

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

2nd November 2011

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**DRAFT SINGLE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor R. Hollingworth, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Partnerships and Economic Development
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes through both the Bromsgrove Partnership and Worcestershire Partnership Boards
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	The Strategy will be considered at the next Full Council Meeting.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet the new single countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which includes a section relating to Bromsgrove District.
- 1.2 It should be noted that this is the latest draft and there may be minor amendments to the County and other District sections before final design and print. However, the section relating to Bromsgrove District is the final draft version which has been approved by the Bromsgrove Partnership. (It is anticipated that the final version of the full single SCS will be published by Worcestershire County Council by the end of November.)

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to recommend that Full Council approve the Single SCS for Worcestershire, and specifically, the section relating to Bromsgrove District.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Council purposes are currently being developed and should link to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which is the long-term business plan for the District. Capital and revenue budget provision in future years should reflect those purposes.

- 3.2 In light of reduced resources, due to the current economic climate, partnership working can allow resources to be pooled and partners to work together to meet the needs of our residents in a more effective and efficient way.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that associated design and printing costs will be covered by the County Council. Any additional printing costs of the SCS, specifically for this District, have already been taken into account within this year's budget.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.4 Under the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is a non-statutory partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and associated Action Plans is the delivery mechanism for the LSP.
- 3.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government has announced its intention to repeal the statutory duty to prepare a SCS. This statement was included in the Best Value Statutory Guidance published on 2 September 2011. When the legislation is repealed authorities will be able to opt to continue to have a strategy, but it will no longer be a statutory requirement and the duty to report back information will cease. For the time being until these changes are introduced the Council remains under a statutory obligation to prepare an SCS.
- 3.6 The Government has revoked the whole statutory guidance 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities', which required the SCS to be agreed at Full Council. However, the Strategy remains in this Council's Constitution as a policy document which needs Full Council endorsement, and specifically the section within the countywide SCS which relates to Bromsgrove District.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.7 LSPs act as a mechanism for working better together to deliver joined up outcomes. It enables local organisations to come together and address issues that are important to the local communities in a more effective and cohesive way.
- 3.8 Council purposes are currently being developed and should link to the SCS, which is the long-term business plan for the District of Bromsgrove.

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- 3.9 In September 2010, it was agreed by the Worcestershire Partnership that there should be a single SCS to streamline processes and improve links between County and District Partnerships and Theme Groups.
- 3.10 At the Bromsgrove Partnership Away Day, partners considered its priorities and decided to simplify the existing ones and agree the top three partner priorities for the District. These are:
- Economic Growth (including Town Centre Regeneration)
  - Balanced Communities (including health and wealth inequalities, older people, children and young people, crime and anti-social behaviour)
  - Environment (including reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions)
- 3.11 It was also agreed that there should be key outcomes under each priority (approximately 3 to 4 for each Theme Group). These are shown in the table within the Bromsgrove District Section of the SCS.
- 3.12 At the Away Day, Worcestershire Partnership priorities were also considered which were out for consultation at the time. As shown in the attached Strategy, they are around: economy; environment; and health and wellbeing. These are underpinned by the principles of communities.
- 3.13 The content for the Bromsgrove District section was approved by the Bromsgrove Partnership Board at its meeting held on 22 September 2011. At the time of compiling this report, 5 of the 6 District LSPs had approved their sections and the Worcestershire Partnership approved the SCS on 26 September 2011, subject to part of the County section being reduced. The version attached is the most up-to-date draft. It is anticipated that the final version of the full single SCS will be published by Worcestershire County Council by the end of November.
- 3.14 The SCS is a 10 year document and will be reviewed by all partners across Worcestershire following county council elections. Therefore, the first review will be in 2013. However, the Action Plans sitting underneath each of the priorities will be monitored on a more regular basis. The Bromsgrove Partnership Theme Groups (the majority of which meet on a bi-monthly basis) will be responsible for the Action Plans. Theme Group Leads will report progress to the Board which is where cross-cutting issues will be tackled. Bromsgrove Partnership will also continue to have annual Away Days which will include reviewing LSP priorities and partnership working arrangements.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.15 In terms of customer implications, working in partnership delivers joined up outcomes, which is what our customers want.

- 3.15 An equalities analysis has been undertaken specifically in relation to Bromsgrove District section of the new single SCS for Worcestershire.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The Council will not be able to meet customer needs without working in partnership, therefore having an effective LSP is vital.

- 4.2 Key partner organisations are involved and kept informed of progress throughout the development of the existing and revised SCS, thus gaining buy in. As stated earlier in this report, the content for the Bromsgrove District section has been approved by all partners on the Bromsgrove Partnership Board.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Single Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**7. KEY**

LSP – Local Strategic Partnership (which for this District is known as the Bromsgrove Partnership)

SCS – Sustainable Community Strategy

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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