

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

4TH NOVEMBER 2009

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-2013

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor R. Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Head of Service	Mr. H. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present to the Cabinet the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2013 and request their consideration, prior to approval by Full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is requested to recommend that Full Council approve the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2013.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Bromsgrove District Council has a statutory responsibility to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The SCS sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area, typically for 10 years. It is the place where difficult, cross-cutting issues are tackled by a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector partners and is, in effect, the long-term business plan for the District of Bromsgrove.
- 3.2 The LSP for this District is known as the 'Bromsgrove Partnership' and it's responsible for delivering the District's SCS. As part of the review of the SCS, away days for all Bromsgrove Partnership Board Members and Theme Group Chairs were held on 26 June 2009 and on 22 September 2009 (afternoon only). At the away days, members discussed the current Sustainable Community Strategy and performance to date. Priorities for 2010 were agreed, in line with the refreshed Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (LAA), and High Level Action Plans have been revised to ensure Bromsgrove Partnership makes as full a contribution towards the LAA targets as possible. The High Level Action Plans are attached as appendices to the SCS which makes up a large proportion of the report.

3.3 To briefly summarise: Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the SCS provide further background information, covering the links to the Worcestershire Partnership (County LSP) and the Worcestershire LAA; Section 5 includes a list of those agencies represented on the Bromsgrove Partnership Board at present (although this is currently under review); Section 9 outlines the direction and priorities of the Bromsgrove Partnership; and Section 11 states the focus of the LSP Board. Appendix J succinctly covers the Bromsgrove Partnership's Vision, Objectives, Priorities and Key Deliverables for 2010-13.

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. To help ensure this happened, the first LSP Away Day this year was held a week before the Council's Away Day.

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 SCS 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 as CCPP04: Effective LSP. 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.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

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

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The principles of equality will be applied, ensuring individuals and groups are not discriminated against on the grounds of age, race, disability, gender, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, social and economic status or political beliefs. An equalities impact assessment of this revised strategy has been undertaken and the Bromsgrove Equalities and Diversity Forum will be offered the opportunity to scrutinise the equalities impact assessment.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 By formally endorsing 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 Implications – None.
Governance/Performance Management – The LSP Terms of Reference and Governance is due to be reviewed and revised as appropriate. The SCS has a performance management framework which has recently been streamlined and has led to the new improved format of the High Level Action Plan. Further work is planned to ensure we have effective arrangements in place for reporting and reviewing performance.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – None
Policy – The Local Government and 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. Government policy has moved from encouraging partnerships towards mandating them, even though voluntarism is the key to effective joint working.
Environmental – None.

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	Yes
Executive 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

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-13

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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