

DT11 Forum Partnership
The Community Partnership for Blandford Forum and the surrounding parishes.

DT11 Forum Partnership has been evolving over a number of years. It has always been an area where the Parish Planning process has been well developed with 15 completed plans and 4 underway.

A draft Action Plan, based primarily on the existing Parish Plans was published in September 2006. However it was recognised that this document did not fully reflect the needs and aspirations of the whole DT11 area. An application to the Market and Coastal Towns Association (MCTA) was successful and in March 2007 work began to prepare a Community Strategic Plan (CSP) that would provide a more comprehensive Vision and Action Plan that would provide the focus for the sustainable regeneration of the DT11 area for the next 20 years.

The draft CSP will be available for public consultation during June 2008 and the final version published in summer 2008

The DT11 CSP has been prepared with particular regard to sustainable development and the ever increasing importance of the effects of climate change. The vision of the plan is to develop the DT11 Forum Partnership area as an area-wide “Transition Partnership” where the balance of socio-economic activity is in close harmony with the outstanding quality of the natural and historic environment.

This will enable the villages and town work together to make a more significant contribution in reducing the carbon footprint of the area than by working alone. The Transition Partnership approach will recognise the importance of support for local services, businesses and producers as an integral part more cohesive approach to sustainable development. Innovative solutions to developing sustainable energy and local transport from natural resources such as wood fuel and the River Stour are all identified within the plan

The Plan also emphasises the importance of the area as a cultural centre for North Dorset, with the largest number of practicing artists in North Dorset being within the DT11 area. Creative industries are of particular interest to young people and developing skills and training around both the environment and the arts is seen as an important element in retaining and developing the opportunities for young people in rural Dorset.

The ultimate vision is for the DT11 area to become the centre of excellence for sustainable living in North Dorset.