

## APPENDIX 5 – LOCAL

The WYSP will sit at the heart of sport and active recreation in West Yorkshire. As such it will be in the position to collate, interpret and disseminate performance information collected by key partners such as local authorities, national governing bodies, universities and others.

This key information will lead to more rationale planning and delivery of services across West Yorkshire.

### Underpinning Principles

The work of West Yorkshire Sport Partnership will be underpinned by the following principles which all partners will be expected to adhere to:

- Sport is FUN
- Commitment to equity and equality of opportunity
- Safety and welfare of participants is paramount
- Groups and partnerships can retain their own independence whilst remaining part of the network
- The Partnership is open to all organisations in West Yorkshire committed to its aims
- Delivery will be through the most effective and efficient means
- Communication will be open and honest
- We will systematically measure the impact of work in a bid to continually improve
- We will take an 'athlete/participant' –centred approach

### Fast Forward - Wakefield District Community Strategy

#### The Fast Forward Vision

In 25 years time Wakefield District will be a place:-

- Moving forward motivated by pride and its heritage
- Where our people look after themselves and each other so that they are safe and healthy, having the skills and confidence to take more control over their lives.
- With places that are attractive to live, learn, work and invest in and where our diverse towns and villages work together to promote the well being of the whole District.
- Where together with the younger people of the District we will ensure that the work we do now will stand the test of time.

#### Our Principles

The principles we need to guide us in delivering this strategy relate to how we do things so that whatever we do we do so in a way that:-

- Engages with and reflects the needs of local communities
- Develops cohesive communities
- Leads to sustainable improvements

## Feeling and being safer

This means dealing with issues that are making people feel unsafe now and starting a series of longer term, inter-connected actions that will tackle the underlying causes of what makes people feel unsafe.

## Looking after ourselves

This means meeting some of the more fundamental needs of people and contributing to a healthy life and a caring community. This is not simply dealing with disease and infirmity but aiming for improving physical, psychological and social well being. To do this we also need to provide opportunities for education, employment and decent affordable housing.

## Developing a dynamic economy

This means building on changes taking place in a local economy by encouraging investment and business growth by developing a new entrepreneurial spirit and raising and developing new skills. Supporting the development of the cultural industries and service sectors, which are national growth sectors. Making it possible for our town centres to undergo an urban renaissance and reconnecting our coalfield communities.

## Investing in our people

This means developing the economic and social well being of Wakefield District by promoting a culture of lifelong learning, encouraging continuous improvement and achievement, providing accessible and inclusive services for all and raising aspirations.

## Improving our places

This means creating and maintaining quality environments that are clean, safe, healthy, accessible and pleasant - places where we live, visit and enjoy that everyone can be proud and feel ownership of.

To deliver the Fast Forward Vision we need to make sure that we:

- **Are safe and feel safer**
- **Are healthy and** look after ourselves
- **Are part of a** dynamic local economy
- **Are skillful and confident by** investing in our people
- **Live in attractive environments by** improving our places

Fast Forward establishes the Partnership's priorities for action. Agreement on how these priorities are to be addressed through partnership working during the next three years has been secured and is documented in the Partnership's Joint Action Plan. Reviewed annually, the Joint Action Plan is incorporated into the Council's Corporate planning process to ensure effective alignment between the Corporate Performance Plan, Service Improvement Plans and the Joint Action Plan.

## Wakefield City Council – Corporate Strategy 2005 -2006

### The Council's Ambitions and Core Values

#### Our Ambitions

The ambitions of the Council were established in early 2003. This revision for 2005/6 re-affirms our commitments and aspirations. As a Council we will contribute to the delivery of the Community Strategy by working more effectively in four key ways:

**Strategic** – The Council, as a principal partner, endorses and will pursue the strategic vision for the long-term future of the whole District articulated in Fast Forward.

**Corporate** – The Council's contribution to that longer-term vision is reflected in the Corporate Performance Plan, which incorporates our Corporate Improvement Priorities. The Corporate Performance Plan establishes the Council's scope and demonstrates how it can work to deliver the vision.

**Continuously Improving** - Improvement plans for the Council's various services elaborate the ways in which these can contribute to the delivery of the vision. Services will be tasked with demonstrating progress and this will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

**Citizen-Focused** – We recognise that everyone has a stake in the Fast Forward vision for the District's future, so it is important that we continue to listen and respond to the aspirations of citizens.

We will seek to adopt a citizen's perspective to inform how we improve our services to help us to deliver the vision. We will strive to ensure that all our key decisions are open and that we are answerable to the public we serve. We understand that in order to be valued we need to give value.

We recognise that our employees are our most valuable resource and most of them are also citizens of the District.

#### Our Core Values

To meet our objectives towards improving people's quality of life, we must make clear what we believe in. The Council has adopted the Partnership's crosscutting principles as Core Values to guide what we do as an authority and influence all our actions.

## The Council's Strategic Priorities

The Council is working to the five strategic priorities identified in last years Corporate Performance Plan. These reflect a balance between national and local issues. These strategic priorities will be assessed in line with the Fast Forward review. The priorities, with links to the relevant Community Strategy challenge, are:

- A major programme of environmental improvements and community safety measures around Cleaner Places – Safer People under the heading “*Neighbourhood Action*” to ensure a clean and attractive environment. (Feeling and Being Safer Improving our Places) Investing in Education and particularly in schools to maintain and improve levels of student achievement and to meet Government expectations for raised standards. (Investing in our People) Investing in Social Services, to provide more flexible, responsive services that focus on people’s needs, provide greater choice and meet Government expectations of improved social care and reducing health inequalities. (Looking after Ourselves)
- Strengthening the corporate capacity of the Council by modernising governance and scrutiny arrangements, developing and implementing a Corporate Performance Management Framework and increasing the management competencies of staff.
- Delivering comprehensive programmes of Regeneration in the three priority areas of Wakefield City Centre, The Five Towns and the South East of the District. (Developing a Dynamic Local Economy, Improving our Places and Investing in our People).
- During 2006 the strategic priorities of the Council will be reviewed to take account of changing priorities and national drivers such as the impact of the Children Act 2004 and the Government’s 10 year vision for local authorities.

## Delivering the Strategic Priorities

The Council’s strategic priorities have been aligned to support the Community Strategy challenges demonstrating our commitment as a key partner in the Wakefield District Partnership.

The Council cannot successfully deliver these priorities without working closely with key partners such as the Police, Primary Care Trusts, schools and colleges, business partners and the voluntary and community sectors as well as regional and national agencies.

The Council has well established partnerships with public and private sector organisations to deliver quality services and will continue to build effective partnerships for the delivery of integrated services that meet local needs. This is particularly around our priorities of Neighbourhood Action and services for children and young people.

The Corporate Improvement Priorities will drive the delivery of our strategic priorities alongside the activities within our Service Improvement Plans.

The integrated approach to planning and performance management ensures our planning is aligned to our strategic priorities and the challenges of the Community Strategy During 2005/6 the Council will work with partners and central government to focus on a number of service activities to deliver against its strategic priorities.

This will be delivered by the negotiation of a Local Public Service Agreement and the development of a Local Area Agreement with partners. Both activities are designed to drive up the quality of public services around local priorities.

## **A Focus on Citizens – Engagement**

Engaging with our citizens is at the heart of improving public services. To ensure that people have the opportunity to influence decisions about their neighbourhood, we are using the Engagement Framework to listen to the views of citizens. The Wakefield District Partnership has developed a Community Engagement Framework as the basis for a joint approach to engaging with citizens and is being used to ensure that citizens in the Wakefield District have the opportunity to influence the development of policies and to improve the design and delivery of services and where they are willing, to become more actively linked into service design, development and delivery. We have also established a Partnership Advisory Group on Engagement that meets on a monthly basis.

## **New Area Arrangements**

We have developed new area arrangements, agreed by Council in February 2005, that comprise three elements:

- Local Area Partnerships.
- Community Engagement Activity.
- Support for elected members in their community leadership/ representative role.

The new arrangements emphasise the need for the Council to:

- Have a clear channel of communication between decision-making bodies, including the Council, Wakefield District Partnership, other partners and local citizens.
- Enhance community engagement by providing a variety of mechanisms to reach a greater number and range of citizens and community groups.
- Create methods, opportunities and approaches to support elected members to fulfil their representative and community leadership role.
- Improve responsiveness of partners and other service providers to the needs of local areas.
- Deliver a flexible set of arrangements, which respond to new initiatives and adapt to the rapidly changing environment in which all partner organisations currently operate.

## Cohesion

“Cohesiveness” – people living together and productively working for the greater good - is what makes a safe and strong community. While the communities in Wakefield have common elements, they have their own unique qualities reflecting the diversity of beliefs, interests and backgrounds of their people. Therefore, a cohesive community is one where all communities feel they belong to their local area and where the diversity of people’s different backgrounds are appreciated and positively valued.

## Promoting Cohesion and Equality

A Community Cohesion Protocol has been developed by the authority outlining the commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups. The Community Cohesion Plan was agreed by the Council in December 2004. Within the plan we will always:

- Nurture a sense of belonging within all communities, which in turn, all feel part of a District community.
- Encourage residents to be respected and valued and celebrate diversity.
- Ensure that everyone has the same opportunities, regardless of background.
- Build trust between all residents, organisations and people of different backgrounds.

Community cohesion is a guiding principle for the Community Strategy. In order to develop our Cohesion Plan we have undertaken a baseline assessment of the national Cohesion Indicators. We have also established a Corporate Cohesion Group across the Council.

## Sustainability

Sustainability embraces engagement and cohesion and is about providing a better quality of life, both now and for future generations. This means safeguarding opportunities for future development. We can do this by using resources carefully so that both our environment and the wellbeing of our citizens continue to improve. The pledge in our vision to “ensure that the work we do now will stand the test of time”, shows our commitment to sustainable development in service delivery. It is essential to work with all of our partners to maximise sustainable outcomes. Our long-term aim is to ensure that sustainability appraisal is embedded into all our planning processes, including those of our partners. As a starting point, a section on sustainability was included in this year’s Service Improvement Plans to establish a baseline of current activity and levels of understanding throughout services. We are working with partners to develop a Sustainability Framework. This resource will raise awareness of sustainability, improve understanding and assist partners so that they can use appropriate tools to help them embed sustainability in all their actions. The development of the Framework will provide an important opportunity to share experience and cascade learning. Tangible, practical examples ideally at a local level will be included to demonstrate how other partners have approached sustainability.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the Council is taking a leading role in addressing its own ‘in house’ environmental performance.

The recently launched Corporate Environment Policy, and the Switch to Save campaign, will initially focus on reducing energy use, saving water and increasing office recycling throughout the main Council sites. These in themselves offer some potential in responding to the Gershon Review. Although some longer-term sustainability objectives may require modest investment, these too offer opportunities for savings over the longer term.

## Access to Services

The Access to Services Strategy provides corporate direction and vision for access to services and citizen focus. It is supported by plans that include ICT, e-government, asset management, web access and data mapping. Following on from the implementation of the Strategy, we have made good progress in improving the variety and accessibility of ways in which citizens can contact the Council. More people are contacting us than ever before. We have introduced a number of improvements to access to services for people with disabilities, including making more buildings accessible, providing 'typetalk' and 'loop' systems for people with hearing impairment, mobility scooters in our country parks and providing more formats in which to access information.

We are continuing to improve traditional methods of contacting the Council such as telephone, letter and face-to-face. The Council's strategy to have single access telephone numbers for key services gathers pace.

Our e-government vision to deliver as many services as we can through electronic channels gathers pace. The Council has achieved 92% of services that are possible to be delivered electronically and we are well on target to achieve 100% by December 2005. A series of e-government key priority outcomes have been set by the Government to be delivered by March 2006. Achieving these would establish the Council in the "good" category in relation to e-government provision. These improvements will include online services for receiving information, giving information, ordering goods and services, booking services/appointments and paying for services.

We will continue to use the Access to Service Strategy to meet the needs of our diverse community and provide access to all our citizens. The needs of vulnerable residents and physical and sensory needs of customers will be given equal priority to all other service users. Physical access to our premises in line with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements is a key priority for the Council.

The Council introduced a Customer Relationship Management system within Environment Services early in 2005 and has already transferred a significant number of initial contact calls for other service areas to be handled by a Contact Centre,

## Customer Care Standards

Customer Care Standards were set in 2004 and published throughout the Council. Improved customer care training is being rolled out to staff that deal with the public and to establish good practice customer care. Standards have been developed using focus groups from those staff.

Research and further consultation with the public, to ensure customer care standards meet citizen expectations, are an ongoing process. These standards have been updated and circulated to all employees. The Council is committed to providing a customer focussed approach to services.

## Service Standards

Setting service standards is a key part of achieving improved services for our citizens. Detailed service standards already exist in the Council and are published individually for many of our Council services including Cleansing, Environmental Health, Social Services, Libraries and Bereavement Services.

Our standards represent the level of service citizens can expect to receive. Service Improvement Plans have been prepared in all services and these will be used to support the development of service standards. A set of service standards for the Council will be completed and circulated by March 2006.

## Compliments, Comments and Complaints

The Council aims to provide high quality services and receiving feedback from service users is vital in terms of helping us to improve. The Council has a compliments, comments and complaints procedure, which enables citizens to express views on the services received. We are currently reviewing our existing procedure to ensure we are effectively using citizen feedback to improve our services.

## Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008

The Wakefield District Community Safety Partnership is committed to improving the quality of life of the residents of Wakefield by making the district safer.

This new Community Safety Strategy for the district outlines how the Partnership will achieve this by tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. This will be achieved through the provision of a balanced programme of activity based around enforcement, deterrence, education, prevention, support and rehabilitation.

The priorities identified for the next three years are:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Violent crime
- Domestic Abuse
- Acquisitive crime – burglary, vehicle crime and business crime
- Substance misuse – drugs and alcohol

These are to be measured against targets agreed with the Home Office, including a target reduction of crime by 35% by 2007/08, and an increase in the number of drug misusing offenders receiving treatment.

The strategy will be delivered through an area-based approach, drawing upon collective resources across agencies and working closely with local communities.

## Children's Annual Plan and Links to Sport and Leisure

There is a strong partnership between the Council, schools and health partners to improve the health of school-aged children through the Healthy Schools and School Sport Programmes.

98 (63%) schools are engaged with the Healthy Schools Programme, placing Wakefield above national and statistical neighbours and there has been national recognition of the way the Wakefield Healthy Schools Programme is used as a school improvement tool.

Schools are supported and challenged by the LEA to promote healthy life-styles for children through training programmes on Healthy Schools, PSHE, PE and Sport and Inclusion.

- 11 schools have walking bus schemes in operation.
- 3 schools, working with partner agencies have launched pilot school-based health services
- Advice on sex education, healthy eating, relationships, substance misuse, sport and recreation is available through schools and the Young Peoples Service. All governing bodies have a SRE policy.

## **The Freedom To Be" Cultural Strategy 2003-15**

### **The Cultural Vision**

By 2015, there will be a better quality of life for everyone in the Wakefield District. It will be a District which is vibrant and creative, celebrates the diversity and heritage of its communities, and proud of the way it looks and what it does.

As a result of the Cultural Strategy, there will be opportunities for all people to be who they want to be and to enjoy the cultural and leisure activities of their choice.

### **What is the Cultural Strategy?**

The people of the Wakefield District are very proud of their history and cultural assets. They know that culture has an important part to play in the regeneration and well-being of the District.

The Cultural Strategy has been written so that decisions can be taken to ensure that cultural provision is improved and used to create a better quality of life for everyone who lives, works and plays in the Wakefield District. It is a plan which:

- Explains why culture and cultural activities are important
- Makes clear links between the Cultural Sector and other strategies and plans
- Assesses the cultural needs of local people, visitors and cultural organisations
- Agrees priorities for the development of culture in the Wakefield District until 2015.

### **What does the Cultural Strategy cover?**

- Cultural identity and its celebration
- The Arts
- Children's Play
- Countryside Activities
- Cultural Industries
- Heritage and Museums
- Libraries and Information Services
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Sport
- Tourism.

The Cultural Strategy can only be delivered if it links into other local, regional and national strategies and plans.

It has been written to complement the District's Community Strategy which is the overarching plan influencing all other plans concerned with the regeneration and well-being of the Wakefield District. The Cultural Strategy's role is to state how the Cultural Sector contributes to the Community Strategy's objectives and to provide more detail about how the objective, "Improving the range and quality of cultural and leisure opportunities across the District" will be achieved.

*The Freedom To Be* aims to convince other sectors that they can use cultural activities as a tool to achieve their objectives and that there will be major benefits if they work in partnership with the Cultural Sector. The Strategy is also the starting point for plans produced by each of the cultural sub-sectors which will provide more detail about how each activity will be developed.

*The Freedom To Be* seeks to contribute to the delivery of the District's 'Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.' The principle behind Neighbourhood Renewal is that by enabling communities to help themselves, the quality of life in those communities can be

### **Planned cultural projects include:**

- Xscape – a snow dome and leisure complex at Glasshoughton on the former colliery site.
- The Waterfront Gallery – a new art gallery and creative arts centre which is central to the regeneration of Wakefield's Waterfront area
- Castleford Forum – improved library and museum facilities celebrating the history of Castleford
- West Yorkshire Archives' Regional Centre in Wakefield
- A new central library in Wakefield
- Wakefield Gymnastics Club at Thornes Stadium, Wakefield, as a 'High Performance Centre'
- Wakefield Hockey Club at College Grove Sports Centre, Wakefield, as a regional hockey academy
- Pugneys Country Park, Wakefield, the base for British Canoe Union and Royal Yachting Association Schools
- A new tourist information centre in Wakefield.

### **Cultural Strategy Links to the Community Strategy**

#### **Community Strategy Key Objective: Improve the range and quality of cultural and leisure opportunities across the District.**

##### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Implement and monitor the Cultural Strategy.
- Develop strategies or action plans for the cultural sub-sectors.
- Identify gaps in cultural provision and how to meet them.
- Provide support for the development of the Cultural Sector.
- Improve and enhance the level and quality of cultural facilities, services and activities in the District.
- Improve access for Wakefield District residents to quality cultural facilities, services and activities available in the region.
- Develop projects which help talented people living in the District to achieve excellence in their chosen field.
- Improve the Cultural Sector's marketing.
- Improve the quality of information provided by the Cultural Sector.

#### **Community Strategy Key Objective - Encourage people to get involved and have a say in their neighbourhood and the District.**

##### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Involve more local people in the planning and delivery of cultural projects and activities.
- Use cultural activities to encourage more people to get involved in the development of their neighbourhoods and the District.
- Strengthen the 'voice' of the Cultural Sector in the strategic development of the Wakefield District.

#### **Community Strategy Key Objective: Improve the health and social well-being of local communities**

##### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Ensure cultural opportunities are accessible to everyone.
- Develop partnerships with other sectors so that they use and fund cultural activities and services in order to achieve their objectives.
- Strengthen voluntary and community groups' ability to use cultural activities to improve the quality of life in their communities.
- Develop cultural activities which meet the needs of children, young people, families, retired people, other people with special needs and their carers.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Reduce crime and help people to feel safe.**

### **Cultural Objective:**

- Use cultural activities to develop safe environments and reduce people's fear of crime.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Foster social inclusion and tackle the problems of our most deprived communities.**

### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Nurture people's sense of belonging through cultural activities.
- Develop culturally inclusive festivals and events which promote the achievements and cultural experiences of all members of our communities.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Build a strong local economy and develop new employment opportunities.**

### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Develop employment opportunities in the Cultural Sector for local people.
- Support the development of existing and new cultural businesses.
- Develop a strong identity for the Wakefield District as a centre of excellence.
- Improve the Cultural Sector's ability to obtain external funding.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Raise educational achievement, improve employment skills and support lifelong learning.**

### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Create ways to access cultural activities which suit people's different learning styles.
- Enable the Cultural Sector to support the raising of standards of education and improving the performance of schools and colleges.
- Create new ways to learn through cultural opportunities.
- Improve the ability of schools and colleges to engage young people in cultural activities.
- Develop initiatives to retain cultural graduates in the District.
- Develop the Cultural Sector's skills.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Promote and maintain a clean and attractive environment.**

### **Cultural Objectives:**

- Improve the attractiveness of the physical environment.
- Protect the natural environment.
- Develop and manage outdoor spaces which people can use for leisure and recreation.

## **Community Strategy Key Objective: Improve transport choice and make it easier to get around the District.**

### **Cultural Objective:**

- Create ways for cultural organisations to improve how people reach their venues and activities.

## Promoting Racial Equality through Sport - A Standard for Local Authority Sport & Leisure Services

Sports facilities across Wakefield District are working hard to achieve the preliminary level of the local Government Standard 'Promoting Racial Equality Through Sport' by June 2006.

Sport has the potential not only to tackle racial discrimination but also to help change people's attitudes and perceptions by enabling people of all ages and backgrounds to come into contact with one another where they may not have done so before.

Since the Council signed up to the Standard in April 2005 a number of initiatives aimed at widening opportunities to all groups and getting people from ethnic minorities more involved in sport have already taken place. Examples of these include:

- Swimming & keep fit sessions for women from Asian and other ethnic minorities;
- A soccer tournament as part of Wakefield's first Gay Pride event in the August 2005;
- Sports development work with Travellers; and events to promote an anti-racist message to young people.

Other events are planned including a 'Start the Music, Stop the Racism' concert for young people at Lightwaves Leisure Centre which will feature young local bands. This is being organised by Next Generation Community Youth Project who are based at Lightwaves in conjunction with UNISON and Wakefield Council and will take place in early April 2006.

In December 2005 the Council's Sport & Recreation Service hosted a series of 'Kick Racism Out of Football' tournaments organised by Lightwaves Leisure Centre and Next Generation Community Youth Project. The events took place at the City High Community Sports Centre based at Wakefield City High School and at Lightwaves. There were tournaments for under-11 boys and girls and events for under-12, under-13, under-17 and an Open age event. The tournament at City High school also marked the signing of the Racial Equality Charter by Councillor Peter Box. Agreeing and promoting the Charter is one of the key commitments for the preliminary level of the Standard.

### About the Standard

The Standard was developed by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Sporting Equals in partnership with Sport England and the Commission for Racial Equality. By taking part, local authority Sport & Leisure Services demonstrate their commitment to removing barriers, widening opportunities and encouraging more people from ethnic minorities to get involved in sport.

The Standard was launched in 2004/05 following a successful pilot in 6 local authorities. It is the first comprehensive performance assessment framework for local authorities to measure their achievement's in promoting racial equality through sport. The Standard can be used either as a self-measurement tool or via independent accreditation. Wakefield has opted for independent evaluation by an Accreditation Panel, which will consist of representatives from the LGA, Sporting Equals, Sport England and the Audit Commission.

For each of the 3 Levels of achievement Sport & Leisure Services have to submit a portfolio of evidence to meet objectives in 3 separate areas of local authority activity:

- Commitment, Policy & Planning;
- Participation & Public Access; and
- Administration & Management.

Wakefield is aiming to submit its portfolio of evidence by June 2006. Among the partners working with the Council's Sport & Leisure Services are Next Generation Community Youth Project and WMDC Community Cohesion Team.

## Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)

### Working on Cold Coal Scheme

The six year Government funded SRB6 Programme is now entering its final year ending in March 2007. It provides financial assistance to the city's most deprived communities: Eastmoor, Agbrigg, Belle Vue, Portobello, Flanshaw, Darnley, Peacock, Plumpton and Lupset.

The scheme's purpose is to help to address various underlying problems: unemployment, skill shortages, poor health, crime and social exclusion, by reducing barriers to work for local people and assisting in the regeneration of these areas.

The Inner Wakefield Partnership is the decision-making body that allocates SRB6 funding to a series of initiatives across the city to help address these problems. Its membership is drawn from the community, voluntary sector, local business, health sector, education, and the local authority.

The Programme has been divided into 4 themes:

### Education & Lifelong Learning

- Providing a network of learning facilities in new community centres.
- Family Learning - A programme of initiatives and activities in partnership with local primary schools.
- Raising Achievement - Funds a programme of after school clubs aimed at encouraging pupils' interest and imagination.

### Community Development

- Wakefield Forum for the Voluntary and Community Sectors - The forum has been established and supports the needs of voluntary and community groups.
- Community Chest Grants - funding available to establish and develop social and community groups in neighbourhoods. (£1,000 grant is available).
- Lightwaves Community Facilities - the provision of community space at Lightwaves Centre for the purposes of community development.
- Community Development Co-ordination - funded community development workers to assist the establishment and development of area-based community groups.

### Improving Health & Community Safety

- Accord Project - delivered through Turning Point, which assists in the provision of drug prevention work and the development of a mentoring service.
- Developing Parenting - delivered by Home-Start, training of community volunteers to provide support to families under stress.
- The Mix - a mobile "youth club" acting as a focal point for health agencies to engage hard to reach young people.
- Community Safety Initiative Local Community Projects - this project funded a number of small physical works to reduce the fear of crime in local neighbourhoods.
- SRB 6 Small Business Security/Improvement Grant Scheme - grant funds to improve security of premises to retain businesses and encourage investment.

### Pathways to Work

- Creating New Businesses
- Support for new business start-ups and community enterprise. (A £2,000 grant is available).
- Mencap Pathway - assists people with learning disabilities to make the transition into the world of work.
- JobNet Intermediate Labour Market - provides employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged people.
- Community Focus Intermediate Labour Market - provides construction work experience implementing a series of environmental improvement schemes identified by the community.

- Skilled Employee Development - provides grants for training to up-skill and develop existing employees of small businesses within SRB areas.
- Home Builder - certificated and formal training in construction skills including: brickwork, joinery and plumbing.

## Urban Renaissance

**In 2001 Yorkshire Forward (Regional Development Agency) launched its Urban Renaissance Programme.**

The aim of the programme was to improve the physical and natural environments where socio-economic activities take place.

Since 2001 residents throughout the District have participated in a series of meetings and workshops. This resulted in the publication of the 'Getting Connected: Wakefield Renaissance Charter' in November 2002. The Charter's aim was to help to define new approaches to comprehensive regeneration that are centred upon the improvement of the physical environment and the direct involvement of local people in the process.

### The Programme considered the following key issues:

- The quality and design of the built environment
- Transport patterns and access to public transport
- The quality and design of public spaces
- Encouraging more people to live in the city centre

## Emerald Ring

To try to combat problems with the city's non-pedestrian friendly environment and traffic intense road network the Urban Renaissance programme proposes the development of the 'Emerald Ring'. Extending Wakefield's partial existing ring road (Marsh Way, Kirkgate and Ings Road) to form a complete ring could create the Emerald Ring around rather than through the city core. It is proposed that this motorway-like road be rebuilt as a green urban boulevard.

## Urban Renaissance - The Way Forward

Following on from the document 'Getting Connected: Wakefield Renaissance Charter' Yorkshire Forward commissioned consultants, Koetter Kim and Associates of Boston, Massachusetts to prepare further, more detailed, reports.

*'Wakefield: a strategic framework for the district'* looks at the whole of the Wakefield District and contains recommendations for further action.

*'Wakefield: developing the vision'* looks at more specific project areas in Wakefield City with the identification of objectives and design principles.

Both reports are available to people and organisations interested in the development of the City of Wakefield and aim to:

- Raise awareness of urban design issues in Wakefield.
- Raise urban design standards in Wakefield.
- Inform the preparation of a City Plan for Wakefield.

The principles contained within 'Wakefield: developing the vision' are now being progressed through the work on the three major regeneration projects:

- Wakefield Waterfront
- Westgate KDA
- Trinity Walk (Marsh Way)
- and in the case of public realm issues by the City and Town Centre Team.

## Wakefield Waterfront

The regeneration of Wakefield's historic Waterfront is a key priority for Wakefield Council. The Hepworth Wakefield will occupy the prominent site facing the city centre and this will be complemented by the £100m commercial project by developers CTP St James including an imaginative mix of high quality office, residential and leisure buildings covering 10 acres. The completed development will transform the southern gateway to the City, adding a new cultural dimension and revitalising the historic waterfront through provision of high quality living, office and riverside leisure accommodation and activities.

The masterplan for the area includes the restoration and conservation of a number of fine historical structures such as the 18th century Grade II\* Listed Calder & Hebble Navigation Warehouse, Grade II Listed Phoenix and Rutland Mills complex. The historic buildings will be sympathetically restored and, together with a range of new buildings, will provide an imaginative mix of around 500,000 sq ft (50,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of high quality riverside apartments, office and leisure accommodation including restaurants, cafés, courtyards, landscaped gardens and public spaces. The scheme has been drawn up in partnership with Wakefield Council and British Waterways and has attracted significant financial support from Yorkshire Forward and European Union (ERDF Grant).

The Hepworth Wakefield, a 5500m<sup>2</sup> world-class gallery and centre for creative arts designed by international architect David Chipperfield, will open in 2008. The major public attraction, commissioned by Wakefield Council, will be built on a dramatic site next to the River Calder with views over the City and will feature the unique collection of 30 of Barbara Hepworth's original plaster sculptures, together with finished sculptures and interpretative displays of her life, works and creative process. Wakefield Art Gallery's internationally respected fine and contemporary art collections will transfer to The Hepworth Wakefield, which will host a programme of inspiring exhibitions, events and creative and learning activities.

The £26m scheme includes a new pedestrian bridge over the River Calder, to improve linkages between the Waterfront and Wakefield City Centre, together with a dedicated car park and coach drop off point on Thornes Lane. The gallery site also includes a Grade II Listed Watermill which will be conserved to provide interpretation of the history of the mill and waterfront and create managed workspace. (For more information on The Hepworth Wakefield follow the Related Links below).

Overall the Waterfront scheme, including The Hepworth, Wakefield and commercial development, has attracted significant public sector funding support, with over £27m of match funding secured or allocated from Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund Stage One Pass, European Regional Development Fund and Yorkshire Forward.

Outline planning permission was granted for the masterplan in December 2004 followed by detailed planning permission for Phase I in November 2005 which will focus on the restoration of the Calder & Hebble Navigation Warehouse and new build around the Flood Lock area. Detailed planning permission was granted for The Hepworth Wakefield (including bridge, car park) in January 2005. Work on both The Hepworth Wakefield and Phase I of the commercial development will commence in summer 2006.

## Westgate Key Development Area (KDA)

The Westgate Development Area (KDA) is one of the most important City Centre development sites in the region. It provides an exciting opportunity to create a new and prosperous quarter of the city centre including Wakefield Westgate Station, the former Express Dairy site and the former railway goods yards.

The proposed range of activities and uses include offices, leisure, small scale retail, hotel, restaurants and a substantial amount of new housing. Central to the whole area is the planned construction of a modern new railway station.

Within and around the Westgate KDA there are many fine listed buildings which lend character to the area. Future development must match this high quality and link clearly and effectively with surrounding areas of the city.

To drive forward the regeneration of the Westgate KDA, Wakefield Council has joined forces with key stakeholders Network Rail, GNER and also the newly established English Cities Fund (ECF). The tremendous potential of this area to deliver high quality regeneration in Wakefield has attracted the ECF, a partnership bringing together developers AMEC, Legal and General and Government agency English Partnerships, to pursue the investment opportunities there. This has led to the preparation of a Masterplan for the KDA.

An outline planning application was received in March 2005, followed by a series of public exhibitions held across the city during May and June 2005. Outline planning permission was granted in September 2005.

The developers have indicated that they are hopeful that the scheme should commence in late 2006 and are currently working up detailed designs for phase 1 of the overall scheme.

## **Five Towns Regeneration**

Covering the areas of Castleford, Pontefract, Knottingley, Featherstone and Normanton.

The aim of the team is to work in partnership with local communities, businesses, developers and voluntary groups to deliver quality regeneration schemes which will inspire and encourage additional new inward investment to the five towns area.

## **Carlton Square**

Carlton Square, which is in the heart of town centre is to be enhanced to provide a high quality area of public open space.

Designed by Hudson Architects, the square will be repaved using granite and new high quality street furniture will be provided. A small number of trees will also be planted. The square will be capable of accommodating visiting markets and public events such as those organised by Castleford Heritage Trust as part of Heritage week.

Detailed designs are currently being drawn up for the square, prior to a tender processes being undertaken to procure materials and a contractor to undertake the work which is anticipated to commence in Spring 2006.

## **Castleford - C6 and Fryston Wheldale Sites**

Following the closure of the C6 solutions chemical plant in 2005, this large site close to the town centre is likely to be the subject of redevelopment.

The former Wheldale and Fryston colliery sites closed in the 1980's was adopted into English Partnerships National Coalfield Programme in 2003 and since then extensive consideration and investigations have been undertaken into potential after uses for the area.

These investigations have included community consultation and has thus far resulted in significant investment in the development of an innovative new village green, created by the world famous designer Martha Schwartz MSI and Building Design Partnerships as the first stage of much larger proposals.

These may include extensive reclamation, environmental and infrastructural improvements, a limited amount of residential development, and community and recreational facilities and details of the wider proposals will shortly be presented to the community for consideration.

## **Castleford Bus and Rail Interchange**

Metro, working in partnership with Wakefield Council has prepared proposals for a new bus rail interchange in Castleford.

It is anticipated that this would be sited on land adjacent to the existing Railway station in Castleford. The proposed new interchange will creating an appropriate gateway into Castleford Town Centre. It will be of a high standard of design and landscaping to create a modern enclosed concourse with sales kiosks and waiting area for trains and buses. The concourse will be staffed and will have the benefit of CCTV coverage.

The new interchange is part of a package of related transport improvement works within Castleford town centre which also include improvements to and the extension of the pedestrianised area.

The Department for Transport confirmed that the £14.5 million funding bid had been provisionally approved in December 2004 and detailed development work on these proposals are now being undertaken in order that the scheme might achieve full approval and DfT funding in due course.

## **Castleford Library, Museum and Gallery Project**

Wakefield Council has appointed the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to manage a design competition for Castleford Forum - a new library, museum and gallery for the town.

Niall McLaughlin Architects from London have been selected to produce designs for Castleford Forum, following a competition which attracted over 60 expressions of interest from design teams across the world. The Jury Panel, chaired by Wakefield Council Leader, Cllr Peter Box, selected the designer from a shortlist of six practices drawn up with the help of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) who organised the competition.

Niall McLaughlin is now working up plans for the town's flagship building which will house a Library, Museum and Gallery and showcase Castleford's importance on various fronts including being the birthplace of world-famous sculptor, Henry Moore and an ancient Roman settlement.

The Forum is to be developed alongside proposals for the £50m regeneration of the town centre by Edinburgh House Estates which will see the development of a new supermarket, an extension to Carlton Lanes Shopping Centre, a new indoor market hall and residential apartments. The scheme is identified as a key project within the recently completed Urban Renaissance Strategy for the Five Towns. In June 2005, six concept designs produced by the shortlisted designers were put on display in The Regeneration Centre on Sagar Street and Carlton Lanes Shopping Centre for people to comment on.

### **Castleford Outdoor Market Relocation**

Since the 7th November 2005 Castleford Outdoor Market has been relocated onto Carlton Street from the rear of Carlton Lanes shopping centre. In its previous location, the market was hidden away and contributed little to the vitality and vibrancy of the town centre.

The market relocation was trailed at the beginning of 2005, with the Monday market being placed on Carlton Street. This resulted in both Carlton Street and the market becoming more vibrant.

Hudson Architects have worked up designs for the improvements which are being made to Carlton Street which includes new paving, new street furniture and new market stalls. The market has, as an interim measure, and to enable scheduled work on Tittle Cott bridge to take place, been relocated using standard demountable stalls. The new canopies will be installed after the new year.

### **Featherstone Town Centre Development Strategy**

It is intended a study of Featherstone Town centre will take place which will lead to the preparation of an aspirational but realistic strategic master plan and building upon the Strategic Development Framework for the town prepared under the Yorkshire Forward Urban Renaissance Initiative.

The resultant plan for the town centre will be supported by a written rationale for the proposals, together with a framework for how it should be implemented.

It is anticipated that the study, which will be commissioned in the New Year, will identify and describe key projects, include a design strategy in order to ensure that high quality urban development and landscaping takes place, and identify projects which can be implemented in the relatively short term, as well as those with a 10-15 year timescale.

### **Five Towns 14 - 19 Skills Academy**

Wakefield College are leading on plans to develop a new skills academy for the district. The favoured site for the development is the former Glasshoughton colliery site close to Xscape to post-16 education, as well as provide lifelong learning.

The proposed facility will provide young people with the opportunity to develop new skills and obtain qualifications in many areas including construction, engineering, hairdressing and beauty therapy, business, computing, childcare, travel and tourism and retail.

The facility is also expected to have crèche facilities. The academy is one of the key projects identified in the Five Towns' urban renaissance programme to raise the level of skills and encourage more young people to go on opportunities for the whole community.

## Five Towns Urban Renaissance

Established under Yorkshire Forward's Urban Renaissance initiative, the Five Towns Towns Team, comprised of representatives of the Local community including MP's, Councillors, key stakeholders, groups and individuals, and chaired by Councillor Peter Box, the Leader of the Council, worked for over 2 years in preparing a vision for a renaissance for the 5 Towns area over the next 25 years.

This report was published and launched in July 2005 and brings together a range of ideas and project proposals for the whole area, including strategic matters such as the economy, transport and the landscape, as well as each of the 5 towns in order that their individuality within the whole area is retained.

Once accepted by Wakefield Council, the report will tie in with key Council strategies including those on Greenspace and Treescapes, and the Local Development Framework, in seeking to regenerate the whole of the area and make it a better place for people to live, work, invest and spend leisure time in.

## Pontefract Castle

A draft conservation plan looking at matters such as regeneration and development, consolidation, access and interpretation, heritage potential and management for the Castle has been prepared and is currently progressing towards approval.

Once in place, this will enable improved management of the site, show how future development in the surrounding area should take account of the significance of the Castle and its setting, and assist in promoting the opportunities it presents for not only its immediate surroundings but the wider area.

## Pontefract Town Centre Strategy

It is intended a study of Pontefract Town Centre will take place. This will lead to the preparation of an aspiration but realistic strategic master plan.

It will build upon the Strategic Development Framework for the town prepared under the Yorkshire Forward Urban Renaissance Initiative and result in a plan for the town centre supported by a written rationale for the proposals, together with a framework for how it should be implemented.

It is anticipated that the study, which will be commissioned in the New Year, will identify and describe key projects, include a design strategy in order to ensure that high quality urban development and landscaping takes place, and identify projects which can be implemented in the relatively short term, as well as those with a 10-15 year timescale.

## Pontefract Town Hall

**Pontefract Town Hall, owned by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, is a building listed Grade II and Grade II\* due to its National and Regional importance.**

The study to be undertaken will need to consider the potential range of uses which would be suitable taking place within the town hall and relevant activities for this venue which would help to achieve the objectives for the town as a whole. It will need to determine any physical works required to be undertaken to various parts of the Town Hall to amend or adapt the building to enable it to meet user needs for such a range of uses and to consider how people can be attracted to view and to attend events in the town hall.

While recently it has undergone a program of improvements, it is intended that further works should be undertaken to secure its role at the heart of the local community. The aim is that Pontefract Town Hall should be used by the maximum

number of people and the widest possible audience, and that they should be able to view and appreciate its historical importance.

In order to achieve these objectives WMDC are to undertake a feasibility study to develop a detailed costed program for the refurbishment of this important building. One of the aims of this will be to identify which parts of the building can be opened up to the public so that, with appropriate interpretation, its historic importance can be appreciated and understood.

The study will aim to identify ways that the town hall can have a role at the centre of the regeneration of Pontefract town centre and play a part in developing the town centre as a visitor destination based on its historic attractions.

### **Prince of Wales Site**

Following the closure of the Prince and Wales Colliery in 2002, UK Coal have appointed consultants to produce a master plan for the reclamation of the site.

It is expected that the site will accommodate a variety of uses including offices and residential, and that improved links will connect the site with the town centre.

### **Sharlston Colliery Site**

UK Coal are proposing to reclaim the former colliery site in a sustainable manner. The reclamation will provide 6 hectares of broadleaved woodland, 2 hectares of heathland, 4 hectares of wetland features, 35 hectares of hay meadows grassland, 7 hectares of improved grassland, 1.4 hectares of residential development, 3.3km of new hedgerows and 2km of new footpaths and bridleways.

The South East Regeneration Team are currently based at The Cedars Business Centre, Barnsley Road, Hemsworth.

The main role of the team is the development, co-ordination and delivery of projects and initiatives which will continue to bring sustainable regeneration to the South East of the District

Major regeneration projects in development or being implemented at the current time include:

### **City Estate**

**An area of former Coal Board Housing comprising 241 terraced properties in Fitzwilliam.**

Tenure was approximately 1/3 Chantry Housing association, 1/3 owner occupied and 1/3 private rented. Over the years there has been a decline in the environment and a deterioration in housing stock due mainly to the letting policies of the private landlords, which has encouraged a high turnover of 'bad neighbours'. This led to low demand for renting and over the last few years had become prevalent. The spiral of decline on the estate has been too rapid to reverse and by November 2001 over 47% of the houses were empty with many of them being systematically. In consultation with property owners and local residents, a decision was made to approve Neighbourhood Renewal Funds to undertake selective demolition of the estate to allow for redevelopment.

A development brief is being prepared for the redevelopment of the area.

### **Development of Managed Office Space, Hemsworth**

Following on from a feasibility study, and prioritised by the Hemsworth Coalfield Partnership, a scheme to provide high quality purpose built managed office space in Hemsworth has recently been completed using funding from Single Regeneration Budget Grant, Yorkshire Forward's single pot, the European Regional Development Fund, the Coalfield Regeneration Trust and Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.

In addition, Surestart are to provide their main headquarters for this area on the same site. 28 managed office units have been provided on what was a long standing derelict site close to the centre of Hemsworth.

### **Frickley Colliery**

The reclamation and redevelopment of the former Frickley Colliery site and its immediate environs is within the first round of the Government's National Coalfields Programme being implemented by English Partnerships.

A steering group has been established to look at options for the site which have been subject to public consultation. The preferred option for the reclamation of the site is for a high quality countryside park with the capacity to include more intensive recreational uses such as sports pitches. Approval of a £9 Million scheme has recently been granted by English Partnerships.

### **Hemsworth A1 Link Road**

This is the final section of the Dearne Towns Link road running from the Hemsworth Bypass to the A1 at Barnsdale Bar.

Direct access to the South Kirkby Business Park will be taken from the link road. It is anticipated that construction will begin late 2005.

### **Hemsworth Town Centre Redevelopment**

This is a private initiative by a major supermarket chain to provide a new supermarket on land to the rear of the bus station in Hemsworth.

The development will necessitate a replacement for Grove Lea School and provision of a new Library, both of which are to be provided by the developer. Following approval of an outline application by the Secretary of State, the Council has now approved details for the proposed Supermarket.

### **Langthwaite Grange**

This is a well-established industrial estate in South Kirkby dating back to 1949 and extending to some 160 acres.

The businesses on site have now established a Management Company which has enabled them to secure funding to undertake major environmental improvements and security measures to regenerate the estate and make it more attractive for inward investment.

### **South Kirkby Business Park**

The first phase of this 54 Ha site with 26 Ha reclaimed to development standards offers 8Ha of fully serviced development land with outline planning permission for B1, B2 and B8 uses.

It is surrounded by landscaped areas with fishing lakes, a bridleway and footpaths linking to surrounding urban areas. Direct access will be taken from the Hemsworth A1 link road that is programmed in the Local Transport Plan.

The Industrial Park offers excellent development opportunities ideally suited to manufacturing based organisations. Development of the site will complement existing regeneration programmes in the area.

### **Westfield Lane Improvement Area**

This scheme involves development of a master plan for the area between Frickley Colliery and Westfield Lane, South Elmsall.

### **Wakefield City Regeneration**

#### **Central Wakefield Area Action Plan (AAP)**

Wakefield Council is currently preparing of a new type of development plan, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and show where development will take place over the next ten years or so.

As part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) the Council is producing an Area Action Plan (AAP) to guide development within central Wakefield.

National Planning Guidance recommends that AAPs are developed as part of the LDF process for areas, such as urban centres, where there is a need to drive development. Wakefield City has been identified as the main driver of the district's economy and as such there is significant pressure for development and change within the city.

The Central Wakefield AAP will develop the strategy set out in the LDF Core Strategy document into more detailed policies and proposals relating directly to the plan area.

## Issues and Options Consultation

The first step in preparing the Central Wakefield Area Action Plan (AAP) is to consider the range of issues which should be addressed and different options for tackling them. To help people think about this, we have prepared an Issues and Options Report, together with a Summary Report.

Copies of these reports, together with a Comments Form, can be viewed and downloaded by clicking on the relevant link in the right hand column. They are also available to view at Council offices and libraries in and around Central Wakefield and copies can be obtained free of charge from the Wakefield City Regeneration Team.

The reports set out the issues and questions which we think are important, but we are keen to hear your views. You may think that other issues are of more concern to you or your organisation and need to be addressed, if so, let us know.

Details of how to submit comments are set out in the Introduction section of the reports.

To ensure that the Central Wakefield AAP is sustainable, it must comply with the new EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and fulfill the Government's intentions for Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

To meet these requirements an Initial Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Report has been carried out. This looks at the various options being put forward against a range of criteria to assess whether they are sustainable. A copy of the resulting report will be available shortly to be viewed and downloaded from this webpage. A separate appendices document containing detailed information about the appraisal can be obtained free of charge from the Wakefield City Regeneration Team. **Please note this stage has been completed.**

## Preferred Options Consultations: April - May 2006

Following the consultation on Issues & Options during June and July 2005, the next stage of preparing the Central Wakefield Area Action plan is the publication of a "Preferred options report" and accompanying "Sustainability Report".

The purpose of the preferred options consultation is for the Council to seek the views of the community and stakeholders on the proposals it is recommending for the central Wakefield Area Action Plan. The aim is to encourage public involvement before decisions are made about the content of the final document to be submitted to the Secretary of State.

It is the latest of several rounds of consultation that the Council is undertaking on the LDF in line with its Statement of Community Involvement and fulfilling statutory requirements.

## Marsh Way Area

**This will be the most important City Centre development for more than 20 years.**

Following consultations and publicity a revised outline planning application for the scheme, submitted by the developers Simons Estates, was approved by Planning and Highway Committee on 9 December 2004. A detailed reserved matters application submitted in October 2005 was widely publicised and given final full approval in February 2006.

This is not simply a New Market and Shopping Centre but a New Quarter for the City Centre. A substantial area of the City Centre suffering decline and decay will be transformed. It will connect seamlessly with the existing centre and surrounding areas, and will include:

- New market hall designed by David Adjaye Associates
- New outdoor markets
- New city centre library
- A Sainsbury's supermarket

- A Debenhams department store
- Two new public squares
- 950 car parking spaces
- 64 apartments within the scheme (approx).

## Timescale

- Full planning permission granted - February 2006
- New Market Hall - Start estimated early 2007
- Re-route Marsh Way - Start estimated early 2007
- Start Main Scheme - Summer 2007
- Completion of full scheme - September 2009

## A Strategy for Primary and Intermediate Care in Eastern Wakefield

Eastern Wakefield PCT covers 13 of the 21 electoral wards in the Wakefield District. The area serves the communities of Pontefract, Castleford, Glasshoughton, Normanton, Altofts, Methley, Airedale, Ferrybridge, Featherstone, Knottingley, South Elmsall, South Kirkby, Hemsworth, Havercroft, Upton, Ryhill, Sharlston, part of Crofton, Ackworth, South Heindley and Fitzwilliam. Eastern Wakefield Primary Care Trust (PCT) will:

**"work in partnership to improve the health of all, reducing local inequalities through investing allocated funds in commissioning and providing high quality, convenient and integrated services."**

## Partnerships and Regeneration

The PCT and its practices are already working in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies in a variety of ways, including through the Local Strategic Partnership.

Action: The PCT will build on existing work to encourage locality/neighbourhood focused initiatives at various levels:

- Practice level initiatives to develop services, which support the health and well being of the local community but are not health services, for example benefits advice sessions, family support workers
- Working in partnership to target investment in deprived communities of the PCT which often have the poorest services or are unable to access services elsewhere.
- Various community development initiatives, led by the PCT in partnership with other organisations, and funded from Neighbourhood Renewal Funds. This work will look at promoting community development in two areas of the PCT and support needs assessment through community and peer research.
- Local regeneration and community development initiatives led by another agency but supported by the PCT such as the proposed Healthy Living Centre at Glasshoughton, Wakefield Health Action Zone, the local Education Action Zone and involvement in the successful bids for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.
- Government initiatives to tackle social exclusion and child poverty such as Sure Start (for pre school children), On Track (for primary school age children) and Connexions (for older children/young people), where multi-agency working is vital. The PCT is already the lead organisation for one Sure Start programme in Ferry Fryston and Airedale in Castleford and will be actively involved in a proposed programme in Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam, which the local authority is leading.
- The objectives of Sure Start are to improve children's social and emotional development and their health, to improve their ability to learn and to strengthen families and communities.

## Sport and Recreation Development

The Sport and Recreation Unit is involved in many developmental initiatives aimed at offering opportunities to everyone in the community. We are committed to addressing areas of disadvantage and social exclusion.

## Improving Health

- In conjunction with our Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) 5 partners, the Sport and Recreation Unit employs a Health and Fitness Officer in the Hemsworth area. This role involves the provision of health and fitness related information to

people most at risk from poor health and they also offer a programme of health and fitness screening and tailored exercise programmes.

- We are involved with the Pontefract and Pinderfields NHS trust in two programmes: a cardiac rehabilitation initiative offering swimming sessions to people recovering from cardiac illness and a muscle mobility and arthritis care club

### **Improving Community Safety**

- We offer a comprehensive holiday programme designed to ensure that young people have active meaningful opportunities to enjoy themselves throughout the summer months.
- The Sport and Recreation Unit in conjunction with the SRB 5 programme ran 8 programmes targeted at preventing youth crime.

### **Reducing Disadvantage and Inequality**

The Sport and Recreation Unit have recently produced a Sports Strategy outlining the Council's determination to improve opportunities within identified target groups.

They are:-

- Children under 8
- Young people
- Women
- Older people
- Ethnic minorities
- Disabled people
- Disadvantaged people

We already operate a successful Activate Card Scheme of which the main aim is to ensure that no resident of the District is denied access to recreational facilities by reason of financial disadvantage.

The Council recently became the first local authority in England to sign up to the Sporting Equal "Racial Equality Charter for Sport". The Sport and Recreation Unit shall also be working towards the Local Government Association's Standards for Racial Equality in Leisure Services. All of this coupled with the Council's commitment to the "Kick Racism Out of Football" scheme and the "Give Racism the Red Card" campaign demonstrates how seriously the issue of racial equality is being taken within the District.

### **Develop Communities and Neighbourhoods**

- The Sport and Recreation Unit facilities are located within local communities and the unit is looking to re-position them to be at the forefront of community life, taking a pro-active approach to alternative uses where possible.
- The Sport and Recreation Unit are actively promoting facilities to community groups as meeting venues and many community clubs use them as regular bases.

### **Improve the area for business**

- We employ many local people within our facilities thus adding to the strength of the local economy.
- The Sport and Recreation Unit are a major customer of numerous local businesses demonstrating our commitment to investment in the community.

### **Improve Skill and Educational Attainment**

- The Sport and Recreation Unit in partnership with Sport England employ a full time Active Schools Development Officer responsible for developing standards in PE and Sport in the District's schools.
- We have trained coaches and volunteers of all ages in a variety of sports - almost 250 during 2001.
- A Community Sports Leaders Course was run in partnership with the Asian youth project " Next Generation " allowing 11 young volunteers to be trained.
- Over 6,000 children achieve key stage 2 in swimming each year within the District's pools through an LEA / Sports and Recreation Unit partnership.

## Improve the Natural and Built Environment

- Pugney's water sports centre and nature reserve continues to go from strength to strength with over 700,000 visitors during 2001. The Unit continues to improve the site and is committed to a major investment on improvement works of over £ 800,000
- The Sport and Recreation Unit is currently working with Groundwork Wakefield and Sport England on the appointment of an outdoor Active Recreation Officer.

## Increase Cultural and Leisure Opportunities

- We offer a full range of sports and recreation opportunities both in conjunction with our many partners and also through our network of quality facilities.

## Wakefield Unitary Development Plan

Leisure activities are major pastimes of growing importance. Increasing affluence, leisure time and interest in fitness and health continue to contribute to the escalating demand for facilities. The links between health and exercise are firmly established and the benefits of recreation and leisure activities to individuals and society in general are acknowledged. The tourism and leisure industry is also of considerable economic value, providing an important source of employment accounting for about 7% of employment, approximately 7,500 jobs, in the District.

Leisure facilities are important components in the development and use of land which contribute significantly to the quality of life. Accordingly, the UDP incorporates the Council's planning policies to foster the development of new leisure facilities which provide a wide range of opportunities in readily accessible locations for the full cross section of the community. A draft Sport and Recreation Strategy for the Wakefield District 1999-2005 is in the final stages of preparation. This will provide the basis for making decisions about the future planning of services and facilities, both new and existing.

Regional Planning Policy Guidance for Yorkshire and Humberside (RPG12, dated August 1996) provides specific guidance on issues of regional significance, and this in turn refers to the need to have regard to regional strategy, entitled "Principles, Partners and Players", produced by the Yorkshire and Humberside Council for Sport, and to local strategies for recreational, sporting and leisure activities.

The Yorkshire and Humberside Council for Sport has now been replaced by the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Forum, and its associated executive body, the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Board. The Board is represented on the "Regional Cultural Consortium", which is required to produce a Regional Cultural Strategy, and will include sports and recreational issues, and thus incorporate a regional sports and recreational strategy.

## Issues

- Need to recognise the changing leisure market associated with the population trends, in particular the potential growth related to the older age groups and women.
- Need to accommodate the escalating demand for a wide range of leisure activities, associated with the growing importance attached to such activities and the recognition of the contribution these activities can make to improving the quality of life, as recognised in the recent publication "Health of the Nation".
- The importance of leisure facilities and countryside activities which are accessible to all sections of the community.
- Need to address the shortfalls in the provision of certain leisure facilities and to explore partnership opportunities.
- Need to reconcile the increased demand and possible opportunities for leisure in the countryside and the potential conflict with existing rural land uses, nature conservation

## Objectives

To address these issues and provide the framework for developing policies which reinforce the overall aim and development strategy of the UDP, two leisure objectives have been identified:-

- i) To facilitate the provision of a wide range of leisure opportunities in accessible locations throughout the District to encourage the full use of leisure time and contribute to raising the standard of health of the nation.

This objective reflects the growing demand and importance attached to leisure pursuits and the contribution such activities can make to achieving a healthier lifestyle and better quality of life. These activities offer opportunities for individual and community participation, improving self-esteem, community confidence and cohesion, can help to alleviate deprivation and

contribute to social and economic regeneration. It also recognises that barriers exist which restrict access to leisure opportunities, and seeks to minimise those barriers related to and aggravated by poor accessibility.

- ii) To secure greater community use of leisure facilities.  
This objective seeks to maximise the leisure opportunities available by securing better use of existing facilities. It recognises that in many cases dual use of facilities provides a cost effective way of expanding opportunities, encouraging wider public participation and reduces the pressure for releasing additional land for facilities for participatory leisure pursuits.

## Policy Justification

Policies have been developed which address the changing nature of demand for leisure activities, reflected in the trends and issues outlined earlier, and which reinforce the development strategy.

It should be noted that all proposals for Leisure development will also be subject to Environment, Transport and Open Land policies, in addition to those included within this chapter.

**Policy I1** Land is allocated in the plan for indoor and outdoor leisure facilities, urban open space and countryside recreation, to satisfy a wide range of leisure needs.

Provision is made in the Plan for a range of leisure facilities, including open space, playing fields and for countryside leisure. However, a draft Sport and Recreation Strategy for the Wakefield District 1999-2005 is in the final stages of preparation.

With the advent of Best Value further assessment is required of the leisure needs and aspirations of residents. All land allocated for leisure use is believed to be in sustainable locations.

The assessment of the provision of local open space undertaken for the Local Plans has not been updated at this stage and it continues to provide the basis for the proposals incorporated in the Plan. The assessment was based on the assumption that children should not have to walk more than 400 metres and should not have to cross a main road to reach such a facility. In this context, it is important that space is not only accessible but also safe in terms of the type of provision and its location, particularly as young children and adolescents are the major users of such facilities. Areas of housing which did not satisfy this requirement were considered deficient.

**Policy L2** new leisure and tourist development will be encouraged and permitted:

- i) In the case of major travel-generating uses, in city, town and district centres or, in the case of smaller facilities, in local centres;
- ii) Outside such centres, only where there is a clearly defined need, where there are no more central sites after having been flexible about scale, format and car parking, and where the site is or would be readily accessible by a choice of means of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport;
- iii) All development should be consistent with the characteristics of the surrounding area.

**Policy I3** green open spaces in the urban area will be protected where there is a leisure, nature conservation, urban wildlife or amenity value associated with the site. development proposals which materially conflict with the value of such land for these purposes will not be permitted, unless arrangements are made for suitable alternative provision.

**Policy I4** the council will encourage and seek to implement dual use of leisure facilities, so that community use is secured in tandem with educational or other public or private use, where this can be achieved without detriment to the primary function of the facility.

Community use of leisure facilities provides an opportunity to expand the facilities available to the public in accessible locations.

Educational facilities, in particular, are well located to serve the community and are often under-utilised outside the educational day. Community use which provides this opportunity to better utilise existing facilities and buildings also reduces the pressure for releasing additional land.

The Council is committed to the regular official use of school premises outside school hours. When the opportunity arises, improvements to existing or provision of new indoor and outdoor school sports facilities will be designed to permit public use, normally outside school time. Bids for sports or arts lottery funding will be made when appropriate to upgrade or provide new school facilities for shared public use.

School governing bodies control the use of school facilities both within and outside school time. The Council has powers to direct governing bodies to allow use of school facilities but these are rarely used as the Council works in partnership with governing bodies to provide leisure and other educational activities for the community on school premises.

Agreement with the private sector for a degree of community access to private facilities may provide a mutually beneficial way to broaden opportunities for recreation and leisure, where buildings or facilities are under-utilised during particular times of the day or week.