

CABINET**4 December 2013****Minute Extract**

373. **ADOPTION OF REVISED WINCHESTER DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-2020**
(Report CAB2533 refers)

Councillor Wood introduced the Report and thanked those who had responded to the consultation on the Strategy. As a result of comments received, a number of changes were proposed, primarily in relation to the priority on Climate Change and references to areas such as Stanmore and Winnall. The proposed changes were outlined in the Report and more detail would be included within the Portfolio Plans, which would be reported directly to Council on 8 January 2014.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pines and Learney addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Pines expressed concern that the lack of specific reference to the priority areas of Stanmore and Winnall would make it much more difficult for community organisations to apply for grants and other assistance from various bodies. He highlighted that there were also other areas within the District that required special attention, for example to address mental health issues or rural isolation. He requested that further discussions be held to amend the Strategy wording to address these concerns prior to its approval at Council. He also queried whether it would be possible for updates on progress against the Strategy to be provided on an ongoing basis, for example via the Council's webpages, to better facilitate performance monitoring.

Councillor Learney expressed concern that the Strategy did not set out clear priorities for the Council, which was particularly essential at times of significant pressure on resources. She also believed that there should be specific mention of priority areas within the District and did not agree with the removal of references to older people. In general, she believed that the stated policies were too broad and did not set out a clear message regarding the Council's priorities.

During public participation, comments were received from Mrs A Sealey (WinACC), Mrs R Aron (Stanmore Community Association and Carroll Centre) and Mrs K Barratt.

Mrs Sealey welcomed the re-inclusion of a specific priority to tackle climate change, which had been requested by more than 75% of those that had responded to the consultation. She also congratulated the Council on developing a number of specific plans to tackle carbon emissions, such as the Cycling Strategy and the Low Carbon Route Map.

Mrs Barratt endorsed the comments made above and emphasised that tackling climate change was such an important issue, it should underlie all the Council's actions and the aim be reiterated as many times as possible in all the Council's published materials.

Mrs R Aron believed that the proposed change in relation to Stanmore and Winnall did not go far enough to meet the concerns expressed in the consultation, and outlined by Councillor Pines above. Without the specific inclusion of these priority areas, community organisations, such as the Carroll Centre and the Community Association, would find it much more difficult to apply for funding and therefore continue with their work. She referred to proposals for an improved community building which would require such funding support.

In response to the comments made, Councillor Wood agreed to give further consideration to amending the wording of the Strategy to address concerns raised in connection with priority areas. It was agreed that this be reported to Council on 8 January 2014.

In response to comments made by Councillor Learney, Councillor Wood emphasised that the detailed actions would be included within the Portfolio Plans. The Chief Executive advised that these Plans could be used for performance monitoring purposes and he would give further consideration to the request from Councillor Pines that "live" performance monitoring information be provided.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE RESPONSES RECEIVED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD BE NOTED.

2. THAT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010 -2020 BE ADOPTED, AS ATTACHED AT APPENDIX 1 AND UPDATED BY REPORT CL90,, SUBJECT TO ANY FINAL MINOR AMENDMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE HEAD OF POLICY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

3. THAT THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER BE GIVEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE REPLACEMENT OF CHANGE PLANS WITH PORTFOLIO PLANS, AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 5 OF THE REPORT.

RESOLVED:

That the following be reported for approval direct to Council on 8 January 2014:

(a) proposed changes to Appendix 1 to take account of concerns raised above; and

(b) Portfolio Plans for the period 2014/15, currently under preparation.