

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Report reference: C/091/2007-08.**

**Date of meeting: 17 December 2007.**



**Portfolio: Community Wellbeing.  
Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services.**

**Subject: Local Strategic Partnership - District Council Contribution.**

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### **Recommendations:**

- (1) That the District Council's annual contribution of £10,000 to the Epping Forest District Council Local Strategic Partnership be included as a CSB item within the 2008-09 budget; and**
- (2) That the District Council continue to act as the spending control agent in respect of the Local Strategic Partnership's holding account contained within the Council budget.**

### **Report:**

1. The Council agreed a DDF amount of £10,000 for 2002-03 and 2003-04 towards the costs of the Local Strategic Partnership and, subsequently, £10,000 has been included within the budget each financial year. A similar amount has been included in the draft CSB-DDF list for 2008-09 as noted by the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee on 19 November 2007, within the budget under the Leader's Portfolio for Corporate Policy Making. When the contribution is paid to the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership it is passed over from a holding account, which the Council manages on behalf of the Partnership, in order to ensure strict financial control.

2. The Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership is a voluntary partnership, bringing together public, private and voluntary sector agencies responsible for the provision of services across the District to improve the quality of life. Local Strategic Partnerships were borne of the emerging philosophy evidenced in the Local Government Act of 2000, around the concept of the local authority as community leader and the need for greater joined-up thinking. In particular, Local Strategic Partnerships have been regarded as the most appropriate bodies for developing and implementing community strategies.

3. Given the vital role the Epping Forest District Local Strategic Partnership will play generally, in the development of our own sustainable community strategy, and in the LAA2 process, in the years ahead, it is recommended that the £10,000 contribution from the District Council be included as a CSB item from the 2008-09 financial year onwards.

4. Since the approval of the initial contribution in 2002-03, the money approved has been included in a "holding" account within the Council budget, with the District Council acting as the spending control agent. This arrangement has proved beneficial to both the Local Strategic Partnership and the District Council, and it is recommended that it should continue.

**Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

5. The part played by Local Strategic Partnerships will become even more significant as a consequence of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and their role in the LAA2 process and the development of the new sustainable community strategies.

**Other Options for Action:**

6. The Committee could accept or refuse the inclusion of the £10,000 as a CSB item in the 2008-09 budget or vary the amount.

**Consultation undertaken:**

7. None.

**Resource Implications:**

**Budget provision:** Recommended provision of £10,000 as a CSB item in 2008-09.

**Personnel:** N/A.

**Land:** N/A.

**Community Plan/BVPP reference:** The role of the Local Strategic Partnership impacts on all aspects of the Council Plan.

**Relevant Statutory Powers:** Part 1 of Local Government Act 2000.

**Background papers:** None.

**Environmental/Human Rights/Crime and Disorder Act implications:** N/A.

**Key Decision Reference (if required):** N/A.