

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 14th June 2010
Report of: Head of Policy & Performance
Subject/Title: Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy
Portfolio Holder: David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and seek approval to the formal process for its adoption.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the draft Sustainable Community Strategy in the appendix to this report for consultation and for submission to the relevant overview and Scrutiny Committees under Rule 2.1 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Sustainable Community Strategy to be adopted by the Council.

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 2010/11 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework and must be submitted to Council for adoption following a process prescribed in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 None

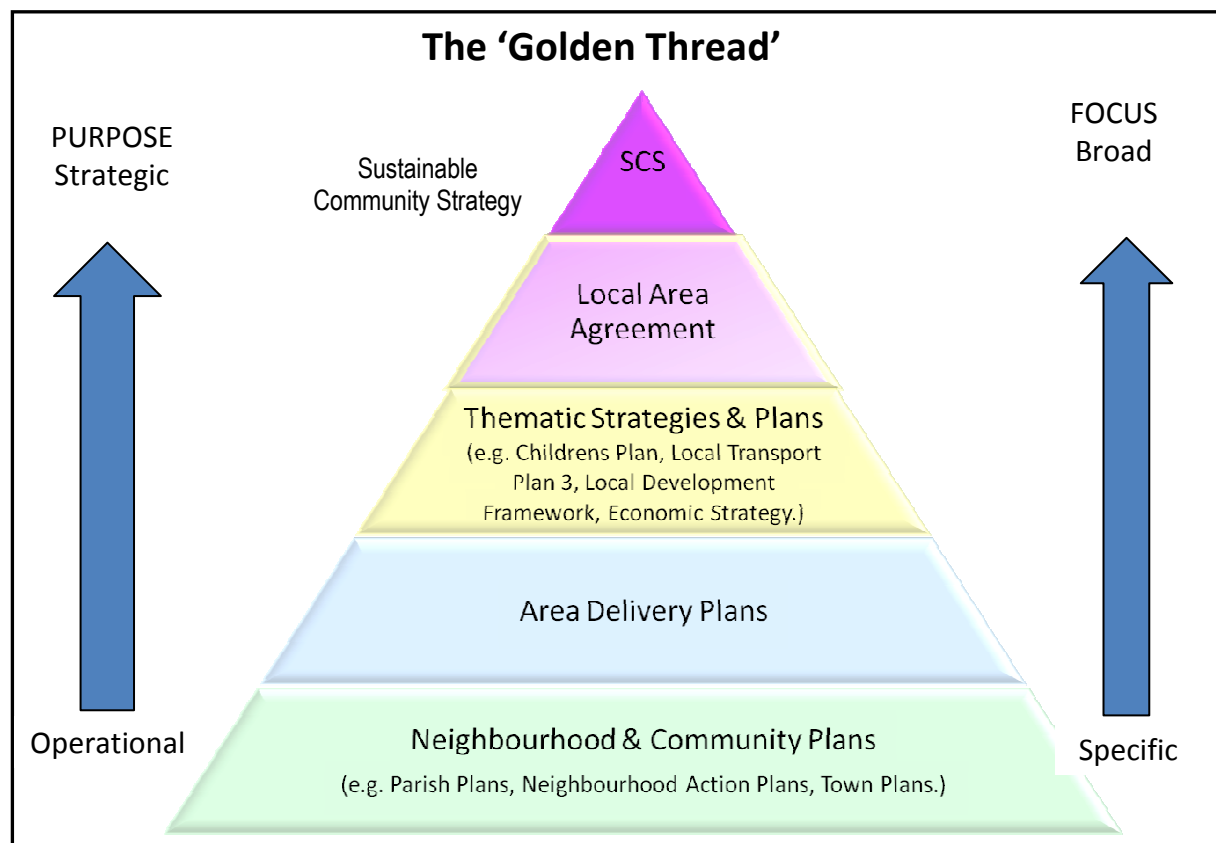
10.0 Background and Options

10.1 Over recent months, the Cheshire East Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has been preparing a Community Strategy for Cheshire East. This will set out the vision for Cheshire East to 2025 and the partnership's priority actions for the next 2-3 years.

10.2 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
- key priorities for the local area, based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term

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



10.4 Preparation of the strategy began at the first LSP Assembly in October 2009, and the intention is that the LSP Executive Board agree the final draft on 28th June. The Strategy will then be submitted to Council on 22nd July. A series of events and an on-line consultation have been 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	Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Assembly	<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	LSP Executive Board Away Day	<i>Partners considered the vision and priorities for Cheshire East</i>
23 February to 4 March 2010	5 local consultation events in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knutsford and Wilmslow (23 February) - Macclesfield and Poynton (24 February) - Nantwich (25 February) - Crewe (2 March) - Congleton (4 Mar) 	<i>The consultation events allowed people to explore openly the significant challenges and opportunities facing their local communities and to agree priority areas for action</i>
17 March 2010	Town and Parish Councils Conference	<i>Members of Town and Parish Councils met to consider and refine the emerging strategy for Cheshire East</i>
26 March 2010	Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Assembly	<i>The LSP Assembly discussed and refined the strategy for Cheshire East</i>
11 th May 2010	Draft strategy is published for Further consultation	<i>Comments are invited on the final draft document by 11th June</i>
June-July 2010	Strategy completed and taken to Council on July 22nd	

10.5 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?

10.6 A discussion document was produced to help partners consider these 3 elements in turn, and was available on the Council's website. Individuals and organisations were asked to respond to the questions posed throughout the document by Friday 19th March. This information was used to inform the LSP

Assembly event on 26th March to which all partners were invited, and where the vision and priorities were to be discussed and refined.

- 10.7 The Assembly was attended by over 130 people who were a good mix of partner organisations, elected Members, officers and town & parish councils. To help inform the discussion, a document was produced. The feedback from the event and detailed service information has been used to compile the final draft Strategy, which is appended to this report. This document has been available for final comment, the deadline for receipt being 11th June.
- 10.8 The draft report Sustainable Community Strategy is appended to this report.
- 10.9 Further and fuller consultation will continue until the final Sustainable Community Strategy is brought back to Cabinet on 19th July.
- 10.9 Once adopted, detailed work will be undertaken on the delivery arrangements that will need to be put in place to ensure the Strategy is translated into action.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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