

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 28 APRIL 2003 AT 2.00 P. M.**

Agenda Item No.

2

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report of the Chief Executive

Author: Alan Warner (Lead Officer for Three Rivers) Tel: 01992 556650

Executive Member: Michael Janes

1. Purpose of report

To present to Cabinet the first District wide Community Strategy for Three Rivers (copy attached)

2. Summary

The timescale for this strategy is 2003-2008. Four key themes were identified in the plan:

- Safer Communities
- Healthy Communities
- Prosperous Communities
- Sustainable Communities

3. Conclusion

That the Cabinet consider endorsing the Three Rivers Community Strategy subject to reserving the right to consider separately the sub-district level community plans.

4. Background

The time-scale for this strategy is 2003-2008. The strategy has been developed over 2 years, and was signed off by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in March 2003. The four key themes around which the strategy is based are:

Safer Communities, Healthy Communities, Prosperous Communities and Sustainable Communities.

Flavour of Community Strategy:

The strategy sets out the shared priorities of the partnership and shows how it is working together to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in Three Rivers. It describes the process by which it will achieve improvement. However, it will be the individual plans, which will detail specific actions.

Key Themes of Community Strategy:

Safer Communities: - the main priorities for action are: -

- Preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.
- Preventing and reducing vehicle crime.
- Preventing and reducing burglary.
- Preventing and reducing domestic violence and racial harassment.

Healthy Communities: - the main priorities for action are: -

- Promoting new health initiatives
- Providing high quality health and support services to all
- Reducing deaths caused by heart disease and cancer.
- Increasing the mental and physical well being of residents through leisure services.

Prosperous communities: - the main priorities for action are: -

- Giving the vulnerable a better deal.
- Working with businesses to increase economic prosperity and protect jobs.
- Ensure that by the time every child goes to school he/she has developed the skills necessary to benefit from education.
- Improving job opportunities and employability for people who find it difficult to get work.

Sustainable communities: the main priorities for action are: -

- Protecting and improving the District's environment
- Improving the local transport network

- Encouraging people to enjoy the many opportunities for leisure & recreation.
- Providing sufficient sustainable and affordable housing.

LSP Structure

LSP Community Strategy Forum

Members and officers - including HCC. Initial role: - to bring district wide agencies together to highlight common ground and divergence. Agree overall direction and process for Community Planning in Three Rivers. Endorses the Strategy. Monitors progress.

Community Strategy Steering Group
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Officers only - including HCC. Decision making group, sponsor of projects. Informs Forum of progress.

Core Group

Officers only (small group) including HCC. Develops proposals of Steering Group for process of community planning. Develops profiles. Pulls together working groups – for consultation purposes.

Partners on the Community Strategy Steering Group are:

Three Rivers District Council Officers
 Hertfordshire County Council Officers
 Hertfordshire Constabulary
 Watford & Three Rivers PCT
 Three Rivers CVS
 Hertfordshire Police Authority

Consultation – Public

District wide Strategy: - consultation had already been carried out by each partner organisation by a variety of methods. The results of the consultations formed the basis of each organisation's priorities / aims / objectives. Those that were 'common' formed the priorities listed in the strategy. No further public consultation has been carried out on the District wide Strategy – though it has been carried out amongst stakeholders.

Local Community Plan: - Consultation will take place with targeted members of the public based on what the community profile highlights. For example, in Maple Cross, Mill End – low income families, young people and older people will be the focus for consultation.

HCC internal consultation:

The Draft District wide Strategy document has been received for comment by HCC's central receiving officers. Comments have been received from:

Healthy Communities: - ACS, CFS, Executive Member.

Sustainable Communities: - Executive Member, Corporate Services

Prosperous Communities: - Executive Member, CSF, Corporate Services, Community Information

Safer Communities: - Fire & Rescue, CSF, ACS, Executive Member
(All departments have had an opportunity to comment on the entire strategy)