

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO Leader and Cabinet
AUTHOR: Chief Executive

27th November 2003

COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR SOUTH CAMBS

Purpose

1. To enable Cabinet to recommend in principle to Council, the draft Community Strategy prepared by the South Cambs Strategic Partnership.

Background

2. The Council has a duty to prepare a Community Strategy, under the Local Government Act 2000, to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of local people, and contribute to a sustainable United Kingdom. In line with government guidance, this strategy has been prepared by the Local Strategic Partnership for the district. A report on its development was considered by Cabinet on 2nd April 2003, which set out the 'key issues' of concern in the district.
3. The County Council, who also have a legal duty to prepare a Community Strategy, have fulfilled this by joining with the districts to prepare a joint strategy for South Cambs, as well as for the other Cambridgeshire districts. Work to prepare the strategy started in mid 2002 and was due for completion in September 2003; however, with the recent secondment of the County's project officer to the government, drafting the strategy has been delayed by two or three months.

Considerations

4. The draft Community Strategy is attached as an **Appendix**. This draft is going to the South Cambs Strategic Partnership meeting on 2nd December 2003 for outline approval, subject to a final strategy expected to be approved in February 2004.
5. The draft strategy is being brought to Cabinet for endorsement in principle. Any comments from the cabinet can be taken to the Strategic Partnership Board meeting on 2nd December by the Council's representatives, the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Community Planning. The draft Community Strategy will be taken to the Council meeting on 12th December for endorsement, subject to final changes to be agreed by the Strategic Partnership in February.

Financial Implications

6. There are no direct financial implications of this report. The financing of the Community Strategy and its projects and targets are included in the Continuous Improvement Programme (CIP) process.

Legal Implications

7. These are included in the body of the report.

Staffing Implications

8. The finalisation and delivery of the Community Strategy remains a key task of the Head of Community Services. The staffing implications of the project delivery and monitoring are also included in the CIP process.

Sustainability Implications

9. The Community Strategy is required to address national sustainability issues. A number of the strategy's targets, as well as other joint work of the partners, specifically address key sustainability concerns.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) Forward any comments on the draft Community Strategy to the South Cambs Strategic Partnership, through the Leader and Portfolio Holder.
 - (b) Recommend its endorsement in principle to Council, subject to the strategy being approved by the Strategic Partnership Board on 2nd December 2003.

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

Local Government Act 2000

Progress Report to Cabinet in April '03 on the Local Strategic Partnership.

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