

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2008

REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

11. 2008/09 ACTION PLAN FOR THE EAST HERTS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY BY APRIL 2009

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that the LSP's action plan for 2008/09 be endorsed and the process for developing a sustainable community strategy for April 2009 be noted.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the East Herts LSP's action plan for 2008/09 and to report to the Committee on the development of a new sustainable community strategy from April 2009.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.

3.0 Background

3.1 The community strategy for the East Herts area was developed by the LSP in 2002 with a 'life-span' of up to fifteen years. Annual action plans have been developed to reflect changing priorities since the community strategy was first published. Progress on delivering the action plan for last year 2007/08, was reported to Policy Development Scrutiny Committee of 15 January 2008.

3.2 In November 2007 the Government published draft Statutory Guidance on the development of new sustainable community strategies in a document entitled Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities. This document crystallises and re-emphasises the Government's aims to create prosperous

communities by empowering local communities and ensuring that all local partners work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for the local community. Central to the achievement of a strong and prosperous community is the Sustainable Community Strategy, the purpose of which is to “set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area”.

- 3.3 This new approach that introduces the requirement to take account of sustainable development, dovetails neatly with the changes to the land-use planning system to a *spatial* planning system. Crucially, spatial planning refers to the interdependency of land-use and community planning, with the new core strategy documents of the new local development frameworks (LDF) being the spatial interpretation of the new sustainable community strategies.
- 3.4 A timeline for developing a new sustainable community strategy, to replace the current 2002 community strategy, has been drawn up that will allow for incorporation of the findings from the LDF Core Strategy preparation process (due for completion in October 2008) and culminate in the publication of a sustainable community strategy to start April 2009.
- 3.5 In addition to the planning process outlined above, Members will also be aware that 2008/09 is the last year of the Hertfordshire wide round one Local Area Agreements (a set of performance targets agreed with central government to assist in the delivery of community strategies) and the year in which new targets are to be agreed for round two for the period 2009/10 to 2012.

4.0 Report

- 4.1 Given the context as set out above, the Committee is invited to consider that the year 2008/09 is a transitional year. With this in mind, rather than adopt another set of specific performance targets, the East Herts LSP has agreed an action plan, as presented at Appendix ‘A11’ (pages 11.5 – 11.7), that identifies areas of priority for closer joint working, leading up to the production of a sustainable community strategy for April 2009.
- 4.2 Work on the new sustainable community strategy is being progressed on two fronts: firstly the consultation on and development of the East Herts LDF and secondly, through the development of a community evidence base. Rather than seeking to be a comprehensive collection of all the facts and figures relating to

life in East Herts, the evidence base will be a presentation of the stand-out, defining quantitative and qualitative characteristics of East Herts. The qualitative element will include the findings of residential satisfaction surveys as well as the priorities already identified in the strategies and partnerships that feed into the LSP (e.g. the community safety partnership, children's trust partnership, cultural strategy and the economic development plan). It is the intention that the evidence base will be presented to Community Scrutiny in January 2009, together with a draft sustainable community strategy.

4.3 It is anticipated that both the sustainable community strategy and the LDF Core Strategy will share the same broad structure; a series of spatial themes that have emerged through preliminary work on the East Herts LDF. However, it is proposed that the sustainable community strategy will include an additional theme, East Herts People, to capture the issues that do not directly have land-use implications (e.g. perceptions of crime and community safety). The eight spatial themes, including a brief discussion of each theme, are attached at Appendix 'B11' (pages 11.8 – 11.9) to this report.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The LSP action for 2008/09 has been developed by all partners on the LSP

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no new legal implications.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no new financial regulations.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 There are no new human resource implications.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 There are no new human resource implications.

Background Papers

None

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