



Woking Community Strategy

Woking's first Community Strategy was published in 2002, and is the vision for the Borough, based on what local people told us were their key concerns and priorities. It was implicit that the strategy should be community focused and community driven, so six community strategy roadshows were held at a number of venues across the Borough, with a final community workshop for 150 people where all the issues were pulled together. The themes that emerged from this work were then tested via a questionnaire to the Citizen's Panel before final publication.

The Community Strategy sets out the longer term vision for the Borough under six broad themes, describing the kind of place people said they wanted their community to be, and identifying priorities for action. It is intended to inform the individual service plans of the partner organisations, which also aim to deliver other local and national priorities.

However, strategies don't stand still and during 2005/06, the six themes of the strategy were reviewed, based on the vision of the people of Woking, the new themes are set out below.

Theme 1

A strong community spirit with a clear sense of belonging and responsibility.

- Giving local people a voice which encourages participation and is heard by decision-makers.
- Ensuring that there is fair and equal access to services and facilities.
- Providing resources and facilities to enable local communities to help themselves.

- Working towards a more caring community by encouraging a better understanding of different cultures, religion and beliefs, generations and lifestyles.



Theme 2

A clean, healthy and safe environment.

- Keeping the environment clean and encouraging everyone to respect it.
- Conserving green spaces and ensuring they are accessible.
- Helping people to feel safe in their community.
- Ensuring that when new areas are built the local infrastructure grows with it.
- Promoting and encouraging schemes and actions that minimise waste and increase recycling.
- Promoting actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, respond to the challenges of climate change and encourage sustainable development.

Theme 3

A transport system that is linked and accessible, recognising Woking's potential as a transport hub.

- Working to develop all forms of travel to ensure they are accessible, interlink and contribute towards reducing congestion.
- Exploring ways of improving community and public transport.
- Promote linked up regional transport schemes, such as the rail hub and access to Heathrow airport, to enhance economic prosperity.



Theme 4

Access to decent affordable housing for local people and key workers.

- Exploring through policy and action, ways in which all local people have a reasonable expectation of a decent, appropriate and affordable place to live.
- Exploring ways in which an imaginative architectural approach might meet housing need.
- Examining potential schemes for subsidising `key worker' housing.

Theme 5

A community which values personal health and well-being.

- Improving access to information so that individuals can minimise preventable health problems.
- Concentrating resources on developing services which are accessible for disadvantaged vulnerable members of the community.
- Promoting emotional and spiritual well-being by encouraging support structures that help individuals live life to the full.
- Encouraging the use of key leisure and recreational opportunities to assist people to keep themselves fit and healthy.
- Working towards a system that enables all people to access health and social services in a simple and logical way.



Theme 6

Provide opportunities and encourage people to participate in learning throughout their lives so they progress and reach their full potential.

- Promoting opportunities for every child and young person to be happy and confident by matching school and leisure provision to the individual's needs.
- Improving access to specialist training for work to meet Woking's vibrant and diverse economy.
- Focusing resources on developing learning in communities who need them most.
- Providing opportunities for people who would benefit from improved basic skills so that they increase the choices available to them.
- Supporting learning initiatives that enable families to improve their quality of life.
- Ensuring access to information that improves participation and enables progression in learning throughout life.