

## Community Action 2020 – Commitments

(please note: Commitments shown in bold are as printed in the strategy)

- ♦ **The Government will launch Community Action 2020 – Together We Can later in 2005 as a catalyst for thinking globally and acting locally in communities across England (chapter 2)**
- ♦ **CA 2020 will enable community development practitioners and mentors to be better equipped to support communities. The Government will work with key stakeholders in the community sector to achieve this by:**
- ♦ **improving access to information, advice, materials, community packs, web portals and training which will all help communities take action on sustainable development (chapter 2)**
  - **Community Action 2020 – Together We Can will promote the exchange of information and experience between successful community projects and other communities who want to learn through training and web-based dissemination of good practice (chapter 2)**
  - **Through a refocused Environmental Action Fund, the Government is supporting voluntary organisations with community level projects which influence behaviour and will deliver sustainable consumption outcomes. We will look to use lessons from these projects to further improve and expand partnership activities of this kind which prove successful in changing consumption patterns. This includes making information available through Community Action 2020 – Together We Can help change consumption patterns on food, transport and other issues (chapter 3)**
  - **The Government has introduced a range of measures to stimulate take-up of energy efficiency measures in the home, as well as in business. These include regulatory and incentive-based policies, grants and other economic incentives, and the provision of information and advice. This information offers a starting point for the wider community action on climate change supported through Community Action 2002 – Together We Can (chapter 4)**
  - **As part of Community Action 2020 – Together We Can we will promote ways to help communities improve their environment and participate in plans which shape their area's future (chapter 5)**
  - **The Government will work with the National Association of Councils for Voluntary Services (NACVS) and Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) to help ensure those who work with parish and neighbourhood communities are aware of information and have access to it.**
- ♦ **Community Action 2020 – Together We Can will encourage the recognition and valuing of communities' efforts:**
- ♦ **by raising awareness of community awards and providing more information about them (chapter 2)**
  - **As part of Community Action 2020 – Together We Can, the Government will celebrate successful Sustainable Community Strategies, parish plans and neighbourhood plans, looking particularly for those that do**

**most to build on Local Agenda 21, are innovative in their approach and help achieve a step change in sustainable development (chapter 6)**

- ◆ **by improving access to sources of funding for environmental and sustainable development projects (chapter 2)**
  - The Government will explore ways in which micro-grant programmes provided by Lottery or other funders could help to support communities deliver sustainable development projects and activities through Community Action 2020.
  - **As part of Community Action 2020 – Together We Can, the Climate Change Communications Initiative will focus strongly on communicating at a local and regional level, where the evidence suggests it can be most effective. The Government will establish a new fund, starting next financial year, to support climate change communications at a regional and local level (chapter 4)**
- ◆ **increasing opportunities for community workers and communities to learn about sustainable development (chapter 2)**
- ◆ **including sustainable development in National Occupational Standards and accredited units which set out the skills and principles of practice for community development work, (chapter 2)**
  - The Government will work to build a coalition of national community development, regeneration and environment organisations to develop an accredited community mentor programme on sustainable development for workers already involved in supporting communities.
  - The Government will develop ways of working with young people, Black and minority ethnic groups, faith groups, local communities, the disabled, the elderly and others to involve them in sustainable development
  - **From 2006, provide through the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund will provide core funding to Community Empowerment Networks to co-ordinate, on behalf of all partners, the LSP's community empowerment activities. These networks will have access to Community Action 2020 – Together We Can mentors (chapter 6)**
  - **On the theme of 'cleaner, safer, greener communities' the Government will launch a 'How To' programme to promote the take up and use of new and existing powers and guidance to transform the local environment. The Government will also provide a joined up programme of support for our delivery partners to promote the improvement of the local environment (chapter 7)**
- ◆ **increasing opportunities for individuals within communities to volunteer in sustainable development activity (chapter 2)**
  - **Local planning authorities will set out in their Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) how communities will be engaged in the preparation and revision of LDFs, and consulted on planning applications. SCIs will also be linked to the broader Community Action 2020 – Together We Can programme (chapter 6)**
  - **In partnership with local government and other local public bodies, it will engage people in planning for the future of their local**

**neighbourhoods or parishes and influencing the delivery of services in their area (chapter 2)**

- To encourage the preparation of parish plans which cover social, economic and environmental goals in rural communities, the Government will provide practical support on sustainable development and will build the capacity of those involved in supporting communities to cover the full range of sustainable development issues (chapter 6)
- **In 'Firm Foundations' the Government has also identified the need to develop good practice guidelines to support local action planning in general and how it can contribute to sustainable development (chapter 6)**

Local Government

- ◆ **In 2005 the Government will hold a cross-departmental workshop to explore ways of improving the Government's communication of consistent messages on sustainable development and sustainable communities to local Government (chapter 7).**
- ◆ **The Government will consider with our partners how to revise the existing guidance and develop toolkits and other materials to support local authorities and LSPs when reviewing and preparing their Sustainable Community Strategies (chapter 6)**
- ◆ **During 2005 the Government will work with its partners to develop toolkits and other materials to support Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in developing and delivering Sustainable Community Strategies which help deliver sustainable development in the UK (chapter 7)**
- ◆ **Following the recommendation contained in Sir John Egan's Review 'Skills for Sustainable Communities' (2004), the Government has announced the establishment of a new Academy for Sustainable Communities. The Academy will work with partners to promote a new agenda for sustainable communities, increase the availability of generic skills and widen and improve access to sustainable communities skills. The Academy's programme will include the development of learning opportunities for the core occupations identified in the Egan Review, including those for Local Strategic Partnerships (chapter 7).**
- ◆ **The Improvement and Development Agency will roll out a Leadership Academy module on Sustainable Communities which develops local leadership on sustainable development issues. It will also offer a peer review tool on 'Sustainable Communities' (chapter 7).**