

Contents

1 SOCIAL INCLUSION	1
1.1 Summary	1
1.2 Purpose	1
1.3 What is social inclusion?	2
1.4 Social inclusion ‘portrait’ of Cornwall	2
1.5 What is the role of the Core Strategy?	4
1.6 Relevant policy context and key evidence	4
1.7 Relevant evidence and research	5
1.8 Emerging Evidence and Policy	11
1.9 Gaps in Evidence	11
1.10 Key Messages from the Evidence Review	11
1.11 SWOT summary of Social Inclusion in Cornwall	12
1.12 Climate Change Considerations	13
1.13 Proposed Sustainability Objective –	14
1.14 Main Spatial Planning Issues	14
1.15 Appendix A	14

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

1 Social Inclusion

1.1 Summary

Social inclusion is concerned with reducing the inequalities between the least advantaged people and communities and the rest of society, by providing opportunities and support to all.

Social inclusion is a cross-cutting theme, which means that many of the issues raised in this paper are more fully addressed in other issues papers in this series e.g. housing, crime & anti-social behaviour, health, economy, education & skills, etc.

Issue S11 – The Core Strategy should consider how best to reduce inequality through a range of mechanisms, including increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving access to services and facilities and the countryside, etc.

1.2 Purpose

This is one in a series of papers dealing with a specific theme. Each can be read in isolation or together with other papers to gain a wider understanding of issues facing Cornwall. This paper sets out the evidence base and the policy context for social inclusion and describes how the issues that need to be addressed in relation to social inclusion could be taken forward in the Core Strategy. These papers will form the first stage of the development of options for Core Strategy policy. Other issues papers available in this series include:

- *Housing*
- *Economy*
- *Tourism*
- *Retail & town centres*
- *Education & skills*
- *Crime & anti-social behaviour*
- *Sport recreation & open space*
- *Health*
- *Transport & accessibility*
- *Energy*
- *Climate change*
- *Soil, air & water quality*
- *Flooding, drought & water consumption*
- *Biodiversity & geodiversity*
- *Landscape & seascape*
- *Historic environment*
- *Design & efficient use of resources*
- *Agriculture & food*
- *Coast & maritime*

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

- *Minerals*
- *Waste*

This series of papers is closely linked to the topics of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report. The SA scoping report identifies the sustainability objectives, decision making criteria and indicators against which the LDF and other plans in Cornwall should be tested, to examine whether plans are sustainable. The SA scoping report also identifies key messages from national, regional and local plans for the Cornwall LDF, a baseline and sustainability issues for each topic. These Core Strategy issue papers largely build on the SA scoping report and start to examine in greater detail the messages from evidence and research, the opportunities and threats and planning issues that need to be considered in the Core Strategy (the SA scoping report can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17394>.)

1.3 What is social inclusion?

Social inclusion is about reducing inequalities between the least advantaged groups, neighbourhoods and communities and the rest of society, by closing the opportunity gap and ensuring that support reaches those who need it the most. This involves ensuring that opportunities are available for all, through engagement and support, and by raising and realising people's aspirations and expectations. The most common indicators relating to social inclusion are the English Indices of Deprivation, which combine information relating to income, employment, educational achievement, health, skills and training, crime and barriers to housing and services to produce an overall measure of deprivation.

In general, deprived neighbourhoods experience higher levels of crime, unemployment, lower standards of educational attainment and health along with related problems such as poor housing, drug abuse and poverty, all of which are linked. Problems are mutually reinforcing, and a downwards spiral of deprivation can result, which can mean that the quality of life for residents gradually gets worse, whilst those who can leave the neighbourhood do so. The remaining residents may therefore be at greater risk of experiencing social exclusion.

In addition, people who are discriminated against because of their race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or religious belief can be more likely to experience problems of social exclusion.

The cross-cutting nature of social inclusion means that many of the issues raised in this paper are more fully addressed in other issues papers in this series e.g. Housing, Crime & Anti-Social behaviour, Health, Economy, Education & Skills, etc.

1.4 Social inclusion 'portrait' of Cornwall

Although Cornwall has traditionally been seen as a place where community life is strong compared to other parts of the country, worrying trends are emerging. Residents often feel distanced from the decision making process, and there is an increasing fragmentation of communities and decline of community activity. This is exacerbated by the rural nature of the county.⁽¹⁾

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

Although half the population of Cornwall live outside of the main urban areas, there is often a tendency by national policy-makers to focus on the needs of the towns. In more rural areas, the issues of poverty and disadvantage are often masked as small pockets of high deprivation and isolation can be hidden amid relatively affluent communities. Yet on most measures rural communities tend to fare less well than urban ones. Rural areas are also changing rapidly: personal mobility, ageing and migration are all having an impact, together with a reduction in the availability of local services, and these changes challenge the traditional way of life for rural communities.

Cornwall needs to work with all professions and partners to create a multi-agency approach to inclusion issues within service delivery. Cornwall Strategic Partnership is working to this effect, through many partner organisations and established 'Inclusion Cornwall'⁽²⁾ in 2004 to provide a dedicated voice for inclusion in Cornwall and to help partners to understand the linked issues of exclusion with the built and natural environment and to break down cultural and institutional barriers that prevent equality of opportunity for all. Inclusion Cornwall, working with Real Choices (Tackling Child Poverty) and the Debt and Financial Inclusion Group has identified pockets of deprivation usually hidden using traditional research.

Inclusion Cornwall has identified some of the vulnerable groups within the county as:-

Table 1.1

The Vulnerable Groups	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sick and disabled people ● Lone and workless parents ● Young people ● Older people ● Offenders and their family ● Migrant Workers ● Homeless people ● Black and Minority Ethnic Groups ● Travellers and Gypsies ● Rurally isolated ● Young people leaving care ● HM Forces leavers ● Teenage mothers/pregnant young mothers ● Young people excluded from school ● Children in care ● People with no or low educational qualifications and attainment ● Substance mis-users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those dependent on benefits, or who earn a low wage ● First time buyers ● Those in need of an adapted property ● Private rented sector ● Carers (including young carers) ● Cared for Parents ● Care leavers/looked after children ● Young people with poor school attendance ● Children and young people who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse ● Children of parents with learning disabilities ● People with disabilities and complex needs and long term health conditions (including children)

This is not an exhaustive list, but gives an understanding of the wide nature of exclusion issues throughout the county.

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

1.5 What is the role of the Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy can help to provide better opportunities for all by including planning policies that ensure an appropriate mix and tenure of decent new housing, strategies which allow for employment opportunities and service provision in the right locations and plans which seek to enhance the public realm. In developing these policies and strategies, the Core Strategy needs to take account of all other relevant plans, strategies, policies and programmes that have a relevance to the subject and seek to work together with other services to ensure that local communities, particularly those defined as 'hard to engage', are directly involved in the decision making process.

1.6 Relevant policy context and key evidence

When preparing the Core Strategy, the Council does not start with a blank sheet of paper. There is a whole series of policies at national and regional level which have to be followed and the Core Strategy needs to be prepared within the framework set by national and European legislation and national & regional guidance. This section focuses on the most relevant published legislation, plans & strategies and draws out their key messages for the Core Strategy. The key directives, acts, plans and strategies identified and used are:

National

- Race Relations Amendment Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal - National Strategy Action Plan (2001)
- Deprived Neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Renewal (Social Exclusion Unit, 1988)
- Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities (July 2008)
- Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World (DEFRA) July 2008
- Every Child Matters (DfES, 2003)
- Child in the countryside: a challenging reality (Commission for Rural Communities, 2010)
- Youth Matters (DfES, 2005)
- Supporting People Programme (ODPM, 2003)
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (2006)
- Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (2006)
- Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople (2007)

Regional

- N/A

Local

- Sustainable Community Strategy for Cornwall (Cornwall Strategic Partnership, 2008)
- Community Safety and Drugs Strategy for Cornwall and the IoS (2005-2008)

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

1.7 Relevant evidence and research

Population growth and demographics

In 2007, the population of Cornwall was 532,200⁽³⁾. It has been growing since the 1960s, has consistently grown quicker than the rest of the South West region, and is amongst the fastest growing areas in the UK. It is likely that the local population will continue to grow at similar levels. By 2026⁽⁴⁾, Cornwall could become home to over 600,000 people, and about 70,000 additional households formed as a result.

There is a higher proportion of the population in each of the age bands over 49 than nationally, and conversely, a lower proportion in every age band under 45, particularly male. The differences are particularly marked in the 60-64 and 25-29 age groups. In line with national trends Cornwall's population is getting older as average life expectancy continues to rise. Cornwall has an older age profile⁽⁵⁾ than the UK average and it is estimated that by 2028, compared to 2004 levels, the number of people over 60 in Cornwall will have increased by 65%, compared to 49% nationally.

For more detailed information, there is a separate issues paper in this series which deals specifically with Population.

Ethnicity

'Cornish' is known to be a significant ethnic group in Cornwall and surveys have suggested that approximately 35% of the population consider themselves to be Cornish (Cornwall Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008).

Across Cornwall only about 1% of the population in the 2001 Census described themselves as being of Mixed, Asian/Asian British, Black/Black British, Chinese or other ethnic group, compared to just over 2% on average across the Region and about 9% across England. This proportion is likely to have risen since 2001 with the number of migrant workers registering in the county, but little information is available on how many stay in an area.

Poverty and Deprivation

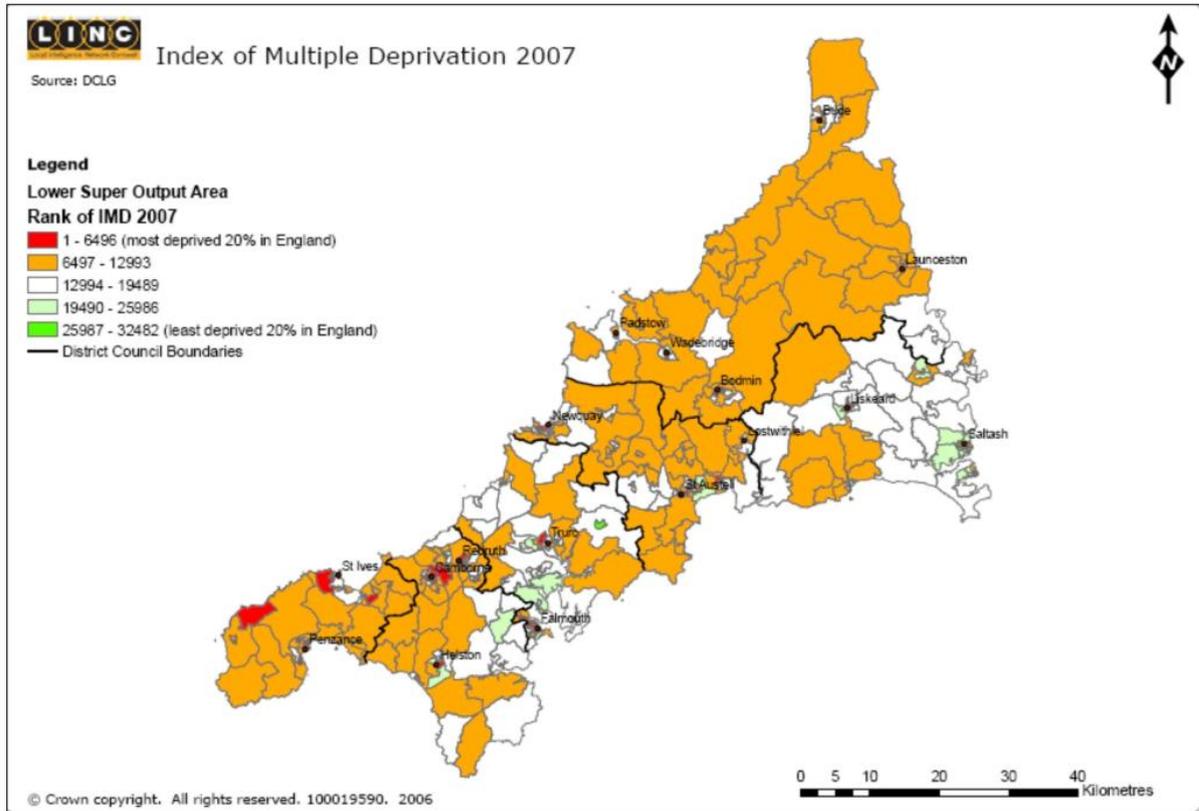
The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each area in England which allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation. The Indices are used widely to analyse patterns of deprivation and to identify areas that would benefit from special initiatives or programmes and as a tool to determine eligibility for specific funding streams.

The map below indicates the areas of Cornwall classified as the most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation:

3 Office for National Statistics 2008 Sub National Mid Year Population Estimates
 4 Office for National Statistics (various dates) Sub National Population Projections
 5 Office for National Statistics (various dates) Census statistics

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007



The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 highlights the spread of deprivation across Cornwall, with particularly high concentrations in West Cornwall.

It will be important to ensure that any planned interventions to secure new growth and investment into the county are complemented by support measures to ensure that all of the County's communities can benefit, and that disparities between individual communities narrow rather than widen. This should include targeted interventions at those parts of the county where levels of deprivation are high, and where intensive efforts are needed to address what can be long standing and deep seated issues of social and economic exclusion.

Health

A higher proportion of the working age population in Cornwall have a limiting long term illness (15.7%) compared to the South West and UK percentages (12.7% and 13.3% respectively) as shown by the table below⁽⁶⁾:

Table 1.2

Area	% of people whose health was: ⁽⁷⁾	% of people with a limiting long term illness	% of working age people with a limiting long term illness
------	--	---	---

6 Office for National Statistics (2001) Census 2001 – key statistics

7 Based on what people's own perception of their state of health

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

	Good	Fairly Good	Not good		
Caradon	67.2%	23.4%	9.4%	20.1%	14.4%
Carrick	66.6%	23.8%	9.6%	20.8%	14.4%
Kerrier	65.4%	23.8%	10.9%	22%	17.2%
North Cornwall	65.9%	24.3%	9.9%	20.6%	15.3%
Penwith	63.6%	24.6%	11.8%	23.6%	18.1%
Restormel	65.7%	23.9%	10.4%	20.9%	15.7%
Cornwall	65.8%	23.9%	10.3%	21.2%	15.7%
South West	68.9%	22.6%	8.5%	18.1%	12.7%
England	68.8%	22.2%	9%	17.9%	13.3%

Working age people with long-term disabilities are more likely to be either unemployed or economically inactive than those who are not disabled. The following table⁽⁸⁾ gives information on people of working age who claim benefits by the proportion claiming a specific type of benefit (e.g. in the area formerly known as Caradon, 53% of those who claimed a benefit were claiming incapacity benefit):

Table 1.3

Area	Incapacity Benefit ⁽⁹⁾	Disabled Benefit ⁽¹⁰⁾	Carer Allowance ⁽¹¹⁾
Caradon	53%	10%	10%
Carrick	54%	8%	9%
Kerrier	55%	8%	10%
North Cornwall	55%	9%	10%
Penwith	55%	8%	9%
Restormel	55%	9%	10%
Cornwall	55%	9%	10%
South West	53%	8%	8%
England	48%	7%	8%

8 Department for Work & Pensions (August 2008) Benefit claimant data for people of working age who interact with DWP

11 Proportion of people claiming carers allowance

10 Proportion of people claiming benefit as a result of disability who were not claiming another type of benefit.

9 Incapacity Benefit is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

The Health and Well Being Strategy⁽¹²⁾ shows that mental health problems are common amongst all age groups, and that:

- They represent a third of all GP consultations;
- They are the most common of all health conditions, directly affecting about a quarter of the population in any year;
- Depression and anxiety are the most widespread conditions;
- At any one time about 10% of young people experience mental health problems;
- Mental health services have been under funded for years;
- Cornwall's suicide rate is high compared to England. The highest risk age group in Cornwall are those aged 75 years and over, and in England and Wales those aged 35-64.

For more detailed information, there is a separate issues paper in this series which deals specifically with Employment.

Unemployment

The number of people unemployed in Cornwall doubled from May 2008 to May 2009,⁽¹³⁾ rising from 4,409 persons in May 2008 to 8,841 persons in May 2009, which equates to 1.4% and 2.9% of the resident population respectively. The rise for the South West has been 1.3% to 3.1% and for England 2.2% to 4.1%. Generally Cornwall appears to be faring better in terms of unemployment rates at the current time, but there are pockets within the County that have much higher levels, such as parts of Falmouth/Penryn (5.1%), Penzance (5.5%), Newquay (4.8%) and Camborne (4.5%).

The following map shows the areas in Cornwall where a higher proportion of children are dependent on workless benefits than the Cornish and national averages.⁽¹⁴⁾

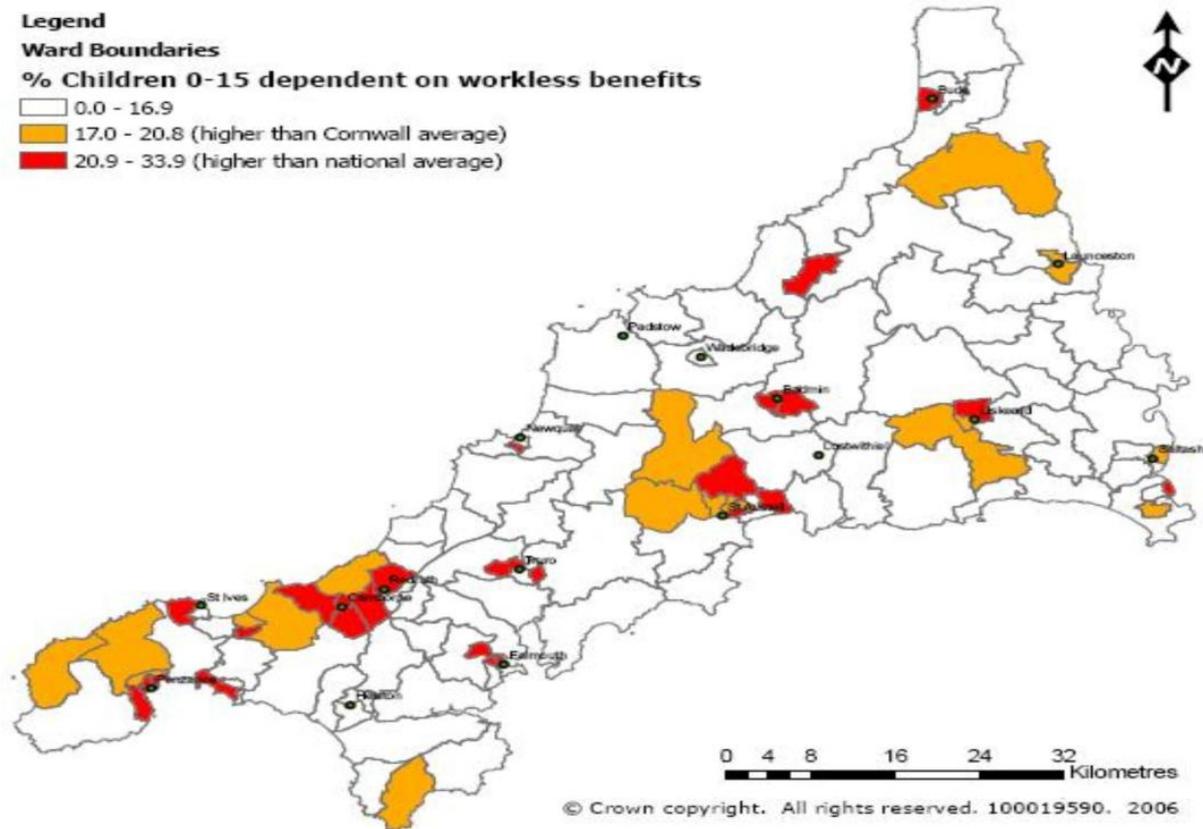
12 Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (2008) Cornwall health and well being strategy

13 Office for National Statistics (2009) Total Job Seekers Allowance Claimants data

14 Cornwall Strategic Partnership (2007) Strategic aim paper: worklessness and developing skills for a knowledge based society

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

Proportion of children dependant of workless benefits.



The 'Cornwall Works' strategy⁽¹⁵⁾ aims to get more people into work and help them stay in work. The strategy is based on four key principles:-

- **Prevention** – working with clients with multiple issues and seeking early interventions;
- **Inclusion** –aiming to remove all barriers to inclusion in employment;
- **Individual and community based approaches** – the route for any potential claimant can be through partner agencies;
- **Joined up services and funding.**

For more detailed information, there is a separate issues paper in this series which deals specifically with Employment.

Financial Inclusion and Debt

The Citizens Advice Bureau in Cornwall have reported that enquiries during the first quarter of 2009 had increased by 32% when compared with the same quarter in 2008, and of these enquiries, debt related issues were up by 38% and employment related issues were up by 45%.⁽¹⁶⁾

15 Run by the Inclusion Cornwall Partnership

16 Information from Inclusion Cornwall

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

The role of Inclusion Cornwall in relation to financial debt is to bring together partners to work together to minimise the potentially devastating impact debt and the current recession will have within Cornwall. Using data at the lowest levels, pockets of low household incomes have been identified and a household debt ratio is currently being developed.

The five key inclusion concerns which have emerged are:-

- Debt issues in Cornwall are extensive and damage individuals and families, as well as having impact on services and communities;
- Link debt issues across the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement;
- Education and schools are key areas to ensure understanding is raised;
- Ensure Cornwall Council understands the multiple barriers and impact of debt;
- Raise awareness of financial capability.

Housing

Housing has a critical effect on social inclusion, with inadequate housing often being a key barrier for people. Issues include housing affordability and availability, specialist housing for those with specific needs, adaptable homes, secure tenancies and an ageing housing stock with associated problems.

Lack of social and supported housing in Cornwall results in only the highest levels of need qualifying for and accessing housing, often further concentrating vulnerable groups into neighbourhoods of multiple deprivation. Conditions within the private rented sector are poor in a lot of areas, also creating risk of further inequalities.⁽¹⁷⁾

In rural areas additional homes can help to sustain smaller communities and reverse the decline of local services. Additional homes can also support rural economies. Yet there are challenges in delivering extra housing in these areas, as national planning policy is more constraining, and opposition groups more active. In the existing rural housing stock, there are far fewer entry level homes (terraces and flats) to meet the needs of first time buyers and in some locations the percentage of second homes within the housing stock is so high as to have a destabilising effect both on housing affordability and the viability of local services.

For more detailed information, there is a separate issues paper in this series which deals specifically with Housing.

Decision making & participation

The Cornwall Quality of Life Survey (2007) found that 58% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt able to influence the decisions of public bodies locally. However, 51% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that by working together with other people in their neighbourhood they could influence decisions that affect them, and 49% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to be involved in the decision making process.

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

36% of Cornwall's population are engaged in volunteering activity (compared to a national average of 44%), however, 52% of respondents who currently do not volunteer agreed that they would consider volunteering.

1.8 Emerging Evidence and Policy

The gathering of evidence is an iterative process and must be continued throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy. Additional evidence should be considered right up to the 'submission' stage in the process. Listed below are the known emerging relevant guidance & studies, which will be taken into account if available before the submission of the Core Strategy:

- Cornwall Housing Strategy 2009-2012
- Cornwall Homelessness Strategy - due April 2010

1.9 Gaps in Evidence

More information is needed about Migrant Workers.

1.10 Key Messages from the Evidence Review

A number of key messages and issues were drawn out from the evidence review. The table below identifies the messages deemed most relevant and the source documents.

Table 1.4

Message	Relevant Document(s)
<p>Reducing low income and in debt households is one of the main ways of breaking the cycle of poverty and deprivation. The key messages for inclusion are to focus on early prevention and equal opportunities for all by ensuring that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals and communities are helped to “do it for themselves” and are enabled to take an active role in decision making processes. • Co-operation between communities and generations is encouraged. • A multi-agency approach to service provision is cultivated. • Access to, and involvement in planning, development and delivery of services is improved. 	<p>A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal</p> <p>Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities</p> <p>Cornwall Sustainable Community Strategy - Future Cornwall</p>
<p>Provide a better quality of life for vulnerable people to enable them to live as independently as possible and to maintain their tenancies.</p>	<p>Supporting People</p>

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

<p>Children and young people should have far more input into issues which affect them.</p> <p>Children in rural areas may experience more isolation, have to travel further to school and friends, are more likely to live in poor housing and to move into the care system.</p> <p>Young people in rural areas may experience barriers to employment, to moving around and making their homes in the countryside.</p> <p>Child protection services face additional challenges in rural areas, with face to face contact more difficult and more expensive services.</p>	<p>Every Child Matters</p> <p>Child in the countryside: a challenging reality</p>
<p>The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to build more cohesive, empowered and active communities; to increase inclusion and the quality of life of vulnerable adults; and to provide opportunities for all in Cornwall.</p>	<p>Cornwall Sustainable Community Strategy - Future Cornwall</p>
<p>Housing is closely linked to wider social and economic policies. It is impossible to address social deprivation or neighbourhood renewal without also tackling local housing issues.</p>	<p>Draft Cornwall Housing Strategy</p>

1.11 SWOT summary of Social Inclusion in Cornwall

Table 1.5

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of Inclusion issues by multi-agency partners in Cornwall. • Work undertaken through Cornwall Strategic Partnership. • Nationally recognised work undertaken with workless people. • Improving community cohesion through networking schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas in the County which experience high levels of deprivation and where efforts are needed to address long-standing issues of social and economic exclusion. • The remote nature of many rural communities, along with the problems of inadequate transportation, can pose difficulties for statutory agencies, voluntary and community services in meeting these community needs. • Difficulties in gaining access to healthcare, education, employment and social care services maintain the social exclusion of minority groups such as gypsies and travellers.

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable housing and mixed tenure housing. • Cornwall’s ageing population presents challenges, for example the need for more elder care housing, services and facilities. • More understanding needed of the way in which Planning Policies for the built and natural environment impact on communities, particularly vulnerable groups. • Need to increase understanding of poverty in Cornwall and how the built and natural environment can alleviate problems.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for more inclusive communities, including a new eco-town. • Community involvement in planning and plan making. • Working together with partner agencies to deliver services. • Ensuring that services are locally available and that service provision is 'joined up'. • Providing additional employment opportunities. • Providing decent housing of the right size, type and tenure in the right locations. • Ensuring community participation through local Community Networks. • Raising vulnerable people's expectation and aspiration levels. • Raising educational attainment levels. • Improving access to leisure and recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic downturn. • NIMBY⁽¹⁸⁾ attitudes towards development. • Social prejudice against minority groups. • Rising personal debt. • The value of current and future pensions may leave more elderly people in poverty.

1.12 Climate Change Considerations

The main pressures on social inclusion from climate change are:

- Higher food prices
- Higher transport costs
- Higher fuel costs

18 'Not in my back yard' attitude towards change and / or development

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

Climate change is further explored in a separate issues paper in this series, as well as in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (visit www.cornwall.gov.uk). The scoping report sets out a series of sustainability objectives against which the Core Strategy and other parts of the LDF will be assessed, to gauge how far they will promote sustainable development. The relevant objective for social inclusion is:

1.13 Proposed Sustainability Objective –

To reduce poverty and social exclusion and provide opportunities for all to participate fully in society.

1.14 Main Spatial Planning Issues

Taking into account the key messages from the current evidence available, the following spatial planning issue has been identified.

Issue SI 1

The Core Strategy should consider how best to reduce inequality through a range of mechanisms, including increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving access to services and facilities and the countryside, etc.

This issue will work towards achieving the following long term objective for Cornwall as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy - 'Future Cornwall':

- To promote equality of opportunity and well-being, improve access to quality services, increase participation in influencing local decision making and encouraging individuals to engage in shaping and delivering services in their communities

This paper summarises the evidence on social inclusion brought together to inform the Cornwall Core Strategy. However, it will be added to and kept up-to-date as other relevant evidence becomes available. In updating these papers all previous versions will be archived to ensure it is clear what evidence was available at each stage.

1.15 Appendix A

Appendix A

Consultation to date:

The Issues papers were first published for stakeholder consultation in September 2009. The papers were amended to take into account consultee responses and were then circulated to Planning Policy Advisory Panel members in November 2009. They were also given to all members at a series of three area based consultation events in March 2010.

Revisions to Issues Papers:

Social Inclusion Issues Paper - February 2011

In writing the draft Issues and Options report in March 2010 it was clear that it was necessary to revise the issues identified in some of the topic based issues papers. Some issues were requirements under other legislation or procedural matters, and therefore options could not be set against them (e.g. *The Core Strategy should work with other plans and programmes...*) Others were in fact options and needed to be set as options under an overarching issue (e.g. *The Core Strategy has a role in supporting the growth and sustainability of the micro and small business economy*). There was also some repetition between different topics and these issues could be amalgamated.

Criteria for Changes:

The issues have been rationalised against the following criteria:

- Is this a Spatial Planning Issue?
- Is the issue covered by other legislation?
- Can options be generated against each issue?
- Is this an issue and not an option?
- Is the issue rooted in evidence?
- Is there potential to amalgamate issues?

Issues in Consultation Version:

Issue SI1 – The Core Strategy should consider how best to reduce inequality through a range of mechanisms, including increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving access to services and facilities and the countryside, etc.

Issue SI2 - Consider the use of Inclusion and Equality Impact Assessments to anticipate the effects of the Core Strategy on disadvantaged and minority groups.

Revised Issue:

Issue SI1 – The Core Strategy should consider how best to reduce inequality through a range of mechanisms, including increasing the availability of affordable housing, improving access to services and facilities and the countryside, etc.