

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY – 7 APRIL 2009

REPORT BY – COMMUNITY PROJECTS TEAM LEADER

8. EVERYONE MATTERS – A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR EAST HERTS (2009-2024)

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) Members scrutinise the attached Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Executive be recommended to adopt the strategy ;

(B) Members endorse the strategy for implementation across the Council;

(C) Members recommend to the Local Strategic Partnership to adopt “Everyone matters: the Sustainable Community Strategy” for East Herts and the associated action/delivery plan attached to the report now submitted

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Council’s statutory duty to work with partner organisations to produce a SCS to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their local area.

1.2 The Strategy Appendix A (pages 8.5 - 8.33) has been developed through evidence base from a variety of sources and a number of consultations. An action plan is being produced by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to implement the strategy.

2.0 Contribution to the Council’s Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 **Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities**

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

Fit for purpose, services fit for you

Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

Leading the way, working together

Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.

3.0 Background

3.1 The SCS has been developed from the starting point of a robust evidence base, a range of quantitative and qualitative sources have been researched to establish the key stand out characteristics of East Herts. From that the LSP has agreed what should be our ambitions for the Strategy.

4.0 Report

4.1 The purpose of this SCS is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term distinctive vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of East Herts in a way that contributes to sustainable development.

4.2 The strategy Appendix A (pages 8.5 – 8.33) sets out the LSP's overarching vision and shared ambitions for East Herts over the next 15 years with an action plan outlining how the ambitions will be realised in the district. The framework for delivery and monitoring will be reviewed annually to ensure the targets for delivery are achieved.

4.3 Although the SCS is the overarching strategy for East Herts, there is an important relationship with and clear link to the Local Development Framework (LDF) – the portfolio of spatial planning documents that will shape the future of East Herts and deliver sustainable development. Both the East Herts SCS and the LDF share the same vision and themes. There are strong links to other Council and partnership strategies too, for instance the Housing Strategy.

4.4 The SCS is a high level strategy so does not contain a lot of specific detail. The proposed action/delivery plan Appendix C (pages 8.51 – 8.82) will contain detailed activities.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 We have consulted the residents and the community through a number of consultation events such as Have Your Say, Parish

Consultation, Community Voice and special consultation events working closely with the Voluntary Sector. The issues raised at those events have been incorporated as far as possible in the strategy and the action plan for delivery.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Principal authorities were given the well-being power under section 2 of the 2000 Act. In exercising this power, section 4 of the 2000 Act (as amended by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007) requires a principal authority to prepare a SCS for promoting or improving the well-being of its area. As set out in section four of the Local Government Act 2000, the duty to prepare a SCS applies to county councils and district councils.
- 6.2 The Local Government white paper 2006, Strong and Prosperous Communities, emphasised the need for sustainable community strategies and other local plans to take account of each other, as they are prepared. These ‘family’ of plans, together with the overarching sustainable community strategy, will provide a framework which enables the councils to use the well-being power.
- 6.3 Government guidance requires us to work in partnership to develop an SCS. We will need to take the SCS into account in developing our plans such as the LDF which will deliver the land use objectives of the SCSs.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications of adopting the SCS. However we are signing up to help deliver its objectives and will need to take account of the SCS in developing future strategies and budget plans. In addition, there are opportunities to access funding such as the Local Area Agreement Reward funding to help deliver on the SCS priorities.
- 7.2 The SCS needs to be reflected in the strategies and plans of partners including the Council. While it is important to note the successful implementation of the strategy can only be done by many partners and not just by the Council there will be implications for the Council as the action plans are developed. The new SCS and its action plan will be subject to a rigorous performance management regime.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None specific.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The delivery of the SCS ambitions and the yearly action plan will be subject to risk management appraisal by the LSP

Attached Appendices:

Appendix A Everyone matters – A Sustainable Community Strategy for East (pages 8.5 - 8.33)
Herts (2009 - 2024)

Appendix B Action Plan Template (pages 8.34 – 8.50)

Appendix C Evidence Base for East Herts Sustainable Community Strategy (pages 8.51 – 8.82)

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