

Report of the Head of Policy and Scrutiny, Stockport Council

Developing a new Sustainable Community Strategy

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the report on the Visioning Events held on 17th January and 12th February 2008 and to seek agreement to a proposed way forward and timetable for the development of the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.0 Background

2.1 Following on from the work on the State of the Borough report in 2007 the Stockport Partnership commissioned Local Futures to work with key stakeholders to help develop a long term vision and associated outcomes for the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.2 Two workshops held in January and February 2008 brought together representatives from the Board of the Stockport Strategic Partnership, the Executive Leadership of Stockport Council and its Corporate Leadership Team, as well as other key people across the Borough.

2.3 The first workshop helped develop an understanding of where Stockport is now, including its strengths and weaknesses. The workshops then built on these to assess what the key drivers for change are likely to be and what threats and opportunities these pose to Stockport in the future. In the second workshop participants identified what issues they felt should form part of a vision statement and what the key outcomes should be.

3.0 Outcomes from the Visioning Workshops

3.1 The attached report summarises the outcomes from the initial work carried out by Local Futures in preparing a 'State of Stockport' Report along with the two visioning workshops. The report identifies nine potential outcomes from the evidence considered and the discussions held. These are summarised as follows under the three headings of 'Economy'; 'Equity' and 'Environment':

Economy

- competitive
- enterprising
- educated

Equity

- cohesive
- healthy
- safe

Environment

- connected
- sustainable built environment
- sustainable green environment

3.2 The report states that the ultimate vision will be one that reflects the economic, social and environmental elements of sustainable development and that when these were applied to Stockport, the evidence and discussion

pointed towards a vision for Stockport incorporating to distinctive strands, namely,

- *Educated* - in terms of; meeting the aspirations for competitiveness and enterprise; reducing equalities and generating social inclusion; and raising prosperity and local independence; and,
- *Eco-friendly* – in terms of; recognising the contribution made by the natural and built environment as an attractive place to live and work; and the economic benefits of using energy more efficiently and utilising renewable energy opportunities more fully.

4.0 Timetable

4.1 The proposed timetable is attached as appendix 2 to this report. It is anticipated that a draft Sustainable Community Strategy will be ready for consideration by the Stockport Partnership Board during September 2008.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Stockport Partnership Board is asked to:

- (i) Note the report of the Visioning Workshops attached as appendix A to this report;
- (ii) Confirm that work on the development of a Vision and Outcomes for a new Sustainable Community Strategy should use the report of the Visioning Workshops as a starting point and that a report containing a proposed vision and outcomes should be submitted to the next meeting of this Board;
- (iii) Confirm that the Partnership Forum to be held in July 2008 should be used to consult the wider partnership on the proposed vision and outcomes;
- (iv) Note the proposed timetable outlined in Appendix B to this report.

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Appendix 2

