



**CYNGOR**

***Sir Ddinbych***

***Denbighshire***

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Sustainable Development Plan  
2009  
Update**

# Sustainable Development Plan



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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Welsh Assembly Government is clear about the leadership role that the public sector needs to demonstrate on sustainable development. To demonstrate this Denbighshire County Council [DCC] is producing an update of its Sustainable Development Plan and Action Plan. There is a need to revise what has taken place and what we need to do in the coming years to continue to improve the sustainable operation of the Council. The first step Denbighshire has taken is to apply a definition of sustainable development and use that as a foundation. Denbighshire has defined sustainable development as:

*“Sustainable development means that economic, environmental, and social issues must be integral components in all forms of development in Denbighshire. This will ensure that we have a positive impact on people’s quality of life now and in the future, providing a safe and secure county for generations to come”.*

DCC uses the shared UK principles of sustainable development to help identify how it can identify sustainable outcomes in business planning. This will be used to help measure our influence on the definition and in achieving the general aims of sustainable development.

### The Principles of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Principle	General Aim
Achieving a Sustainable Economy	Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (Polluter Pays) and efficient resource use is incentivised
Using Sound Science Responsibly	Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the Precautionary Principle) as well as public attitudes and values
Promoting Good Governance	Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity
Living within Environmental Limits	Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations
Ensuring a Strong, Healthy & Just Society	Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all

This Sustainable Development Plan will include details of the priority actions that Denbighshire County Council is taking or will take to deliver on their commitment to sustainable development. This plan will also compliment the priority actions by including information on the key sustainable development risks which are likely to affect the council now or in the near future.

## PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS

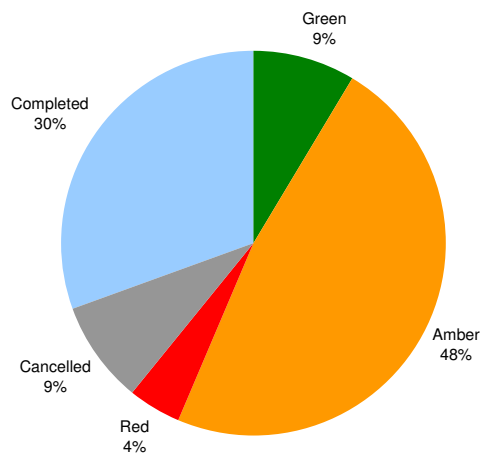
The actions in the Sustainable Development Plan are reported to Resources Scrutiny biannually. The last update report was in March 2008. At the time of reporting 39% of the actions were either complete or on track with some progress noted on a further 48%. One action (4%) is showing limited progress and two (9%) have been cancelled.

The one action that is showing limited progress is the result of delayed planning for the development of the Community Strategy. The initial timeline for final completion has been revised in line with the expectation from WAG. The two cancelled actions were directly related to resource implications.

The seven completed actions went some way towards setting the scene for improved awareness and creating opportunity and support for further progression of the sustainable development agenda.

A number of further advances have taken place since March that requires a comprehensive update of the sustainable development action plan. An updated action plan is included in this document and contains a brief status report on actual progress against actions. A number of new actions have been included and are clearly identified in the body of the action plan.

**Figure 1** Percentage progress against 2007 – 2009 sustainable development actions



**Figure 2** Actual progress against 2007 – 2009 sustainable development actions

Completed	Green	Amber	Red	Cancelled
7	2	11	1	2

## GOVERNANCE

### Political Governance

Sustainable development is a strategic issue for the authority and as such it is the role and responsibility of **Members** to take full consideration of as they set the strategic direction of the authority.

**CABINET** Sustainable development is a matter to be addressed by the Cabinet Member with the portfolio: Environment and Sustainable Development

**SCRUTINY** As a corporate agenda sustainable development is a matter to be considered by Resources Scrutiny

**DELEGATED DECISION** General delegations, to each Cabinet Member in respect of his or her portfolio from Cabinet shall be done in accordance with Part 9 Article 7 of the DCC Constitution

### Business Process

It is the role and responsibility of the **Chief Executive** to ensure the successful implementation and integration of sustainable development into the strategic and operational management of the authority.

**CET** Progress reports and recommendations are taken to the Corporate Executive Team

**DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES** The coordination and monitoring of sustainable development rests with the Strategic Policy Unit under the Director of Resources, who also represents sustainable development on CET.

**HEADS OF SERVICE** Heads of Service are responsible for the integration of sustainable development into the operational management of their service.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The shared UK principles of sustainable development offer clear, high level aims for the progression of sustainable development. By using these principles we can focus on identifying sustainable outcomes that will help improve our understanding at the lower level where we plan our business and make our decisions.

### Achieving a Sustainable Economy

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (Polluter Pays) and efficient resource use is incentivised

1. Demonstrates support in the creation of better quality jobs and skills in all communities in the long term
2. Ensures that environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them in line with the polluter pays principle
3. Ensures efficiency of resource use
4. Adopts the principles of sustainable procurement
5. Attracts and retains talent in Denbighshire
6. Creation of more high quality, sustainable business in Denbighshire
7. Improves access by developing better and more sustainable transport links within Denbighshire
8. Demonstrates positive movement to reduce our dependence on imported fuels and fossil fuels

### Using Sound Science Responsibly

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the Precautionary Principle) as well as public attitudes and values

1. That needs assessments account for the most up-to-date evidence
2. To establish goals and monitoring for clarity in performance improvement
3. Research is performed using strong scientific evidence
4. Takes account of the precautionary principle in the face of uncertainty
5. Supports an increase in research, science and technology development

## Promoting Good Governance

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy and diversity

1. To encourage active citizenship, engagement and participation
2. To improve equitable access to services and facilities
3. To support the development of a healthy workforce
4. Invest in schools to sustain high standards of educational attainment
5. Support the development of vocational and life skills required to meet future employment needs
6. To work effectively with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors
7. Encourages individuals to help themselves and their communities
8. To have effective communication from and within the council

## Living within Environmental Limits

Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations

1. To provide good quality, resource efficient and affordable housing
2. To minimise the production of waste and encourage recycling and recovery
3. To encourage the prudent use of natural resources
4. To deal with the outcomes of climate change
5. To improve sustainable and low carbon modes of transport
6. To limit pollution levels at which natural systems can cope without damage
7. To reduce with the aim of eliminating the causes and effects of fuel poverty
8. Supports action for provision of energy efficiency and renewable energy in Denbighshire

Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all

1. To support the welsh language
2. To promote health and well-being
3. To reduce health inequalities
4. To increase participation in sports and physical activities
5. To promote equality of opportunity
6. To promote lifelong learning that contributes to personal fulfilment and social cohesion and inclusion
7. To safeguard vulnerable children and adults and promote their independence
8. Encourages people to take responsibility for their own health and well-being

The intention of this policy statement is to provide guidance and detail on the key principles to help business planners make links to sustainable development when they are preparing directorate and service business plans.

The next step is to think about the processes behind the provision of services and how they can be improved to contribute to the delivery of business and service improvement and sustainable development.

A key opportunity also relates to the awareness of risks associated with the future of service provision in the face of growing pressures from resource scarcity, new and developing fiscal burdens, climate change and a changing demography. All of which can be linked to sustainable development.

This is a fluid process and a learning curve that we will have to follow in order that we build organisational capability and capacity to put sustainable development into practice. This document combined with the Denbighshire County Council Improvement Plan will seek to create opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and resources to enable positive change to take place within Denbighshire County Council.

As one of the largest employers in Denbighshire we have a 'champion role' leading sustainable development within the county. This will involve taking our leadership role seriously by developing our organisation so it is fit for the future and allowing others to learn from our experiences.

## “One Planet Economy”

A “One Planet Economy” shows clear movement in the overall burden of taxation towards environmentally harmful practices. The aim is to use fiscal measures to influence change and make environmentally sound practices the norm. There are clear steps being taken to place heavy taxation burdens on environmentally damaging practices, examples in the form of existing measures like the Landfill Tax or the prospective Carbon Budgeting process. This creates risks for the council but also enables opportunity for action to improve its environmental performance and reduce the likelihood of financial pressures associated with those risks.

### Key Risks and Reduction Opportunity

Sustainable Development Risk	Risk Explained	Risk Reduction Opportunity
Peak Oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Peak oil and increased costs will place financial pressure on the council’s ability to provide key services</li> <li>▪ The UK relies on oil imports for near to 50% of our petroleum supply needs (2007)</li> <li>▪ Transport is a high risk industry and is key to the economy and service provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement a strategy actively seeking to diversify from our dependence on fossil fuel to sustainable alternatives</li> <li>▪ Remove the need to travel great distances in order to perform the functions of the council</li> <li>▪ Look into the use of advanced technologies to improve service provision and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels</li> </ul>
Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overexploitation of resources and creation of pollution contributes to depletion of future reserves</li> <li>▪ Productivity and competitiveness in business is essential for efficient and smart operation</li> <li>▪ Resources can take many forms be that water, energy, raw materials, goods and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Procure raw materials from sustainable sources wherever possible</li> <li>▪ Ensure the council fully understands the implications of procurement decisions through the application of sustainable procurement</li> <li>▪ Minimise the production of waste through more efficient use of raw materials</li> <li>▪ Utilise opportunities from advanced technologies to minimise the need for raw materials</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Landfill Tax applies a continuous increase in the cost of disposal of waste to landfill</li> <li>▪ A business abundant in the production of waste is likely to be using resources inefficiently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removing the need to use the raw materials will remove those wastes produced and save money as a result</li> </ul>

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

There are serious human consequences from the impact of climate change which will affect people both globally and locally. Changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme weather events cause dramatic damage to human life and reduce our ability of resilience to further extremes in weather conditions.

What is required is a profound change in the way we generate and use energy and a major reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The aim will be for Denbighshire County Council to operate and function effectively in a low carbon economy, where the roots of our future security are not set in the dependence on depleted fossil fuel stores.

### Key Risks and Reduction Opportunity

Sustainable Development Risk	Risk Explained	Risk Reduction Opportunity
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Climate Change Bill brought the introduction of Carbon Budgeting and a Carbon Reduction Commitment</li> <li>Failing to reduce our carbon emissions in line with our carbon budget will place financial pressure on the authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking action to reduce our carbon emissions now will place us in a good position for future Carbon Budgeting</li> <li>Services actively participating in their roles in Carbon Management</li> </ul>
Extreme Weather Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The increased frequency and severity of flood events occurring in Denbighshire</li> <li>The shortage of water supply as a result of prolonged absence of rain and increased demand</li> <li>Food security, availability and cost is influenced by the growing seasons and weather conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase information and awareness of actions people can take to protect themselves and their property from severe weather</li> </ul>
Energy Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The shift towards a low carbon economy to secure the energy needs of the country</li> <li>Pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look to renewable energy sources as alternatives to remove our reliance on fossil energy to supply our energy needs</li> <li>The by-products of energy production are taken into account when seeking alternatives</li> </ul>
Fuel Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The increasing cost of energy is pushing more households into fuel poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work that helps individuals at risk seek help and resource to improve the energy efficiency of their homes</li> </ul>

## WELL - BEING OF DENBIGHSHIRE'S PEOPLE

Sustainable development is about securing a better quality of life for current and future generations. This is emulated in the definition where Denbighshire County Council “will ensure that we have a positive impact on people’s quality of life now and in the future, providing a safe and secure county for generations to come”. The issues pertinent to the well - being of Denbighshire’s people are wide in range because our health, social care and well-being are widely affected by a range of influences such as where we live, work and learn; our incomes and lifestyle; our ethnic group and identity; our relationships with family and friends and our access to services and facilities.

### Key Risks and Reduction Opportunity

Sustainable Development Risk	Risk Explained	Risk Reduction Opportunity
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many problems impacting on ones quality of life have their roots in poor health</li> <li>▪ Peoples health is often based on personal choice and as such requires personal choice to improve</li> <li>▪ Mortality and long term illness are risks from an aging population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Giving people of all ages the opportunity and support to help improve their health</li> <li>▪ Shift responsibility on the individual for their life choices which lead to poor health</li> <li>▪ Provide the necessary health support for those in genuine need</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a need to individuals to have good quality, meaningful work and a decent income</li> <li>▪ Peoples mental and physical health in work plays a vital function in the fulfilment of their role</li> <li>▪ A large number of Denbighshire County Council staff are sedentary in employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports the generation of sustainable employment in the County</li> <li>▪ Promote, support and enable people to accept physical activity as a life choice</li> <li>▪ To understand and help remove the causes of poor mental health in the workplace</li> </ul>
Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All people should feel safe in their community</li> <li>▪ People are enabled to participate in leisure and cultural activities in their community</li> <li>▪ That communities are able to prosper in its widest sense to ensure well-being</li> <li>▪ All people have access to quality education and lifelong learning that is meaningful and of benefit to their personal development</li> <li>▪ The quality of the environmental, both local and global, is of vital importance to our survival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the Denbighshire’s Community Safety Partnership</li> <li>▪ That facilities exist in local communities to offer leisure and cultural activities</li> <li>▪ Supporting the rural economy and sustainable rural regeneration</li> <li>▪ Supporting sustainable business development in towns and villages</li> <li>▪ Supporting the modernising education programme</li> <li>▪ Recognises the importance of the aesthetic value of the environment</li> </ul>

# Sustainable Development Plan



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

The structure of the action plan has changed to reflect the principles of sustainable development. Aligned with these principles will be specific actions to target improvement. The intention is to simplify our approach to sustainable development and make it a much more understandable topic.

### Lessons learnt

- The council has redeveloped the Cabinet report template to include commentary on the likely impact of the decision on the corporate priorities, sustainable development, equalities and the community strategy. This is a step taken to make the council think about sustainable development when producing reports for decision. It has the potential to help drive the strategic direction of the council to a more sustainable future.
- The council is showing commitment to sustainable development by agreeing to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions from council owned estate by 2018. This shows that senior managers and members are aware of the current risks associated with climate change and are taking certain steps to develop strategic drivers for sustainable development. Continued involvement from senior managers and members will be critical to ensuring that this commitment is met.
- Denbighshire County Council staff have an understanding and awareness of the global issues we face today. Many are committed to seeking environmental improvements and look for opportunities to do this in the workplace and at home. The council understands that it needs to offer more support to enable environmental improvements to take place and will seek to take further measures to make sure this happens.
- The Impact Network has been an important factor integrating sustainable development into Denbighshire County Council's key strategies. Those in the strategic planning framework that were revised or renewed over the past year have used the impact assessment tool in order to help mainstream sustainable development.
- The council understands that embedding sustainable development in our corporate procurement strategy is of vital importance because what we buy and how we buy impacts significantly on our communities, our local economies, and upon our corporate priorities. The council will seek to take further measures to make this a reality in Denbighshire.

# Sustainable Development Plan



Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
Achieving a Sustainable Economy	1. Produce a corporate procurement strategy which is inclusive of sustainable development	November 2008	Arwel Staples	<b>ON TRACK</b> (revised date). The strategy has been produced, inclusive of sustainable procurement principles, and is awaiting formal acceptance.
	2. Implementation of the Pro-Actis e-procurement system	April 2009	Arwel Staples	<b>ON TRACK</b> . The implementation of this project is currently underway with roll out continuing as planned.
	3. Implementation of Sustainability Risk Assessment (SRA) for tendering of suppliers and services	April 2009	Arwel Staples	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b> (revised date). The SRA is ready and can be incorporated into the procurement process but no formal decision for its use has been taken.
Using Sound Science Responsibly	4. Roll out use of the Impact Assessment tool on all key strategies in the Strategic Planning Framework of Denbighshire County Council	Completed	Ewan McWilliams	<b>COMPLETED</b> . The network continues to function in its role as an aide to improve strategy/policy integration.
Promoting Good Governance	5. Adopt a definition of Sustainable Development for Denbighshire County Council	Completed	Ewan McWilliams	<b>COMPLETED</b> . The definition was agreed at Full Council on 27 June 2007.
	6. Member briefings on sustainable development	Biannual Briefings	Ewan McWilliams	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b> . The first briefing was sent but subsequent briefings are yet to be produced.

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Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
	7. Improvement of awareness of sustainable development through the creation of a dedicated webpage with regular updates	Completed	Ewan McWilliams	<b>COMPLETED.</b> The webpage is fully functional and is frequently updated.
	8. Developing leadership for sustainable development training course for Members	Cancelled	Ewan McWilliams	<b>CANCELLED.</b> No new training has been identified.
	9. Developing leadership for sustainable development training course for senior management	Completed	Ewan McWilliams	<b>COMPLETED.</b> PSMW training course held on 25 July 2007 for senior managers.
	10. Establish corporate sustainable development targets through the adoption of a suite of indicators	Refer to action 16	Ewan McWilliams	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> This action is now being progressed as part of the wider implementation of the performance management software ffynnon.
	11. Create an Education for Sustainable development and Global Citizenship – Quality Circle for secondary schools	Completed	Paula Roberts and David Phoenix	<b>COMPLETED.</b> Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship – Quality Circle for Secondary Schools established. It is expected to continue for another year.
	12. Exploration of potential for working in collaboration for joint delivery of sustainable operations	April 2009	Strategic Policy Unit	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> Cross collaboration initiative taken place via joint procurement activity for agency staff.

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Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
	13. The Local Service Board to recognise sustainable development as an overarching principle	April 2009	LSB	<b>LIMITED PROGRESS.</b> The LSB is still in the process of setting priorities and will approach SD via the community strategy.
	14. All Local Area Agreements to be Impact Assessed	Cancelled	LSB	<b>CANCELLED.</b> This action was cancelled and will not be progressed further.
	15. Raising public awareness through regular information through the website, County Voice and schools	Completed	Ewan McWilliams	<b>COMPLETED.</b> The webpage has been established and will remain to primary form of communication to raise public awareness.
	16. Implementation of the Ffynnon Project Plan (phase I)	April 2009	Ewan McWilliams	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The potential exists for this to become feasible with the introduction of software version 5.
<b>Living within Environmental Limits</b>	17. For Capital projects, Denbighshire should set a “quality threshold” in terms of sustainable development that all projects should meet	Service Business Plan 2008 – 2011	Gareth Evans	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> The council does not have a clear policy dictating their stance on sustainable development for capital projects. <b>Note:</b> Consider revision of this action to be “develop a specific policy on sustainable development for capital projects”.

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Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
	18. Set a BREEAM 'excellent' standard for all Council new development opportunities	Service Business Plan 2008 – 2011	Gareth Evans	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> Zero carbon and low carbon design is identified as one of the greatest pressures faced by DCC. Energy efficient design and sustainable energy use needs take precedence for any new or existing development by Denbighshire County Council.
	19. Achieve recognition of environmental improvement at County Hall from the Green Dragon Environmental Standard	September 2008	Iwan Prys-Jones	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> DCC has taken action to implement the Green Dragon Standard in County Hall. Assessment for level 2 will take place in August 2008.
	20. To improve the function of waste management in council buildings	December 2008 (County Hall and Caledfryn)	Iwan Prys-Jones	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> Improvements to waste management practices have taken place in Brighton Road and progression in Caledfryn and County Hall is underway.
	21. Improved reporting for energy and water consumption	Refer to Carbon Management Strategy	Robert Jones	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> This action has now been incorporated into actions 17 and 25 and will be progressed accordingly.

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Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
	22. Prepare a sustainable staff travel plan for Denbighshire County Council	Cancelled	Ewan McWilliams	<b>CANCELLED.</b> The resources do not exist to progress this action further. A directorate reduction target in business mileage is included in the Efficiency Strategy.
	23. Develop a sustainable energy policy and energy efficiency plan for Denbighshire County Council	Refer to Carbon Management Strategy	Robert Jones	<b>SOME PROGRESS.</b> This has been incorporated into action 25 and will be progressed accordingly.
	24. Implementation of the Warm Wales business plan contributing to reduce fuel poverty in the most vulnerable households	Completed	Gareth Roberts	<b>COMPLETED.</b> The “Warm Wales” scheme is operational in West and Southwest Rhyl Renewal Area’s only.
	25. Work with the Carbon Trust on the adoption and implementation of their Carbon Management Programme at Denbighshire County Council	Refer to Carbon Management Strategy	Iwan Prys-Jones	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The draft Carbon Management Strategy has been produced. A finalised version needs to be agreed and the performance management framework developed. <b>Note:</b> Improvement Agreement 2008 – 2011.
<b>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society</b>	26. Improve the health of Denbighshire residents through the implementation of the ‘Healthy Denbighshire’ Strategy	April 2011	Diane Hesketh	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The strategy has been agreed by key stakeholders, published and implementation is underway since March 2008.

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Sustainable Development Principle	Action	Target Date	Lead Responsibility	Current Status
	27. Improve the prospects for Denbighshire's youth through the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan	April 2011	Lisa Leece	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The plan is to be agreed by key stakeholders and published in September 2008 with implementation to follow.
	28. Implement the Community Safety Strategy through the partnership to deliver improved community safety	March 2009	Roly Schwarz	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The strategy has been agreed by key stakeholders, published and implementation underway since April 2008.
	29. Revise and publish the 'sustainable' Community Strategy for Denbighshire	June 2009	Eva Walters	<b>SOME PROGRESS</b> (revised date). The process for development of the community strategy is now fully underway.
	30. Improve the health of Denbighshire County Council employees through implementation of The Route to Health Improvement	March 2009	Sian Bennett	<b>NEW ACTION.</b> The Route to Health Improvement Action Plan 2007 – 2009 continues to be implemented with progress monitored by the Corporate Health Improvement Group.