

Meeting: Executive

Portfolio Area: Council wide

Date: 12 September 2007

STEVENAGE 2021 – OUR TOWN : OUR FUTURE
(Policy, Performance and Partnerships)

KEY DECISION

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve a final draft of the second Stevenage Community Strategy '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town: Our Future**'.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Executive approves a final draft of the second Stevenage Community Strategy '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town: Our Future**'. (Appendix A)
- 2.2 That Executive feedback any comments to the Stevenage Partnership (LSP) prior to consideration by the LSP Executive on 17th September 2007.
- 2.3 That, as part of the Council's policy planning framework, the Executive recommends the final draft of the second Stevenage Community Strategy '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town: Our Future**' to Council for approval on 3rd October 2007.
- 2.4 That Executive notes the plans for publication of the second Stevenage Community Strategy '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town: Our Future**'.
- 2.5 That Executive notes the plans for delivery and measuring progress against the Stevenage Community Strategy '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town: Our Future**'.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 '**Stevenage 2021 – Our Town, Our Future**' the Stevenage Community Strategy, was first published by the Stevenage Partnership (the LSP) in July 2004.
- 3.2 The Community Strategy is a long-term plan to ensure a better quality of life for everyone in Stevenage. The Strategy sets out a shared vision for Stevenage up to 2021 underpinned by three year action plans

- 3.3 The Stevenage Partnership is currently reviewing the community strategy and a second strategy will be published in the autumn of 2007.
- 3.4 The Community Strategy requires update and review to ensure that our priorities are relevant and achievable and that they will deliver the vision for the town.
- 3.5 The review has also taken into account national developments such as the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and it is proposed to align community strategy themes with the LAA blocks as follows:
- Children and Young People
 - Healthier Communities and Older People
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
 - Economic development, enterprise and the environment
- 3.6 Significant work has taken place by the Stevenage Partnerships as part of the review including:
- a review of evidence and data
 - a review of survey results and consultation exercises
 - a town wide Quality of Life survey carried out by Ipsos MORI
 - a review of progress on achievements over the first three years
 - a two month consultation on the **Stevenage 2021 Vision and Priorities** (including a feedback questionnaires with Chronicle, a debate at Council and presentations to Area Committees)
 - a range of workshops with the partnership to consider future plans to deliver the priorities and to set performance measures and targets
- 3.7 The final draft strategy (Appendix A) is out to consultation with the Stevenage Partnership members until 3rd September, 2007.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

Publication of the Strategy

- 4.1 Work to review the strategy has resulted in a new set of 3 year priorities and a draft Strategy to help us achieve our vision for the town.
- 4.2 This report provides members with a final opportunity to comment on the draft document prior to the LSP Executive meeting.
- 4.3 The LSP Executive will consider and approve the final version at their meeting on 17th September, 2007.
- 4.4 A Plain English version of the strategy with graphs, tables and photographs will be designed prior to the official launch and publication in October 2007.
- 4.5 A summary version will also be published and distributed across the town with Chronicle magazine.

A structure to deliver and measure progress

- 4.6 Each themed partnership is now represented on the LSP Executive and work is taking place to ensure that these partnerships are effective and can support delivery of the Community Strategy priorities.
- 4.7 The new Community Strategy has been given a number of success measures. It is proposed that the Executive LSP will adopt a more programme and performance management approach, with RAG* reports from themed partnerships against the success measures and targets. This will help the partnership to manage the progress of the priorities in the new Community Strategy.

[* RAG – Progress measured through exception reports which note performance using a traffic light 'Red/Amber/Green approach]

- 4.8 The Council has also identified Link Officers for each theme and associated priorities in the Community Strategy. They bring expertise and knowledge to the partnership particularly where the Council has a key role in delivering against these priorities.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There is budget provision of £25,000 for the community strategy in 2007/08 to cover work on the review and publication of the final document.

5.2 Legal Implications

The Local Government Act 2000 (Part 1 Section 4) requires every local authority to prepare a strategy (referred to as a community strategy) for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.

5.3 Policy Implications

The Local Government White Paper 2006 emphasises the importance of the leadership role of the council in relation to its local LSP. Subject to legislation, Council leaders will be expected to agree the chair of the LSP (if they do not take the chair themselves), and to play a key role. Members of the Council's Executive should also play key roles, for example in sub- partnerships related to their portfolio.

LSPs will provide an overarching framework for thematic partnerships, some of which are required by statute, such as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. There will be new legislation creating health and well-being partnerships.

Districts, as well as county councils, are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area.

5.4 Equal Opportunities Implications

An equalities impact assessment of the revised community strategy will be carried out as part of the review.

5.5 Environmental Implications

The community strategy must embrace the social, economic and environmental well-being of Stevenage.

5.6 Community Safety Implications

The Stevenage Community Safety Partnership is one of the thematic partnerships within the Stevenage Partnership (LSP).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Stevenage 2021 – Our Town, Our Future (The Stevenage Community Strategy – published in 2004)
- Stevenage Partnership – Quality of Life Survey Report.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – ***‘Stevenage 2021 – Our Town, Our Future’*** Final Draft Document