

Key Topics...

The Action Plan addresses five key issues - **the five 'E's**.

These are:

1. Economy
2. Education, skills and learning
3. Ease of movement
4. Environment
5. Enhanced leisure, recreation and community facilities

Issues to consider...

For each of the 'E's the Action Plan sets out:

- **What** needs to be done
- **Why** it is important
- **How** it can be achieved

The rest of this document tells you a bit more about the Action Plan

2. Education, skills and learning

What?	Develop the skills and knowledge base by providing access to learning at all levels
Why?	To help ensure that we all have a better quality of life
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a skills and knowledge base to support our economy • Fill the gaps between training which is needed, and what is available, through a Learning Plan • Promote access to learning at all levels

1. Economy

What?	Improve employment opportunities in the local area
Why?	So that there is a wider range of jobs and better income levels
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow and expand existing local businesses • Encourage new businesses to locate in the area • Promote the local building and construction industry • Promote the food and drink sector • Encourage people to work from home

3. Ease of Movement

What?	Reduce the domination of traffic and improve access to work, home, school and leisure facilities
Why?	To ensure that the local area remains a pleasant environment
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase and enhance public transport, where possible • Remove unnecessary traffic by improving signage • Better traffic management, e.g. in town centre • Plan ahead and liaise with Regional Government, Dorset County, Council, North Dorset District Council and developers on planning issues

4. Environment

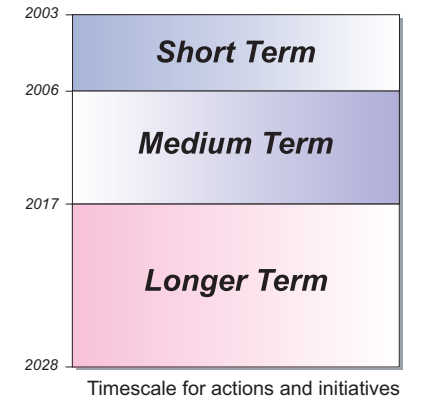
What?	Enhance the town's appearance, retain an attractive rural area and maintain habitats and biodiversity
Why?	To protect the special character of our countryside and townscape
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a townscape audit to set priorities for action • Prepare and implement a management plan for the Stour Valley • Enhance public places in Sturminster, especially the Market Place area • Complete the Butts Pond Amenity Field handover plan

5. Enhanced leisure, recreation and community facilities

What?	Continue to improve the provision of, and access to, leisure/recreation/cultural facilities
Why?	To ensure facilities cater for a wide range of interests
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing facilities and provide improved facilities where appropriate e.g. a new community hall • Provide a skateboard park and an all-weather floodlit sports pitch • Complete the conversion of the former railway path to a footpath/cycleway • Investigate the viability of educational tourism • Seek to manage an increase in visitors to the countryside

Planning for the future...

There are no easy solutions and it will not be possible to tackle all the issues at once. The Action Plan therefore covers 25 years. That might sound like a long time but it's not - it means that the Action Plan will help to make sure that Sturminster is a better place to live when our children are grown up.



The next steps...

Preparing the Action Plan is **the start, not the end, of the process**. There is lots more work to be done and delivering the Action Plan will not be easy. We will need to keep checking that the Plan changes to reflect our needs as issues change. We will also need to keep checking that it reflects the views of local people.

Your community needs you...

Delivering the Action Plan depends on **everyone doing their bit**. The County Council, the District Council, the Town Council and many other organisations are all partners in our future. However, the success of the Action Plan depends on the active **involvement of local people**. We cannot sit back and wait for others to help us - we must help ourselves.



If you would like to find out more, see a more detailed Action Plan or get involved, you can pop into the Community Office (15 Market Place, Sturminster Newton)

