

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

25th September 2008

AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Strategic Partnerships Officer

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2008-2011

Purpose

1. To adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011.

Background

2. The South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) drew up its first Community Strategy in 2004. It was reviewed in July 2007, at which point it was agreed that the new strategy should be delayed to ensure that it would be in line with the rest of the county and to allow for alignment with the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) 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.
4. On 13th March 2008 Cabinet recommended adoption of the strategy, subject to final sign-off by the LSP.
5. The Cambridgeshire LAA was submitted at the end of May 2008 and confirmation of Secretary of State sign off was received on the 30th June 2008.

The Sustainable Community Strategy

6. The new Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011 (Appendix A) has been developed using the strategic objectives and priorities that were agreed by Cabinet on 8th October 2008 and recommendations subsequently made by the council's Policy Development Committee.
7. The LSP signed-off the strategy, including newly developed indicators and targets, on 3rd September 2008. The indicators and targets, which have been mapped against each of the priorities, can be found at Appendix B.
8. Where possible the indicators are those that the district council and its partners are required to monitor. All South Cambridgeshire relevant LAA indicators are incorporated into the strategy. To enable the LSP to monitor its performance, targets have been developed at the district level where data is statistically significant.

Performance Management

9. To assist the LSP Board in performance managing the new strategy a Performance Management Framework has been developed and was agreed by the LSP Board on the 9th April 2008. The new framework makes use of the council's new performance management system, CorVu.

Options

10. Council is asked to adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011.

Implications

11. Financial	The Sustainable Community Strategy objectives and priorities feed into the Local Area Agreement and will 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 Strategic Partnerships Officer will support the delivery 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 has been equalities impact assessed.

Consultations

12. 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.
13. The council's Policy Development Committee was consulted in January 2008.

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

14. 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.

Recommendations

15. To adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011.

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

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