
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	25 NOVEMBER 2004	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINTS:	SALLY KNIGHT (Ext. 5728)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	DRAFT SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: G

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 The views of the Committee on the draft South Derbyshire Community Strategy are requested.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek the views of the Committee on the draft South Derbyshire Community Strategy.
- 2.2 A copy of the Strategy has already been circulated.

3.0 Detail

Introduction

- 3.1 The Council has been formally invited by the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (SDLSP) to comment on the draft South Derbyshire Community Strategy.
- 3.2 This is part of a wider programme of consultation, which seeks to encourage local people and groups, businesses and other interested organisations to come forward with their own ideas about what needs to be done to improve the quality of life in South Derbyshire over the next 5 years.

- 3.3 Feedback from consultees will be used to shape the final version of the Strategy, which will be presented for approval to a meeting of the SDLSP Forum in January 2005.
- 3.4 Potentially, the Community Strategy could have an impact on the planning and delivery of many Council services. Therefore, it is important for all Policy Committees to have an opportunity of commenting on the proposals.
- 3.5 Comments from Policy Committees will be collated by the Community Scrutiny Committee, which will then draft a composite response for consideration, by full Council early in December.
- 3.6 The rest of this report outlines the role and purpose of the Community Strategy, along with its contents.

What is a Community Strategy?

- 3.7 The Local Government Act 2000 places a duty on the Council to work with its partners to produce a Community Strategy that will help to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of South Derbyshire.
- 3.8 Community Strategies are also intended to:
 - Help local communities identify and improve issues which are important to them
 - Establish a framework for service providers and local communities to work together on the delivery of shared priorities
- 3.9 The draft Strategy has been developed by the SDLSP, which will also be responsible for making sure that proposals are implemented.

Contents of the draft Strategy

- 3.10 The draft Strategy is made up of a number of 'building blocks':
 - An overall Vision
 - Six broad themes
 - Priorities for Action
 - Examples of the types of action that can be taken
- 3.11 The overall ***Vision for the Strategy*** (which will cover the next 5 years) is: *'Working together for a Better South Derbyshire'*
- 3.12 To help the Partnership to deliver this Vision, 6 broad ***Themes*** have been identified relating to:
 - *Safe communities*
 - *Healthy communities*
 - *A vibrant economy*

- *A sustainable environment*
- *Lifelong learning and culture*
- *Creating opportunities for all*

3.13 These themes are intended to cover the issues, which are important to local people.

3.14 Clearly, the SDLSP cannot do everything at once and there is a need to set **priorities**. These have been identified for each theme, along with examples of **possible actions**.

3.15 Whilst the types of actions proposed are those where partners can achieve more by working together or by doing things in new ways, a number of important issues will continue to be dealt with outside of the Community Strategy process.

3.16 A number of the slides used at the Members' Workshop (held on 28 October) are attached at Annexe A. These summarise, on a theme by theme basis, - challenges over the next five years, the SDLSP'S vision and suggested priorities, and possible actions.

Making comments

3.17 In making comments, the Committee may wish to consider the following questions:

- In terms of the **Themes** of the Strategy, should there be more or less or should they be different? Are any of the Themes more important than others?
- Have the correct **Priorities** been identified? If not, what should the priorities be?
- In terms of possible **Actions**, has anything been missed? Are all the actions feasible? How should the actions be prioritised? Which actions would be a priority where the Committee would play a significant leadership role?

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising directly from this report, although there will be a need to assess and plan for the Council's contribution to the delivery of the Strategy in due course.

5.0 Background Papers

Draft South Derbyshire Community Strategy (August 2004)

