

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Director of Community Services

REPORT NO: DCS34

DATE: 5th December 2005

TITLE:	Community Strategy 2006-2009
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Yes
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	11 th August 2005
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor John Smith
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Priority A – Town Centres Priority A – Community Safety Priority A – Affordable Housing Priority B – Business Development Priority B – Community Engagement
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Evaluation of Local Strategic Partnership August 2005 South Kesteven Community Strategy 2002-2005 South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership Constitution 2005 SQW Report 'South Kesteven Community Action Plan' Nov 2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to introduce the new approach to the Community Plan for South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership, and to introduce members of South Kesteven District Council Cabinet to the new document.

The Council has a duty to produce the Community Plan under the local government act 2000; modernising local government legislation. The guidelines published in December 2000 indicate this should be done and produced through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The report recommends that Cabinet endorse the approach the LSP have taken in developing the Community Plan, and the action plan at a future Cabinet meeting. The approach taken meets the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) approach for developing sustainable communities. Our Community Plan sets out the Council's future plans for developing sustainable communities as seen in our Sustainable Communities Plan.

2. DETAILS OF REPORT

South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership was created in 2002 and tasked with developing and delivering the local Community Strategy. The Community Strategy aims to achieve economic, social and environmental improvements and to manage progress on priority actions identified. The LSP brings together agencies such as the Primary Care Trust, the Police, Town, Parish, District and County Councils, local businesses and the Voluntary, learning environment, agriculture and housing sectors.

In May 2005 the Local Strategic Partnership undertook a Local Area Profile, which, coupled with the residents survey gave a true picture of the priorities the partners of the partnership should aim to address together.

In September 2005 the Local Strategic Partnership agreed an amended Constitution and Terms of Reference, which created a new structure for the Local Strategic Partnership. This meant that a dedicated group of eight members would act as an Executive Group in forwarding the priorities within the partner organisations. The new structure also allowed for an increase in membership at the Board level, to encourage more partners to be involved and more community groups to be represented. The structure moved away from the deemed 'thematic groups' to a more streamlined 'task & finish group' approach, further information on this approach can be found in the new Local Strategic Partnership Constitution. As the LSP structure changed the last task requested by the old LSP was that in the light of the report 'Evaluation of LSPs; August 2005' the new LSP partnership would hold an event to identify 'additional' projects. The evaluation of Local Strategic Partnerships by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out tensions which often exist between the need for strategic focus and the need for inclusion in preparing and implementing Community Strategies. It also highlighted the problem of insufficient recognition of cross agency linkages which had been identified as a problem with the South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership.

The new draft of the South Kesteven Community Plan 2006-2009 aims to make South Kesteven one of the most desirable locations to live and work in England by 2020. It reflects the consultation undertaken through the residents survey and local area profile and has the four strategic priorities:

1. Community Safety
2. Town Centres & Economic Development
3. Housing & Infrastructure
4. Transport & Access

The new Community Plan also encompasses the five Local Area Agreements that South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership may be involved in; these are:

1. Enterprise & Economic Development
2. Healthier Communities & Older People
3. Safer & Stronger Communities
4. Children & Young People
5. Sustainable Communities and Housing

A Local Area Agreement is a three-year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government, represented by the government office, and a local area, represented by the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and other key partners at the local level. Local Area Agreements can help tackle some of the long term challenges which are faced by local authorities, LSPs and their communities, and which needs to be addressed if we are to realise sustainable communities. The agreement is made up of outcomes, indicators and targets aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range in national and local priorities.

The new Community Plan has been deliberately created in a user-friendly way to ensure that the community understand what the partners of the Local Strategic Partnership are aiming to do. The Community Plan presented will be supported by a detailed action plan, which will identify key partnership projects, as well as incorporating the SQW report 'South Kesteven Community Action Plan' to ensure that joint projects are targeted. This Action Plan should be completed by February 2006, and a meeting of the new LSP Executive has created a working group to take this forward.

Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) have been consulted about our approach, namely to produce a short pocket sized plan accompanied by detailed action plans identifying the outcomes expected over the next three years. It is accepted that this is a departure from the traditional approach of lengthy strategies. However it is anticipated that the action plans will help with the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership deliver more focused actions and clearly defined outcomes.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED

No other options have been considered or assessed.

4. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

The Community Strategy will need to be reviewed to ensure the Councils resourced priorities are in line with the action plans of the LSP. There may be a requirement to create pooled budgets to deliver projects within the Community Strategy.

5. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

6. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None

7. CONCLUSION

The Local Strategic Partnership has seen a very successful year, it has undertaken a Local Area Profile, which is the first profile for a Lincolnshire or Welland based LSP. This has then assisted in forming the priority process for the new Community Plan and forthcoming Action Plan.

The LSP has re-drafted its Terms of Reference to allow for both improved community engagement and a more streamlined approach to delivery on the ground. Partners of the LSP have shared information on their particular service delivery targets, and received information on key agenda items and government white papers including Joint Area Reviews (JARS), the 'Choosing Health' White Paper, the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, and the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) approach. The Local Strategic Partnership are now taking a bold approach in delivering a 'community friendly' Community Plan, and will have a comprehensive Action Plan in 2006 to deliver to.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To approve the Community Plan

8.2 To note that the Action Plan will be completed in early 2006, and once approved, recommend to Council the adoption of the completed Community Plan and Action Plan.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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