

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet

7 July 2011

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CAMBRIDGE CITY AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LSP – DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Purpose

1. The City and South Cambs Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) agreed at its first meeting, on 21 April 2010, to a process for preparing a new sustainable community strategy (SCS) for the district areas. Cabinet is invited to consider the report outlining progress to date and presenting the vision and priorities of a joint strategy.
2. This is a key decision because:
 - it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
 - it is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on all the council's customers.
 - it raises new issues of policy, or is made in the course of developing proposals to amend the policy framework, or is a decision taken under powers delegated by the Council to amend an aspect of the policy framework, and
 - it is of such significance to a locality, the Council or the services which it provides that the decision-taker is of the opinion that it should be treated as a key decision.

It was first published in the March 2011 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. Cabinet is recommended to consider and comment on the main thrust of the vision and priorities set out in the draft SCS (attached as **Appendix A**) prior to their consideration at the next LSP, noting in particular how they link to emerging challenges/priorities for South Cambridgeshire District Council. The detailed wording providing context is likely to be subject to significant changes.
4. The final version of the Strategy will be presented to a future meeting of Council for approval.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. It is important that as a key member of the LSP, SCDC is fully engaged with and supportive of the agreed SCS.

Background and considerations

6. The SCS provides an important opportunity as it is the main means by which the Council can help to shape the priorities and plans of all the partners operating in

South Cambridgeshire. It is also the means by which actions that cannot be delivered by one partner alone should be prioritised and delivered.

7. The Council's own plans and priorities, and particularly the review of the Council's Local Development Framework documents, should also be aligned with the SCS and used to deliver the Council's commitments within the SCS. However, it is important to remember that it is a partnership document and therefore, whilst the council can seek to shape and influence it, the final document will be agreed by the LSP.
8. The LSP has recently reiterated, following deliberations on its future, that it wishes to continue to meet and to focus on a small number of agreed multi agency actions that will make a difference to the lives of local communities.
9. The LSP currently has no dedicated budget but it does have the opportunity to influence the mainstream priorities of all partners and therefore significant sums of public expenditure within South Cambridgeshire. In addition, although the main source of past funding for specific projects (LPSA) has now disappeared, partners will also still be able to pool funds to deliver joint projects where they add value.

Consultation

10. The process for preparing the new strategy included two stages of consultation. The first stage started in June 2010 and involved discussions with the local partnerships, linked with the LSP, about their priorities and how they could be reflected in the strategy. The partnerships include:
 - Informal Adult Learning Partnership
 - Improving Health Partnership
 - Affordable Housing Partnership
 - Biodiversity Group
 - Children and Young People's Area Partnership
 - Community Safety Partnerships
 - South Cambs Transport and Access Group
11. An evidence base was assembled to help gauge what has changed over the past three years and to get a feel for emerging issues. The evidence base has been regularly updated throughout the strategy development process to include consultation responses, but also includes information about local demography and from research / needs assessments.
12. A meeting of lead officers from the local partnerships and the other main themes covered by the existing strategies also took place in August 2010 to look at present priorities alongside emerging priorities in the evidence base and from local working knowledge. The workshop outcomes, alongside the evidence base, helped to shape the content of the consultation with wider stakeholders in the second stage.
13. The second stage wider stakeholder and public consultation ran from 11 October 2010 until 31 December 2010. This consultation took the form of a survey, which could be completed online or by hardcopy, enabling people to comment upon and suggest changes to the draft vision. Approximately 100 responses were received to the survey.

14. The first draft of a joint Sustainable Community Strategy was reported to the LSP board in January 2011. Members confirmed the vision statement and agreed the priorities, taking into account views provided in the consultation.
15. At this point the draft strategy, including the final vision and selected priorities agreed at the LSP meeting, was circulated to partnership leads and within partner organisations on the LSP Board for further refinement and development. This has led to the version attached as Appendix A.
16. It is intended that a final draft of the vision and priorities will be presented to the LSP Board at its meeting in July 2011, with key actions under each priority developed and agreed by the subsequent LSP meeting.

Implications

17. Financial	All SCDC input into the SCS will be from within existing resources.
Legal	None identified.
Staffing	All SCDC input into the SCS will be from within existing resources.
Risk Management	None identified.
Equality and Diversity	None identified.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	An EqIA will be completed on the final draft.
Climate Change	None identified.
Young people	None identified.

Consultations

18. Considerable consultation has been conducted, as detailed above.

Effect on Strategic Aims

19. There should be a clear link between the priorities in the SCS and the strategic aims of SCDC. The finalised SCS will form a key part of the evidence base for any refresh of the 3 A's.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: See appendices

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