COMMUNITY ARCHIVES
AND THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AGENDA

Final Report
By
Jura Consultants

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### Appendices

- **Appendix A** The Sustainable Communities Agenda
- **Appendix B** Consultation List
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This report presents a scoping study which considers the current and potential contribution of community archives to the sustainable communities agenda.

Community archives are initiatives which aim to develop a collection of new information with substantial inputs from volunteers in terms of time, expertise or content / information. Typically, these initiatives focus on the history of a particular location or topic of shared interest to participants. In many instances, community archives seek to develop new collections of material through active participation with community members / groups through capturing / collating collections of photographs, oral history recordings, documents, etc, which are often historical in nature, but can also be contemporary, i.e. recording the present for the benefit of future communities. The above purposefully does not provide a standard definition of community archives. Our work and the work of many others has concluded that a definition of community archives would not necessarily be inclusive and may not capture the diverse and wide ranging character and extent of community archive projects.

Community archive projects take a variety forms and are initiated, developed and maintained by a diverse range of individuals, groups and organisations. These projects provide a range of direct social benefits to participants and indirect benefits to those who view or engage in activities developed as a result of community activity, such as exhibitions, learning programmes, etc. Community archives are unique in terms of their social value in that they have the potential to encourage meaningful engagement which challenges and celebrates diversity in a very direct manner. Such projects are driven by personal interaction and dialogue in the development of material of common interest. This common interest, which may be a location or a topic of interest, acts as a lever to attract a diverse audience to participate and engage in the archive development process or to encourage access to the resulting resources. Section 3 of this report considers the nature of community archives in detail.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) sets the sustainable communities agenda. The aim is to create vibrant, thriving communities within which people wish to live and work. The agenda is principally focused on addressing the physical and social development of communities by setting policy and providing guidance to encourage effective physical development and provision of public services. Government wishes to create cleaner, greener and safer communities through the effective planning of new or enhanced communities. This is being advanced in conjunction with developers, local authorities and partner agencies such as the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). DCLG also sets policy to address social issues within communities such as a lack of community cohesion (including issues associated with race, ethnicity and anti-social behaviour) and community empowerment, poor health and access to services. Delivering on the digital
inclusion agenda is also a key strand of DCLG’s agenda. Section 2 of this report provides a description of the sustainable communities agenda.

MLA acknowledges the fine work undertaken by community archive initiatives across the United Kingdom in terms of developing the heritage resource base, but also acknowledges the social role that these initiatives play in contributing to the sustainable communities agenda. Until now, the linkage between community archive initiatives and sustainable communities has been anecdotally identified and understood. MLA has therefore commissioned this study to investigate the linkages between community archive initiatives and the sustainable communities agenda to confirm the types of benefits which these initiatives can have and to inform future discussion regarding how they can be supported by agencies such as MLA and other public bodies.

This scoping study has focussed on two key areas, Pennine Lancashire and Corby, Northamptonshire. These areas were designated as priority areas under the Living Places programme, an initiative designed to coordinate Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), in providing support in terms of cultural planning in areas undergoing housing market renewal (Pennine Lancashire) and housing market growth (Corby). The development process will create new community infrastructure and encourage the development of new communities through enhanced or extended building stock and it is recognised that community archives and the NDPBs will have a role to play in developing sustainable communities in these two areas, as the profile and scale of these communities change. A key output of this study is defining the role of MLA and other agencies in terms of supporting community archive initiatives in the short and long-term.

1.2 The Study Brief

The aim of this scoping study is to establish the potential of community archives in Pennine Lancashire and Corby to support the sustainable communities agenda and establish how MLA and its partners might best support and develop this work. This study answers the following questions:

- What is the current picture in terms of the number and nature of community archive projects in Pennine Lancashire and Corby?
- What are the current and future needs of the community in these two areas, which community archives could meet?
- In what ways could community archives help to support the sustainable communities agenda in these two areas?
- What are the barriers to success in terms of community archives supporting the sustainable communities agenda?
- What is the potential to involve other partners such as National Lottery distributors, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and regional partners.
• What are the most effective ways for local, regional and national partners, including MLA to engage with regeneration and growth stakeholders
• What actions could MLA and / or other public and third sector bodies take in supporting and developing this work in line with current policy and planned and / or established initiatives

1.3 Study Methodology

The methodology applied to this study was a combination of desk based research and consultation with strategic stakeholders, local authorities and community archive projects across Pennine Lancashire and Corby and comparator projects located throughout the United Kingdom. The following diagram illustrates the study methodology:

The desk based research has been used to identify ways in which community archives can contribute to the sustainable communities agenda. A programme of consultation has been undertaken to identify the support required by, and barriers reported by community archive projects. The research and consultation has informed consideration of the current and future potential of community archives in contributing to the sustainable communities agenda.
1.4 Report Structure

The following provides a summary of the report structure:

Section 2: The Sustainable Communities Agenda
Section 3: Community Archives
Section 4: Comparator Case Studies and National Initiatives
Section 5: Strategic Stakeholder Consultation
Section 6: Community Archives in Pennine Lancashire
Section 7: Community Archives in Corby
Section 8: Conclusions and Recommendations
2.0 THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AGENDA

2.1 Introduction

This section summarises the sustainable communities agenda at national level and its translation to local and regional priorities. A detailed review of the Department for Communities and Local Government website and strategies was undertaken to identify existing priorities in terms of sustainable communities. In addition, a review was undertaken of community strategies for each unitary and district authority which make up Pennine Lancashire and for Corby Borough Council. The following sections summarise strategic priorities for DCLG and within each authority considered as part of this study.

2.2 Department of Communities and Local Government

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) sustainable communities agenda can be summarised under the following priority areas:

- Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities
- Community Empowerment
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Digital Inclusion
- Race, Cohesion and Faith
- Migration
- Preventing Extremism
- Sense of Place

Further information on each of these priority areas is included in Appendix A.

2.3 The National Indicator Set

Activity related to community archive participation and development can be directly linked to the National Indicator set. Activity related to these National Indicators is recorded at a local authority level, and data capture in connection with these indicators can provide an indication of the benefits which community archives can have. A review of the National Indicator set was undertaken to identify those indicators which are directly or indirectly linked to participation in community archive activities. The following National Indicators (NI) are / can be relevant to the undertaking of community archive projects and their potential impact on communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NI</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>% of people who feel they belong to their local area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Civic participation in the local area</td>
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Further detail on each of these NIs is included in Appendix A.

2.4 National Community Forum - What Works In Enabling Cross-Community Interactions?

The National Community Forum (NCF) conducted a literature review and held a series of seminars and conferences to address the issue of developing effective cross-community interactions and community development. The study was conducted in response to increasing concern about a perceived lack of interaction between different people within communities, including avoidance and conflict between diverse groups within localities. The Executive Summary states:

"The importance of such interaction is clearly evidenced for community welfare, relationships, social capital and the tackling of social exclusion and racism. Yet just placing groups in the same physical spaces is no guarantee of interaction. In this context, grassroots community groups and activists can often play an important yet under-recognised role in bringing together people of different ages, faiths, ethnicity, ability, economic status, culture, etc."

Within the recommendations set out in the report, it is stressed that:

Practitioners in community and statutory organisations work to create spaces where people can meet in low-key ways, based on aspects of their identities and interests which they hold in common, but which leave them space to explore difference in other respects.

The report focuses on the provision of space and activity which provide common ground within which to explore commonalities, without emphasising the need to address a specific problem, e.g. a project or event being developed to respond to local anti-social behaviour. Community archive projects / activities are ideally placed to address the recommended need to bring people together based on aspects of identity and interests held in common, such as local geography or identity, whilst exploring differences. This can be extended to bring people together from different backgrounds in terms of exploring differences.
2.5 Living Places Movement

Living Places is an alliance of public bodies who believe everyone should benefit from the arts, sport, public space, heritage, museums, libraries and archives, the built environment and the creative industries, regardless of where they live. The alliance includes the following organisations:

- Arts Council England (ACE),
- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE),
- English Heritage (EH),
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
- Sport England (SE),
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS),
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG),
- Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Academy

This is the first time the three cultural agencies, DCLG, DCMS and HCA have come together formally to work collectively on supporting the role of culture in communities.

The aim of living places is

“… to ensure that all communities, particularly those experiencing housing-led growth and regeneration, can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities. By working together, the partners will ensure that culture is embedded in the development of our villages, towns and cities alongside other key areas of provision such as healthcare and transport”

Living Places is active in each of the 9 regions; however, the Living Places Programme has identified 5 priority places. Pennine Lancashire has been selected as a Priority Place due to housing market failure and the need to regenerate an area which has experienced substantial economic and social deprivation. Corby has been selected as a Priority Place as a housing growth area. In delivering Housing Market Renewal (HMR) and housing growth, Living Places aims to ensure that cultural activity is embedded in the process and delivery of new and vibrant communities. ‘Culture and sport’ is a collective term for a range of activities, resources, facilities and expertise that includes arts, sport, heritage, museums, libraries and archives, the built environment, and the creative industries, (including film and media). The culture of a place is the product of resident’s sense of pride, identity and connectedness, and cultural activity provides a route for harnessing and developing this local distinctiveness.

Living Places vision is of

‘a country where all communities have the capacity to be culturally vibrant and reflect their distinctive identities. Diverse and tolerant places are essential to a strong community. Every community, including the most disadvantaged, should expect to have access to cultural activities, opportunities for learning and self-expression, attractive and safe open spaces and a well-designed built environment that respects and enhances local character’
This study is principally concerned with the sustainable communities agenda in two Pennine Lancashire Priority Place areas; Pennine Lancashire and Corby, Northamptonshire. The following summarises the community agenda in each of these areas.

### 2.6 Communities Agenda in Pennine Lancashire

#### Lancashire Local Area Agreement

The Lancashire Local Area Agreement identifies 4 key ‘blocks’ of strategic priority. These are:

1. Safer and Stronger Communities
2. Children and Young People
3. Healthier Communities and Older People
4. Economic Development and Enterprise

These strategic blocks illustrate the local application of DCLG’s national priorities. A further review was undertaken to identify strategic priorities in terms of community development and existing issues in each local authority area in Pennine Lancashire.

#### Burnley: 2007 – 2017 Sustainable Community Strategy

Burnley Borough Council is working to achieve a Burnley to be proud of, with a diverse and united community, modern economy and a healthy, safe and clean environment and quality services which work for the good of the public.

The authority’s arts and sports / physical activity strategies aim to support projects / initiatives which deliver or support community cohesion, promote healthy communities, celebrate diversity and contribute to economic regeneration and prosperity.

#### Blackburn with Darwen Strategic Partnership

Agencies in Blackburn with Darwen will support actions which are designed to build stronger cultural communities, develop the cultural environment and awareness of it within residents. Strategy documents developed by these agencies highlight the need to promote community cohesion and diversity to improve the quality of life in Blackburn with Darwen.

#### Hyndburn: Community Strategy 2003-2008

The community strategy focuses on six key themes, community safety, housing and environment, health and social care, economy and employment, education and lifelong learning, culture and leisure. In addition, there are also several cross cutting themes including community cohesion, information communication technologies, social inclusion, sustainable development and transportation.
Rossendale: Rossendale Alive: Our Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018

By 2018, Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage. It will be an attractive place to live, where tourists visit and employers invest. Overarching principles which will assist in the achievement of the vision are: reducing inequalities, community engagement and development; and community cohesion; promoting equality; and valuing diversity.

Pendle: Pendle’s Community Cohesion Action Plan

The Pendle Partnership’s (the Local Strategic Partnership) stated vision for Pendle is:

“A community in which diversity is valued and the contribution of all is recognised and respected”. Pendle Partnership will work to promote changes in perception of different cultures, celebrate diversity whilst creating opportunities to bring communities together through educational and cultural activities, encourage faith communities to work together and promote greater understanding.

2.7 Communities Agenda in Corby

Community Plan for Corby 2008-13 – Spirit of Corby

The Corby Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was established in 1999. It comprises a group of partners and stakeholders who all have an input into making Corby a better place to live and work. The Partnership and Council’s vision for Corby is:

“To double the population of Corby by 2030, with a complementary increase in jobs, prosperity and public services that rank with the very best!”

In working to achieve the vision for Corby, the LSP has established the following four delivery blocks which co-ordinate the priorities within the plan for Corby:

1. Safer and Stronger Communities
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Regeneration and Growth
4. Economic Development, Jobs and Skills

More detail on these LSP blocks and the individual priorities identified under each of the blocks is included in Appendix A.
2.8 Summary

The sustainable communities agenda, National Indicators and the objectives of the Living Places programme have been outlined to provide the policy context under which the assessment of community archives has been carried out. The contribution which community archives can play in meeting the sustainable communities agenda is outlined in section 3, and the role which individual projects can play in supporting sustainable communities is included as part of the review of case study projects.
3.0 COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an introduction to community archives and examples taken from across England of how community archive projects can contribute to the sustainable communities agenda.

3.2 Definition of Community Archives

The following definition is taken from www.communityarchives.org.uk:

“The definition of ‘community archive’ is the cause of some debate. Broadly speaking, people think of projects as community archives either because:

1. The subject-matter of the collection is a community of people. The classic example is a group of people who live in the same location, but there are ‘communities of interest’ as well, such as people who worked in a certain profession.

2. The process of creating the collection has involved the community. Typically, this means that volunteers have played a key role, sometimes alongside professional archivists.

A broad approach to the definition of ‘community archive’ is adopted.

The only caveat is that to satisfy the requirement of being an archive, the organisation should have or intend to create a collection of some description. This collection should include primary source material such as photos, documents, oral histories, etc. (rather than just articles or essays about those source materials). The collection could be either physical, digital or both”.

Community archives will originate from a variety of sources, be developed by very different lead individuals or organisations, consider a diverse range of subject matters and invite involvement from a variety of communities. In supporting the community archive movement, we must acknowledge this and develop a shared understanding of what we mean by community archives, how they are initiated and developed.

In addition, some projects may be identified as a community archive by some, and an arts project, heritage project, etc. by others. Often projects are defined by the project manager / developer as one type of project, e.g. an arts project, however the process of developing or delivering the project, or the outputs may provide or create a community archive, e.g. material collated to inform the project. The project manager may not be aware of the existence of community archives and as such may not realise that they have created one. This is perhaps best illustrated by way of an example. The Talking Shop project (further details on page 42) was initiated as an arts project to photograph and film shopkeepers in an area of Pennine Lancashire. The output of the project was a visual record of trade in a small area of Pendle, this was considered to be an art project by the project sponsor, but the development of the collection of images suggests that this is also a community archive project.
The following linear scale illustrates the range of potential community archive projects.

The distinction is important. The two scenarios and all points in-between could be defined as community archives, however the support each may require from MLA and other stakeholders will be very different. Projects driven by statutory organisations may not require resources as they have the skills and experience ‘in-house’ whilst community driven and delivered projects may require resources and specific support to define and develop their ideas into a project.

3.3 Evolving Understanding of Community Archives

Rather than propose our own definition of community archives it may be more instructive and useful to post a series of questions to enable stakeholders and projects themselves to identify if they have, or are working on a community archive project:

- Does the project originate from a topic of interest to the community? (community can be geographic or a community of interest)
- Does the project involve a material volunteer or community input?
- Do volunteers / the community have a significant stake in the development and delivery of the project?
- Will the project involve collection of information, or collate existing information in a new way? (information can be objects, documents, images, media recordings, etc)
- Will the information collated be accessible in some form?

If a project can answer yes to all of these questions, then it is likely that they have a community archive project, irrespective of the initial aims, final form, or outputs of the project. These questions can be used by MLA and other partners to increase awareness of the diverse nature of community archive, their origins and final forms. This is important as community archives can be:

- Historic or contemporary
- The sole purpose of activity or an unintended benefit
- Funding led or needs based
- Reach an end point or initiate an ongoing collection
• Community led or initiated by an organisation (e.g. local authority)
• Based on a geographic or shared interest community

Through consultation with the Community Sites project, a number of success factors for community archive projects were identified, which are worth noting as follows:

• Developing a strong base of volunteers who are engaged with the project from the beginning, and who can provide ongoing commitment to the project
• Acknowledging that community archive projects can involved the collection of information, but also providing access to and interpretation of information in a variety of ways
• Offering a combination of online and offline activity, including an online presence which encourages an informal exchange of information and ideas
• Labelling or naming community archive projects in a way that conveys their connection to a geographic area or topic

3.4 Community Archives and Sustainable Communities Case Studies

3.4.1 Local Government Archives (LGA) Booklet

The LGA Booklet highlights the links between archives and archive services and their users and communities of interest. Of particular relevance to this study are the linkages between archive collections / archive services and archives at the heart of the community.

In terms of Safer Stronger Communities examples are provided of archives addressing social exclusion. The East Sussex Record Office has been working with young people in care, exploring what life was like for people in care in the past. The work directly contributes to the Every Child Matters: Change for Children Agenda.

Archives can also contribute to the Health and Well-being agenda. Surrey History Centre has developed a pioneering relationship with a mental health charity that brings together current and former patients, staff and the public to use archives in new ways. Participants are actively supported in contributing to and interpreting the archive.

In Kendal, Cumbria, a community archive project has significantly contributed to the development of social and personal capital. A community archive project in rural Crosby Ravensworth, driven by enthusiastic volunteers and supported by Kendal Record Office has been established. A reading room has been created in the village and the collection includes copies of catalogues and local archives.
3.4.2 Heritage Lottery Funded Community Archive Projects

A review of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grants awarded database was undertaken to identify community archive projects which secured funding for their delivery. We were particularly interested in projects which had a sustainable communities aspect to them in terms of the target user group, or the type of collections used. The review has clearly highlighted that individuals and organisations interested in developing community archive projects have identified the wide range of strategic agenda which these projects can help to support. Examples include using community archive projects to support community cohesion, to address environmental sustainability and to record hidden histories, which are at risk of loss. These projects are summarised below to illustrate their sustainable communities context. More detailed case studies of other community archive projects are highlighted in section 4.

Community Archives and Migrant Communities

Bolton Irish Heritage and Culture Society - Bolton
The Bolton Irish Heritage and Culture society was awarded £25,300 under the HLF Your Heritage Programme to deliver a project which highlighted and celebrated the substantial contribution they have made to the culture, history and heritage of the town. The project involved the group making, designing and photographing a series of exhibits to be shown in conjunction with an Irish Festival to be held in September 2006 and March 2007. The exhibits were shown at various locations throughout the town during the festival and consisted of: a photographic archive of people past and present from the Irish community of Bolton; an A5 booklet of archive material showing the full history of the Irish in Bolton; and various demonstrations of Irish traditional music, dance and crafts. The work for the project was mainly done by volunteers from the community. Grant funds were spent on the production of the A5 booklet, training of volunteers in historical research and the gathering of materials, the hiring of traditional Irish artisans, professional fees, the production of a DVD to be shown at the events and archived.

The Bolton Irish Heritage and Culture Society (BIHCS) project illustrates an approach to record the contribution made by a new community migrating to Lancashire. This type of project would be directly relevant to Corby, which has a significant number of families who relocated from Glasgow and Lanarkshire in Scotland to work in Corby and Northamptonshire. In addition, those communities that migrated to Lancashire to work in industry during the industrial revolution could also benefit from an approach similar to that identified above. The BIHCS project links to some of the key strands of the sustainable communities agenda involving migration and community cohesion.

Community Archives, Migration and Citizenship

Leeds Black Elders Association - Here to Stay, Leeds
The Leeds Black Elders Association secured an HLF grant of £196,000 to deliver the 'Here to Stay' project. The project will deliver oral histories and articles of migrant workers from Africa and the Caribbean since the 1940s as well as disseminating this information through schools,
community events and various technological mediums over a 3-year period. The Here to Stay project will undertake an oral history initiative which will seek to capture the memories and experiences of African and African Caribbean elders (identified as being 55-years old and over). The project aims to record the history of their lives, in their own words, focusing on their lives and experiences before and after they came to Britain in the 1940s onwards and the contributions which they have made to the society since being invited as migrant workers following the Second World War. The community will be encouraged to donate items or give permission for the copying of original documents in order to have them displayed in the community and also deposited in the public archives for the benefit of a wider audience. The project will also develop links into schools with content developed from the project being used to link with the school curriculum, i.e. Citizenship or Literacy and Black History Month Celebrations. A team of elders will be given training to deliver sessions in schools relaying the stories of their experiences. The grant will be used to employ a team of workers, deliver a programme of activities for the benefit of the community and wider public audience and produce educational information in various formats (websites, audio recordings, DVDs and book).

This project will create a community archive recording the experiences of migrant workers from Africa and the Caribbean before and after they came to Britain. The project will identify and communicate the contribution made by migrant communities to Leeds through oral history recording and development of a community archive. The material collected will be made available to local schools to support the citizenship agenda. This is a key element of the sustainable communities agenda, and government is keen to extend citizenship to adults in addition to school based learning.

Community Archives and Community Cohesion

Hybrid Arts – Sowing the Seeds, Leamington Spa

Hybrid Arts, based in Leamington Spa was awarded a grant of £25,000 to deliver a project which stresses the importance of maintaining, promoting and protecting allotments as heritage sites. “Sow the Seeds” aims to promote understanding of and therefore encourage allotment gardening. This project will celebrate the racial and cultural diversity of allotments, past and present. This will be done by researching archives, recording with photography, film and audio.

The objective of the project is maintaining, protecting and promoting the profile of allotments as heritage sites and their natural link to sustainability, food related issues, gardening and cultural diversity as well as social skills such as independent living skills and teamwork. The project will celebrate the racial and cultural diversity of allotments, past, present and future. The project will also develop an understanding of how other European countries deal with environment and heritage of allotment culture.

The main areas for participants to explore:

- Research the history and cultural importance of allotments (past and present)
• Find out more about the local environmental and ecological traditions and cultures in terms of food production, market trade and food processes.
• Look at sustainability as an essential way forward for the enlarged community
• How allotments heritage brings people together and helps them to work together in reducing conflicts and isolation.
• How food is an easy way of celebrating diversity and sharing different cultures
• Allotments contribution to a better quality of urban life

This will be done through researching the history of allotments in Warwickshire; collecting oral histories; recording and collecting photographic, audio and video material, attending drawing and creative technology training sessions (photographic, video and audio); producing creative interpretive panels/signage, and creating an interactive web page for the participants to share their own findings, experiences, and creative works.

3.4.3 Community Archive Activity, Community Empowerment and Local Governance

English Heritage has published Conservation Area Appraisal Guidance to encourage local authorities to involve community groups in the conservation appraisal process. This may include use of volunteers to take photographs of areas, record changes, identify areas for repair work, catalogue history of the conservation area and comment on proposals / strategic plans for specific locations. This active involvement can link to community empowerment and local governance aspects of the sustainable communities agenda.

A full case study of Conservation Area Appraisal Guidance and Community Empowerment is provided at section 4.

3.5 Linking Community Archive Projects and the Sustainable Communities Agenda

The preceding two chapters of this report illustrate the strategic context for this study nationally and in the two defined study areas (Pennine Lancashire and Corby). A series of case studies from across England have identified the potential of community archives to contribute to the sustainable communities agenda. The following diagram illustrates the link between sustainable communities agenda and the activities and outputs of community archive projects. The top row identifies the main sustainable communities agenda issues, and the second row identifies relevant National Indicators. The third row identifies how community archives contribute to the communities agenda, whilst the last row identifies projects which illustrate these benefits.

We have identified a number of ways through which community archives can contribute to the sustainable communities agenda. Their location under one agenda theme is not exclusive. One benefit or impact may be applicable to a series of agenda themes. We have placed this benefit under the theme which we consider most appropriate, however in reality this could be relocated on a case by case basis depending upon the specifics of each individual project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Impact</th>
<th>Indirect Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a common topic of interest to encourage social interaction.</td>
<td>Outputs of projects, e.g., exhibitions etc. can widen sphere of benefit beyond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archive projects can develop collections which enable communities to engage in</td>
<td>participants and present issues in challenging ways.</td>
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<tr>
<td>debate and inform policy.</td>
<td>Project results in empowerment of community to deliver learning and education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop skills in communities to enable them to challenge and engage in debate</td>
<td>benefits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop leadership skills.</td>
<td>Some projects can provide access to information online, reducing the need to</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engagement with statutory agencies, e.g. LA, MLA etc.</td>
<td>travel to consult records (e.g. family history records / indexes).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills to engage with schools / volunteers</td>
<td>Highlight community issues which can inform / influence stakeholders / agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Impact</td>
<td>Using topic of interest to encourage digital inclusion may then lead to other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Output of projects can raise green issues.</td>
<td>use of IT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some projects can provide access to information online, reducing the need to</td>
<td>Using topic of interest to encourage digital inclusion may then lead to other</td>
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<td>travel to consult records (e.g. family history records / indexes).</td>
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<td>Indirect Impact</td>
<td>Skills to engage with schools / volunteers</td>
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<td>benefits</td>
<td>Using topic of interest to encourage digital inclusion may then lead to other</td>
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<td>use of IT.</td>
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**Examples of Projects**
- Our Story, Liverpool, Northamptonshire Local History Association
- Historic Environment Record
- Conservation Area Appraisals
- Thwaites Empire Theatre Archive
- Sow the Seeds
- www.whatwashere.com
- Thwaites Empire Theatre Archive
- Community sites
- CCAN
- Recipes and Reminiscences
- Leeds Elders Project
- Bolton Irish Project
- My Brighton and Hove
- www.whatwashere.com

**Indirect Impact**
- Encourage remembrance of locality to encourage appreciation of historic and contemporary areas
- Output of projects can illustrate and present back to residents what is important about their area
- Encourage awareness of area / sense of place in new communities e.g. in Corby
- Provide means of establishing / expressing identity as a minority community
The table above highlights the ways in which community archives can contribute to the sustainable communities agenda. It is not intended that this is a definitive or specific definition of the benefits of these initiatives. However, the table confirms the direct and indirect impacts which can be generated by these projects. Direct impacts relate to the benefits secured by participants engaging in the development of the community archive. This may take the form of volunteers recording oral histories, or volunteers photographing the historic environment, or community members meeting to discuss their individual and shared culture. Indirect impacts are delivered as a result of direct activity. An indirect impact may be extended community cohesion benefits as a result of a touring exhibition developed from a community archive project on the contribution made by migrants to England. The table above provides examples of both direct and indirect impacts. The following sections provide detailed case studies of community archive projects which illustrate the points raised above.
4.0 COMPARATOR CASE STUDIES AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

4.1 Introduction

This section provides detailed case studies of community archive projects which illustrate sustainable community benefits. A description of the project is followed by a summary of how they contribute to key agenda themes.

4.2 Case Study 1: www.whatwashere.com

4.2.1 Background

What was here? is an innovative project which aims to tell the story of Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area by collecting information from a diverse range of sources including local history libraries, record offices, groups and societies, and individual community members. The project allows everyone to contribute to the story of Liverpool, taking into account anything which the public believes is of interest. Information collected takes the form of statutory records and community member reminiscences to develop a rich dataset of the history and development of the Merseyside area.

The origins of the project lie in a pilot project, launched in March 2006 in Walton as www.whatwasinwalton.com. Based around Walton Library, this first phase of the project involved a number of community groups and events and collected over 250 stories. In September 2006, based on the feedback from the Walton phase, the project expanded to the whole of Liverpool. The website has been funded by the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and was developed by a private sector organisation called Toolkit and delivered in partnership with Liverpool City Council, community organisations and learning organisations such as schools and colleges.

What was here? Was initially piloted as ‘What was in Walton.com’, which tested the concept explained above in the context of one neighbourhood, i.e. Walton. Information is collected through and re-presented to the public via a website, www.whatwashere.com which utilises the principles of user generated content and Wikipedia. Users are encouraged to upload information, thoughts or reminiscences to a website and locate the area of interest by placing a virtual pin on a Google Earth style map. Other users can then comment on, or add to these posts, thereby extending the record or providing peer review for clarification / confirmation of the accuracy of the information provided. The mapping software is also provided in layers, with each layer providing information relating to a different century and within that layer each individual decade. Equally, users can switch on all layers to view all posts made in connection with the history of Liverpool and Merseyside.
This allows the user to identify the time period which they are interested in, or to which their comment relates, and as this is shown on a map, clearly illustrates the geographic area to which it relates. Furthermore, as the map is zoom-able, users can focus in on one street or one building, offering extensive functionality.

Content uploaded takes the form of comments and / or images related to points or issues raised by users. Content is encouraged via ‘tell a story’ or ‘ask a question’ buttons, which allows users to engage in the project for different purposes.

The website has been successful at securing a diverse range of stories at different levels of interest, from academic pieces submitted on the socio-economic development of the area to memories of bands playing in pubs which no longer exist. As a significant proportion of posts are uploaded by the public with their views or memories, this stimulates debate between individuals and groups, which further extends the record and shifts the resource into the realms of social networking. Consultation with Liverpool City Council has indicated that there is evidence of a virtual community emerging from the site.

4.2.2 Partnerships and the Involvement of Other Agencies

A schools-based version of the website was also launched which is accessible with a password. This provides resources based on the history of Liverpool and the wider area.
Liverpool Community Colleges (DISC centres) are running courses in connection with the project to provide training opportunities related to the whatwashere project. Training opportunities were offered in connection to IT. The Worker's Educational Association is running a digital photography course, and the BBC is running a range of activities.

4.2.3 The Future

The aim of the project is to make whatwashere.com available to the rest of the world. The online functionality developed as part of the project could be applied to Google maps and as such could have worldwide coverage. The project developers are currently seeking local authorities and other agencies who may be interested in taking the project forward.

4.2.4 Links to the Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project has the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

- **Community Cohesion** – Provision of a democratic open forum where comments and content can be posted to present views or opinions. As remote engagement is critical to the project, this eliminates many barriers, such as travel to the archive host location and apprehension of meeting new people face-to-face.
- **Community Empowerment** – The project fed into education and community projects delivered from the library and elsewhere which increased confidence and skills
- **Digital Inclusion** – A key priority for the project was extending literacy and numeracy skills whilst encouraging and extending IT skills. The project worked in partnership with Liverpool Community Colleges to offer structured programmes to develop IT skills.
- **Sense of Place** – the project was successful in developing multiple sense of place at a variety of different levels, including consideration of the changing landscape. As the project is based on a map, the physical development of Liverpool can be tracked with user generated content being a key element of this. Again this is democratic, with everyone having the opportunity to contribute their view, or opinion of a place.

4.3 Case Study 2: Historic Environment Policy and Community Empowerment

4.3.1 Introduction

Community archive projects can potentially play a significant role in the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. This can lead to substantial benefits for both the environment and individuals involved in terms of community empowerment and sense of place. This section considers the role which community archives could play in the establishment and maintenance of Historic Environment Records and of Conservation Area Appraisals.
4.3.2 Historic Environment Records

DCMS defines Historic Environment Records (HERs) as:

“HERs are information services that provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of their locality for public benefit and use. They are direct descendents of the network of Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) which were created in the 1970’s in response to the lack of archaeological information available to owners, developers and planners, and the consequent loss of archaeological remains through urban and rural development”


HERs are unique repositories of and signposts to landscapes, buildings, sites and finds spanning 700,000 years of human activity. The content of HERs links to and complements collections held by museums, record offices, local studies libraries and other repositories of information. In the context of this study, HERs can:

- Improve protection, conservation, management and enhancement of the historic environment
- Support heritage led regeneration, environmental improvement and cultural tourism initiatives
- Contribute to education and social inclusion
- Promote public participation in the exploration, appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment

Development and implementation of HERs is being advanced in the context of the Heritage Protection Bill. It is intended that those responsible for the historic environment and creation of sustainable communities will use HERs as an evidence base that informs understanding of the cultural landscape. In addition, and of greatest interest to this study, the development of HERs seeks to empower communities by broadening awareness of and access to these resources by positioning HERs as an integral part of corporate approaches to e-government.

DCMS guidance sets the context for the development, operation and maintenance of HERs, including resource requirements and the need to provide public access to HERs information. The guidance stresses the need to maintain the currency of HERs to ensure that information contained therein is up to date and accurate. This must reflect new discoveries and interpretations, new finds and designations. It is acknowledged within the guidance that additional information may be sourced from a variety of sources including community projects.

HERs managers are expected to actively develop new audiences for HERs content and resources. DCMS indicate that this is essential for the enhancement and maintenance of the
HERs. There is therefore a presupposition that communities will become actively involved in the HERs.

This demonstrates the linkage between HERs and sustainable communities. Community projects, including archive projects have the ability to develop new information on the historic environment which can inform and influence the HERs, which can be used to influence strategy and planning policy. DCMS states that users of HERs will typically include developers, planning / environmental consultants, statutory undertakers, property owners, land managers, farmers, academic researchers, amateur researchers, teachers, students and the public.

Community archive projects, which create content which is included in the HERs will be able to influence and inform planning decisions and appropriate development of physical assets and landscapes. This opportunity to develop community empowerment, as expressed by DCMS illustrates direct linkages from community archive projects to the physical development, and perhaps regeneration of communities.

4.3.3 Conservation Area Appraisals Guidance

Community archives have potential to play a role in Conservation Area Appraisals, which are defined by English heritage as follows:

“Conservation area appraisals, like conservation plans, depend upon an understanding of the area which draws upon techniques of conservation-based research and analysis. Conservation area appraisals could also, like conservation plans, include a more specific assessment of significance and some analysis of how that significance is vulnerable as a basis for defining policies for preserving or enhancing their character”


Conservation appraisal is a process, not an output. It is vital that appraisals are on-going to ensure that a detailed understanding of an area is always kept on record. The guidance document provides support to agencies undertaking or commissioning conservation area appraisals. The guidance stresses the importance of involving the public in the appraisal process to identify and evaluate what makes an area ‘special’, whether it should be designated and where boundaries should be drawn. Involvement of the public should be undertaken in an innovative and pro-active way, and engagement should be ensured at each stage of the process, - assessing significance to commenting on draft reports. Consultation with the public may be facilitated by workshops and seminars or engagement with local groups and societies.

Conservation area appraisals can benefit from the existence of community archives or local history societies which may have their own collection of material. Where this is the case, there exists considerable potential for community archive collections to significantly influence conservation approach, policy or action. This again illustrates the linkages between community archives and sustainable communities agenda, and specifically community empowerment.
Similarly, the conservation area appraisal consultation process, which in itself is attempting to identify importance, may be a stimulus to creating new projects, or initiatives. The consultation process may trigger an interest in better understanding the importance or significance of an area. English Heritage should encourage local authorities undertaking conservation area appraisals to raise the awareness of community archives and the role they could play in influencing local policy.

4.3.4 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

Specifically HERs and Conservation Area Appraisals link to sustainable communities in the following ways:

- **Community Empowerment** – Communities are encouraged to engage in conservation area appraisals to influence significance assessments inform policy. Community archives are acknowledged as a source of information to maintain the currency of HERS. These elements assist in delivering community empowerment in terms of protecting, planning and maintaining the local historic environment

- **Sense of Place** – Engaging in the planning context will allow communities to inform and shape their locality through contributing to planning policy which will have an impact on their sense of place.

4.4 Case Study 3: Hidden Histories – Eastside Community Heritage

Eastside Community Heritage was established in 1993 as part of the Stratford City Challenge community history project. In 1997 Eastside became an independent charity. Over the years Eastside has worked on numerous projects documenting the lives of 'ordinary' people from, and who live in, East London.

4.4.1 Aims

- To inform people through the provision of heritage and cultural based activities such as exhibitions, publications, dramas, workshops etc.
- To empower individuals and groups to access the resources to write, rewrite, record, publish and present their own histories and that of the local area and community.
- To promote civic pride through active participation and involvement in community affairs.
- To promote greater harmony and understanding of interracial and inter generational experiences through historical explorations.
- To celebrate the cultures and heritage of East London's diverse communities.
- To provide independent historical, social research and evaluation.
In 1999 Eastside Community Heritage established the East London People's Archive which now holds over 1,000 oral histories, thousands of photographs and video material all preserved and archived for public benefit.

4.4.2 Outcomes

The aims of Eastside Community Heritage are clearly congruent with the sustainable communities agenda, and in particular community cohesion, civic pride and sense of place. The organisation undertakes and has delivered a wide range of projects aimed at recording the lives of residents and workers in the local area. The following provides a short summary of projects delivered:

- Field of Dreams – Wanstead Flats: Oral history project recording in-depth interviews with 18 residents of these flats
- Working Lives of the Thames Gateway: oral history project to preserve the stories of workers in the Thames Gateway area
- Road to Freedom - To commemorate 200 years since the slave trade was outlawed in the British Empire, Eastside is working with young people as they explore the importance of this bicentenary within the context of British and London history and the impact on their own family history
- Kamal Chunchie – The Other Eastenders - After witnessing and experiencing the racist treatment of black and Asian people arriving in London's docklands, Kamal Chunchie founded the Coloured Men's Institute in Canning Town in 1926. It was to be a social as well as a religious centre. In a converted Chinese lodging house that had previously held opium dens in its cellars, Chunchie established a meeting place that was open from nine in the morning until ten at night.
- Black Angels from the Empire - Overseas nurses and doctors played a significant role in filling the gaps in the newly formed NHS. In 1949 severe shortages existed at all levels of the Health Service. Substantial numbers of Caribbean born men and women entered the NHS from the early 1950's. This project recounts the experiences of a group of some of the women who helped build the NHS and dedicated their lives to caring for its patients.
- Chinese Lives - Chinese Lives is the story of Newham Chinese residents, their history, their experiences and their contribution to Newham culture.
- Don’t Hush, Discuss - This project has begun to train teenage parents in Newham to develop their own online resources for teenage mums. This will enable the group to make contacts, provide information for teenage mums in London and even globally. The project is training teen mums to write and publish their stories/diaries/experiences and be journalists with their own blog pages which they can update and add to whenever and wherever they want.
- My Roots, Our Heritage - A film project documenting and researching the experiences that affected people from the African/Caribbean communities.
Each project provides specific outputs, such as an exhibition, audio-visual information or publications. Some exhibitions are available for hire and publications are available on the Eastside Community Heritage website.

The projects highlighted above illustrate the broad range of audiences and subject matter addressed by the organisation. The vast majority of these projects also link in to the priorities of the sustainable communities agenda.

4.4.3 Links to the Sustainable Communities Agenda

Community archive projects can generate an enhanced understanding of a locality, which can serve to inform and influence approaches to policy through extending or better informing the evidence base. In the context of HERs, communities can become actively involved in enhancing and ensuring that HERs are up to date and accurate. This involvement, if effectively planned and managed will lead to community engagement in the planning process, whilst offering skills development opportunities to participants. The following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities have been identified:

- **Community Cohesion** – A diverse range of projects have been undertaken which have engaged a diverse range of audiences and communities. Projects such as Black Angels from the Empire highlight the role played by migrant communities
- **Health and Well-Being** - Community archives have focused on challenging issues such as teenage pregnancy
- **Sense of Place** – The delivery of projects and engagement with the communities develops a sense of place in terms of common history.

4.5 Case Study 4: My Brighton and Hove

4.5.1 Background

My Brighton and Hove is a ‘living history’ website which encourages user generated content related to the history of Brighton and Hove. Content is invited under many themes and topics. The project originated from a museum exhibit entitled ‘My Brighton’ which was housed in the local history gallery of Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. This exhibit was launched in 1995 and won the Gulbenkian award. In 1997, a CD of the exhibit was launched and sent to local schools free of charge. The CD was also sold for £9.99.

In 1999, Brighton and Hove Council provided £2,000 to Make Multimedia History Group (voluntary organisation founded by My Brighton designer Jack Latimer) to do follow-up Internet project. 60 volunteers engaged with the project to transfer all My Brighton content onto the internet. This was then launched as [www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk) and was supported by an event at the Brighton Festival. In 2001, the website was singled out as an example of best practice in collaboration between museums and community groups by the National Grid for
Learning. In 2002, the website was re-designed by volunteers and new functions were added. Local historians joined the mailing list to answer queries from site users and local editors were appointed neighbourhoods in Brighton and Hove.

In 2003, the local authority provided funding for the project to run a volunteering training scheme in order to include the views of under-represented communities on the website.

In 2004, the activities of the project were further extended as the 24-hour museum commissioned project organisers to develop a history trail for Brighton and Hove. Furthermore, the three centuries photo tour project was published in collaboration with the East Brighton Bygones Group.

In 2005, collaborative working continues to develop as My Brighton and Hove collaborates with Brighton Museum and Art Gallery on an exhibition about Brighton Boozer. A new ‘My Brighton and Hove’ oral history sub-group is formed and My Brighton and Hove participates in the BBC People’s War reminiscence project.

In 2006, My Brighton and Hove founder members set up Community Sites (www.communitysites.co.uk), a company providing software and support for community and heritage websites. My Brighton and Hove commissioned by Brighton Council to run a workshop in the Friend Ship festival, encouraging kids to get involved with community heritage. The site continues to be successful attracting 3,800 visitors per day.

4.5.2 Content

The site draws information from a variety of sources including published works, statutory records and historical collections. However, the most significant source of information appears to be the collections and memories of residents and visitors to Brighton and Hove. Content is organised under themes such as ‘places’, ‘topics’, ‘people’, ‘tours’ and ‘areas’. This allows users a choice in terms of how they interact with the site and how they post messages or content. Users could elect to post by ‘area’, i.e. geography or by topic (which includes issues such as allotments, education, trade and business and World War I and II amongst others).

4.5.3 Sustainability

The project receives no regular core funding. On-going costs through donations, sales of the My Brighton CD and through project funding. In 2003, My Brighton and Hove became part of QueenSpark community publishers, who collaborate on joint projects, and provide administrative support and a venue for meetings.

4.5.4 Links to the Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project had the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:
• **Community Empowerment** – A community web resource entitled community sites has emerged from this project. This is a community archive website tool-kit which allows other projects to develop their own resources.

• **Digital Inclusion** – The project is delivered exclusively online and as such users must have online access to contribute or read content.

• **Sense of Place** – The project provides a forum through which the community and present their sense of place. This is user defined and as such allows the community to highlight particular areas of pride or concern.

### 4.6 Case Study 5: Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network

#### 4.6.1 Background

The principal aim of the Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN) was to establish a robust and sustainable online county community archive network. To deliver the project Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded funding of £299,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

CCAN was developed by three members of staff - a project manager and two community archive development workers. Under the guidance of the project manager, it was the role of the development workers to go out into the community to establish active, self-sufficient and sustainable community archive groups. While CCAN was open to all interested groups, there was also a concerted effort to engage with hard-to-reach heritage audiences, for example, with projects undertaken with a hospital and a mental health charity.

In total, 49 community archive groups have been established across Cambridgeshire. The groups have contributed over 12,000 items to the CCAN website ([www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk)), which is free to access. While the funding for the project has expired, the CCAN is still accepting new community archive groups.

#### 4.6.2 Aims

The main aims of the CCAN project were:

1. **To develop approximately 40 active and sustainable community archive groups across Cambridgeshire to form a cohesive network.**

2. **To create cross-searchable online community archive collections through the work of newly formed local groups.**

3. **To establish a countrywide dialogue between professional Libraries, Archives, Local Studies and Museums services with ‘grassroots’ community history groups – encouraging more people to become involved in heritage.**
4. To bring community archives to life within communities through artists-in-residence in local schools and public exhibitions based on the new collections.

4.6.3 Evaluation and Outcomes

During the delivery of the project a formal evaluation was undertaken by professional evaluators (report available from Cambridgeshire County Council). The evaluation work involved focus groups with representatives from community archive groups, interviews with project staff, and feedback forms from participants.

The project achieved all of the aims shown in section 4.6.2 above. The evaluation also examined the benefits delivered by the project, these are described below. Against the generic learning outcomes framework, CCAN delivered the following:

- Knowledge and understanding – participants learned about their local history and learned new IT techniques.
- Skills – IT skills were developed, particularly for elderly participants who had little previous experience of using computers.
- Attitudes and values – greater social interaction and confidence through involvement. The project also helped older participants get over their fear of using computers.
- Enjoyment, inspiration and creativity – participants gained satisfaction from the knowledge that the information they collected is widely available. Participants also enjoyed the social interaction of undertaking the project.
- Activity, behaviour and progression – The project has encouraged participants to undertake further research. People involved with the project are also aware of things changing around them and actively record these changes for the archive.

The evaluation also found that the project had successfully delivered against the following generic social outcomes:

- Enhanced sense of place
- Increased individual and community self-esteem and spirit
- Improvements in individuals’ quality of life
- Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between generations

While the development of the project was from the top-down, it is the intention of Cambridgeshire County Council that CCAN will be self-sufficient in future years. Therefore, it is run by a volunteer steering committee and the community archive groups will have to pay a subscription (around £100) in order to maintain their hosting on the website. This has lead to groups undertaking differing means of fundraising, from sponsorship by local businesses to holding events.
In delivering the project, problems arose when the web host which was selected to develop the website went out of business. This resulted in a financial loss to the project but the County Council was able to retain the licence for the website and content management system. As a result of this it is hoped that similar projects can be implemented in other areas using the CCAN model.

4.7 Case Study 6: Northamptonshire Black History Association

4.7.1 Background

The Northamptonshire Black History Project was a three year, community-led initiative. It was primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and ran from July 2002. The aim of the project was to record and promote the histories and stories of Northamptonshire’s Black communities and individuals over at least the past 500 years. The project involved three main activities: historical research, community archiving and oral history interviewing.

Historical Research
Northamptonshire has a long history of black people visiting, working and living in the county. Project researchers undertook detailed historical study to research the stories of black people in the county. In some instances, detailed family histories have been developed using a diverse range of source material.

Community Archiving
The project acknowledges the importance of historic material but also of documenting activities and events of the 20th and 21st centuries. The project has worked to discover where the records of Black community activities are located and to ensure that they are identified, sorted and preserved for the future. These records document social and community life as well as fights for equality and justice. They are part of the local history of the county and a vital part of communal heritage. The records of 15 Black community organisations representing at least 40 years of community activity have been placed at Northamptonshire Record Office by project staff. The project website encourages other groups and individuals with records to contact Northamptonshire County Archives to discuss preservation needs and to consider depositing material there for its long-term safe-keeping.

Oral History Interviews
An important element of the project was the development of new information, obtained via oral history activities. Oral history recording focused on information about people’s lives, attitudes and experiences which cannot be found elsewhere. Over 200 life story interviews were conducted with black people across the county. Digital recordings and transcripts of the interviews can be found on the Northamptonshire Record Office website (www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Community/record). Copies of interview summaries can also be found in local studies libraries.
The lead agency for the project was Northamptonshire Racial Equality Council and a range of Black-led community groups and individuals who made up the management committee. The work has been undertaken by a team of paid staff, sessional workers and volunteers. The Northamptonshire Black History Association (NBHA) is the successor organisation to the Northamptonshire Black History Project.

4.7.2 Outputs of the Project and the Association

The following outputs were delivered by the project and the Association:

- Education programme and resources
- Searchable online database of archival material
- Projects with young people to present black history and address issues such as racism through sport. A short summary of a selection of projects is provided below:
  - Time to Celebrate Project 2007 which brought together young people from different schools to learn about world celebrations. Students shared their stories about celebrations and learned about new ones to. Workshops were held which included activities such as African drumming, circus skills and costume making.
  - Sticks and Stones Project undertaken to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. Drawing on historical information and modern slavery such as sweatshop labour and human trafficking, participants engaged in a project to ask the question, why are we celebrating? A short film and exhibition were developed to present the work of the project
  - Football, Racism and Cultural Heritage Project – 20 primary and supplementary schools were engaged in a project led by Northampton Town FC into racism. Using the stories of local Black historical figures as a stimulus and linking them to sport, students explored themes of achievement, identity, prejudice and exclusion. The resulting quality of work was testament to the effort put in by teachers and students, and included newsletters, storyboards, paintings, pottery, poems, banners and even scripts and a play.

The project has been viewed as an exemplary relationship between Northamptonshire Record Office and the community participants.

4.7.3 Service Development

The NBHA now offers a range of services to assist other groups and organisations. Services and training opportunities can be provided in oral history recording, researching and archiving, using local black history resources and working with young people and schools.

Members of the team are also available to give talks and lectures on Northamptonshire’s Black History and Northamptonshire’s Black Oral History Archive
4.7.4 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

- **Community Cohesion** – A range of projects have been delivered to encourage inter-race and inter-faith activity such as the Sticks and Stones Project
- **Community Empowerment** – Participants in the project are now sharing their experience and expertise with other groups in areas such as researching, oral history recording and archive development
- **Digital Inclusion** – Archival and project materials are now available online which will encourage people to access and potentially develop IT skills

4.8 Cultural Sector Initiatives and the Potential of Community Archives

4.8.1 Introduction

There are several significant cultural initiatives being developed / delivered at present which can influence the response taken by MLA to this report in the short and long-term. This section aims to identify a selection of these initiatives and highlight opportunities for community archives and the MLA to capitalise on their potential.

4.8.2 The People’s Record

The People's Record is a national community project to capture the impact on the UK of hosting the 2012 games. It will be a permanent record of the journey to 2012, the Cultural Olympiad and the experience of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012, told by the people in their own words. It is the first time a host country has created such a comprehensive record, which will inform, entertain and inspire future generations and host nations. People will be encouraged to look back at previous Games and to imagine what 2012 will mean to them.

A programme of public consultation was undertaken via ‘vox pops’ to identify the key themes which the People’s Record should focus on in the context of the Cultural Olympiad. Three themes were selected based on the consultation process, these were:

1. Sport and wellbeing
2. Changing places (including regeneration and valuing the environment)
3. Young people’s aspirations

The project aims to support community heritage activity through giving museums, libraries and archives an online package to allow them to link up their work. This may link to descriptive standards being developed by the Community Archives Heritage Group, which should be made available to a range of community archive projects. Digital presentation standards are also being incorporated into this.
The aim of the project is to support museums, libraries and archives to engage with communities, rather than MLA carrying out this role itself. Capacity building and training are important aspects of the project.

A pilot project was run in 2008, providing funding for 29 projects across England and Wales. Small grants of about £1,000 were awarded to allow projects to carry out vox pop exercises, some of which were delivered in partnership with community groups. The feedback from this provided an indication of the level of interest in this type of activity. This kind of process has a genuine connection to DCMS aims for the Cultural Olympiad.

Most participants said that they would like to do more of this kind of activity. Examples of projects which have been involved include:

- Westminster – historic map collection with links to local history groups; touring exhibition
- Hackney – “Mapping the Change”; volunteering programmes for documenting collections
- Loughborough University – oral history project

4.8.3 Stories of the World

Stories of the World is one of the ten major projects at the heart of the Cultural Olympiad, led by MLA in partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). It will entail a series of exhibitions across the country, featuring collections reinterpreted by communities, historians, artists and other fresh voices.

Stories of the World will be delivered by a limited number of Core Delivery partners, forming a UK-wide network. The Core Delivery Partners will be selected by the Project Board at the start of 2009, after they have submitted a proposal against the programme criteria.

The following is taken from the vision statement produced by Dame Liz Forgan, Chair of the Project Board:

“Nowhere in the world can the cultural heritage of the world be seen so completely in one place as in the UK. That story lies partly in the physical evidence of centuries of adventure, exploration, trade, piracy, empire and scholarship but also in the living communities of a multicultural and rapidly changing modern nation.

The UK’s museums, galleries, great houses and archives are joining together to take a fresh look at our dispersed national collection through the eyes of the communities from which they originated.

A series of exhibitions across the country will enable the great cultures of the world to see themselves honoured and understood. The children of those cultures, born or recently arrived in the UK, will have a key role in their interpretation and display. Scholars, artists and story
tellers from the UK and the source cultures themselves will reinterpret the treasures with their own insights.

The project aims to have three lasting effects: the UK’s treasures will acquire a richer meaning for everyone who sees them in future; new thinking will be applied to traditional museum display; a young generation will connect in a new and deeper way with their own and their neighbours’ heritage”

This project seeks to take a democratic look at the development of the UK and the stories of the communities who have shaped it. Stories and cultural heritage will be a core element of this project and this provides an excellent opportunity to encourage or support the development of community activity or archive projects. National collections will be used to inform exhibitions. These exhibitions could form the anchor for the development of new community archive initiatives, further exploring the origins and legacies of cultural heritage activities / traditions and stories of the world.

It is understood that a call for projects has been initiated by MLA. We consider that there is significant scope for additional benefits to be driven by this project out with the call for and delivery of projects.

4.8.4 Sports Heritage Network

The Sports Heritage Network was formed in 2004 from the incredible depth and variety of sports heritage organisations in the UK, including the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, the Museum of Rugby, Twickenham, the River and Rowing Museum, Henley and the National Football Museum. In January 2007 the Network launched its proposal, Our Sporting Life, for a national programme of events to celebrate sports heritage in the run up to London 2012 and beyond.

‘Our Sporting Life’ will consist of a number of elements, all designed to be inspirational and participative. At the heart of the project will be a nationwide survey, asking the question, ‘Why is sport important to you?’ This will provide a snapshot of Britain’s contemporary sporting culture, created by the people of Britain themselves. This will be followed by a touring exhibition examining the significance of sport. The programme will draw heavily on the unique sporting collections held by a wide range of museums, libraries and archives and sporting institutions.

The Network argues that the project will provide a range of opportunities to support and encourage:

- Olympic ideals of striving for excellence and doing one’s personal best, fair play and cultural understanding
- Inclusion and encouraging positive views of disability
• Celebration of diversity and supporting community cohesion
• Encouragement of young people to make a positive contribution to the community

The aims of the SHN project are congruent with the sustainable communities agenda, and the community engagement process and community focus highlights the potential to support or encourage community archives around the theme of sport. The SHN website includes a ‘share your story’ function which encourages users to

“…share your sporting memories, let us know about an object or photograph or sporting experience that you would be happy to share with others, tell us what inspires you”. This could lead to a national community archive focused on sport. It is understood that this content, provided by the public will inform the national exhibition programme.

4.9 Summary

This section has illustrated the range and diversity of community archive projects which have been developed and which are in existence. The projects demonstrate the different purpose, scale, location and resources which can be identified in a community archive project and illustrate the fact that there is no “one size fits all” approach to defining a community archive. What the case studies have also shown, however, is that it is possible to demonstrate clear links between the community archives projects and sustainable communities. This is a feature which is also highlighted in the review of case study projects in Pennine Lancashire and Corby.
5.0 STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

5.1 Introduction

Consultation with strategic stakeholders was conducted to assess the level of awareness and understanding of community archives and to establish the perception of the role and benefits of community archives. Consultation also included discussion of the potential links between community archives and the sustainable communities agenda. Stakeholders included MLA, Living Places partners, and agencies working within the archive domain including The National Archives (TNA), the National Council for Archives (NCA), and the Community Archives Heritage Group (CAHG).

5.2 Awareness and Understanding of Community Archives

Awareness of community archives was understandably high amongst the strategic stakeholders operating with the archive domain. Other stakeholders had awareness of the concept of community archives, but had less knowledge of specific projects.

Discussion about community archives invariably led to a discussion about the definition of what a community archive is. It was agreed that there is no clear definition of community archives, as the term can encompass a wide variety of activities. In fact, there are many projects which may not define themselves as community archives. As a result, it is difficult to identify all the community archive projects which exist in an area. However, while it can be difficult to find a clear definition of community archives, there are certain characteristics which can be identified to indicate whether or not a project is viewed as a community archive.

It was acknowledged that there is an increasing number of community archive projects developing and being identified. However, it was acknowledged the community archives may not have been high on the agenda for some organisations, including Living Places partners, and that they may have been undervalued. Stakeholders agree that there is a need to raise awareness of the role which community archives play.

5.3 Current and Future Role in Connection with Community Archives

There are a number of organisations which may have a role to play in the support and development of community archives, and each of the stakeholders involved saw the relevance of community archives to their own roles.

5.3.1 MLA

MLA is aware of a variety of community archive projects and acknowledges the valuable role they play within the sector, and for the communities on which they have an impact. It was acknowledged that the role of MLA should not be to establish or create community archive
projects, as they should develop organically as a result of an interest within the community. MLA’s role should be to ensure that the value of community archives is acknowledged, by increasing awareness of the role and the impacts of the community archives across the sector. This will ultimately help community to receive the support which they require from funding agencies and other organisations. MLA is in the process of delivering The People’s Record, a national project a part of the Cultural Olympics which encourages community archive activities associated with experiences of the communities in the build up to the 2012 Olympics. This is an example of a practical way in which MLA can provide a supporting infrastructure for community archive projects to develop.

5.3.2 National Council on Archives

The NCA does not engage directly with community archive projects, but does so indirectly through its support for CAHG. NCA’s main role with community archives is to ensure that they are represented within the world of archives through its advocacy activities. This advocacy role includes providing clarification on the relationship between professional archive services and community archive projects. Like MLA, NCA acknowledged that the most effective means of support for community archives is to identify activities that are already taking place and provide support which is relevant to each project. In the future, NCA’s role will be to continue providing advocacy for community archives. The merger of NCA with the Society of Archivists and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) may have an impact on their role, but this remains to be seen.

5.3.3 Community Archives Heritage Group

The role of CAHG is to monitor and inform development in the field of community archives and act as an expert body on best practice. The two main services which CAHG provide are its website, which provides a means through which community archive projects can contribute information and make themselves known, and its annual conference, which is a networking opportunity for community archives and professional archivists. The future role which CAHG should play is currently unclear, as it is currently reviewing its role and may become a more representative body, acting as a membership organisation for community groups. However, any supporting role which is played, by CAHG or others, should be viewed as facilitation rather than creation of community archive projects.

5.3.4 Local Authorities

The relationship of local authorities to community archives was discussed by all the stakeholders, and there was a common opinion that local authorities do have a role to play in supporting the development of community archives. Currently, the relationship between local authorities and community archives may be difficult, as professional archive services may want to ensure items being collected are stored and cared for in the correct way, while community archives may feel somewhat threatened that local authorities may want to take ownership of
their collections. This is an issue which may continue in the future unless the benefits of the relationship, for both sides, are made more apparent. However, there is a view that local authorities are becoming more aware of the role and benefits of community archives.

Local authorities can support projects by providing advice on storage of materials, cataloguing and digitisation, or by helping to support funding applications. They can also help to develop skills in terms of engaging with volunteers and develop educational links. The relationship should be a mutually beneficial one, and local authorities should be made more aware of the benefits which community archive can provide in terms of helping to engage directly with a more diverse audience. The role of libraries could be particularly important in developing relationships, as libraries often have more direct contact and engagement with members of their communities than archive services do. In addition, it was felt that the collections held by museums, libraries or archive could themselves be used to help develop community archive activities, by providing material which groups can interpret and provide access to in different ways. It was felt that any engagement should be viewed as a partnership, rather than a passing over of information.

5.4 Reported Benefits of Community Archives

All stakeholders acknowledged that community archives have the potential to deliver real benefits for those involved. While the benefits will differ depending on each project, feedback indicated that the following benefits may be seen by community archives:

- Developing a sense of place
- Developing a greater understanding of the area and its heritage
- Encouraging pride of place and sense of ownership
- Developing practical skills (such as cataloguing and digitising)
- Preventing anti-social behaviour by providing resources or facilities for young people
- Encouraging intergenerational activity
- Social cohesion, connecting different groups within the community
- Providing a means of expressing identity, particular for minority communities
- Allowing new residents to understand and connect with their communities – particular in Corby which has a growing population

5.5 Awareness of Links Between Community Archives and Sustainable Communities Agenda

Feedback from consultation indicated that there was awareness and acknowledgement of the importance of the sustainable communities agenda, although not all stakeholders applied the agenda directly to their own aims and objectives. There was recognition of the potential links between sustainable communities and community archives.
It was recognised that community archives can help to engage members of a community and develop a pride in the place they live in. Community archive projects which involve engagement of different groups within the community, such as intergenerational projects, can help to develop community cohesion. This was viewed a particular relevant in Corby, which has a growing population and new communities developing within the area. Other projects can help a particular community to establish its identity, which can be particularly relevant in project involving ethnic minority communities. In some areas community archives can be drivers for skills development, including treatments of records, cataloguing, recording, digitising, engaging with school groups etc. Each of these impacts was seen as potentially relevant to the overall aim of the sustainable communities agenda.

Overall, there was a sense that community archive projects can have impacts in terms of sense of place and quality of life, which can be viewed as important to any agenda which supports strengthening of communities.

5.6 Summary

The section has provided an outline of the feedback received through consultation with stakeholders. For many of the stakeholders, the messages presented about community archives were consistent and indicated a common understanding both of the role community archive play and of the challenges which they face. The feedback provided by stakeholders has contributed to the recommendations which have been outlined in section 10.
6.0 COMMUNITY ARCHIVES IN PENNINE LANCASHIRE

6.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the community archive sector in Pennine Lancashire.

6.2 Organisational Context

Pennine Lancashire comprises four District and one Unitary Authority. The map below illustrates the Pennine Lancashire area:

Each of these local authorities sub-contract the management and maintenance of their archive collections to the Lancashire Record Office, based in Preston. Each local authority retains a local studies library, in most instances within the main or central library for the relevant area.
6.3 Community Archives in Pennine Lancashire

The following table presents information on community archive projects which have been identified in Pennine Lancashire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title/Organisation</th>
<th>Area of Interest</th>
<th>Web-Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Town</td>
<td>Blackburn with Darwen</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cottontown.org/page.cfm?pageid=257">http://www.cottontown.org/page.cfm?pageid=257</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley of Stone – Rossendale Quarries &amp; Tramways Heritage Project</td>
<td>Rossendale</td>
<td><a href="http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk/">http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 100 Years of the Empire Theatre</td>
<td>Blackburn with Darwen</td>
<td><a href="http://www.empirearchive.net/">http://www.empirearchive.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire Family History and Heritage Society</td>
<td>Blackburn with Darwen</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lfhhs.org.uk/society/branches.htm">http://www.lfhhs.org.uk/society/branches.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwen Local History Society</td>
<td>Darwen</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dlhs.co.uk/">http://www.dlhs.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnley and District Historical Society</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td><a href="http://www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.colsal.org.uk/">http://www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.colsal.org.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn Local History Society</td>
<td>Blackburn with Darwen</td>
<td><a href="http://www.blackburnlhs.org.uk/aims.htm">http://www.blackburnlhs.org.uk/aims.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Life thru’ a Lens” – Nacro Burnley Youth Inclusion Project</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Accrington Stanley - the club that wouldn’t die” – Accrington Youth Supporters Club</td>
<td>Accrington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Lancashire Woodland Heritage Landscape Partnership Scheme” – Groundwork East Lancashire</td>
<td>East Lancashire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Chattin’ It: Untold Tales of Pendle &amp; Kendal” - The Centre for Volunteering &amp; Community Action</td>
<td>Pendle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Briercliffe Society</td>
<td>Briercliffe, Nelson</td>
<td><a href="http://www.briercliffsociety.co.uk/">http://www.briercliffsociety.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnoldswick History Society</td>
<td>Barnoldswick</td>
<td><a href="http://www.barnoldswickhistorysociety.co.uk/">http://www.barnoldswickhistorysociety.co.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earby and District History Society</td>
<td>Earby</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk/">http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Absolutely Fabulous @ 13” – Burnley Play Association</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Recipes and Reminiscences” – East Lancs into Employment</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Memories of Blackburn Orphanage”</td>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“East Lancs WW2 Asian Memories” – Blackburn Museum</td>
<td>East Lancashire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Same Difference” – Positive Prospects</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The list has been informed by a review of information available online and consultation with strategic and operational stakeholders in the Pennine Lancashire area. The list provides details of all projects identified during the study period. As indicated previously, projects can be purposefully isolationist and difficult to identify due to a narrow focus of interest, or the fact that they do not consider themselves to be a ‘community archive’. The list provided is therefore illustrative, providing a snapshot of community archive projects identified. This list can be extended following advocacy and awareness raising undertaken by MLA and other partners.

We have included local and family history societies in the list of projects as these organisations met the criteria set out in Section 3 regarding the categorisation of community archive projects. Local and family history societies are primarily organised and driven by volunteers and often
have collections of unique material, or secondary sources which have been re-catalogued for their own use.

The following sub-sections examine a selection of community archive projects in Pennine Lancashire.

6.4 Pennine Lancashire Case Study 1: Talking Shop Project

6.4.1 Introduction

The Talking Shop project was initially set-up as a pilot project entitled Shopkeepers by Mid Pennine Arts (MPA). The project was designed in response to the ‘Home Town, Clone Town’ report published by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) which reported on the extent to which Britain has become a ‘clone town’. The NEF defines home towns and clone towns as:

“A clone town is a place where the individuality of high street shops has been replaced by a monochrome strip of global and national chains, somewhere that could easily be mistaken for dozens of bland town centres across the country. By contrast, a home town has a high street that retains its individual character and is instantly recognisable and distinctive to the people who live there, as well as to those who visit. A border town is on the cusp between a home town and a clone town.”

In response to the report, MPA devised a project which aimed to photograph independent shops building on an ERDF funded project entitled ‘5 Wards’ – a community engagement project in the 5 most deprived wards in Pendle (Waterside, Bradley, Nelson, Whitefield and Colne). £5,000 was secured from Arts Council England to commission a photographer to deliver a photography project which documented and celebrates independent shops in Pendle. Photographs of 20 shopkeepers were taken. The project was also filmed by the coordinator of the ‘5 wards’ project. An exhibition of photographs and outputs from the project were shown at the Mid Pennine Gallery as part of Architecture week.

During the period between taking the photographs and filming and the exhibition being launched, 4 local independent businesses ceased trading and the indoor market was demolished. This provided a strong message which was delivered as part of the exhibition, i.e. local businesses were struggling to survive.

6.4.2 ‘Shopkeepers’ to ‘Talking Shop’

Following the success of the Shopkeepers project, Lancashire County Development Limited (LCDL) became interested in getting involved in a wider project which built on the activities of the Shopkeepers project. Their particular interest was in helping to support independent shops and traders. ELEVATE, one of the Government’s Housing Market Renewal pathfinders, charged with finding innovative solutions to the problem of low demand and housing market
collapse in towns across Pennine Lancashire, also became interested in how projects similar to Shopkeepers could support the renewal process.

New projects were developed and delivered in Burnley, Oswaldtwistle and Accrington under the Talking Shop brand. Projects similar in scope to Shopkeepers were developed which sought to record local independent businesses and shops.

A business model was developed based on the success of earlier projects which was supported by LCDL, ELEVATE and Lancashire County Council. For £5,000, local authorities would receive a defined number of days of artist time, a postcard pack, a film of the project being delivered and an exhibition at Mid Pennine Gallery. This has led to the project becoming self-sustaining.

6.4.3 Outputs of the Projects

The earliest project was considered to be a ‘nice’ photography project which would illustrate the findings of a national study conducted by the NEF. However, partners and other agencies quickly identified the wider potential role of these initiatives. Local Economic Development Officers in participating local authorities became involved in these projects as a means of engaging with local businesses. In West Accrington, a business forum was established on the success of a Talking Shop project which has then been used to inform strategic planning.

The projects have served to raise awareness of the issues surrounding local shops and independent traders. Recent projects have worked in very close partnership with traders. Specifically, the following outputs have been reported:

- 182 Shopkeepers engaged
- 4 local authorities directly engaged in Talking Shop developments
- 2 business development officers directly engaged
- 3 neighbourhood management schemes engaged
- 12 artists employed
- 15 exhibitions in community spaces, libraries, the RIBA Architruck and MPA gallery space
- 3 postcard packs
- 1 book
- 4 DVD’s
- 1 commissioned play/performance
- £40,000 total funding generated to date
- Volume I Talking Shop pack published for use in advocacy
6.4.4 Example - Blackburn Road, Accrington

The most strategic partnership to develop from a Talking Shop project to date has been the Blackburn Road Steering Group in Hyndburn. The artists’ process of engagement included photographic documentation and collection of objects, which resulted in an exhibition shown at Mid Pennine Gallery, Burnley. The process was documented on film. This engagement highlighted a number of issues affecting the businesses along Blackburn Road.

With the support of an area based regeneration steering group of partners including the Council’s Business Development Officer, Phase II began to build upon the contacts and feedback given to the artists, which enabled more data to be collected for a case study and the creation of a business forum. Consultants King Sturge were engaged in a retail study for Blackburn Road and Talking Shop contributed to some of the information compiled. MPA represent Talking Shop at a steering group comprised of partners working within the HMR areas, Town Centre Masterplan and Blackburn Road corridor developments. A forum event was organised in March 2008 to bring all aspects together and feedback to the business community. Lancashire County Council Developments Ltd (LCDL) funded the second phase of Talking Shop.

6.4.5 Future plans

Due to the success of the projects in Pennine Lancashire this exciting new phase of development for Talking Shop will strengthen delivery through a three-year programme, enabling a wider strategic impact across Lancashire, and look more closely at impact on economic targets with partners. Objectives include:

- To produce a photographic record of a wide range of small shops and businesses across Lancashire.
- To investigate and record the relationship the shopkeepers and owners have with their business, building and neighbourhood.
- To engage shopkeepers, owners and local residents in the processes of regeneration and to gather evidence through feedback mechanisms on the impacts of regeneration on their businesses and to document their views.
- To support local businesses through change by signposting to existing mechanisms of business support.
- To show the artwork produced in a series of art exhibitions and celebrations across Lancashire.
- To develop new and existing relationships between MPA and artists, local authorities, neighbourhood renewal officers and regeneration agencies
- Develop a shared language between partners working within the economic sector and local shopkeepers and business owners.
- To involve young people in exploring the ideas behind the project and the production techniques employed through research and documentation activities.
- To work with multidisciplinary teams including artists, social geographers, researchers in
To use the case study, publication and conference to demonstrate how the arts can be a catalyst in the economic regeneration of communities.

6.4.6 Links with Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project had the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

- **Community Cohesion** – The projects provided a forum for shopkeepers and community members to come together to discuss issues effecting them

- **Community Empowerment** – The project provided a stimulus for communities of interest, i.e. shopkeepers and economic development agencies to come together to find strategic responses to issues

- **Digital Inclusion** – Resources are provided online which acts as a stimulus to encourage more people to use the internet and IT.

- **Sense of place** – At its core, these projects record businesses currently operating in a locality. As such, they also capture a sense of place for the benefit of existing and future communities.

6.5 Pennine Lancashire Case Study 2: Recipes and Reminiscences

6.5.1 Introduction

The project involved the gathering of sound recordings of memories of traditional recipes from elderly women in the Burnley area. The recordings were undertaken by young disadvantaged women, who also received training related to the project. The total budget for the project was under £2,000 and it ran for one year from 2006 to 2007.

6.5.2 Description

The project was devised and run by the manager of East Lancs into Employment, a training organisation for disabled and disadvantaged people and is a registered charity. The project was conceived by the manager of East Lancs into Employment as she felt that young women could benefit from the training which could be offered and there was a lack of awareness of healthy eating by younger people.

The project involved the training of young unemployed women to undertake recordings of older women in their communities to find out traditional recipes in the area and also to find out more about the history of the area. In total, 6 young women were trained in and undertook the collection and recording of memories. The young women were trained in the following activities:
• Undertaking interviews
• Using sound recording equipment
• Using computers to write transcripts of interviews

The participants in the project were also involved in the development of the scripts for the interviews.

Approximately 30 older women were interviewed about their memories of feeding their families and working in the cotton industry. It was felt that the project benefited the interviewees as it led to them feeling more valued. The young interviewers have benefited as the skills and confidence which they gained through being involved in the project have allowed them to be more involved in their own communities.

On conclusion of the project the recipes were collated into a cookery book and distributed to the participants. There was some local interest in the findings of the project, however, it was believed that more could have been made of the project if there had been additional funding available for marketing and raising awareness. There were also no resources to evaluate the project such that there is no real way of knowing if the benefits of the project are long lasting.

The archive is held by East Lancs into Employment with copies of tapes and transcripts also held by the North West Sound Archive. The organisation is located in business units adjacent to the Queen Street Mill Textile Museum and has further organisational links with the museum.

6.5.3 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project had the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

• **Community Cohesion** – Intergenerational activity which made linkages between young and old and made the older interviewees feel valued.
• **Community Empowerment** – Project participants were given confidence and skills which has led to them engaging in further community projects.
• **Digital Inclusion** – IT training was provided to participant interviewers.
• **Health and Well-Being** – The project sought to raise awareness of cooking on a budget through the investigation of traditional recipes.
• **Skills, Economic Development** – The people trained were from disadvantaged backgrounds and the project gave them skills which could be applied in future working roles.
6.6 Pennine Lancashire Case Study 3: Empire Theatre Museum and Archive

6.6.1 Introduction

In celebration of its centenary year, Thwaites Empire Theatre, Blackburn, has secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a community archive based on the memories of the audience of Thwaites Theatre performances, the local community and ephemera collected by the Theatre over its history.

The Theatre has developed a volunteer team which will go in to the community to gather memories, photographs, scrapbooks and stories. The volunteer team will also show, or train community members to gather material for inclusion in the online archive. In effect, the trainees (i.e. volunteers), will become the trainers (i.e. providing training to community members). This training will include the use of simple digital recording equipment and computers.

Community members can also participate in a project to work with a professional writer and theatre director to develop a new community performance. Participation will take the form of providing content and engaging in the preparation of the play through to delivering the performance. People of all ages and backgrounds are being sought to engage in the performance.

The project will use sources held at Lancashire Record Office, which will be digitised where possible and included on the project website.

Project partners include Lancashire Record Office, BBC Radio Lancashire, North West Sound Archive and Living Streets, Putting People First. Living Streets is a national charity which represents pedestrians and encourages people to walk rather than use transport. Living Streets will work with the project and the Blackburn Civic Society on a series of heritage walks around the Theatre and the wider Blackburn area.

A programme of performances and events will be operated by / from the Theatre leading up to the centenary in 2010. Heritage walks, a centenary dinner, guided tours of the theatre, demonstrations and presentations and community recordings will be undertaken to celebrate the history of the theatre.

This project illustrates the approach taken by a charity to celebrating its heritage by developing a community archive project. The benefits of this project are numerous and wide ranging. The project will encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds to work together, developing skills and creating new content. The project will also develop new partnerships with organisations out with the cultural domains. Partnerships with walking organisations illustrate the potential to extend community archives through engagement with partner organisations and to link into other agenda. The delivery of heritage walking tours in partnership with Living Streets will provide a wider range of benefits for participants and stakeholders.
6.6.2 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project had the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

- **Community Cohesion** – Reminiscence projects and oral history recording will bring together a diverse audience to share memories and experiences of the Empire Theatre.
- **Community Empowerment** – Volunteers will be trained to undertake activities and to train community members. This will provide community members with the skills to undertake further activities.
- **Digital Inclusion** – Volunteers and participants will be trained in how to undertake oral history recording and make this information available through IT equipment.
- **Health and Well-Being** – The project will inform heritage walks, encouraging more people to lead more active lifestyles.
- **Sense of Place** – A record will be made of the impact of the Empire Theatre. This will inform the sense of place in terms of its current and historic contribution to the cultural landscape in Blackburn.

6.7 Pennine Lancashire Case Study 4: Cotton Town

6.7.1 Introduction

The project focused on the collection and digitisation of materials relating to how the social and economic development of Blackburn was affected by the cotton industry. The project was led by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, and the majority of the work was undertaken by paid staff. The project received funding of £201,813 from the New Opportunities Fund (now the Big Lottery Fund) in 2001.

6.7.2 Description

The delivery of the project was undertaken by 2 designated project staff, funded directly by the project, supported by 5 further employees (2 library staff and 3 museum staff) of the local authority as and when required. Through a publicity campaign the general public were invited to submit their historic information relating to the history of Blackburn. The project staff then had the role of compiling and digitising the materials.

The main thrust of the project is now complete with the project staff no longer in place. The information collected is presented on the Cotton Town website (www.cottontown.org), which is free to access. Some work is still ongoing in relation to the Cotton Town project with a volunteer engaged in work on the archive and compiling stories for the website.

In terms of the delivery of the project some problems were encountered in the establishment of the website and the content management system. Due to outstanding contracts, the project did
not have a free hand in procuring the system and it was felt that this resulted in them not getting the best system. Issues also arose in the allocation of the support from the employees who were to contribute to the project but were not designated project staff as they had their own full-time roles to undertake.

6.7.3 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project had the following specific linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

- **Community Cohesion** – Limited intergenerational aspect as the information was centrally collected, however, the information held by older individuals is now available for all to access.
- **Digital Inclusion** – Digitisation of a significant amount of historic information made freely available on-line.
- **Sense and Quality of Place** – Raised awareness of the history of Blackburn and how it developed.
7.0 COMMUNITY ARCHIVES IN CORBY

7.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of community archive projects in Corby and the surrounding area, including case studies on projects taking place within Corby.

7.2 Community Archives in Corby

Corby is located in Northamptonshire, 24 miles north east of Northampton. It is a local government district governed by Corby Borough Council. The maps below provide an indication of the location of Corby and the scale of the Corby Borough Council area:

![Map of Corby and surrounding area](source: Ordnance Survey)
A review of existing community archive projects was carried out as part of the research, and projects have been identified through a desk based assessment of information available on community archives and through consultation with representatives in the area. In identifying community archives projects in Corby, we acknowledge that there may be projects in existence which do not classify themselves as community archives and which may not have established a public presence. The projects listed here should therefore be viewed as indicative of the information which is available at the time of writing and not necessarily exhaustive.

Consultation with representatives in the area has indicated that there is a relatively low number of community archive projects taking place in Corby, and that the main project taking place in the borough at present is the Corby Arts and Archives Project (referred to in detail below). Through our research a number of projects have been identified in North Northamptonshire which do not have a formal presence in Corby, but which are viewed as relevant in terms of providing a picture of the projects which are taking place within the surrounding area. These projects are therefore included in the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Area of Interest</th>
<th>Web-Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby Arts and Archives Project</td>
<td>Corby</td>
<td><a href="http://www.womenofsteel.co.uk">www.womenofsteel.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women of Steel</td>
<td>Corby</td>
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<td>Corby Steelworks – Visions and Echoes of the Past</td>
<td>Corby</td>
<td><a href="http://www.corby.gov.uk/LEISUREANDCULTURE/LOCALHISTORYANDHERITAGE/Pages/CorbySteelworks.aspx">http://www.corby.gov.uk/LEISUREANDCULTURE/LOCALHISTORYANDHERITAGE/Pages/CorbySteelworks.aspx</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>“People of the Forest” and “Making Tracks”</td>
<td>Rockingham Forest</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk/">http://www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk/</a></td>
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<td>Discover Kettering</td>
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<tr>
<td>“We Are the Word”</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Family History Society</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Airfields and Aircraft Research Group</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group</td>
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The main community archive project taking place in Corby involves Corby Community Arts and Northamptonshire Record Office, which is outlined in more detail as a case study below. Although this is the only current project which was identified, it represents a positive example of partnership development, and involves many of the key organisations and agencies with the potential to support community archive projects. This partnership structure is one which MLA should make reference to in the consideration of future provision of support for community archives.

It should also be noted that previous projects have taken place in Corby which have involved community participation and have elements of community archive activity. For example, the Women of Steel project originated in 2006 as a multi-media play written by artist Paula Boulton, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the closure of the steelworks in Corby. The play used drama, visual image, voice montage and live music to tell the stories of the women and children who lived through the closure of the steelworks and the impact it had on their lives. From this beginning, the project grew into the Stories of Steel project, which included an exhibition of photographs depicting Corby’s historic steel industry and how the town was built by migrant workers. As a result of the play and exhibition, the project has resulted in a book, DVD and audio CD which bring together the research material, images, and testimonies which were gathered as part of the project, which are now available to purchase on the Women of Steel website. By involving the community in the gathering of information and making it publicly accessible, the project could be viewed as community archive project.

MLA funded a Learning Links project in 2008/09 which made use of a collection of images and other resources held by Corby Borough Council relating to the history of steelworks in the town. The project used images alongside audio recording of local residents recalling the atmosphere and importance of the steelworks in Corby. Working in partnership with staff and pupils from Woodnewton Junior School, resources were used to develop teaching and learning activities for pupils at Key Stage 2.

Another project with community archive characteristics has taken place outside of Corby, in the Rockingham Forest Trust area. The People of the Forest project was delivered by the Rockingham Forest Trust and funded by HLF. It included an oral history project in which residents of the forest area recorded their memories or experiences of the area. Although this

<table>
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<th>TABLE 7.1</th>
<th>PROJECTS IN CORBY AND NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oundle Historical Society</td>
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<td>Raunds and District History Society</td>
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<td>Thrapston and District Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weldon Local History Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellingborough Archaeological and Historical Society</td>
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information is not yet publicly available, the trust plans to make the oral history recordings accessible on its website. Another aspect of the project involved the training of community members to record statements of significance about non-listed building in their areas, with a view to this information contributing to local listings and having an influence on planning decisions.

These projects give an indication of some of the activity which has taken place in Corby and in its neighbouring communities and demonstrate the range of characteristics which community archive projects can have.

7.3 Case Study: Corby Arts and Archives Project

7.3.1 Introduction

The project is being delivered by a partnership comprising of Corby Community Arts, Northamptonshire Record Office and Corby Borough Council, with representation from the Corby Living Places Partnership and Renaissance East Midlands.

The aim of the project is to make accessible two largely photographic collections: one held by Corby Community Arts and one held by Northamptonshire Record Office. The collection held by Corby Community Arts consists of photographic material, primarily black and white negatives spanning a period of 30 years, showing images of social and cultural life in Corby. The archive in the record office consists of 800 boxes of paper based and photographic records relating to Corby, including a collection of material related to the steel industry.

Neither archive collections are catalogued or accessible. The aim of the project is to work with the community to make the information more accessible to the public, through cataloguing and digitisation of images within the collection. There are also plans to develop oral history recordings, involve a writer in residence (in collaboration with Writing East Midlands) to provide interpretation of the collection, and a publication.

The project partnership represents a combination of expertise and will allow the project to have both an arts and a heritage related focus. The project also reflects a desire across all the project partners to respond to a range of developments within Corby, including its role as a priority place under the Living Places programme and the capital developments planned for the town. The new heritage centre in Corby and the new library within the civic hub will mean the existing arts centre will be lost, which has provided an added impetus for the project.

7.3.2 Outcomes

The information created as a result of the project will be physically accessible within the new heritage centre, with content available on screens and a ‘white box’ style exhibition. A media
piece will also be produced to showcase the visual archives, the oral history recordings and writer in residence activities.

The project involves working with volunteers and developing their skills, involving them in cataloguing, digitising and collecting oral history records. Volunteers have not yet been identified, but may be sourced from existing contacts which Corby Community Arts and Corby Borough Council have established in their work with volunteers, including the recently established Corby Heritage Forum. There have been a lack of projects in Corby with strong cultural and heritage related volunteering, which the project can help to address.

Participation will have an intergenerational aspect, which will allow young and older people to share their interpretations of the information and present contrasting points of view. The partnership is particularly keen to involve young people in the project, especially aged 13-25. Learning outcomes will be an important aspect of the project, both in terms of the volunteers who contribute to the project and the wider audiences who access the information, including schools.

Anticipated benefits for participants in the project include:

- Skills acquisition and associated long term benefits such as employability
- Create a sense of place
- Change the way they look at the place they live
- Develop ownership of local heritage
- Understanding of Corby’s history – positive history rather than negative history
- Allowing new residents to find out the history of Corby in a variety of formats

The strength of the partnership lies in the fact that each partner has a genuine will to deliver the project, and that it has originated from a need which was identified. The strength of the partnership is that all the key players are involved from the beginning, so there is a real mix of knowledge and expertise which will allow the project to develop. The support which Corby Community Arts would require to deliver the project has been made available to them through the range of expertise of the partners, include advice on digitisation. The main area of support which is still required is for a project manager, as the partners do not have the level of available time required to deliver the project.

The project has potential to create benefits for the partners themselves, including:

- Creating public access to the collections which has as yet not been possible
- Providing a cohesive offer using a range of expertise
- Engaging with the learning audience, including schools
- Integrating the arts and heritage offer in the area
- Allowing Corby Borough Council to engage with a wider community audience than at present
7.3.3 Resources and Future Sustainability

Renaissance funding of £45,000 has been earmarked for the project for a period of 2 years. The group is also planning to approach HLF and the Arts Council for additional funding. There are also plans to have an e-commerce aspect to the project, with the ability to produce high quality materials which will act as an income stream for Corby Community Arts.

A crucial success factor for the project will be the development of skills that volunteers need which allow them to feel ownership of the project. This ownership will provide a legacy for the project beyond the funding period.

7.3.4 Links to Sustainable Communities Agenda

The project has potential to make the following linkages to sustainable communities priorities:

- **Community Cohesion** – The project aims to bring together different groups within the community, including older and younger people sharing their interpretations of the material
- **Community Empowerment** - The project aims to involve volunteers and provide them with the skills they need to take ownership of the project help ensure its sustainability in the future
- **Digital Inclusion** – Digitisation will be an important aspect of the project, developing digitisation skills for project participants and encouraging people to access the information electronically
- **Migration** – The project has the opportunity to engage with new communities coming to Corby and share experiences of the area
- **Sense of place** – The main outcome of the project will be the development of a sense of place for those involved in the project, by understanding and appreciating the arts and heritage context of the place they live, and contributing to making information about Corby more publicly accessible
8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This section considers conclusions based on the opportunities, challenges and support required to develop community archives and is based on consultation with cultural agencies, projects and our understanding of the sector. Theses conclusions are followed by recommendations in order to provide MLA with guidance on the most appropriate approach to supporting community archives.

8.2 Opportunities to Extend Community Archive Activities

8.2.1 Living Places

Living Places offers a unique opportunity for partnership working across the three cultural agencies, DCLG, DCMS and HCA. The partnerships involved in delivering Living Places aim to ensure that communities can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities, and represents a coordinated approach to delivering the sustainable communities agenda. In the context of Living Places, cultural activity is viewed as a means of harnessing and developing the local distinctiveness of a place. Community archives can encourage understanding of the history and heritage of an area, develop an appreciation of the importance of an area, and contribute to a pride in the local area for those who participate. By helping to develop a sense of place, community archives can contribute to this aspect of the sustainable communities agenda which Living Places advocates.

It is important for MLA and other agencies to support the development of initiatives and not be seen to force activities. However, it is also useful for MLA to understand the types of projects which could be delivered within Pennine Lancashire and Corby in order to illustrate the approach which we advocate later. The following considers community archive projects in the context of Living Places, and the changes which this initiative will provide for these areas.

Pennine Lancashire will be the subject of housing market renewal, delivered via demolition and development of new communities. Opportunities therefore exist to encourage communities to record the built and social environment prior to demolition for the benefit of future generations. The buildings which are being demolished and renewed are typically workers cottages and terraced properties. These buildings and current residents are likely to hold significant memories and stories which should be preserved. In the context of Living Places in Pennine Lancashire, housing market renewal will provide new accommodation for existing residents whilst attracting some new residents to the target renewal areas. In terms of sustainable communities, community archive projects could provide a forum for existing residents of renewal areas to record their changing locality, using the community archive process to provide a common anchor for the existing community to investigate change.
Living Places in Corby is focussed on housing market growth, providing new accommodation to attract new communities into Corby. The role of community archives in terms of Corby could be recording and presenting the cultural heritage of Corby to new residents to develop awareness of the social and industrial history of the area. This may lead to enhanced integration and cohesion between existing and new communities resulting from housing market growth.

Common to both Pennine Lancashire and Corby is the physical change to the built environment in each of these areas. Communities should be encouraged to identify the social value in current communities, and act, where appropriate to record these for the benefit of current and future communities. Community archives are both historic and contemporary, and highlighting the value of recording the present should be high on the agenda for regeneration and community agencies as well as MLA.

Significant capital development work is underway in both Pennine Lancashire and Corby to provide improved facilities and enhanced branding in support of regeneration and branding. Without wishing to be prescriptive, the following highlights two initiatives underway which could inform or complement community archive projects, namely, Adrenaline Gateway in Rossendale and the Corby Cube.

Rosendale is currently being developed as ‘Adrenaline Gateway’. Significant investment has been undertaken to create new mountain biking and extreme sports facilities, with the intention of supporting the concept of Pennine Playground, a destination for outdoor leisure and sporting activity. New activities have been and will be developed in redundant quarry sites. There is potential to develop project work around the regeneration of dis-used industrial sites for new vibrant activities. This would also link into Cultural Olympiad themes and topics.

The Corby Cube will be an iconic new civic building which will include council offices, theatre, marriage facilities and a youth run facility called Headspace. The physical regeneration of areas, including significant capital projects provides the opportunity to develop community projects which are relevant to regeneration. Concepts such as civic activity could form the basis of a community archive to benefit from the Cube project. In addition, it is understood that the Corby Arts and Archives Project aims to make used of the Cube for various activities including exhibitions when it opens in February 2010.

8.3 Barriers / Challenges to Further Developing Community Archives

Pennine Lancashire is a conceptual area which includes 5 local authorities and one county council. The provision of archive, library and museum services varies across the area, with the County Council providing some services and local authority others. For instance, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council provides library services in-house whilst the other local authorities sub-contract delivery to Lancashire County Council. This may make it challenging for both MLA / strategic bodies and community archives to identify the best source of advice or
support. This issue may also be experienced in Corby with the division of responsibility for community and cultural activity between Corby Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

Also, although all local authorities are interested in the potential benefit of cultural projects, the extent to which this is pursued and resourced varies across Pennine Lancashire. This will also affect the scope for MLA to engage effectively to coordinate or encourage engagement within and across the sector.

The following provides a list of challenges which will effect the support which can be provided for the community archive sector:

• Projects being aware that they are working on a ‘community archive’ project. A lack of awareness of community archives as a concept may result in projects defining their projects as arts projects and not being aware that their project has a community archive dimension.
• Identifying community archives is challenging due to the issue of definition above, but also the fact that some projects do not engage with partners nor do they have an online presence.
• No one approach is taken by all projects and as such a one-size fits all approach is not appropriate. MLA and other stakeholders need to have range of support interventions and access to a range of potential partners to address case-by-case requirements.
• Community archive project management structures vary from project to project and as such identifying the ‘right’ person to engage can be challenging
• Aspirations of community archives vary significantly from project to project. MLA and other agencies need to identify how these groups can be supported to achieve their aspirations, no matter how big or small
• Addressing concerns with community archive organisers, that MLA or local authorities are getting involved to take the archival material from them. Or, getting involved to interfere in how the project is being run. Involvement from external agencies may be met with suspicion. Engagement from agencies must be an open offer of assistance, not specific advice or guidance.
• Encouraging engagement from strategic and operational partners, such as local authorities, other NDPB, e.g. ACE and regeneration agencies. Agencies may view providing assistance to community archives as a drain on resources, which may already be stretched, or perceived to be stretched.
• Encouraging projects to ‘see the bigger’ picture, which may provide additional benefits to the project and to the sustainable communities agenda.
• Providing the strategic environment within which partnerships can develop naturally
8.4 Support Required

We argue above that support should be on a project-by-project basis to address the specific needs of each initiative. However it is useful to highlight principles which could guide the support offered to community archives.

A survey was conducted by www.communityarchives.org.uk to identify the support required by community archive projects. The survey was completed by 90 community archive volunteers and professionals. The following lists the top 10 types of support required and the number of respondents who indicated that this was required:

1. Advice and assistance with the storage of archival items (40)
2. Guidance on funding opportunities (34)
3. Guidance on legal issues (18)
4. Advice on technical equipment (18)
5. Help with digitisation (13)
6. Training (11)
7. Developing relationships with local institutions (11)
8. Advice with cataloguing (10)
9. Swapping information with other community archives (9)
10. More funding (8)

Clearly MLA and various partners could become involved to meet some of these requirements, either providing support directly, or signposting organisations to where guidance can be found. Local authority local studies or archive services are best placed to deliver advice and guidance in connection with storage, and in some cases may be best placed to store material on behalf of archive projects. Similarly, these organisations could support projects in terms of legal issues, technical issues including digitisation, training and cataloguing.

MLA’s role could take the form of assisting in the development of relationships between projects and institutions. This brokerage role, drawing organisations together who may be able to provide support would then assist in identifying the best placed organisations to provide support given the local circumstances. In addition, this facilitation role could help projects to identify who and how they could swap information with other community archives.

Unsurprisingly more funding was an issue, but it is perhaps surprising it is 10th on the list with less than 10% indicating that this was an issue. Clearly funding may help initiate or extend the benefits of some projects. It may act as a key stimulus to initiating a funding driven project, or could result in additional outputs which would further extend linkages into and benefits in line with the sustainable communities agenda.
8.5 **Recommendations**

Recommendations have been made which indicate the most appropriate approach for MLA, and others, to take with community archives in the long term. Recommendations for the period 2009/10 have also been included.

8.5.1 **Roles**

In order to provide the most appropriate level of support for community archives, the role which should be played by MLA and others is summarised below. Subsequent recommendations are made in the context of these roles being adopted.

**MLA**

MLA has a strategic role to play in the development of community archives. Recommendations focus on MLA’s national remit and influence at a strategic level, acknowledging MLA’s limited regional presence. Direct engagement with community archive projects on a regional and local basis should be the responsibility of agencies with a more focussed presence at this level. MLA’s role should be to provide leadership and advocacy on the role and impact of community archives, through awareness raising and engagement with other appropriate agencies. MLA should lead on the provision of guidance on good practice for community archives, and signpost other sources of guidance and support for projects, such as CAHG and local authority archive services. This leadership role should also inform MLA’s engagement with local authorities by providing guidance on the benefits which community archive projects can deliver, and promoting the mutually beneficial relationship which local authorities and community archives can enjoy.

**NCA**

NCA’s role should continue as one of advocacy, ensuring that community archives are represented within the overall archives domain. NCA’s representation on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the role and impact of community archives at a parliamentary level. NCA’s role is not to engage directly with community archive projects, however, it should continue to work with CAHG to ensure consistent messages on the impacts of community archive activities are communicated. There is also potential for NCA to take advantage of the future merger with the Society of Archivists and ACALG to further raise awareness of community archives within the sector.

**CAHG**

The future role which CAHG should play is currently unclear, as it is currently reviewing its role and may become more representative body, acting as a membership organisation for community groups. However, it is recommended that CAHG continues to act as the key source of information and support for community archive projects. CAHG’s role should continue to be one of monitoring developments in the field of community archives and acting as a expert body on best practice.
Local Authorities

Local authorities have potential to share knowledge and expertise to support the development and growth of community archive projects. Local authority archive services should provide support through advice on storage, cataloguing, digitisation, or by helping to support funding applications. Library and museum services could also play a role in engaging community archive projects with their own collections. Any involvement should be viewed as a partnership, rather than a passing over of information. Examples of positive relationships between local authority services and community archives should be promoted, such as the relationship between Northamptonshire Record Office and the Northamptonshire Black History Association. The potential benefits of community archives to museum services should also be acknowledged, in terms of the links between the personal stories created by community archives and the museum’s wider interpretation of the community’s history. It is therefore recommended that MLA provides guidance to local authorities on the benefits of supporting community archives, by engaging with local authority representatives at a strategic level.

The relationship between local authorities and community archives should be seen as a mutually beneficial one, providing community archives projects with the expertise and guidance they may require, and providing local authorities with the opportunity to engage the community in new ways. By working with community archives projects, local authorities can demonstrate a contribution to their LAA targets. For example, in the context of the Lancashire LAA, community archive projects can encourage community cohesion and community empowerment, thereby contributing to the LAA target of ‘safer and stronger communities.’ As part of its engagement with local authorities, MLA should aims to raise awareness of the role which community archives can play in the context of LAA targets.

8.5.2 Recommendations (Medium-Long Term)

The following recommendations indicate the overall approach to community archives which should be adopted by MLA and other relevant agencies. This approach has three main strands: awareness raising; engagement by MLA with other groups and organisations; and provision of guidance for community archive projects. While recommendations are presented for each of these strands, it is clear that there are areas of overlap and that all strands should be viewed as equally important.

Awareness Raising

- In order to raise the profile of community archives across and beyond the sector, MLA should take the lead in terms of raising awareness of the role of community archives. As part of this role, MLA should work closely with NCA to support its advocacy role in promoting community archives within the archives domain.

- In order to raise awareness of community archives beyond the traditional archive audience, the terminology which is used may need to be reviewed. It has been noted that
not all community archive projects define themselves in these terms, and that there are associations with the term “archive” which may not fully reflect the range of projects which exist or which could exist. Any messages which are communicated by MLA and other agencies should therefore consider the most appropriate language which is used, and may require adapting terminology to reflect the target audience for any communication. For some groups the focus should be on the fact that projects engage the community and encourage participation in an activity of interest, rather than on the fact that they involve the creation of archive material.

• Awareness raising and advocacy work should focus on promoting the impacts and benefits of community archives, using a consistent message. MLA’s advocacy role should be based on the feedback received from previous research (e.g. study on impact of community archives commissioned by CAHG; study on community archives landscape commissioned by MLA and CAHG), with the findings of the current research and ongoing feedback received from case studies of community archive projects. This feedback should provide a clear message of the role which community archives play and the opportunities which they create for the communities that participate in them.

• The audience for any awareness raising and advocacy work should be across a number of levels:
  o At government level through communication to DCMS, DLCG and other departments as appropriate, and engaging with NCA in its role with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives. Working with TNA to ensure community archives are included for consideration of community archives within the Archives Strategy.
  o Within the sector, including ongoing engagement across MLA, NCA, TNA and CAHG to ensure all achievements are shared and communicated across the sector.
  o At local authority level, particularly at a strategic level across museum, library and archive services. The aim should be to make local authorities aware of the opportunities which community archives present and the impacts they have on LAAs and wider agendas.

• MLA can make use of existing initiatives, such as The People’s Record, to develop awareness of the potential for community archives projects and the support which is available to them if needed. This could include engaging with projects developing as a result of The People’s Record, linking them to CAHG and encouraging sharing of information on the outcomes of these projects.

• MLA should explore the potential for community archive activity to contribute to future planning and development. By advocating the benefits of community archives, reference could be made to the involvement of the community in engaging with their heritage and the potential to use this relationship to inform future decision making.
Engagement with Other Groups/Organisations

- Continued engagement with CAHG and NCA to inform future approach to community archives. CAHG plays a key role in acting as the reference point for community archive projects, allowing them to publicise what they do and providing guidance on best practice. As part of awareness raising activities, promotion of the presence and role of CAHG should be included, particularly the existence of the community archives website and the annual conference. Engagement with CAHG should provide MLA with messages on the impacts of community archive activities.

- MLA’s engagement with local authorities should be at a strategic level, with the aim of encouraging further awareness of the role and impact of community archives. Communication with local authorities should demonstrate the contribution which community archives can make to LAA targets.

- Community archives are not high on the agenda for all Living Places partners, so MLA can take the lead in promoting the awareness of community archives and encouraging any support which Living Places partners can provide. Advocating the role of community archives should link to the overall message on the role of culture and sport in the sustainable communities agenda.

- MLA should engage with lottery funding agencies, particularly HLF and BIG, to investigate the potential links between community archive activity and funding programmes. Any engagement should focus on funding criteria which community archives could meet, and methods of encouraging more community archive projects to apply. Engagement with HLF should investigate its outreach and development role and the potential support which could be offered to community archive projects. Discussions with HLF should also establish the most appropriate programme of funding for community archives, which could include Young Roots or Your Heritage. BIG is in the process of reviewing its funding priorities, so MLA should ensure it is kept informed of future funding programmes for which community archives would be eligible.

Guidance and Support for Community Archives

- In terms of providing guidance, MLA’s aim should be to support community archive projects to grow and develop, and to allow them to access the support which they need. MLA’s role should be to provide guidance on best practice for community archives, and to raise awareness of the roles which CAHG and local authorities can play in providing further guidance and support for projects.

- CAHG is establishing a contact list of local authority representatives who are interested in providing support for community archives. Through its engagement with local authorities,
MLA should encourage wider participation on this list and support CAHG in the promotion of this resource for new and developing projects.

- CAHG is developing descriptive standards for community archives, which will add to the existing resources available through the community archives website. Awareness of this information and guidance should be encouraged and any further developments should use CAHG and the community archives website as the central point of reference for guidance.

- The types of support which community archive projects require (as identified in the survey by CAHG) may be responded to by provision of support, or signposting of the most appropriate sources of support. In response to these needs, the potential role of each of the relevant agencies is suggested as follows:

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<th>Support required (not in order of preference)</th>
<th>MLA</th>
<th>NCA</th>
<th>CAHG</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advice and assistance with storage of archival items</td>
<td>Signposting of sources of guidance: e.g. local authorities; CAHG; other projects</td>
<td>Focussing role on advocacy of community archives. Referring to MLA or CAHG if required</td>
<td>Reference to <a href="http://www.communityarchives.org.uk">www.communityarchives.org.uk</a> as resource for guidance and advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance on legal issues</td>
<td>Encouraging direct support from local authorities</td>
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<td>Further development of descriptive standards for community archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advice on technical equipment</td>
<td>Providing guidance on good practice for community archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help with digitisation</td>
<td>Using engagement with lottery agencies to inform future guidance on funding</td>
<td>Lottery advisor at NCA provides direct advice; communication of success/lessons with MLA and CAHG</td>
<td>Further development of funding information available at <a href="http://www.communityarchives.org.uk">www.communityarchives.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice on cataloguing</td>
<td>Reference to CAHG website for advice on funding opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance on funding opportunities</td>
<td>Engagement with local authorities to encourage provision of advice/training</td>
<td>Focussing role on advocacy of community archives. Referring to MLA or CAHG if required</td>
<td>Using direct engagement with groups to identify training needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>More funding</td>
<td>Using models in pilot projects to identify examples of training needs/support available</td>
<td>Using direct engagement with groups to identify training needs</td>
<td>Further promotion of website as a tool for guidance and support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Encouraging relationship development between local authorities and community archives</td>
<td>Further development and promotion of local authority contacts interested in engaging with community archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing relationships with local institutions</td>
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TABLE 8.1
SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

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<th>MLA</th>
<th>NCA</th>
<th>CAHG</th>
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<td>Swapping information with other community archives</td>
<td>Signposting to <a href="http://www.communityarchives.org.uk">www.communityarchives.org.uk</a> as network of other projects</td>
<td>Promoting <a href="http://www.communityarchives.org.uk">www.communityarchives.org.uk</a> as network of other projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- As part of its promotion of best practice, MLA should investigate the most effective means of providing access to community archives. Involvement of local authority record offices can provide a means of widening access to community archive material, which should be explored through engagement with local authorities at a strategic level. The opportunities of widening access through digitisation should also be explored, which should involve discussion with TNA in relation to its objectives for digitisation of archival content. Ultimately, MLA could explore the possibility of linking with existing online resources to provide a portal of access to digitised community archive content, with the aim of providing a coordinated means of access across a range of projects.

8.5.3 Recommendations for 2009/10

In the short term, it is recommended that MLA implements the following recommendations within the 2009/10 period. As has been stressed in this report, intervention and support for community archives should allow the organic, interest-led development which characterises community archives to continue. However, there is an opportunity for MLA to play a role in investigating and developing models of best practice for community archives.

- MLA should develop pilot projects which involve the establishment of supporting networks for community archives. The pilot projects should establish partnership models which involve local authorities and other relevant agencies in the provision of support for community archives. The aim of the pilot projects should be to establish what models of partnership, networking and support are most effective for community archives. The lessons learned from pilot projects could be used to inform further development activity and contribute to messages of best practice for community archives.

- Pilot projects should be led by MLA, but should also include involvement from CAHG, local authorities and other agencies working on a regional basis. Partnership models should be piloted for existing or emerging community archives, rather than focussing on the creation of new community archive projects. MLA should not be prescriptive about partnerships, as they should reflect the needs of the projects and the capacity available in the area. In developing partnerships, it may be relevant to involve organisations outside of the local authority, such as local businesses or community networks.

- It is recommended that these pilot projects are carried out within Living Places priority areas, to allow the outcomes of the projects to be assessed in terms of their contribution to
the Living Places programme. However, the development of models for community archives in these areas should be capable of being delivered in other areas not involved in Living Places.

- To support pilot projects, MLA could explore the possibility of involving representatives from existing community archives projects to share their experiences and discuss any lessons learned. This could include support or facilitation from CAHG and Community Sites in terms of guidance on developing projects and reference to cataloguing and digitisation standards.

- MLA should explore the possibility of developing community archives awards, which recognise the positive achievements of projects and the impacts they have on their communities. These awards should be based on the impact the projects have had on participants, and potential candidates should be encouraged to ask for feedback from their participants and present their own interpretation of their success. The community archive award could be piloted in 2009/10, and if successful retained as an annual initiative.

- In order to help identify participation in community archives, inclusion in surveys within the archive domain or across local authorities should include reference to community archives where possible. This could include reference to community archives in the planned CIPFA archive survey and the PSGQ visitors' survey being developed for NCA. Questions on volunteering within the Taking Part survey may also provide an opportunity to identify the purpose and nature of volunteering activity to identify any community archive activities. Where possible, any input into future survey design should be implemented in 2009/10, but where this is not possible, MLA should take the lead in negotiating any reference to community archives within the next available period.
APPENDIX A

THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AGENDA
Sustainable Communities Priority Areas

The following provides a short summary of sustainable communities priority areas:

Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities

This policy is primarily concerned with making sure that public open spaces and buildings are effectively planned, designed and managed. DCLG argues that the state of our surroundings affects our quality of life. Communities should be cleaner through efficient local services, safer through effective planning and design, and greener through access to parks and open spaces.

Community Empowerment

DCLG is committed to encouraging people to have more of a say on services that they receive and the places where they live. A review has been set-up to consider how communities can play a bigger part by managing or owning community assets. A key part of empowerment is to have local councillors from a more representative range of backgrounds. Community concerns will be more effectively expressed through a new ‘community call to action’.

Empowerment means people have the knowledge and skills they need to be able to influence public services. DCLG states that there are 3 key ingredients to community empowerment:

1. Active citizens: people with the motivation, skills and confidence to speak up for their communities and say what improvements are needed
2. Strengthened communities: community groups with the capability and resources to bring people together to work out shared solutions
3. Partnership with public bodies: public bodies willing and able to work as partners with local people

In supporting the development or enhancement of empowered communities, DCLG is in the process of further delivering the concept of ‘communities in control’ - shifting power, influence and responsibility away from existing power centres to the hands of the community.

Citizenship is a core strand of the community empowerment agenda. In schools, citizenship is currently being delivered as part of the national curriculum. This is being extended to deliver a pathfinder programme for adults which will offer training and information about how to be an active citizen. Government will encourage and support innovative programmes to help young people from diverse backgrounds to become effective leaders. Government Action on the Community Empowerment agenda takes the following forms:

- Timely information to citizens
- Participatory budgeting
- Petitions and councillor calls for action
- Community management and ownership of assets
- National Community Forum
- Young Advisors
- Digital Mentors
- Improving empowerment practice
Race, Cohesion and Faith

DCLG’s aim is to build thriving places where a fear of difference is replaced by a shared set of values and a sense of purpose and belonging. It is important that everyone in each community benefits from diversity and access to similar opportunities for all. The challenge for DCLG is to build these stronger communities in times of rapid change.

DCLG’s vision of an integrated and cohesive community is based on three foundations:

1. People from different backgrounds have the same life opportunities
2. People knowing their rights and responsibilities
3. People trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly

Migration

New arrivals into established communities can be de-stabilising. Established members of a community may perceive arrivals as threats. Educating established communities about the culture and background of new arrivals and genuine consultation are measures that can increase understanding, respect for differences and empathy of a ‘receiving community’.

Involvement of schools, health services and community centres can facilitate the process of raising awareness, as can effective use of the media, for example to relate the experiences and circumstances of new arrivals as well as to help ‘myth busting’ inaccurate information that might otherwise circulate unchallenged.

Equally, needs of new arrivals must also be considered; these vary greatly according to their circumstances and background. Local authorities and the voluntary sector both provide a range of services and support to new arrivals; Cohesion and Faith Units liaise nationally and regionally to identify and promote good practice.

Digital Inclusion

Inequality in the use and application of digital technologies is a new driver of social exclusion in the 21st century, which risks accelerating existing social divides and creating new ones. Digital exclusion is a symptom of wider exclusion, but also a cause.

Sense of Place

The importance of sense of place has been acknowledged by the government in its Sustainable Communities agenda, which aims to “tackle pressing problems in our communities in England.” One of the government’s key requirements for sustainable communities is a “sense of place”. Various

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1 Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003), Office of the Deputy Prime Minster

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definitions of sense of place exist, but in his speech to support the Sustainable Communities agenda, the then Deputy Prime Minster referred to features which “the community identifies with and which identify the community”.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has identified the importance of the historic environment in contributing to the building of sustainable communities. In the White Paper “Heritage Protection for the 21st Century”\(^2\), one of the core principles is to support sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of the planning system. Government led developments such as the regeneration of Thames Gateway have taken sense of place into consideration as a means of developing and strengthening communities. The role of the historic environment in this area has also been acknowledged as a means to help make Thames Gateway a more sustainable community and a more attractive place to live.

\(^2\) Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (2007), DCMS and Welsh Assembly Government

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The National Indicator Set

The following National Indicators (NIs) are/can be relevant to community archive projects.

NI 1
Community archives have the potential to draw together a diverse audience of people to engage in shared research, leisure time activities and pursuits. This diversity may take the form of social class, ethnicity or demography, age, sex, etc. A shared interest in a subject or location provides common ground which encourages people from different backgrounds to spend time together, generating enhanced social connections.

NI 2
Community archive activity can develop an enhanced understanding of local culture and history. In turn a greater understanding can generate an improved sense of belonging as residents have an enhanced sense of their place in the local context.

NI 3
Many community archive projects result in outputs such as publications (on and offline), exhibitions, lectures, events, etc. These outputs often provide civic benefits to participants in projects, however there is also a downstream benefit, with beneficiaries of outputs becoming more aware of civic issues and the importance of culture and heritage.

NI 4
The historic environment is one area in which community archive projects can seek to influence policy and decision making at a local level. Research into the history or significance of localities can inform Historic Environment Records and Conservation Area Appraisals enabling communities to inform protection, conservation or development strategies.

NI 6
Community archives can be defined as ‘hobbies’ or ‘volunteering’. If we consider these activities to be volunteering, there is a high level of potential volunteering benefit to be derived from community archive projects. This can take many forms, from support work to management and overseeing projects.

NI 7
NI 6 leads into NI 7, as volunteering opportunities and skills developed via this activity serve to support the third sector. Community archives may be a route into volunteering / the third sector for some, whilst others may participate in community archives having accessed the third sector from another route.

A thriving third sector is reliant in part on volunteers with appropriate skills to identify, develop and deliver services which meet specific needs. The nature of community archive projects, and the skills which they can help to develop may lead to an improved capacity and capability within the third sector.
NI 9 and 10
Community archive projects draw from a range of resources and can be initiated by a wide range of organisations. Community Archive projects can encourage increased access to and use of library and museum facilities and collections to support this activity.

NI 13
Culture and history are key subject areas which can be investigated as part of community archive projects. Presenting the culture of migrant communities, through community projects or archives can develop improved understanding and acceptance of migrants / new communities etc. This can potentially lead to supporting NI 1 and 2, which involve community cohesion and sense of belonging issues.

NI 35
Progress towards NI can be secured via community archives as activities draw people together in line with NI 1. Improved understanding and acceptance of different cultures and cultural practices may lead to improvements in NI 35. In some instances, NI 35 may be an outcome or impact of improvements in other NI, such as 1 and 2.

NI 45
Project work delivered through community archives can achieve benefits in isolated or excluded groups. Community archive projects with young offenders can facilitate education, training and employment opportunities as well as linking in to other NI’s such as NI 1 and 2.

NI 110
Community archive projects can include young people as active participants, undertaking activities directly, or can benefit from the outputs of community archive projects, e.g. outreach programmes, education packs etc. Engagement in these activities either directly or indirectly provides linkages to other National Indicators and strategic priorities and as such illustrate the potential to encourage participation in positive activities.
Communities Agenda in Corby

The following provides details of the Corby LSP blocks and the individual priorities identified under each of the blocks which are relevant to this study, community archives and / or sustainable communities.

1. **Safer and Stronger Communities**
   1. Prevent children and young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage
   2. Reduce the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol
   3. Build and develop new and existing cohesive communities
   4. Create safer, stronger and greener communities by adopting a neighbourhood based approach
   5. Empower local communities to be more involved with their neighbourhoods
   6. Reduce poverty amongst the most disadvantaged residents in the community

2. **Health and Wellbeing**
   1. In partnership, create opportunities for healthy living and well-being for all living and working in the Borough
   2. Reduce health inequalities and reduce incidence in cancer and coronary heart disease
   3. Improve health and well-being of children and young people, promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing obesity, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy
   4. Support independence of older and vulnerable people and assist them to live healthy, fulfilling lives
   5. Increase aspiration, well-being, learning and personal development of all young people; develop an ethos of personal, community and global responsibility
   6. In partnership, raise standards of achievement and attainment to ensure full and appropriate employment and higher education opportunities for all Corby young people.

3. **Regeneration and Growth**
   1. Deliver 16,800 new homes and redevelop new priority areas of housing around the Borough by 2021
   2. Develop infrastructures in and around Corby to support planned growth. This will include infrastructure related to transport and environment, health, utilities, education, employment and cultural and sports facilities
   3. To continue with the development of the town centre to create an active, dynamic, and vibrant destination
   4. Deliver international class cultural and sports facilities
   5. Encourage environmentally sustainable regeneration and growth
   6. Develop improved sustainable waste management
   7. Reduce the impact of emissions on climate change.
4. Economic Development, Jobs and Skills

1. Facilitate employment creation through business attraction into Corby and business growth and formation within Corby
2. To develop an enterprise centre for aspiring entrepreneurs in addition to developing other high quality business accommodation in Corby
3. Create 13,580 new jobs of mixed skills by 2021
4. To create an internationally competitive labour force and implement the National Skills Charter
5. To continue improving educational attainment levels in Corby
6. To secure Higher Education provision in Corby
APPENDIX B

CONSULTATION LIST
• Sam Bestwick, MLA, Director of Engagement – East
• Caroline Pick, MLA, Director of Development and Programmes - East Midlands
• Nathan Lee, MLA, Regional Manager - North West and Pennine Lancashire Living Places Partnership
• Vanessa Harbar, MLA, 2012 Project Manager
• Geoff Pick, National Council on Archives, Chair
• Louse Ray, National Council on Archives, Lottery Advisor
• Laura Robertson, CAHG
• Jack Latimer, CAHG and Community Sites
• Rosie Loguidice, Archives Advisor, The National Archives
• Paul Bodenham, English Heritage East Midlands Policy Advisor and Corby Living Places Partnership
• Karl Creaser, English Heritage NW Policy Advisor
• Bruce Jackson, Lancashire County Council, County Archivist
• Jim Grisenthwaite, North West Regional Archives Council, Chair
• Grace Kempster, Northamptonshire County Council, Library Service Manager
• Jane Seddon, Northamptonshire County Council, Museum Development Officer and Renaissance East Midlands
• Jay Devereux, Corby Borough Council, Strategic Arts and Development Officer and Corby Living Places Partnership
• Billy Dalziel, Corby Borough Council, Heritage Development Officer
• Andrew Schofield, North West Sound Archive
• Marcus Hulme, Big Lottery Fund
• Stuart Taylor, Rockingham Forest Trust (People of the Forest)
• Brenda Keen – East Lancs into Employment (Recipes and Reminiscences)
• Steve Capes – Cambridgeshire County Council (Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network)
• Diana Rushden – Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Cotton Town)
• Claire Tymon, ELEVATE (Talking Shop Project)
• Andy Johnson, Liverpool City Council, Library Service (whatwashere.com project)
## QA CHECK

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