

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet 9 July 2007  
**AUTHOR/S:** Chief Executive / Corporate Manager (Policy, Performance and Partnerships)

---

### COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL STRATEGY 2007-12

#### Purpose

1. To consider and recommend to Council the approval of the Community and Cultural Strategy 2007-12. The Strategy is enclosed as a separate document.
2. To consider and approve the Community Capital Grants Programme guidelines as shown in the **Appendix**.

#### Executive Summary

3. The Strategy has been prepared by a number of different officers in discussion with a large number of partner organisations; it is recognised as a working and evolving document, which will be reviewed annually.
4. The Draft Strategy was considered by the Community, Arts and Sports Advisory Group meeting on 19 April 2007. Members of the Advisory Group approved the draft strategy, subject to a number of additions and amendments, and recommended that the Portfolio Holder seek its adoption by Cabinet. Officers have since revised the document accordingly and added in a number of case studies as agreed at the meeting.
5. The draft Community Capital Grants Programme guidelines were also considered at the meeting and Members approved them subject to a number of amendments. In addition officers agreed to consult with a small number of Parish Councils who had recently received a capital grant from the Council. The attached final draft guidelines now include these amendments.
6. Once approved, it is intended to actively promote the new capital grants programme to all Parish Councils and local groups and organisations.

#### Background

7. The Community, Arts and Sport Members Advisory Group has met 7 times as follows:

28 February 2006	Agreed on the terms of reference of the group and the main headings
4 April 2006	Review of the Community Development Service and presentations from the voluntary sector and youth service. Members agreed to incorporate the LAA and LSP Priorities in the new Strategy.
9 May 2006	Review of the Arts Service and presentations from the three Arts Development Managers.

6 June 2006	Review of the Sports Development Service including presentations from Living Sport and the Health and Exercise Co-ordinator
4 July 2006	Review of the capital grants programme including the Dual Use Sports Facility Programme including presentations from Sport England, Dual Use Sports Centre Manager and Cllr Neil Davies
5 September 2006	Review on more detail of the capital grants programme including grants for play facilities
19 April 2007	Consider and approve the final draft Strategy and capital grants programme guidelines

In addition a Members' Workshop was held to help identify priority areas for the Strategy.

### Implications

8.	Financial	The Strategy identifies the best value use of existing budgets
	Legal	There are no direct legal implications
	Staffing	The Strategy identifies use of existing staff
	Risk Management	Delivery of the Strategy and Action plan is subject to continuing budget levels. Delivery of the capital grants programme is subject to budget availability into the future
	Equal Opportunities	The Strategy plays a significant role in delivering the Councils Equity and Inclusive responsibilities. The Grant guidelines introduce new requirements including an equality and access statement from applicants.

### Consultations

9. A series of the Community, Arts and Sport Members Advisory Group meetings have involved consultation with wider partners and at its meeting on 19 April recommended approval of the final draft Strategy and capital grants programme guidelines. Officers have subsequently consulted with a wide range of partner organisations on the draft Strategy and have also consulted with a small number of Parish Councils on the draft grant guidelines.

### 9. Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

10.	Affordable Homes	N/a
	Customer Service	Access to services is a key priority for the Strategy. The new capital grant guidelines help improve and standardise our Community Capital Grants programme to help potential applicants
	Northstowe and other growth areas	Successful new communities is a key priority area for the Strategy
	Quality, Accessible Services	Access to services is a key priority heading for the Strategy
	Village Life	The Strategy and improved Capital Grants Programme contribute significantly towards improving village life in South Cambridgeshire
	Sustainability	The Strategy focuses on sustainable initiatives and facilitating and enabling the community.

Partnership	The Strategy is based entirely on successful partnership working. All capital projects receiving South Cambs grant aid involve a considerable level of partnership work and funding.
-------------	---

### **Recommendations**

11. Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) approve the Community and Cultural Strategy 2007-12, and
  - (b) approve the new Capital Grants Programme Guidelines as shown in the appendix to this report.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Previous Community Services Strategy documents, The Local Area Agreement and SCDC Community Strategy. Numerous other Strategies, policy documents from Government and partner organisations.

**Contact Officers:** Jane Thompson, Cultural Services Manager Tel: (01954) 713348 and Tricia Pope, Community Development Manager Tel (01954) 713290