



**6 April 2009**

**New ambitions for the district.**

The recession and the ageing population are key issues emerging as new challenges for the district.

Residents and community groups are being asked for their views on new priorities and issues by the Local Strategic Partnership, which brings together local organisations from the public sector, the voluntary sector and local businesses.

The partnership has launched its revised draft Community Strategy for St Albans and District - 'Shaping our District Together for 2021' for consultation.

The Chair of the LSP, Cllr Robert Donald commented: "Since the launch of the Community Strategy in 2007, LSP partners have been tackling the highlighted local gaps in services and facilities identified in its action plan. Much has been achieved in doing this already. But new issues are now emerging and these need to be addressed as well as the original targets.

"A review of the Community Strategy is thus timely, and I really hope that as many individual residents and organisations as possible will therefore respond to the consultation on this draft strategy. This is your opportunity to shape the vision and future of St Albans District for the next decade and beyond. The Community Strategy will also set the overall direction for the District Council's Local Development Framework and your views will therefore influence this document due to be consulted on in June and July 2009."

Economic sustainability is a key new priority emerging for the work of the partnership in the face of the challenges for the area during a national recession. Better and more flexible care for the growing number of elderly is coming to the fore as the population ages with higher life expectancy and higher expectations.

The first draft of an updated strategy has now been developed following feedback from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board members, associated partnerships, the LSP annual community conference and themed focus groups.

Residents and stakeholders can now make their contribution to the consultation on the revised Community Strategy.

The draft document and response forms can be accessed online via <http://www.stalbanslsp.org.uk/public-consultation/index.htm>

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**Notes:**

The Community Strategy sets out the vision and ambitions for the area, including attractiveness; good health, a strong economy and an active community. It also sets the direction for current work on the city and rural vision and the Local Development Framework, which will guide development in the city and district over the next 20 years.