

Report of the Head of Policy and Scrutiny, Stockport Council

Stockport's Sustainable Community Strategy: Draft for Consultation

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To present the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for approval for consultation, and to inform the Board about the plans for the Stockport Partnership Forum on the evening of 9th July 2008.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Stockport Partnership Board participated in two visioning workshops facilitated by Local Futures in January and February of 2008. At the March meeting of the Board, the results of the workshops were considered and the Board confirmed that the report should be used as a starting point for the new Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.2 Officers from the Council's Policy Unit have since worked to produce a draft strategy document, which is appended to this report.

3.0 Format of draft strategy

3.1 The format has been drafted as follows:

1. Our vision
2. Background to strategy
3. Position statement (drawn from LAA submission)
4. Economy section: drivers of change, summary of challenges, transformational project example, three outcomes
5. Society section: drivers of change, summary of challenges, transformational project example, three outcomes
6. Environment section: drivers of change, summary of challenges, transformational project example, three outcomes
7. How it will be delivered
8. How the citizen can help to deliver it

4.0 Vision

4.1 It was initially proposed that the Sustainable Community Strategy would contain a vision statement although Board members will note that the draft before them currently does not. Work will be undertaken alongside the consultation process to develop a vision, thus allowing the results of the consultation to influence this and broad ownership of the vision statement to be established.

- 4.2 It is therefore proposed that the draft strategy is approved for consultation without the inclusion of a vision statement. The vision statement would then be published within the final document after it has been ratified in September 2008.
- 4.3 This approach would allow for a period of discussion between the Stockport Partnership Board members, the thematic partnerships and partner organisations including those involved in the forum. It is hoped that a single vision statement will also provide a focus and stimulus for future branding of the Partnership.
- 5.0 Consultation and ratification
- 5.1 The consultation period will commence immediately after any amendments to the draft strategy have been agreed by the Stockport Partnership Board and run throughout June, July and early August. The consultation programme is proposed as follows:
- Public consultation and publicity via press releases and article in the Council's 'Review' newspaper that goes to every household in July,
 - Roadshow in every library across the borough, Merseyway and supermarkets using stand alone display and returnable postcards
 - Corporate, Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee in June
 - Area Committees in July
 - Thematic partnerships in June and July
 - Stockport Partnership Forum in July
- 5.2 Following the consultation the final document will need to be ratified by individual partner bodies before it is ratified by the Stockport Partnership Board at the meeting on 30th September 2008. Board members are asked to lead on this for their organisation.
- 6.0 Stockport Partnership Forum
- 6.1 The Stockport Partnership Forum in July will be a key part of the consultation programme for the Community Strategy. A copy of the draft strategy will be sent out before the event.
- 6.2 The proposed format for the evening is as follows:
- (i) Introduction and scene setting including an overview of the draft Community Strategy.
 - (ii) A discussion workshop will be held for delegates to discuss the strategy, in particular:
 - How they contribute to the vision

- What needs to change to help deliver the vision (each group could have a focus on one of the three sections of the strategy)
- (iii) In addition to having workshops, there will be display material on stalls around the room showcasing some of the transformational projects that are currently underway in Stockport. Examples include:
- SEMMMS
 - Town Centre and M60 Gateway redevelopment
 - Stockport College
 - Stockport Homes
 - Children's Centres
 - PCT Resource Centres / SH Hospital
 - Others?

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Stockport Partnership Board is asked to:

- (i) Comment on the draft strategy appended to this report;
- (ii) Note the proposed new approach for developing the vision;
- (iii) Note the proposed format for the Stockport Partnership Forum and diary their attendance.