

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet

13 March 2008

AUTHOR/S: Improvement Manager / Strategic Partnerships Officer

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2008-2011

Purpose

1. To recommend to Council the adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011, subject to the 'signing-off' of the Strategy by the Local Strategic Partnership Board on 9 April 2008.

Background

2. The first South Cambridgeshire Community Strategy was drawn up by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), ran from 2004-2007 and was reviewed in July 2007. At this point it was agreed that the new strategy should be delayed to ensure that it was in line with the rest of the county and to allow for alignment with the new Local Area Agreement, which would be launched in June 2008 and new government guidance on Sustainable Community Strategies.
3. The ODPM report 'Local Strategic Partnerships: shaping their future' (December 2005) stated that the move to *Sustainable* Community Strategies reflects the increasingly important role of Community Strategies in helping to deliver genuinely sustainable communities which balance and integrate economic, social and environmental goals. Sir John Egan found there was a need for local leaders to establish priorities that were sustainable and connected to the anticipated changes in the local area. He recommended that these be brought together in a Sustainable Community Strategy.

Consultation and Research

4. As previously reported to Cabinet in March 2007, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) underwent a programme of consultation and research to build an evidence base for its new objectives. The research consisted of:
 - (a) Analysing existing consultation results and parish plans.
 - (b) Carrying out the Quality of Life survey and a Community Strategy postal survey.
 - (c) Holding discussion groups with residents from different parts of the district and at different life stages.
 - (d) Holding stakeholder workshops that have been attended by Members of this Council, representatives of parish councils and voluntary/community groups and LSP partners.
 - (e) Carrying out other statistical research.
 - (f) Consulting with theme groups and key lead officers.

The Sustainable Community Strategy

5. The new Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011 (**Appendix A**) has been developed based on these agreed strategic objectives and priorities. The LSP Board

reviewed the strategy on the 22 January 2008 and is due to sign-off the final document on 9 April 2008.

6. Since the objectives and priorities were presented to Cabinet in October 2007 the first two objectives have been reworded slightly for clarity. The meaning has not been affected by the rewording. A minor amendment has also been made to priority (d) under 'safe and clean communities' following a recommendation made by the Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee (Policy Development). The LSP Board accepted the recommendation to add the words 'and other substance misuse' on the 22 January 2008.

Performance Indicators and Performance Management

7. The performance indicators included within the strategy are presently in draft form due to the need to ensure that they are in line with those agreed for the new Local Area Agreement. The indicators and targets to be included in the Local Area Agreement will be agreed by June 2008, with indicative information available from 20 March 2008.
8. To assist the LSP Board in performance managing the new strategy a Performance Management Framework (PMF) has been developed alongside work being carried out by the district council. The PMF will be presented to the LSP Board on the 9 April 2008.

Links with the Council's Corporate Objectives

9. As previously discussed by Cabinet in June 2007, there are strong links between the new Sustainable Community Strategy and the District Council's corporate objectives and priorities for 2008/09 onwards. This similarity is to be welcomed and not unexpected given that the same public consultation and research fed into both their development. The objectives are not completely identical because the purpose is slightly different; the Sustainable Community Strategy being a partnership document and the corporate objectives being set for the council, which is an individual organisation.

Update on funding allocated to the LSP by Cabinet on 8 October 2007

10. On the 8 October 2007 Cabinet approved a "one-off" £100,000 to be used to pump prime Local Strategic Partnership initiatives in 2007-08 to be funded from underspends" (Cabinet minutes, Monday 8 October 2008).
11. Due to the time restraints involved in commissioning and spending the funding by the end of March 2008, proposals were only invited from the theme groups and lead officers for the four topic areas identified as urgent and important by the LSP Board in September 2007. It was felt that too many proposals would be received should all theme groups be approached and all priority areas be considered. Where possible, theme groups prioritised the proposals they submitted.
12. On 18 December 2007 the LSP Board agreed to allocate the £100,000 to four schemes that would assist in the delivery of the new Sustainable Community Strategy priorities:
 - a) £84,490 - Cottenham to Rampton shared use path;
 - b) £6,000 - survey of potential renewable energy resources;
 - c) £3,000 - climate change web-page suite;
 - d) £6,510 - Dial-a-Ride community transport.

13. The above projects are all now in progress and will be completed by the end of March 2008.

Options

14. Members of Cabinet are asked to adopt the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

Implications

15. Financial	The evidence based Sustainable Community Strategy will feed into the Local Area Agreement and therefore influence spending of Area Based Grant.
Legal	The district area is required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy and it is recommended that the objectives be closely linked to the District Council's corporate objectives.
Staffing	The new Strategic Partnerships Officer is supporting the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Risk Management	The LSP Board's new terms of reference include managing risks to the achievement of its aims, objectives and outcomes by reviewing a risk log on a six-monthly basis.
Equal Opportunities	The strategy will be equalities impact assessed by the 9 April 2008 meeting of the LSP Board.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

16. Affordable Homes	See 'Links with the draft SCDC Corporate Objectives' at paragraph 9 above.
Customer Service	
Northstowe and other growth areas	
Quality, Accessible Services	
Village Life	
Sustainability	
Partnership	

Recommendation

17. To recommend that Council adopts the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011, subject to the 'signing-off' of the Strategy by the Local Strategic Partnership Board on 9 April 2008.

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