

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 13 July 2010
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director - Operational Services /
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NEW COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT END OF FIRST QUARTER 2010/11.

Purpose

1. This report outlines the progress made by the New Communities and Policy teams for the first quarter (30th June 2010)
2. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations and Reasons

3. This is the first of four monitoring reports that will be reported to the Portfolio Holder over the current year to ensure that good progress is being made and remedial action taken, if necessary.
4. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder notes progress made in the first quarter.

Background and considerations

5. Appendix A summaries progress to date in relation to Council Actions, The Local Development Scheme and Local and National indicators.

- **Council Actions**

6. Three of the council's actions fall within this Portfolio:
 - ***We will achieve a 10% reduction in CO2 emissions from Council's operations and publicise the outcome in order to set an example to other organisations.***

An action plan is in place and work to meet this target is being overseen by the Internal Sustainability Delivery Group. These steps also aim to address the Level 1 assessment (inadequate) made by the Audit Commission's 2009/10 round of Corporate Area Assessments, in relation to how South Cambridgeshire District Council makes effective use of natural resources.

Steps taken this quarter include replacing standalone replacing standalone and less efficient print/copy devices with significantly more efficient 'multi-functional devices' and improvements in IT system to reduce energy consumption, for example, running a PC auto power-off programme every evening to powerdown PCs that have accidentally been left running.

- ***We will work with Parish Councils to complete at least 6 local projects supported by LSPA funding to contribute to the County target for the reduction of CO2 emissions.***

The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) exceeded its initial targets and now includes 15 parishes. This project is now moving into Phase 2 (community micro-renewables). The Climate Change Working group will consider a detailed report on this second phase on 8th July 2010. Officers are currently supporting a range of projects with parishes, including thermal imaging, car sharing, developing a parish energy booklet, the loan of energy monitors, and modelling CO2 emissions.

- ***We will increase the number of teenagers taking part in positive activities by 500.***

SCDC Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013 is currently being drafted which will set out how SCDC will help children and young people to become involved and have a say in things that affect them, and to understand how they can influence change. It will also assist in focussing SCDC resources in a way that is more useful and helpful to children and young people living in our district. The draft plan has been the subject of discussion between local school children and members of SCDC Scrutiny Committee.

A programme of activities has been identified to provide opportunities for increased participation in positive activities. Those which have been held this quarter include the youth games and mini Olympics. Street Football continues to be held each term in five villages. (Sawston, Cambourne, Bar Hill, Swavesey and Cottenham).

- **Red Indicators**

7. The principal area where there have been some delays this quarter are in the preparation of policy or supplementary guidance. Guidance is emerging from the new government about changes to the planning system. This has slowed down some areas of work. The Gypsy and Traveller DPD, for example, will now progress more slowly pending guidance from the new government on how we should plan for the needs of our Gypsies and Travellers.
8. Two Supplementary Planning Document are also behind schedule. Orchard Park Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is the subject of a separate report on this agenda and Papworth West Central SPD is subject to on-going discussions with the landowners and Parish Council and will now be delayed.
9. Consultation on the Climate Change Action Plan will be start this month which is also later than originally scheduled.
10. Many of the indicators report on an annual basis and therefore information is not available at present.

- **Other Areas of work**

11. With regard to the growth sites, achievements in the last quarter include the approval of the Design Code for Trumpington Meadows and the approval of a number of schemes addressing pre-commencement planning conditions.

12. The first North West Community Forum was held on Saturday 19th June. This involved a shared approach between the three Local Authorities and the developers. It took the form of a 'drop-in session' where local residents were able to make comments or raise concerns about any of the three major sites: Orchard Park, NIAB 1 or NIAB 2. Pre-application discussions continue on The University site with applications expected towards the end of 2010.
13. The North West retail study is now complete and is the subject of a separate item on this agenda.
14. Viability assessment work continues in relation to the Cambourne 950 planning application, with the formal amendment having recently been received.

Implications

15. Financial	None A separate report is on this agenda relating to financial performance.
Legal	None.
Staffing	The New Communities and Planning Service restructure is almost complete, with officers being in final posts by September 2010..
Risk Management	A comprehensive risk register is maintained which feeds major and significant risks to the corporate risk register. The service is a contributor to and key partner in wider strategic risk management for the delivery of the growth sites working with partners including City, County councils and Cambridge Horizons.
Equal Opportunities	No equal opportunities implications have been identified at this time.
Climate Change	The service plays a key role in overseeing carbon reduction within the council and across the district.

Effect on Strategic Aims

.16.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	The Children and Young Persons plan is being drafted. Papworth Central West SPD will be the subject of further engagement with stakeholders. The Climate Change Action Plan will be subject to 12 weeks consultation.
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
	Increased swimming poolers users and significant number of children and young people taking part in mini Olympics and youth games.
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.
	The Orchard Park SPD providing design guidance.
	Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
	Support from the teams for the Step Up competition.

Conclusions/Summary

17. The teams have generally made good progress in this first quarter. Greater clarity from the new government about the planning system will assist progress over the coming quarter.

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