

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

7TH NOVEMBER 2007

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2007-2010

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Roger Hollingworth
Responsible Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2010 and to request ratification of the document.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that the revised Sustainable Community Strategy be ratified and to note that the following have been added to the Strategy as a consequence of the consultation that was undertaken:

1. Mental Health
2. Childhood Obesity
3. Transport

Please note that Mental Health and Childhood Obesity are key deliverables. Transport is an additional priority and Theme Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Bromsgrove District Council has a statutory responsibility for producing a Sustainable Community Strategy. Work has been carried out over the past eight months with our partners to develop the Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2010 for the District of Bromsgrove, the result of which is an ambitious document. (Appendix 1).

- 3.2 As drawn to Members' attention previously, Sustainable Community Strategies are becoming more significant. They are increasingly seen as being an over-arching strategy for other plans and strategies locally. This is specifically the case for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) outcomes which are based on the various Sustainable Community Strategies in the County. Under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Key Lines of Enquiry, it is clear that the Government is looking for Councils to provide leadership to communities. This is likely to be reinforced when CPA is replaced with Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in April 2009.

3.3 The Draft Sustainable Community Strategy was discussed at the LSP Board meeting on 31st May 2007. This was followed by a 9-week consultation period (late June to 31st August 2007) using different consultation methods:

- The “Glad or Grumpy” postcard;
- Through the Customer Panel Survey;
- At Street Theatre during August;
- In three areas of the District (Alvechurch, Hagley and Wythall) by Board members and officers of Bromsgrove District Council;
- Presented to Cabinet, Scrutiny Steering Board, the Equality & Diversity Forum and Departmental Management Team meetings within the Council
- Via partners’ respective organisations; and
- Via the Council website.

Appendix 2 gives details of the responses received.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council’s priorities should cascade from the Sustainable Community Strategy. Capital and Revenue budget provision in future years should reflect those priorities. The outcomes in the LAA are also drawn from Sustainable Community Strategies, and therefore this review of the Sustainable Community Strategy will inform future LAAs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Although the LSP is a non-statutory partnership, under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is obliged to convene one and develop a Sustainable Community Strategy. The Sustainable Community Strategy for Bromsgrove is the delivery mechanism for the Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership. The Council remains the accountable body for the Strategy.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The Strategy links to all corporate objectives.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Working in partnership is a key risk which is identified in the Corporate Risk Register. The Council will not be able to deliver its priorities without working in partnership with the LSP.

7.2 Key partner organisations have been involved with and kept informed of progress throughout the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy, thus gaining ‘buy in’. Partners have committed to the Strategy and its Key Deliverable Outcomes, but there may be issues in future of the ability of partners to develop and commit to new outcomes and to deliver on those outcomes.

8 **CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Working in partnership delivers joined up outcomes, which is what our customers want. The Strategy will be circulated to partners and stakeholders.

9. **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the Strategy, which will be monitored through the Equality & Diversity Forum.

10. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues -None
Personnel Issues -None
Governance/Performance Management – The LSP Terms of Reference and Governance has been revised to encompass the changes and the Strategy includes a performance management framework.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1988 – None
Policy - The Government’s White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities” and the Local Government Work Programme “Making it happen: The Implementation Plan” illustrate that partnerships are central to building on achievements of recent to embed them into lasting reform.
Environmental – None

11. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2010.

Appendix 2 Consultation Response to the Draft Sustainable
Community Strategy

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No further background papers.

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