

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

**LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY  
STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08**

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

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 To present to Cabinet the Sustainable Community Strategy Annual Report 2007/08 and request ratification of the document, which sets out the Partnership's performance against the priorities for that period, namely:

- Fear of Crime
- Environment
- Town Centre redevelopment (including transport: railway station redevelopment and associated issues, and community transport)
- Longbridge regeneration
- Health & Well Being
- Children & Young People
- Older People
- Housing

The report also details performance of the Compact Steering Group and the Communications Theme Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 Cabinet is requested to ratify the report (Attached as Appendix 1) and to note the progress to date against each High Level Action Plan.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are an important part of the Government's modernisation agenda, acting as a mechanism for working better together to deliver joined up outcomes. Active support towards the Bromsgrove Partnership and its role supports the Government's explicit aims to enable more people to become involved in the development of priorities for local services.

3.2 The report details performance for the year 2007/08 against the priorities listed in 1.1 above. The LSP has a formal performance

management reporting structure to monitor progress and discuss the future direction and activity of the Bromsgrove Partnership. This is supplemented by bi-monthly reports to the LSP Board.

3.3 Section 3 of the report details performance against each High Level Action Plan. Some of the key highlights are detailed below.

3.3.1 Communities that are Safe and Feel Safe

- 32.3% reduction in crime levels across the District (target being 17.5%).
- 11% reduction in burglary dwelling targets.
- The domestic violence arrest rate was 88%.
- A Hate Crime reporting process was introduced during the year. To the end of March 2008, 15 crimes had been reported and the hate incidents detection rate stood at 70%.

All 10 actions in the Community Improvement Plan were delivered.

3.3.2 A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow

Performance on this theme was a little more mixed. 37 of 57 actions (65%) were fully delivered.

- The total amount of residual waste sent to landfill was 22,300 tonnes, 300 tonnes less than the previous year.
- 15,864 tonnes were recycled and composted, and 18,729 tonnes sent for disposal. The dry recycling target was exceeded at 22% (target 21.5%).
- Bromsgrove District Council will be aiming to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> by 66,000 tonnes by 2010. The Government is looking for a 8 – 13% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2010, with a 2% year on year reduction to achieve a 60% reduction by 2050.

The 35% of actions that were not achieved were mainly around the travel plan for Bromsgrove District Council. This action will be progress during 2008/09.

3.3.3 Town Centre Redevelopment

78% of the actions were achieved during year. Achievements include:

- Work commenced on the Area Action Plan.
- Work commenced on recruiting a developer.
- A project manager was appointed (commencing work in April 2008) to ensure appropriate focus.

3.3.4 Longbridge

82% of the planned actions were on target for this long-term project.

- 12 acres of the 30 acre site are occupied and speculative units being built by the landowner.
- The Area Action Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State, which included a proposal for 700+ homes on the East Works site. More than 35% of these homes will be affordable.
- Community facilities are indicated in the Area Action Plan.

3.3.5 Improving Health & Well Being

Overall performance on health actions is good. The main areas of focus during the year have been around physical activity and reducing adult smoking rates. Of the 33 identified actions for physical activity, 87% was on target; for the 14 actions around reducing smoking rates, 71% was achieved.

- The Bromsgrove Extended Community Activity Network (BECAN) has devolved responsibility to deliver the physical activity element of the Health & Well Being Theme Group. Bids were submitted to Sport England for various activities – Best Foot Forward, Keep on Moving, Try New Things and Activity Referral. A 5-hour offer for sport was developed and new joint delivery plans were put in place to commence from April 2008. A successful awards evening was held in February.
- An angling project was developed with funding obtained from the Worcestershire Voluntary Grants Scheme and additional support from the Children's Fund. There is evidence that young people become involved with angling are less likely to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The scheme is due to go live in June 2008 and referrals will be received from West Mercia Police and other partner organisations such as the Multi-Agency Resource Centre on Charford. Evaluation of each module will be carried out and made available.
- A sub-group was convened to progress the smoking agenda, and BDC supports local businesses re the smoking ban (which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007) and revised lower age limit for tobacco sales. The group also worked on promotion of the Heart Smart Award, (to be launched initially at the Charford Children's Centre in July 2008) and promoted Heart Smart Awards for the workplace.
- The sub-group promoted National No Smoking Day on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008, when a fun run and other associated events were held at the Abbey Stadium. Over 100 runners attended, with many having serious chats about quitting and taking away information.

### 3.3.6 Meeting the Needs of Children & Young People

It was agreed during the year that some of the outcomes for the "children enjoying and achieving" priority were inappropriate and unachievable for the LSP, as the outputs were around school performance and attainment and direct involvement was a problem. A key deliverable under the "children contributing and being included" priority details an output around children aged between 8 and 16 volunteering to work with older people gave the same issue. It was therefore agreed by the LSP Board in January 2008 to cease reporting on these key deliverables.

There were 23 actions remaining in the Community Improvement Plan for 2007/08, and these were all on target or completely achieved during the year.

- The number of children and young people (aged 5-16) participating in a minimum of 2 hours' per week PE and school sports over the year was 78%, (the target was 75%), a real achievement. The aim is to reach 85% during 2008/09, and this is already ahead of target. The five-hour offer was planned, to be introduced from September

2008.

- An event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to actively consult with explore the opinions of children and young people aged between 7 and 18. The event identified the focus and topics that the participants cared most about, the challenges and their solutions.

### 3.3.7 Older People

We live in an ageing society, and Bromsgrove's 80+ population is forecast to rise by 123% by 2029, and the Board felt it was important to acknowledge this. The theme group was convened in October 2007, and of the 9 actions planned for year, 88% were achieved/on target, including:

- Mapping of services available for older people in the County and District.
- Linked to other groups and identified opportunities for cross-working or signposting to theme groups/organisations. (Eg, Compact Steering Group, Health & Well Being Theme Group).
- Identified older people to be part of the Older People's Forum. More than 200 people attended the AGM in March 2008.
- Identified events/opportunities to engage with older people.

### 3.3.8 Housing

The Theme Group had 6 planned actions for year, which were all achieved or were on target. Some of the highlights were:

- Completion of a project plan and funding proposals in place for a Housing Demand Study in order to produce a new Housing Strategy. Representations were made about the housing allocations detailed within the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Ongoing work to ensure that local planning policy fully complements the priority for affordable housing.
- 80 units of affordable housing completed. (Tenure % of affordable housing for BDC is 11%, compared with the average for the West Midlands and England & Wales of 21%, showing a minimum shortfall of 10%).
- Negotiations were progressed and the Area Action Plan submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2008 for more than 35% of the 700 homes planned for the Longbridge site to be affordable housing .

### 3.3.9 Transport

Of the 7 planned actions, 71% were on target. Some of the actions are long term projects (such as redevelopment of the railway station), where BDC nor the LSP not being the lead in the project, so there is an element of having to wait for other organisations. The following were done during the year:

- BDC allocated £25,000 and Worcestershire County Council granted £100,000 towards the feasibility study and initial stages of redevelopment. As at the end of March 2008, funding for the entire project was still being clarified; this should be agreed by June 2008, the submission of the planning application following in July 2008.
- Detailed research into the feasibility of the introduction of a dial-a-ride scheme for the District commenced, and a project group set up to oversee progress. A Project Initiation Document was submitted to

BDC's Corporate Management Team in March 2008 and received approval to progress.

- Responses were submitted to the County Council on the consultation of the Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy.

### 3.3.9 Compact Steering Group

Of the 11 actions planned for year, only 54% were on target. This has been due to a variety of reasons, including developments within the VCS which has prompted actions to be revised. During the year, the steering group has:

- Planned an event to promote greater co-operation and understanding between the VCS and Heads of Service from BDC. The results of the event will allow a comprehensive understanding of the VCS in the context of training and emerging needs.
- Adopted the Worcestershire Volunteering Strategy and Code of Practice (also adopted by the LSP Board).
- BDC has granted space in the Hub to support the presence of the VCS on a timetabled basis. The Bromsgrove & Redditch Network (BARN), (the VCS infrastructure agency) is facilitating the process. This will assist with the provision of help, advice and signposting and will further statutory and VCS co-operation.
- BARN has prepared information about the work of the VCS in the District for the LCD screens at the Hub and approval was given for VCS organisations to display information on BDC noticeboards across the District.
- Planned events for National Volunteers' Week (June).

### 3.3.10 Communications

All 15 planned actions for the year were achieved, including:

- The Glad or Grumpy postcard consultation undertaken during Summer 2007; over 600 responses were received. Feedback was done via a press release and a letter to individual respondents. This was supplemented by the customer panel survey questions on the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities. The campaign was developed by the Group.
- Two Local Neighbourhood Partnerships were piloted and evaluated during the year. A way forward and additional funding was agreed.
- A launch event for the Sustainable Community Strategy was arranged and held for the press on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007, on the date that the Strategy was approved by Full Council.

## **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 the SCS 2007 revision helped to inform the new LAA.

## **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 LSP. The Council remains the accountable body for the Strategy.

**6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

6.1 The Strategy links to all Council 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 were involved with and kept informed of progress throughout the development of the SCS, 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 delivered to partners and stakeholders and will be available on the website.

**9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 By formally endorsing the Annual Report of the Strategy, it demonstrates that Bromsgrove District Council is addressing the needs of residents of the district and ensuring that future plans and resources are included in the relevant strategic plans.

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Issues – None
Governance/Performance Management – The LSP Terms of Reference & Governance was revised in 2007, and the SCS has a performance management framework.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1988 –

None
Policy - The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Local Government Work Programme "Making it happen: The Implementation Plan" illustrate that partnerships are central to building on achievements to embed them into lasting reform.
Environmental – None

**12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (Partnerships & Projects)	Yes
Executive Director (Services)	Yes
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**

Please list the appendices attached to the report as shown in the example below.

Appendix 1 Bromsgrove Sustainable Community Strategy Annual Report 2007/2008

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No further background papers.

**Contact officer**

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