusing our efforts on 6 key areas for action. Each of these areas is being led by one of the Sub-Groups of the BLSP.

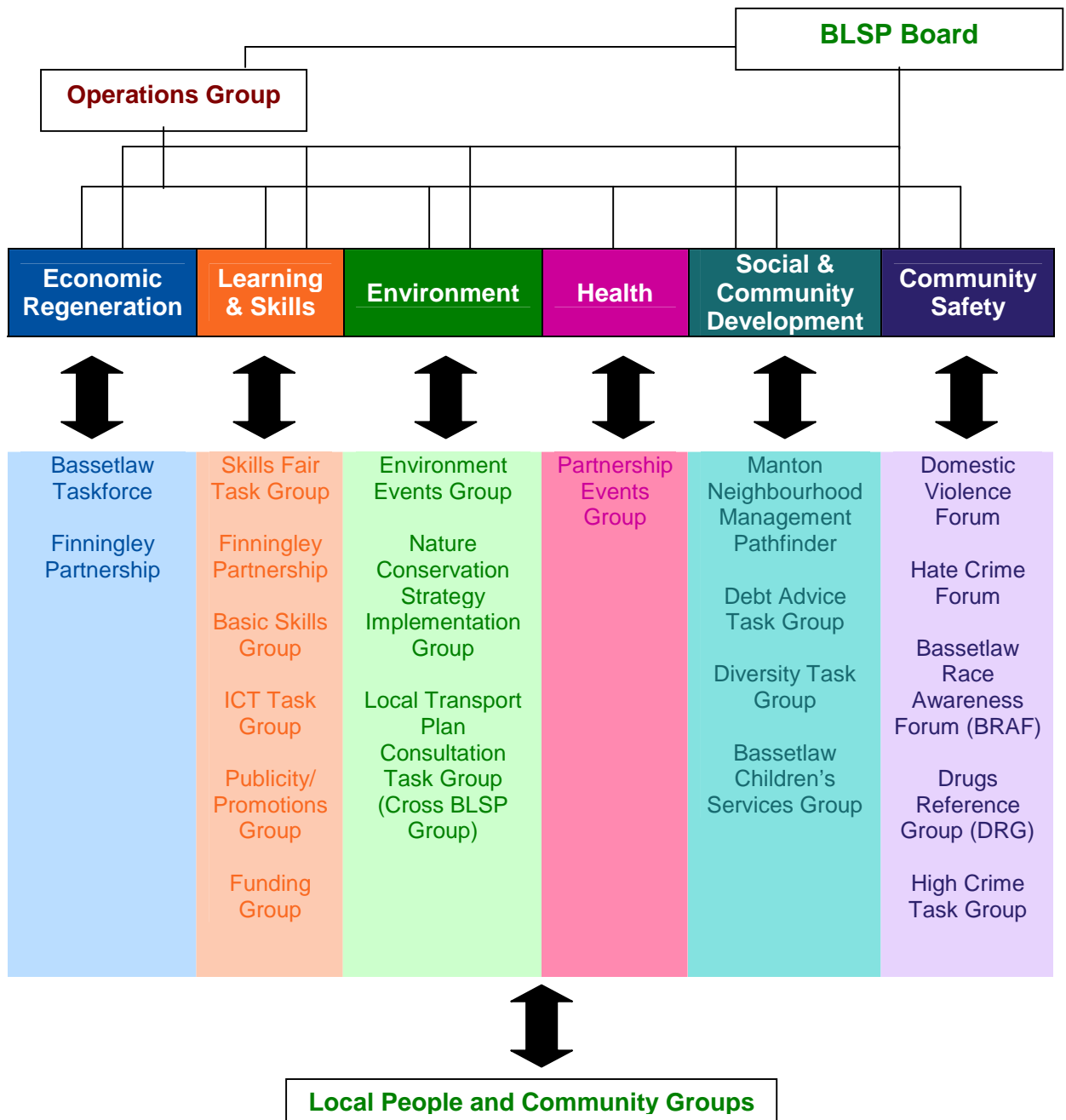
Structure of the Partnership

Bassetlaw District

One of the main functions of the Community Strategy is to regenerate the District and our communities by working in partnership with local service providers, public sector organisations, voluntary sector agencies, and local residents.

The Local Strategic Partnership is key to this process of joint working and has an important role to play in

- u identifying issues that cut across the Sub-Groups,
- u facilitating effective communication between Sub-Groups, and
- u in promoting closer partnership working.



Linking to the County Community Strategy 'A Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire'

In May 2003, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) produced 'A Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire'. The document was written following widespread consultation, with three main aims:

- u To be the foundation of an ever-evolving community strategy
- u To focus on where a countywide approach will add value to what individual organizations or mire local partnerships will deliver
- u To provide the context for detailed work at a local level by individual organisations, partnerships and communities.

NCC recognise that a community strategy must evolve to suit changing circumstances. It should provide a vital link between local concerns and priorities and regional and national frameworks. It cannot be a blueprint upon which all future work should be based.

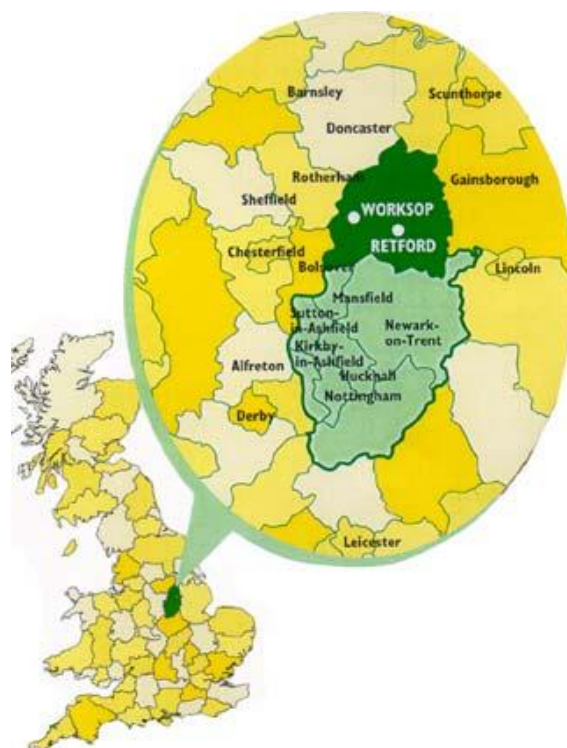
Within each priority area they have identified a number of the Audit Commission's Quality of Life Indicators (QoL), and these are also monitored by the BLSP. The data for all the QoL Indicators monitored by NCC will be collated centrally by their research department, and then disseminated to District LSP's.

The document 'A Framework Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire', builds on existing plans and strategies, providing an opportunity to see these as part of a wider and more strategic picture. It should not duplicate or supersede them, but add value to existing activities.

The Strategy has 5 Priority Areas:

A Safe County - People need to feel safe in their homes, on the streets and in our communities

Objective 1	We will promote security and combat crime particularly focusing on violent and drug crime, burglaries and vehicle crime
Objective 2	We will work with young people to reduce anti-social behaviour, stimulate engagement in school and promote responsible citizenship
Objective 3	We will reduce avoidable injury across Nottinghamshire whether on the roads or in the home



A Clean and Green County – Looking after our environment

Objective 4	We will minimise waste production and pollution and reduce the environmental impact of development and transport
Objective 5	We will improve the local environment in our towns, villages and our countryside including addressing the very local issues affecting the quality of our neighbourhoods – litter, noise, grass cutting and cleanliness
Objective 6	We will protect and enhance our wildlife, our natural and built heritage and our countryside
Objective 7	We will encourage the exploitation of opportunities within the environmental and land based industries sector and support our rural economic to manage changes stemming from social, environmental and economic change

Learning and Earning – A good education and decent jobs contribute to thriving communities

Objective 8	We will help people gain the right skills and stimulate enterprise, small firm growth to create jobs within diverse local economies
Objective 9	We will encourage higher collective aspirations of local communities in our towns and villages across Nottinghamshire and we
Objective 10	We want all children to reach their full potential therefore we will ensure access to quality childcare, play and early years education; and we will exploit links between our culture, our natural and historic environment and learning

A Healthy and Caring County – Healthy, happy individuals in healthy communities

Objective 11	We will raise standards of health by tackling poverty, inequality and the environment factors that affect the health of the most vulnerable and hard to reach groups
Objective 12	We will promote healthier lifestyles to improve health and fitness across the county
Objective 13	We will promote equal access to services dependant on need
Objective 14	We will address the needs of elderly people and people with disabilities by promoting their independence and stimulating their engagement in local community activities

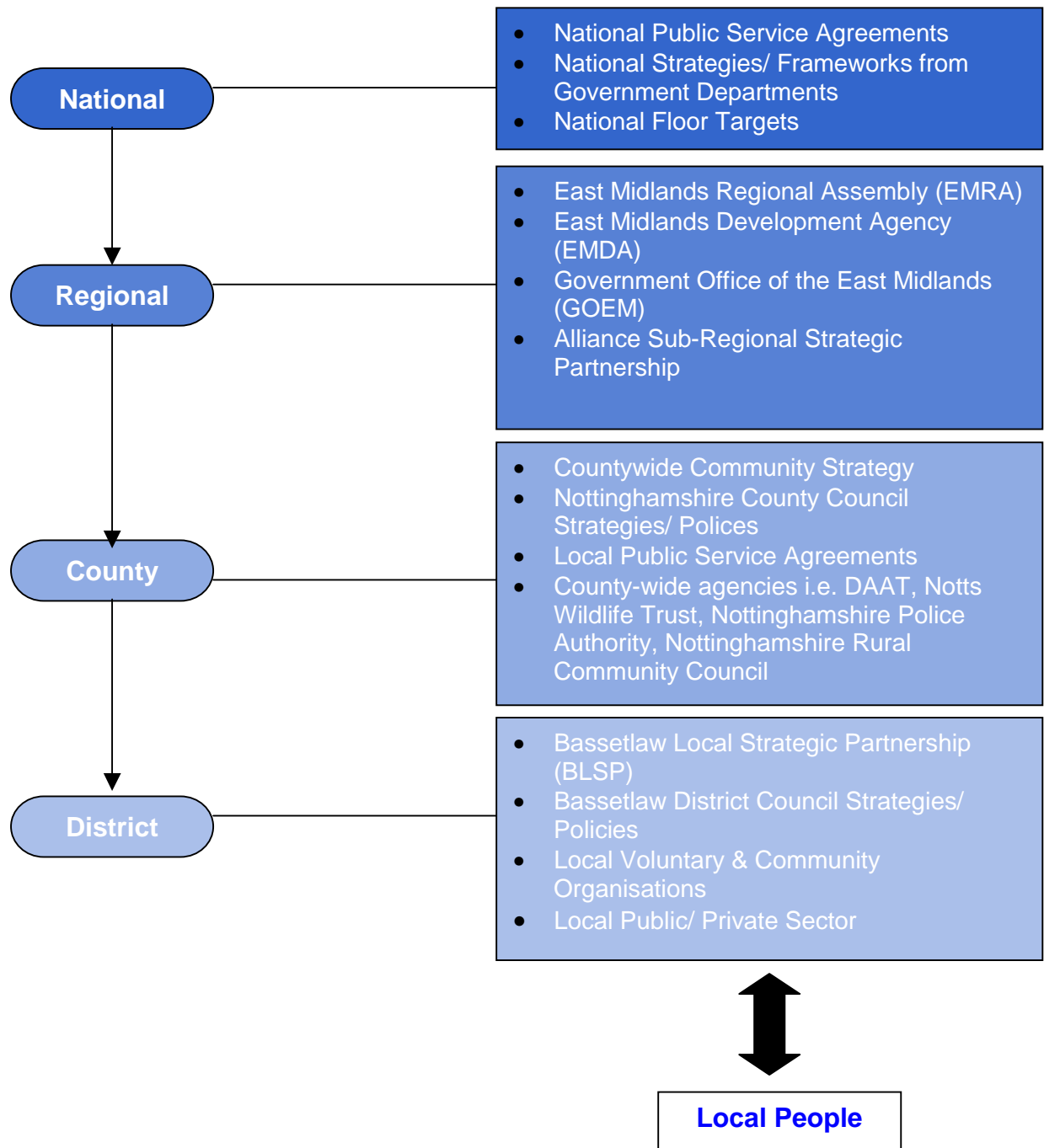
The County's Future – The best start in life

Objective 15	We will involve and engage young people in local decision making, active citizenship and in the design and delivery of services and facilities
Objective 16	We will promote the welfare of the most vulnerable children and those in greatest need and ensure that measures are in place to safeguard them from harm

The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum comprises all major stakeholders, who attend regular community conferences, meeting at least annually. The Forum meets to discuss priorities and set the vision for the subsequent twelve months. The Nottinghamshire Partnership Forum is responsible for steering the further development of the Framework Community Strategy, which will evolve to meet changing circumstances and demands.

The Wider Picture

Outside Bassetlaw District the BLSP must ensure that the Community Strategy addresses the priorities of key agencies at County, Regional and National Level. The flowchart below gives a flavour of some of the key agencies the District works with. A more detailed version can be found in the main Strategy document in the Chapter 'Structure of the Partnership'.



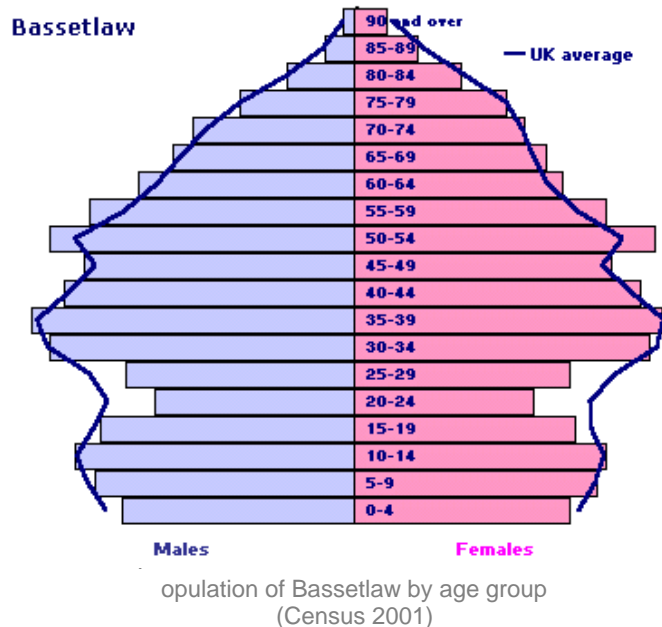
District Profile

The current 'State of Bassetlaw'

Bassetlaw has undergone a number of changes in recent years. Below is a small sample of the statistics available for the District. Some of these are available at ward level, and we are constantly reviewing and monitoring techniques to enable more ward level data to be available.

Key Facts

- u The current population of Bassetlaw is 107713¹.
- u 41.7% of the District's population (44887)¹ live outside of the main centers of Worksop and Retford in 73 villages, served by 45 Parish Councils and 10 Parish Meetings.
- u Bassetlaw population change since 1991 based on the 2001 Census is 2900 (2.7%)².
- u There has been 44.4% decrease in the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance between November 2001 and October 2004.³



- u **Work**
Status (all people aged 16-74)¹

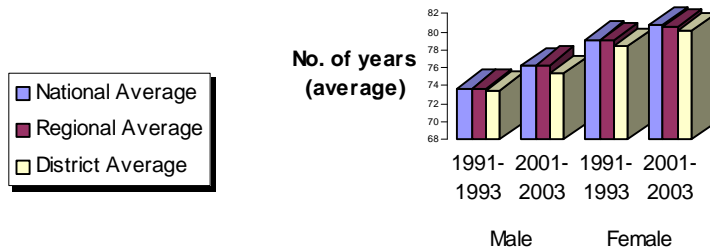
	Value	Eng & Wales Rank/376 (proportion)	Regional Rank/ 40
Employed	45063	284	34
Unemployed	3090	75	10
Long-term unemployed	984	74	8
Student (economically active)	1281	352	37
Retired	12041	116	12
Student (economically inactive)	2651	161	11
Looking after home/family	5357	110	8
Permanently sick or disabled	5952	59	4
Other inactive	2890	58	4

- u Bassetlaw has the most visited tourist attraction in Nottinghamshire. The national Trust's Clumber Park receives an estimated one million visitors per annum, more than Sherwood Forest and Rufford Country Park. In addition Bassetlaw can also boast the most visited attraction in Nottinghamshire which charges as admission fee, sundown Adventureland at Rampton, which welcomes in excess of 250,000 per year.
- u Bassetlaw has 19 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), over 1100 listed buildings, 18 conservations areas, and 191 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

u Mortality from accidents (all accidents, all ages) during 2001 and 2002 was 26.03 per 100,000 of the population⁴. Based on the DSR (Directly Age-Standardised Rate), Bassetlaw ranks 3rd highest within the East Midlands for mortality from accidents, and 2nd highest in Nottinghamshire.

u Life expectancy at birth of Bassetlaw residents has risen in line with the National and Regional averages, over the last 10 years.⁵

Life expectancy at birth (years) in Bassetlaw compared to National and Regional averages, 1991-1993 to 2001-2003



u Housing

Number of Houses built within the District since 1991⁶

Year	East Bassetlaw	West Bassetlaw	District Total
1991	151	253	404
1992	178	305	483
1993	161	235	396
1994	153	283	436
1995	85	213	298
1996	125	265	390
1997	100	279	379
1998	99	247	346
1999	129	283	412
2000	146	367	513
2001	127	388	515
2002	101	203	307
2003	169	185	354
2004	102	224	326
Overall Total			5559

u As of April 1st 2004, there are approximately 1700 dwellings with planning permission waiting to be developed throughout the District, 940 in the east and 791 in the west.⁷

u Between 2002-2005 overall recorded crime has gone down 3%.⁸

Key Measures for Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership

The table below contains 9 key measures by which the BLSP assesses its overall effect. The measures cut across all thematic areas of the BLSP and the partnership work of each Sub-Group will inevitably have an impact in the long-term. These are reported on annually where possible alongside the other indicators monitored by the individual Sub-Groups.

	Definition	Base Number	Performance 2003/2004
1	Gross Domestic Product per head of population	Base Data GDP for North Nottinghamshire 81 compared to the UK 100 in 1998 ⁹	Data for 2003/2004 not available. GVA in 2002 for North Nottinghamshire = £4,870,000 compared to £926,275,000 for UK. (Most current data at time of printing)
2	Unemployment rate in Bassetlaw	Base data 4% Average Unemployment in Bassetlaw from January - December 2002 (3.0% Notts average)	Unemployment in Bassetlaw from April 2003 to March 2004 – 2.03% (average over year) ³
3	Number of households receiving income support	Base number of 6,495 for Bassetlaw (August 2000)	This information is not available at District Level.
4	Number of years of healthy life	Base data from 1997-1999 Government Office 74.3 years for men and 79.4 years for women in Bassetlaw ¹⁰	Office for National Statistics figures for Bassetlaw 2001-2003 – 75.3 years for males and 80.1 years for females
5	Percentage of homes meeting basic healthy homes standard	Base Data of 97% based on Bassetlaw District Council Annual Housing Report ¹¹	3.13% private sector dwellings made fit or demolished.
6	Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the Local Education Authority (LEA) achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent	Base Data from 2002/2003 figures for BV38 – 47.2%. Collated via NCC National Best Value Indicators (This is the county average)	BV38 2003/2004 – 47.10%. Collated via NCC National Best Value Indicators (This is the county average)
7	Number of reported crimes	Base Data will be 2002/03 figures – Notts Police target to a reduction of 3% by 2004 ¹²	2003/2004 figures – 13,342 total reported crimes (135 per 1,000 population). This is a 0.97% reduction on 2002/2003.
8	Percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness standard in their area.	Base data of 58% of respondents satisfied with the cleanliness of the streets and relevant land (2000/01 User Satisfaction Survey figures for BV89) (Base data for 2003/2004 will be available June 2004)	User Satisfaction Survey figures for BV89 2003/2004 – 54% ¹³
9	Overall satisfaction with the area	Base Data of 70% satisfied as at October 2002 (Bassetlaw Citizen's Panel Survey)	78% ¹⁴

Bassetlaw District Local Development Framework (LDF)

In 2002 work commenced on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Bassetlaw intended to replace the current Local Plan approved by the Council in 2001 and roll forward planning policy in the district. A timetable and work programme was agreed with the aim of producing an adopted plan by 2005/06.

In late 2002 the Government, amongst wider proposals for the planning system in England, published plans to overhaul the development plan system. A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act was subsequently enacted in May 2004. As a consequence of the new legislation the Council is now charged with preparing a Local Development Framework (replacing Local Plans). The LDF is the name given to a collection of documents, which on approval will provide planning policy for an area. The new Draft Development Plan Documents for the district, produced as part of the Local Development Framework, will be published during 2005 and 2006. Under this new flexible system a 'portfolio' of different planning documents will be published separately.

The new Act requires local planning authorities to carry out additional tasks over and above what was required under the previous legislation, including for example putting together a formal work programme and timetable – subject to Secretary of State approval – and undertaking widespread and structured consultation exercises. Council officers are currently reviewing the legislation and determining how to take matters forward. Discussions between the Policy and Performance Service and the Policy and Implementation Unit of the Planning Service regarding the *Draft Development Strategy and Core Objectives* have ensured that it complies with the objectives of the Community Strategy. Meetings between planning officers and LSP Sub-Groups have also ensured that any relevant 'Actions' within the 6 Action Plans of the Community Strategy have been incorporated into all development plan documents.

To guarantee that these linkages are maintained, planning officers will meet each Sub-Group during January/ February 2005, to discuss the draft documents, timetables and consultation procedures.

Bassetlaw Community Empowerment Network

As a result of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in July 2003, Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) are completing a Best Value Review of Community Engagement. As part of this would also involve how BDC engages with partners within the District, as well as the public, it was felt appropriate to review how BLSP engages with Bassetlaw residents at the same time.

The initial discussions around improving community engagement arose from the Operations Group meetings in February, April, and June 2004. This was taken further by the Social & Community Development Sub-Group, who discussed the issue in detail at their meeting in May of this year, examining examples of how other areas had addressed the issue. This included comparisons of areas receiving Neighbourhood Renewal Funding that have formed Community Empowerment Networks (CEN) to operate alongside the LSP.

At the BLSP Board meeting in July 2004, a report outlined the initial proposal for a CEN to operate within the District. Within this the Board agreed to the following four recommendations:

- u The BLSP support the establishment of a Community Empowerment Network.
- u The Board considers granting a place on the Board to a representative of a Community Empowerment Network (subject to this approach being ratified by Bassetlaw organisations/ communities).
- u The detail of the organisation of the Community Empowerment Network will be led by the Social & Community Development Sub-Group.
- u The issue of the Network and how it might be utilised will be included in the Board's Away Day agenda to allow all members of the Board to contribute to its development.

The proposal agreed by the BLSP Board to support the administration and function of the Network includes:

- u A Quarterly review of the member database
- u Mailouts
- u E-mail mailshots
- u News Bulletins – minimum of 3 per year
- u Organisation and delivery of 2 conferences per year

Our Rural Community

As mentioned above within the list of Key Facts, 41.7% of the District's population (44887)¹ live outside of the main centres of Worksop and Retford in 73 villages, served by 45 parish councils and 10 parish meetings. The two Market Towns of Worksop and Retford serve as the hub of communication for the villages, most of which have populations of less than 3,000.

This results in a large proportion of local services being delivered across a wide rural area, leading to issues of access, standards, and general availability. Bassetlaw District Council produced a Rural Strategy in March 2003 which recognises the priorities as outlined in the Government's Strategy and the need for partnership working to deliver quality services to rural areas. Bassetlaw has established partnerships with the PCT, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council and the voluntary sector. In addition, Nottinghamshire County Council has set up a Rural Strategy Study Group to develop a Rural Strategy framework for the County.

Rural Strategy 2004 – Modernising Rural Delivery

In July 2004 Defra produced the Government's Rural Strategy 2004 that set out a targeted approach to rural policy and delivery for the next 3-35 years. The vision is for a sustainable countryside that is living, working, protected and vibrant. It identified 3 priority areas:

- u Economic and Social Regeneration
- u Social Justice for All – Fair Access to Public Services and Affordable Housing and tackling Social Exclusion
- u Enhancing the Value of our Countryside

The Government Strategy recognised that partnership working should deliver services to meet local needs.

The Government has devolved responsibility for rural issues to Regional Development Agencies and Government office. The needs of rural areas will be addressed in regional strategies with funding allocated to communities within a region streamlined into a single Funding Programme from April 2005.

Rural/ Urban Classification 2004

At the same time as the Rural Strategy was published the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published a new rural definition based on settlement patterns (www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrvdp.asp). It is a statistical tool to help target responses to rural areas. Using the new definition Bassetlaw has 10 wards (40%) defined as urban, 10 wards (40%) identified as village, hamlet and isolated dwellings, and 5 wards (20%) classified as Town and Fringe. Defra is also establishing a Rural Evidence Research Centre to provide a rural database to help define areas of greatest need.

It is hoped that Government departments will begin to produce rural data sets to identify rural deprivation and working with partners in the BLSP a comprehensive database can be established.

Rural Proofing

Rural proofing all aspects of policy is a consistent theme of the Government's Rural Strategy 2004. The Countryside Agency has produced a Checklist for Local Strategic Partnerships to 'rural proof' their policies (www.countryside.gov.uk).

Bassetlaw District Council has been part of a Countryside Agency funded Rural Proofing initiative in the East Midlands to produce a toolkit. The Bassetlaw rural toolkit will be available in January 2005 and it is hoped that the LSP will consider applying rural proofing to future policy developments.

Rural Charter (East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum)

It has been decided that the LSP will apply for membership to the EMRAF Rural Charter, which identifies best practice in Bassetlaw LSP in addressing the service needs of the rural community.

Looking Ahead

BLSP will 'Think Rural' and will continue to develop policies and services for Bassetlaw's rural areas. The BLSP will begin the process of rural proofing to ensure that people living in rural areas have equal access to services. In addition the BLSP will begin to identify rural areas within the Action Plans according to the rural /urban definitions 2004.

Rural Social Inclusion Indicators 2003/04

The indicators for 2003/2004 were taken from The Countryside Agency document – 'Indicators of Rural Disadvantage' which identifies a series of indicators to highlight the pattern of deprivation for households within rural areas.

Within the document there are twelve indicators grouped into five themes:

- u Income and Financial;
- u Employment;
- u Education;
- u Health;
- u and Housing.

The Indicators of Rural Social Inclusion agreed for Bassetlaw included the following:

Rural Disadvantage Indicators	
Income and Financial Disadvantage	
1	ID (2000) income deprivation domain – rural ranks
2	Low Income/ % households with below 60% of median income
3	Geographical availability of Post Offices
4	Geographical availability of Banks/ Building Societies
5	Geographical availability of Cash Points
Employment Disadvantage	
6	ID (2000) Employment deprivation domain
Housing Disadvantage	
7	Mortgage Index

It was originally proposed that the Indicators would be reported on annually to monitor changes in the pattern of rural social inclusion in Bassetlaw. However in 2004 the new Indices of Deprivation (IMD 2004) published by ODPM was calculated on a different basis to the IMD 2000, resulting in the data being incomparable. Therefore for 2004/2005 a new set of indicators has been agreed.

Rural Social Inclusion Indicators 2004/05

It is proposed to use the indicators listed below to measure Rural Social Inclusion for 2004/05 in Bassetlaw.

Indices of Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004)

The new IMD 2004 measured seven domains of deprivation and these can be used to provide data on rural areas to Super Output Level where appropriate.

- u IMD 2004 Income Deprivation – rural
- u IMD 2004 Employment Deprivation – rural
- u IMD 2004 Barriers to Housing and Services – which provides data on access and affordability

Countryside Agency

The Countryside Agency identified in the document 'Indicators of Rural Disadvantage' the following:

- u Geographical Availability of Post Offices
- u Geographical Availability of Banks and Building Societies
- u Geographical Availability of Cash Points

The State of the Countryside 2004 identified Headline Rural Indicators on:

- u Low Income
- u Employment activity rates

Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004

Nottinghamshire County Council has produced an updated report on social need across the county using 22 indicators. It is proposed to use 3 indicators from the survey that may identify rural need in Bassetlaw - overcrowded households, provision of central heating and dependency rates.

Rural Disadvantage Indicators	
Income and Financial Disadvantage	
1	IMD 2004 – Income Deprivation Rural u % of people in rural wards in low income band
2	Geographical Availability of Post Offices
3	Geographical Availability of Banks
4	Geographical Availability of Building Societies
5	Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004 u People dependant on those in employment
Employment Disadvantage	
6	IMD 2004 – Employment Deprivation Rural u Employment activity rate in rural areas
7	IMD 2004 – Employment Deprivation Rural u Unemployment rates in rural areas
Housing Disadvantage	
8	IMD 2004 Barriers to Housing and Services
9	Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004 u Households that are overcrowded
10	Social Need in Nottinghamshire 2004 u Households lacking central heating

BLSP Feedback Conference

In May 2005, the BLSP will hold a Feedback Conference, for local stakeholders and BLSP partners to highlight the work of the BLSP to date. The Conference will provide an opportunity for the Sub-Groups of the BLSP to showcase their key projects and assess future areas for joint working across the different themes of the Community Strategy.

In addition, the event will also allow the Board and partners such as Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), and Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) to outline key influences on the BLSP's agenda for the future, and how the Partnership can further progress. One of the main outcomes from the day will be to examine how the Community Strategy is truly adding value through its work. The key is to ensure the strategy is achieving its purpose:

“... a strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.”

(s.4(1), Local Government Act, 2000)

