

Eden Sustainable Community Strategy



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Introduction

by Reverend David Emison,
Chairman of Eden Local Strategic Partnership

Eden is a great place to live. As its residents, we are some of the healthiest people in the country, our schools perform well above average and crime is very low. A majority of us very much appreciate the exceptional environment we live in and we enjoy a strong sense of community, not least because our voluntary, community and faith organisations are very active. But, Eden is not paradise.

Our sparse population and rural setting mean that many people in remote areas struggle to access the services they need, especially the ever-increasing proportion of older people. Communities are concerned about anti-social behaviour and wish to see more activities to engage our young people. Our wages are lower than average, house prices are very high, and much of our older housing stock is hard to heat.

Our Community Strategy shows our ambition to work together to address these challenges to make Eden an even better place to live.



Key Facts about Eden

Other than the main town of Penrith, all of Eden is classified as rural sparse or less-sparse. Its small population (52,007 in 2004) is expected to grow by 10-15% over the next 25 years. This means that, by 2030, the number of people aged over 60 will grow to 15,550 from 13,522.

Our economy is dominated by consumer services, including tourism, and the majority of our businesses are small. As a consequence, our average gross annual pay (£16,010) is significantly lower than the rest of the country. In 2001, 6.2% of our homes were holiday or second homes.

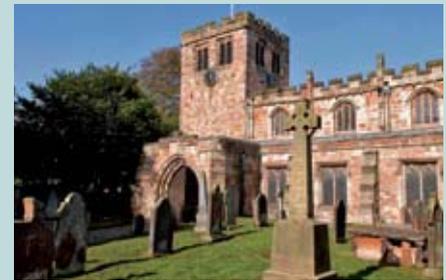
Our most telling statistic is from the 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. These rank Eden as the 11th most deprived district in England for access to housing and services. Indeed, 16% of us travel more than 20 kilometres to work and only 1.3% of us are within 20 minutes travel time of a range of 3 different sports facilities.

In spite of this, 93% of us are satisfied with our area as a place to live and 73% of us trust many or most local people.

What You Have Told Us

In 2002, people in Eden suggested 8 issues that were important to them:

- Strong communities
- Improved health and well-being
- A strong economy
- Thriving children and young people
- Decent, affordable housing
- Maintaining a high quality environment
- A good transport system
- Promoting the area's culture, leisure and tourism opportunities.





LSP Priorities

More recent community and parish plans and numerous consultations have:

- confirmed the importance of those eight aspirations and;
- highlighted affordable housing, activities for teenagers and public transport as key areas for local improvement.

To prioritise delivery of the Community Strategy, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) therefore agreed two priorities which capture local people's views:

1. Improving activities for young people; and
2. Ensuring equitable access to services (including affordable housing)

and a third that picks up the emerging importance of climate change

3. Enabling people to take care of their environment.

The Community Strategy's Vision

To develop, maintain and improve a vibrant Eden economy, supporting active and inclusive sustainable communities, building on natural assets whilst protecting and enhancing Eden's unique environment and heritage.

A priority-focused Action Plan for Eden Community Strategy

At the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the LSP, partners focused on the development of a draft three-year action plan for the Community Strategy. Emphasis was placed on those actions that would contribute to delivery of the LSP's three current priorities. The draft plan was then:

- sustainability tested;
- checked for relevance to community and parish plans; and
- subjected to wide consultation before being finalized and adopted by the LSP.

The main actions agreed for each of the themes are outlined in the following sections. Please note that Promoting Eden actions have been incorporated into the Economy theme.

Stronger Communities

Aim - to ensure that people from all sectors of our local communities have equal access to services; that our communities are safe and attractive and that participation and influence in the decision-making process across all sectors is significantly increased.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- C1** Capture, distribute and use community and parish plan information to inform partners' service delivery and strategic planning.
- C2** Partner agencies to actively encourage and support community led projects arising from community and parish plans.
- C3** Target community and parish planning support to communities without plans.
- C4** Pilot at least one innovative solution to sustain rural services in a remote rural community.
- C5** Champion rural proofing by seeking funding for training for all LSP partners.
- C6** Identify mobile telephone, broadband and digital television communication gaps across Eden and lobby for improvements.
- C7** Reduce the incidence of violent crime and disorder in Penrith town centre, associated with the late evening and night-time economy.
- C8** Reduce theft in priority locations.
- C9** Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic violence.
- C10** Reduce criminal damage to vehicles, homes and other buildings.





Improved Health and Well-being

Aim - to improve the health and well-being of our communities by reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy living and supporting locally accessible, high quality health care.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- He1** Via Eden Valley Public Health Partnership, target available resources at priority health inequalities and areas.
- He2** Identify appropriate healthcare services that may be delivered using community buildings and other local venues.
- He3** Pilot local delivery of the healthcare services identified in action He2 (above) in areas where people have to travel for the most time to access those services.
- He4** Via the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance, obtain funding for and implement priority projects for:
broadening the offer of sport and physical activity to the whole community in Eden, developing positive activities for young people via the provision of diversionary activity, access to facilities, building capacity and signposting and marketing.
- He5** Implement 'Better Bar None' or similar scheme to promote legal and responsible access to alcohol in Penrith.

A Strong Economy

Aim - to support and develop an economically sustainable and prosperous area where investment is encouraged, skills are developed and retained and new and existing businesses are supported.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- Ec1** Improve the efficiency and performance of existing and developing businesses, including social enterprises.
- Ec2** Provide e-commerce support for existing businesses and seek to attract e-commerce businesses to Eden.
- Ec3** Provide information about redundant buildings suitable for business use.
- Ec4** Run a business resource efficiency programme for business.
- Ec5** Deliver the economic actions in community plans.
- Ec6** Improve the match between student placements and businesses.
- Ec7** Establish an Eden Skills Centre to provide vocational training.





Maintaining a High Quality Environment

Aim - to protect and enhance our environment.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- En1** Plan and deliver the 2007 LSP Community Conference on Climate Change.
- En2** Provide information and resources to enable individuals, organisations, communities and businesses in Eden to tackle the challenges of climate change as identified through the Cumbria Climate Change Action Plan.
- En3** Support new initiatives to 'plug the gaps' in environmental services.
- En4** Support initiatives that help to develop a strong local 'green' economy.
- En5** Ensure partners keep communities aware of funding opportunities for community waste initiatives not yet included in the Cumbria Waste Strategy.
- En6** Support, develop and resource environmental projects initiated by communities, including those drawn up in community and parish plans.

Thriving Children and Young People

Aim - provide a framework where children and young people can thrive and improve their life chances.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- Y1** Establish a young people's consultation forum.
- Y2** Provide subsidised fares on buses for young people or young people's buses.
- Y3** Seek to bring additional resources into the area for youth work.
- Y4** Publicise available activities for young people with details of transport.
- Y5** Develop and implement the Eden Play Strategy.





Decent, Affordable Housing

Aim - to support the development and maintenance of decent, affordable housing and related services which meet the needs of local people and support economic and community development.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- Ho1** Bring a range of interests together to research and lobby for more locally-innovative and flexible ways of delivering affordable housing.
- Ho2** Promote schemes to make warmth more affordable and sustainable.
- Ho3** Assess the housing situation of migrant workers in the District.

A Good Transport System

Aim - to assist in the development of an effective, accessible and sustainable transport system.

Between 2007-2010 we will:

- T1** Develop transport concessions for young and old people on all modes of transport.
- T2** Develop innovative solutions to reduce need to travel.
- T3** Improve cycling and walking networks.
- T4** Implement Eden Accessibility Plan.

Links to other plans

Eden Community Strategy and its Action Plan influence and are influenced by a number of other plans and strategies. While they all contribute to the wider delivery of Eden Community Strategy, the local spatial planning documents are particularly important as they are the 'spatial expression' of the Community Strategy.

In Eden District, these documents include:

- Eden Local Development Framework (LDF)
- The Lake District LDF (for that part of Eden which is within the Lake District National Park)
- Cumbria Waste and Minerals LDF

Other documents particularly important to Eden Community Strategy are outlined in the diagram on page 14.

Measuring progress

The full action plan with named lead partners, performance indicators and timings is available as a separate document. We will use this to check and report on how delivery of the Action Plan is proceeding in the spring and autumn of each year.





Eden Local Strategic Partnership

Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) works with Eden District Council to develop and deliver Eden Community Strategy. The LSP is made up of more than 200 private, public, voluntary, community and faith organisations. All are interested in improving local quality of life and work with each other to do so.

The full membership meets twice a year; in autumn at a Community Conference and in winter at the LSP's Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM, the membership elects a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

As indicated in the diagram on page 15, Eden LSP is led by a Steering Group that includes representatives from:

- Churches Together
- Voluntary Action Cumbria
- Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service in Eden
- Eden's four Key Service Centres (Penrith, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Alston) with their hinterlands
- Business
- Eden Association of Local Councils
- Eden District Council
- Cumbria County Council

and the chairmen of the LSP's nine working groups:

- Environment Working Group
- Eden Valley Public Health Partnership
- Eden Children and Young People's Planning Group
- Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Eden Cultural Partnership
- Eden Sport and Physical Activity Alliance
- Eden Economic Forum
- Eden Stronger Communities Working Group
- Equitable Access to Services Working Group

These working groups have driven the development of the Community Strategy Action Plan and are key to its successful delivery through cross cutting action.

The following organisations are committed to working together to deliver this Strategy and Action Plan:



Appleby Town Council and Alliance • Cumbria Association of Local Councils • Upper Eden Community Plan Group

Deveraux

on behalf of Eden Sport and Physical Activity Alliance

Andrew Aldridge

on behalf of Eden Stronger Communities Working Group

John L...

on behalf of Eden Economic Forum

Anna Samans

on behalf of Equitable Access to Services Working Group

Phil Davies

on behalf of Eden Environment Working Group

Keith Morgan

on behalf of Eden Cultural Partnership

David Rowan

on behalf of Eden Children and Young People's Planning Group

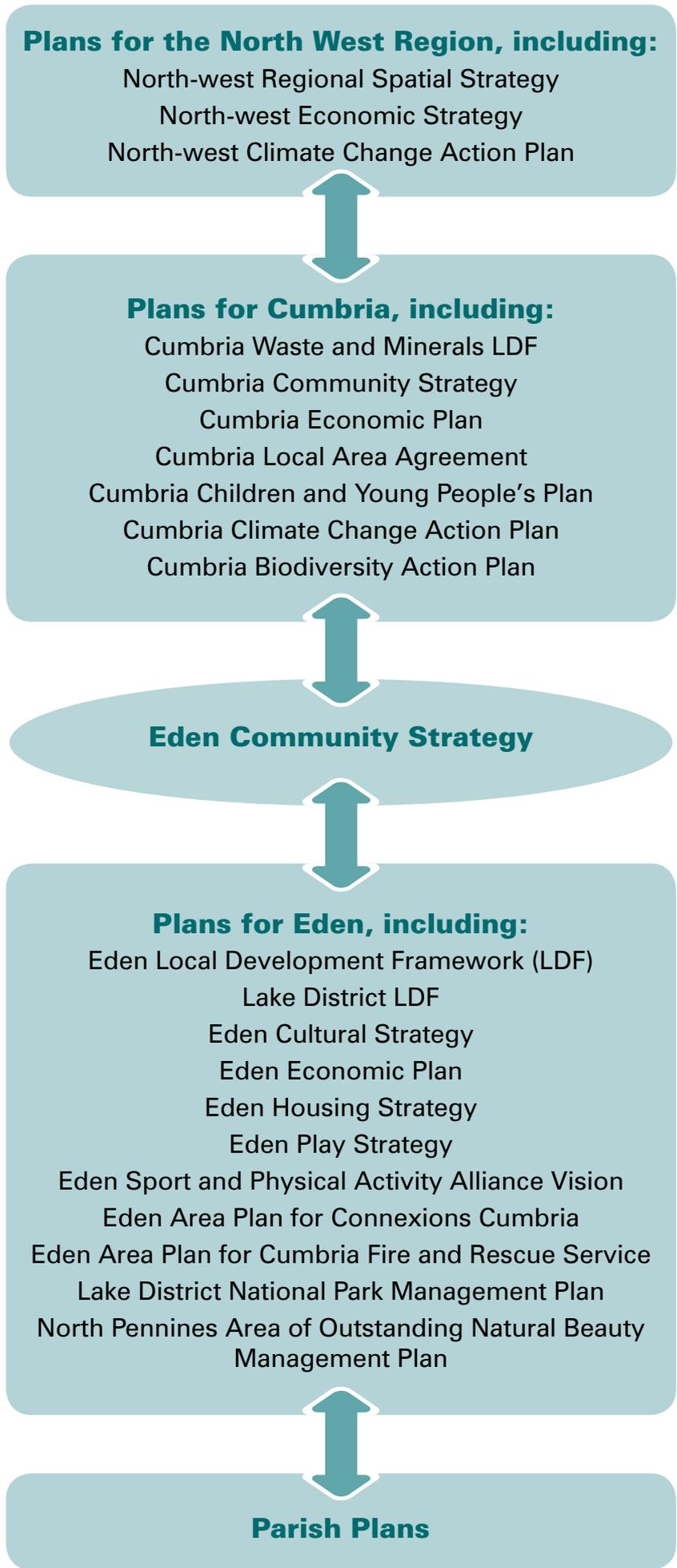
Jan Trisellen

on behalf of Eden Valley Public Health Partnership

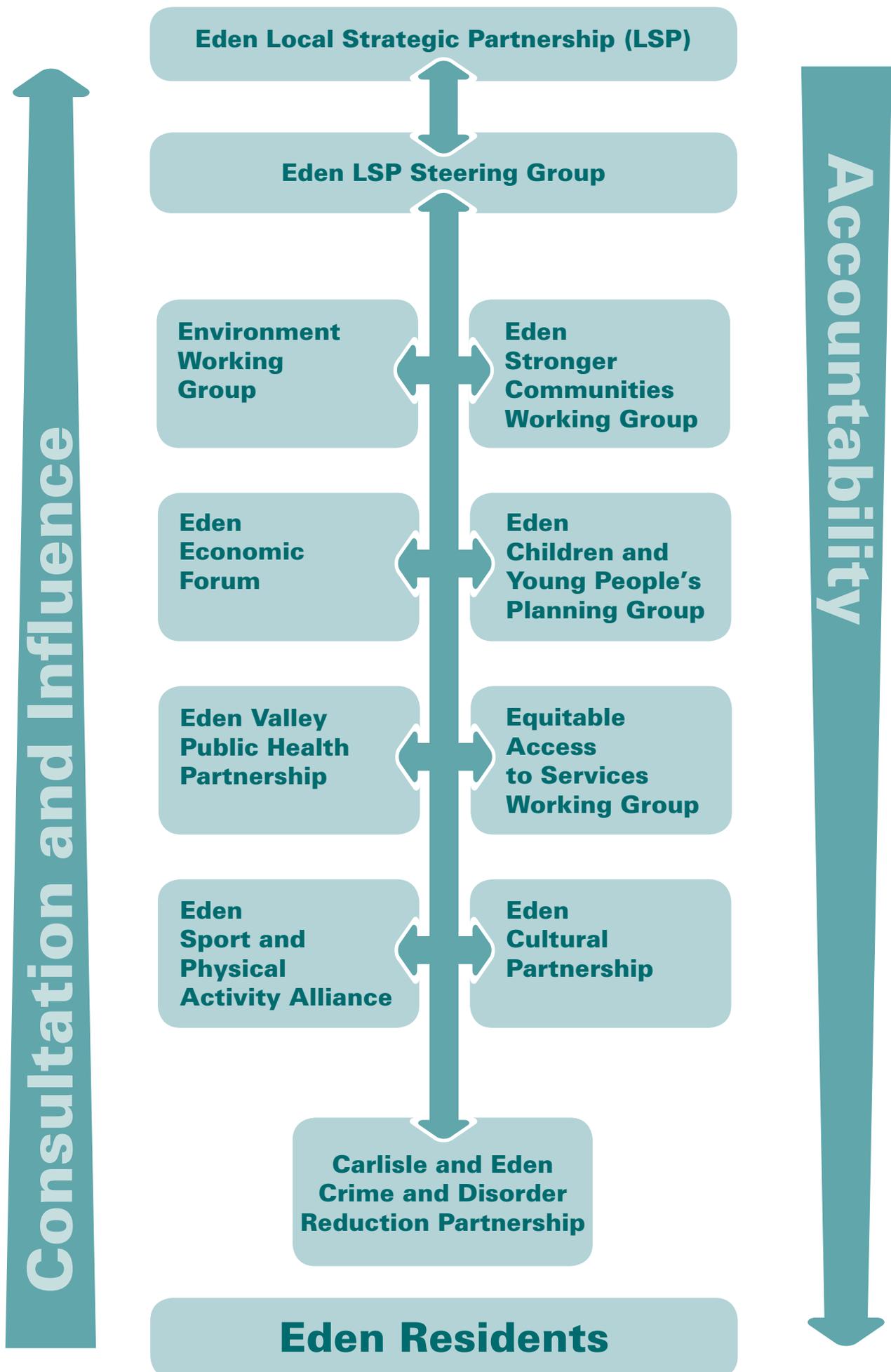
Age Concern Eden • Appleby Heritage Centre • Business Link Northwest • Connexions Cumbria • Cumbria Constabulary • Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service • Cumbria Strategic Partnership • Disability Association Carlisle and Eden • East Cumbria Countryside Project • Eden Arts • Eden Carers • Eden Housing Association • Eden Local Agenda 21 • Field Studies Council • Home Housing Association • Impact Housing Association • Jobcentre Plus • Lake District National Park Authority • Natural England • North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • The Environment Agency • The Learning and Skills Council • The Tourism and Conservation Partnership • Two Castles Housing Association • University of Cumbria



Our Strategy and Other Plans



The Structure of Eden Local Strategic Partnership



A summary of the information contained in Eden Community Strategy is available upon request in alternative languages and formats.

Copies are also available online at:
www.eden.gov.uk

If you have any comments or queries contact:
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Crime and Disorder Reduction
Partnership*