
BROMSGROVE PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor R. Hollingworth, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Partnerships and Economic Development
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes, as Chair of the Bromsgrove Partnership Board
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	The Annual Report will be circulated to all Councillors once it has been considered by the Cabinet
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet the latest Bromsgrove Partnership's Annual Report which provides an overview of the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) during 2012/13.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve the Bromsgrove Partnership's Annual Report 2012/13.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 Apart from printing and postage costs which are budgeted for, there are no financial implications directly relating to the report attached at Appendix 1 as it simply provides an outline summary of Partnership work that has taken place over the past year.
- 3.2 Strategic purposes of the District Council link to the wider strategic priorities contained within the Bromsgrove Partnership section of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Capital and revenue budget provision in future years will reflect Council purposes.
- 3.3 Partnership working is important at any time to meet the needs of our residents as it is a more effective and efficient way compared to working in isolation. However, in light of reduced resources due to the current economic climate, partnership working is even more crucial. It can allow resources to be pooled and partners to work together in a more joined up way to achieve better outcomes. The Bromsgrove Partnership is seen as essential in facilitating and co-ordinating this to happen.

Legal Implications

- 3.4 Under section 4.1 of 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 announced its intention to repeal the statutory duty to prepare a SCS and 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 When the legislation is repealed authorities will be able to opt to continue to have a strategy, but it will no longer be a statutory requirement and the duty to report back information will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. The Annual Report does not require Full Council approval but it will be circulated to all District Councillors for their information.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 LSPs act as a mechanism for working better together to deliver joined up outcomes. It breaks down silo working as it enables local organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to come together and jointly address issues that are important to local communities in a more effective and cohesive way.
- 3.8 A SCS sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area. Strategic purposes of the District Council link to the wider strategic priorities contained within the Bromsgrove Partnership section of the single countywide SCS.
- 3.9 The Annual Report shows how the Bromsgrove Partnership is progressing against the Bromsgrove District section of the single countywide SCS. The annual report was approved by the Bromsgrove Partnership Board at its meeting held on 25 July 2013. By formally endorsing the Bromsgrove Partnership's Annual Report, it demonstrates that Bromsgrove District Council is working in partnership to address the needs of its customers and it is ensuring that future plans and resources are included in the relevant strategic plans.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.10 In terms of customer implications, working in partnership delivers joined up outcomes, which is of great benefit to our customers.
- 3.11 An equalities impact assessment has been completed for the Bromsgrove District chapter of the single SCS for Worcestershire.
- 3.12 The Bromsgrove Partnership receives the minutes of the Bromsgrove Equalities and Diversity Forums at their Board meetings.

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 The LSP is non-statutory, however partnership working locally is strong and this has been built up over the years through the LSP. It is recognised by local organisations that although it is not always straightforward, partnership working is the most effective way of addressing the needs of our local communities and delivering the best possible outcomes. Key partner organisations are involved in the development of the strategic plans and partnership strategies, thus gaining buy in. The contents of the Annual Report prove that partners are committed to the SCS and its key deliverable outcomes.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Bromsgrove Partnership’s Annual Report 2012/13.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

7. KEY

LSP – Local Strategic Partnership (known as the Bromsgrove Partnership)
SCS – Sustainable Community Strategy

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