

# **Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board Meeting on 21 April 2010**

## **Paper on: Preparing our shared Sustainable Community Strategy**

### **1. Purpose of paper**

- 1.1 The new Local Strategic Partnership has the opportunity of preparing a shared sustainable community strategy for the district areas that recognises both the common challenges being faced by our communities but also identifies and celebrates our differences.
- 1.2 The paper presents an approach to preparing the strategy and a timeline for carrying out the main activities that will be required.

### **2. Decisions**

#### **2.1 Members are asked to:**

1. Give direction about the priorities that might help shape a shared vision for the new LSP, looking at Appendix A (shown at **3.5**).
2. Agree a basis for the development of the strategy (shown at **4.2**).
3. Agree the approach to assembling the strategy (shown at **4.4**)
4. Agree to the timetable and main activities for preparing the strategy (shown at **4.5**)

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to prepare a sustainable community strategy for their areas and the mechanism for putting this in place, specified in government guidance, is the Local Strategic Partnership, a body seen by government as encapsulating representatives from agencies that can take an overview of an area and direct resources locally to bring about improvements.
- 3.2 The existing sustainable strategies for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire will require replacement from July 2011, when they come to the end of their terms. Both provide a longer-term vision of the kind of places the LSP's felt will allow communities to thrive and set out priority areas to help bring these about. Shortly after the strategies were prepared Cambridgeshire Together published its vision for Cambridgeshire, which amalgamated the district visions and defined headline priorities for the Local Area Agreement for Cambridgeshire (LAA).
- 3.3 It can be seen from Appendix A that the visions have a similar content and priorities for action. This may be because each local authority is following the government's definition of what constitutes a sustainable community. Both district LSP's monitor the delivery of LAA priorities

and the achievement of the targets associated with them. The responsibility for the delivery of these targets has rested with county-wide strategic partnerships.

**3.4** It has been difficult to establish a clear picture of what has been happening locally with the delivery of the LAA because a number of indicators are collected at a county level, sometimes on a yearly basis. The LSP's have sought to add value, rather than duplicating existing partnership activity, and chosen to focus work on a smaller number of priorities they felt were not being tackled elsewhere. For example Cambridge LSP set up a Community Cohesion Sub-group and used some of its available investments to support this work. **SC example?**

**3.5** Members are asked to give an initial view on the priorities that might help shape a shared vision for the new LSP, looking at Appendix A, and where the LSP might focus its efforts in the future. This will then be further informed by the collection of evidence and views provided by various consultations.

#### **4. Preparing the Strategy**

**4.1** It is important to set out at an early stage what members expect the strategy to do – so that officers can work towards meeting these expectations. The way preparation is approached will then flow from this. Members are asked to agree the following points as a basis for the development of the strategy.

**4.2** The strategy will:

- Set out a shared vision, over the longer-term, for improving the quality of life for our diverse communities, using the present position as a starting point
- Show strategic issues that are important to local communities and local partnerships, linking with localities, but also show a small number of priorities the LSP intends to work on, where it feels gaps in existing activity are present
- Influence the content of any future county-wide vision and helps shape any future Local Area Agreement, so that it can respond to the needs of our local communities
- Give direction to local partners and influences their key strategies so that services are working towards the resolution of common issues
- Help guide any future investment that the LSP may have available

**4.3** The extent of work involved in developing the strategy will also depend on its final format. LSP members are asked to agree the following approach to assembling the strategy.

#### 4.4 The strategy will:

- Be short and accessible – if people want to find out more they can look at a community profile or more detailed action plan
- Convey the distinctiveness of the different places and diverse communities in the districts – local people can recognise the big issues facing their communities
- Use themes to group issues – so there are headlines to guide people through the strategy
- Give a sense of existing activity, partnership working across the districts and other strategies and plans – so people are aware that work is already taking place to address community problems
- Use evidence to support the selection of priorities – there is some clarity about why priorities were chosen
- Show how we will make a difference – how the LSP wants to address and help resolve issues
- Allow stakeholders to recognise their contributions

**4.5** Table 1, below, shows the main stages, activities and timings for the preparation of the Sustainable Community Strategy for the district areas, taking forward the approaches outlined above. Members are asked to agree this timetable. A more detailed timetable is shown in Appendix B.

**Table 1. Stages and timeline for preparing the Sustainable Community Strategy**

Stage	Activity	Timing
A.	Discussing a vision and agreeing the approach and timetable for preparation	LSP to agree 21 <b>April</b> 2010
B.	Considering available evidence and informed views on existing issues from partnerships – firming up issues to consult key stakeholders about.	LSP to review evidence and to agree basis of consultations with key stakeholders <b>July</b> 2010
C.	Carrying out stakeholder consultations	Consultations to take place between <b>August</b> and <b>October</b> 2010
D.	Considering findings of consultations – deciding on issues to be included in strategy and priorities.	LSP to consider consultation findings and select priorities <b>November</b> 2010
E.	Agreeing final draft of the strategy, including developed responses to the issues .	LSP to agree a final draft <b>February</b> 2011 Strategy formally endorsed by each partner by <b>April</b> Strategy published in <b>June</b> 2010