

CAB1332
FOR DECISION
WARD(S): ALL

CABINET

11 October 2006

UPDATED COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION DRAFT

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB950 – Winchester District Community Strategy – 13 October 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following consultation the Community Strategy has been updated and is now in a draft form for further consultation (see Appendix 1). The update takes account of the need for:

- a greater emphasis on the actual outcomes the district is working towards, and the indicators which the Council and partners will use to measure progress towards these outcomes
- a format which will engage and align the efforts of the Council, public/private/voluntary sector organisations, and residents across the district.
- a greater emphasis on sustainable development
- an approach which is based firmly on evidence, and uses statistical data where possible to highlight priorities

The Board of the Local Strategic Partnership has agreed this consultation draft.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the consultation draft as set out in Appendix 1 be approved with the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader being authorised to settle the final wording.

CABINET11 October 2006UPDATED COMMUNITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION DRAFTREPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVEDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Community Strategy sets out the priority outcomes for the Winchester district to achieve a good quality of life which is sustainable for the future. It also sets out the indicators which will monitor whether the district is making progress towards the desired outcomes. The Community Strategy can only be achieved by the combined efforts of partner organisations and local people themselves. The Community Strategy seeks to align all these efforts together so as to achieve the maximum positive impact.
- 1.2 The Community Strategy is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 2000. New guidance from Government on Community Strategies is expected soon and is likely to put much more emphasis on the role of Community Strategies in delivering sustainable development.
- 1.3 The Council's current Community Strategy was published in December 2004. Good practice, and a Best Value performance indicator, suggests that the document is 'refreshed' on an annual basis.
- 1.4 However, the Board of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (Winchester's Local Strategic Partnership) has agreed that more fundamental changes are required to the document, particularly in order to:
 - a) Give greater emphasis and clarity to the intended outcomes the Strategy is seeking to bring about, and the indicators which the Council and its partners will use to measure progress towards these outcomes.
 - b) Provide a format which will engage and align the efforts of the Council, public/private/voluntary sector organisations - and residents across the district.
 - c) Adopt an approach to deliver sustainable development.
 - d) Adopt an approach which is based firmly on evidence, and uses statistical data where possible to highlight priorities.
- 1.5 This approach is in keeping with comments made by the Audit Commission in its report following the inspection of the City Council's 'Sustainable Environment Service' which looked at the Council's corporate approach to sustainability as well as environment-related services such as waste-management and streetcare.

2.0 The Consultation Draft Document

- 2.1 The consultation draft Community Strategy is still incomplete, especially in respect of the range of indicators which are still to be decided under each of the outcomes on pages 12 to 25. The approach being taken envisages 5 or so key indicators under each outcome relating to important changes which need to happen in order to deliver the outcomes in the Winchester district. At present the document contains a range of suggestions, and also a number of gaps where indicators are still under discussion with partners. In the final document these suggestions will need to be considered and a view taken on a final set. The final set of indicators must be based on important trends which are worrying and require action in order to change them (known as 'turning the curve'). This will help to focus the alignment of resources where it is most needed to deliver sustainable development in the Winchester district. Comments from Councillors in respect of most important changes we need to see as the outcomes are achieved, and the corresponding indicators to measure progress, will be particularly welcome during the consultation period.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The consultation draft of the updated Community Strategy is the result of substantial prior consultation as set out on page 5. This next stage of the process will therefore follow the same timescale for consultation and adoption as the Corporate Strategy with consultation over the next 6 weeks (including Principal Scrutiny Committee on 16th October), and approval of the final document by Cabinet on 13th December 2006.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4. CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 The City Council's Corporate Strategy relates directly to the Community Strategy and sets out the City Council's contribution towards achieving the overall vision and key outcomes.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Resources required to deliver the Council's contribution to the Community Strategy will be allocated through the budget and business planning processes. This will include resources required for the Council's ongoing role in overseeing delivery and monitoring progress towards the key outcomes, and any action planning with partners which may be required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Current Community Strategy

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Consultation Draft Updated Community Strategy