

DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on progress in drafting the Community Strategy for the District. It seeks feedback on the content of the emerging document, prior to the strategy being finalised and approved by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), who are overseeing its production.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall being consulted on the draft Community Strategy in December 2003 (Min 603/03) and seeing the results of the public consultation exercise and the Consultation Panel. In the light of the feedback received, officers have now been working on developing a Community Strategy for the District with inputs from key partners and stakeholders.

3 COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Work on producing a finalised strategy for consideration by the LSP at its March meeting is progressing well. The draft has now reached a stage where it would benefit from Member consideration and comment on the content of the document, remembering that the Council is but one of the partners and signatories to the finalised strategy. It is important too to remember that the strategy is seen as a living, working document reviewed on an annual basis.
- 3.2 The draft strategy will be sent under separate cover and the Chief Executive will run through its contents at the meeting. The strategy opens by explaining how it has been developed and describes the LSP and its membership. It then sets out a long term vision (20 years) for the District based on the Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Framework document and the emerging themes in the Local District Plan.
- 3.3 The Strategy concentrates, however, on plans and actions which can be carried out over the short term (five years). In drafting the short term vision, a key area of work has been the linkage of a number of plans and actions which the various partners already have in place and ensuring that they are responsive to the issues which have emerged from the consultation carried out.
- 3.4 The emerging strategy has been reduced to six themes – Feeling Safe, Looking After Our Environment, A Good Education Good Skills and Good Jobs, Healthy Living, Getting Around and An Inclusive

Community. Each theme has a statement of what could be achieved over the next five and ten years, a summary of what came out of the consultation, a fact file and objectives to be achieved. An Action Plan then identifies relevant actions to work towards achieving these objectives.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Risk

Resources have been identified within the Action Plan.

4.2 Reputation Risk

The District Council is a prime partner within the Local Strategic Partnership. It is important to the reputation of the Council that the actions and objectives are achievable.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Fear of crime and youth nuisance have been highlighted as concerns through the consultation exercise.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Local Agenda 21 issues have been included in the document.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Resources have been identified within the Action Plan.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There is Parish representation on the Local Strategic Partnership.

9 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To consider the draft strategy and accompanying action plan and comment accordingly, prior to further consideration of the document by the Local Strategic Partnership.

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None

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