

REPORT TO: One Epping Forest Board
SUBJECT: Concluding Consultation on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy
AUTHOR: Derek Macnab - Chair of the SCS Task and Finish Panel

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To apprise members of the steering group on the outcomes of the work of the drafting group and proposals for completing consultation of the strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members approve the attached draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for consultation with key stakeholders, and agree the arrangements set out in paragraph 5.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Draft Sustainable Community Strategy (see Appendix one), has been produced after extensive public consultation, and discussion by the board and key partners. Public consultation concentrated on finding out the main issues local communities wanted to have addressed, while partners and stakeholders focused on areas where value could be added by coordinated intervention. Over 1,000 people have engaged with the consultation process so far, this is a significantly greater number than most other LSPs have managed.

3.2 Board members have instructed that the focus of the document should be sharper and asked that the previous 50+ previous objectives/issues in the old strategy to be significantly reduced.

4.0 Draft SCS

4.1 The current draft sets out a new vision, and 11 core objectives to drive forward the partnerships work to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the district over the next 21 years. The document is less than 20 pages long at present but the final document with inclusion of design and photographs will be longer. It also sets out some key values that will shape how the partner's will work together. The objectives are focused around four key themes, reflecting the Partnerships structure, around children, crime, sustainability, and health. Each contains a paragraph setting out the outcomes/achievements that will be sought. The document does not contain detailed lists of performance indicators, which partners felt would be better included in the delivery plans which need to be produced by each theme group setting out what steps they will take to practically implement the strategy.

5.0 Proposals for Concluding Consultation

5.1 Given the extensive opportunities for the public stakeholders and partners to influence the content and shape of the draft strategy is proposed that the final consultation process is quite focused.

5.2 If the attached draft is approved for consultation then it will be sent to all Board members for discussions within their own organization and comments requested within three weeks. Letters will also be sent to parish and town councils with a link to the LSP home page where the draft will be posted. Notifications will also be sent to everyone who attended the stakeholder conference in December and comments invited.

5.3 The LSP team will process any responses, and circulate these to Board members by email. If no significant amendments are proposed then the proposal is that the strategy be approved in this virtual manner, if lots of significant amendments are made then a special meeting of the board will be called to formally approve the document.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The draft as set out accurately reflects the key messages from residents and stakeholders about the issues that require action, and from partners about the areas where a partnership approach can 'add value'. This short focused document gives direction about where the partnership should take its work, and identifies new emerging issues around efficiency in public service provision which will set the context for much of the interagency work over the coming years. The strategy will be reviewed every three years with Action/Delivery Plans updated annually.