

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY
AND LOCAL ECONOMY STRATEGY**

(Report by Head of Policy and Strategic Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the meeting held on 2 October 2007, the Panel considered the draft Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Following that meeting the vision, outcomes and objectives set out in the SCS were endorsed by the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership (HSP) Board.
- 1.2 Since then, work has been carried out to refine the outcomes and objectives (Appendix A) and to develop delivery (action) plans. This report sets out progress to date on the development of the SCS .
- 1.3 In addition the Panel previously considered the Local Economy Strategy for Huntingdonshire. This Strategy was endorsed by the Local Economy Forum in January 2008. At that time Members of the Panel requested an opportunity to review the action plan associated with that Strategy.

2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY — PROGRESS

- 2.1. During November through to March work has been undertaken to help produce a delivery plan for each of the six strategic themes. A workshop to refine each of delivery plans was held on the 29 April. Following which and in the light of subsequent discussions, the attached (draft) plans have been produced. (*Appendices A1- A6*).
- 2.2 As expected, each strategic theme is at a different stage of development in terms of its delivery planning as summarised below. Additional information is presented in respect of the development of the Local Economy Strategy. The groups which form the Partnership are now able to examine their delivery plans in light of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targets and the recently published set of national indicators. It is important that wherever possible, targets in the delivery plans reflect those in the LAA and other strategic documents. This will help to build the connection between the SCS and County Vision and the delivery plans and the LAA. It will also develop a link with other countywide and sub-regional plans and strategies.

Growth and Infrastructure – Appendix A1

In light of the work to produce an Infrastructure Framework for Huntingdonshire the first meeting of the Growth and Infrastructure Group met on 9 May 2008. Partners reviewed the Outcomes and Objectives and made changes to reflect the current issues and needs in the District.

Health and Wellbeing – Appendix A2

Following discussions at the workshop and subsequent comments the attached draft delivery plan has been produced. It is proposed that there should be an inaugural meeting of the new Health and Wellbeing group to further refine and endorse the delivery plan.

Environment – Appendix A3

Following discussions at the workshop the attached draft delivery plan has been produced. It is proposed that a meeting of the Environment Forum will be arranged shortly to take this work forward.

Children and Young People – Appendix A4

Following discussions at the workshop and recent meetings of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership, the attached draft delivery plan has been produced. To enable an effective contribution from schools it is intended that the next meeting of the partnership will take forward the development of the delivery plan.

Inclusive, Safe and Cohesive Communities – Appendix A5

Work to date has involved close liaison with the Community Safety Partnership and a limited range of services responsible for inclusion and cohesiveness of communities. The attached draft delivery plan sets out work to date and it is proposed that this work will be progressed as changes to the HSP structure are implemented.

Local Economy Strategy – Action Plan

(Economic Prosperity – Appendix A6)

Following discussions at the workshop, and subsequent comments, the attached draft delivery plan will be further developed by the Economic Forum.

Huntingdonshire Local Economy Strategy (2008 to 2015) was endorsed by partner organisations and adopted by the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Economy Forum at their meeting on 23 January 2008. The strategy sets out a vision for sustainable economic growth in the district in line with the (draft) Sustainable Community Strategy for Huntingdonshire, emerging Core Strategy for the District, Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership Sub-regional Business Plan and Tourism Strategy, and the East of England Regional Economic Strategy.

The development of the action plan for this strategy comes at an important time amid a number of Government policy reviews. It coincides with the review of the East of England Regional Economic Strategy and the Sub-national Review of Economic Development and Regeneration. There is a move for regional spatial policy to be brought together with regional economic policy and for economic development responsibilities to be delegated down to the regional and sub-regional/county level. The East of England Development Agency is currently looking to cascade funding to sub-regions who can show that they can deliver economic growth.

It is important therefore that Huntingdonshire has a clear, unified delivery plan for the local economy strategy which links to sub-regional activities and provides a focus for investment and interventions for a range of organisations working in the District.

Over the last three months work has been undertaken to develop an action plan to deliver the Huntingdonshire Local Economy Strategy in conjunction with partners in the Economic Forum and the wider Strategic Partnership. The plan contains initiatives and projects which do not currently make up core services of partners. It aims to add value to a

range of work currently undertaken in the District and promote joint initiatives which will lead to sustainable growth in the local economy.

The action plan covers the full period of the strategy from 2008 to 2015 and will be used to secure private and public funding for projects and attract further investment to the district. In particular, the Economy Forum will engage with the following partners to secure support for the plan:

Greater Cambridge Economic Partnership
 Greater Peterborough Economic Partnership
 East of England International
 East of England Development Agency.

Work with these partners to deliver sub-regional and regional initiatives will directly relate to the priorities and job growth set out in the Local Economy Strategy. The Action Plan will be monitored regularly throughout the year by the Economy Forum and reviewed annually to reflect changing needs and opportunities facing the District. In the meantime, it will be circulated for further development to local, sub-regional and regional partner organisations before it is adopted as a partnership plan.

3. FORMAT AND PUBLICATION

For the purposes of publication, it is proposed that the published Sustainable Community Strategy will detail the vision and outcomes/objectives and highlight key partnership projects/work that support the delivery of the overall strategy. While the delivery plans will be published electronically as working documents subject to annual review and quarterly performance management.

4. NEXT STEPS

The process for the completion of the SCS is set out below:-

19 June 2008	HSP Executive	
26 June 2008	Cabinet	
9 July 2008	HSP Board	
2 September 2008	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate Strategic Framework)	Final SCS
4 September 2008	Cabinet	Final SCS
18 September 2008	HSP Executive	Final SCS
24 September 2008	HDC Council	Final SCS
8 October 2008	HSP Board	Final SCS
21 October 2008	Cambridgeshire County Council	Final SCS

5. RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel comment on the draft delivery plans for Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy and the Action Plan associated with the Local Economy Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Key corporate strategies of all partner organisations
Huntingdonshire Community Strategy 2004
Local Government White Paper, 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'
Local Economy Strategy, 2008-2015
East of England Regional Economic Strategy

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