

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

---

Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Report of: Juliet Blackburn  
Subject/Title: Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy

---

### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and seek feedback on the Community Strategy discussion document.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 To comment on the approach to developing the Sustainable Community Strategy and to identify key issues for inclusion in the Strategy.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To inform members of the approach being used to develop the Sustainable Community Strategy and to provide the opportunity to raise key issues to be included.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy provides the framework for all policy development within Cheshire East. It is important that the priorities and ambition set out in the Strategy are translated into delivery through partner agencies business plans and issue based plans.

### **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 7.1 None

### **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

- 8.1

### **9.0 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 None.

## 10.0 Risk Management

### 10.1 None

## 11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The Cheshire East Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is currently preparing a Community Strategy for Cheshire East. This will set out the vision for Cheshire East to 2025 and our priority actions as a partnership for the next 2-3 years.

11.2 The purpose of a Community Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of a local area – typically 10–20 years – in a way that contributes to sustainable development. It tells the ‘story of the place’ backed by clear evidence and analysis. The Community Strategy should contain the following key elements:

- the long term vision based firmly on local needs – this will be underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations
- key priorities for the local area, based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term

11.3 The diagram below identifies the “golden thread” linking the Community Strategy through other thematic and area based planning within Cheshire East.



11.4 Preparation of the strategy began at the first LSP Assembly in October 2009, and it is intended to complete the strategy in June 2010 to be taken to Council in July 2010. A series of events and an on-line consultation are being used to enable service providers, businesses, town and parish councils, community and voluntary groups, and members of the public to shape the strategy. These are summarised in the table below:

23 October 2009	<b>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Assembly</b>	<i>160 representatives from service providers, town and parish councils, business representatives and voluntary organisations gathered to consider Cheshire East's future</i>
17 February 2010	<b>LSP Executive Board Away Day</b>	<i>Partners will consider the vision and priorities for Cheshire East</i>
23 February to 4 March 2010	<b>5 local consultation events</b> in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knutsford and Wilmslow (23 February)</li> <li>- Macclesfield and Poynton (24 February)</li> <li>- Nantwich (25 February)</li> <li>- Crewe (2 March)</li> <li>- Congleton (4 Mar)</li> </ul>	<i>The consultation events will allow people to explore openly the significant challenges and opportunities facing their local communities and to agree priority areas for action</i>
17 March 2010	<b>Town and Parish Councils Conference</b>	<i>Members of Town and Parish Councils will meet to consider and refine the emerging strategy for Cheshire East</i>
26 March 2010	<b>Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Assembly</b>	<i>The LSP Assembly will discuss and refine the strategy for Cheshire East</i>
April 2010	<b>Draft strategy is published for Further consultation</b>	
June 2010	<b>Strategy complete and taken to Council in July</b>	

11.5 The process of developing our new Community Strategy has 3 core elements:

**1. Cheshire East in 2010** - what are our defining characteristics and what are the key issues we are facing?

**2. Cheshire east in 2025** – where do we want to be and what is our vision?

**3. Cheshire East next steps** - what are the “must-do” actions for the next 2-3 years to ensure we achieve our vision?

11.6 A discussion document has been produced to help partners consider these 3 elements in turn, and is available on the Council's website. It is attached at Appendix 1. Individuals and organisations have been asked to respond to the questions posed throughout the document by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. This information will then inform the LSP Assembly event on 26<sup>th</sup> March to which all partners are invited, and where the vision and priorities will be discussed and

refined. Following this a draft Community Strategy will be produced for further consultation during April and May.

## **12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

12.1 None

## **13.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Juliet Blackburn

Designation: Chief Executives and Partnerships Business Manager

Tel No: 01270 686 020

Email: [Juliet.blackburn@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Juliet.blackburn@cheshireeast.gov.uk)