

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE CABINET**

**6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**

**RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR WORCESTERSHIRE – 2008-2013**

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

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet about the consultation on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2008 – 2013 and request ratification of the response to the consultation.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider and ratify the response to the draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2013 prior to it being submitted to the Worcestershire Partnership, with particular focus around:
1. Geographic focus around Bromsgrove town centre, Longbridge and the Bromsgrove railway station relocation
  2. Community cohesion
  3. Children and young people
  4. Older people

This report and Appendix 2 constitutes Bromsgrove District Council's response to the consultation.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Worcestershire Partnership is in the process of revising its Sustainable Community Strategy and published a draft for consultation, attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Each section of the Strategy has been considered in detail and a response produced, attached as Appendix 2. The main issues for Members' consideration are:
- 3.2.1 The document is robust but has a geographic focus towards the south of the county, for example, expansion of the University of Worcester and improvement of rail links presented by Norton Parkway. We need to redress the balance by ensuring focus on Longbridge, Bromsgrove town centre regeneration and the relocation of the Bromsgrove railway station.

- 3.2.2 It is felt that the Strategy's focus around community cohesion (section 4.3, p33) is too narrow. We would prefer to see a focus on wider issues of societal breakdown – e.g. anti-social behaviour, inter-generational conflict and a general loss of sense of community, with actions to mitigate such issues.
- 3.2.3 We particularly support the priority outcomes for meeting the needs of children and young people (section 10.1, p 54), particularly outcome 4, "to ensure children and young people have things to do and enjoy their communities".
- 3.2.4 We feel that there should be more focus on older people. The focus within the Strategy is around social care rather than preventive services for the 60 – 85 age bracket.
- 3.2.5 Although Worcestershire County Council are supporting the town centre and the railway station projects, they are not adequately reflected in the Strategy and therefore we need to make a case for these within the wider partnership setting.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6. COUNCIL 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 and the LSP will not be able to deliver its priorities without working in partnership with the Worcestershire Partnership. The Bromsgrove Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2010 (ratified by Cabinet in November 2007) has been considered by the Worcestershire Partnership during the drafting of the county Strategy, and the Bromsgrove Partnership will be delivering actions locally against the themes in the document.

#### **8 CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Working in partnership delivers joined up outcomes, which is what customers want.

#### **9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Section 4.3 (p 33) of the Strategy discusses community cohesion. Refer to questions 23 – 26 of the response.

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 By responding in this way to the strategy it demonstrates that Bromsgrove is addressing the needs of residents of the district and ensuring that future plans and resources are included in the strategic plans.

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

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|---|
| Procurement Issues – None.  |
| Personnel Issues – None.  |
| Governance/Performance Management – The Strategy will be managed by the Worcestershire Partnership, but the Bromsgrove Partnership has its own performance management framework which will ensure appropriate information can be provided when it is requested. |
| Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1988 – None.  |
| Policy – The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 illustrates that partnerships are central to building on achievements of recent years to embed them into lasting reform.  |
| Environmental – None  |

**12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

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

**13. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards.

**14. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2008-2013 (second edition)

Appendix 2 Bromsgrove District Council Response

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No further background papers.

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