

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 19th July 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 outcome of consultation about the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.0 Decisions Requested

- 2.1 To determine any final amendments to the Sustainable Community Strategy and to recommend that it be adopted by Council on 22nd July 2010.

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)

- 8.1 There are likely to be financial implications in delivering the Strategy. In planning its responsibilities in delivering the Strategy, the Council will need to prioritise key actions and allocate resources accordingly.

9.0 Legal Implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 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.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Over recent months, the Cheshire East Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has been preparing a Sustainable Community Strategy for Cheshire East. The purpose of the Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area from 2010 to 2025, in a way that contributes to sustainable development. It tells the 'story of the place' backed by clear evidence and analysis.

11.3 Preparation of the strategy began at the first LSP Assembly in October 2009 and a range of engagement and consultation activities took place in the early part of 2010. These enabled service providers, businesses, town & parish councils, community & voluntary groups and members of the public to shape the Strategy.

11.3 In terms of its production, the draft Strategy has emerged from this extensive engagement exercise and it became evident that the priorities identified could be readily grouped in 7 areas which have become the 7 priorities for action as follows:

- Nurture strong communities
- Create conditions for business growth
- Unlock the potential of our towns
- Support our children and young people
- Ensure a sustainable future
- Prepare for an increasingly older population
- Drive out the causes of poor health

The vision which emerged is that *“Cheshire East is a prosperous place where all people can achieve their potential, regardless of where they live. We have a beautiful productive countryside, unique towns with individual character and a wealth of history and culture. The people of Cheshire East live active and healthy lives and get involved in making their communities safe and sustainable places to live”*

11.4 The Strategy along with the vision and priorities has been the subject of consultation with CMT, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet formally on 14th June 2010. Arising from this, further drafting amendments have been made since Cabinet considered the draft Strategy. These further amendments have been in the form of changes and improvements to the terminology used. In addition, the priority area of Supporting our Children and Young People has been updated. Other than this, the final version has changed little from the version Cabinet has already considered.

11.5 As the final stage of the consultation process Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee will consider the Strategy on 15th July. Appropriate minutes from the Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting in order that

the views of the Committee can be considered. A verbal update can also be provided.

- 11.6 The Executive Board of the Local Strategic Partnership considered the draft Strategy at its meeting on 28th June, 2010 and agreed to adopt the Strategy on behalf of the Partnership.

12.0 Access to Information

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

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