

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 21 JULY 2003 AT 2.00 P. M.

Agenda Item No.

4

BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY PLAN

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

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Executive Member: Michael Janes

1. Purpose of report

To present the Broxbourne Community Plan (attached) to Cabinet with a recommendation for endorsement.

2. Summary

The Borough of Broxbourne Community Plan (2003-6) has the main priorities of:

- Health improvement
- Maintaining a safe borough
- Striving for a learning borough
- The local economy
- Meeting the need for homes
- Improving liveability
- Improving social facilities

Each main priority has a number of sub-priorities on which the borough has extensively consulted partners, and is now consulting its citizens.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet needs to consider whether to endorse the Community Plan for Broxbourne.

4. Background

- 4.1 Broxbourne have efficiently and effectively engaged their partners in the process of drafting the Community Plan. The process included an audit of community needs, gap identification, a survey of residents' news and compilation of the resources available. The draft plan was completed on 6 January , with a second iteration following stakeholder consultation in April 2003.
- 4.2 Over this period the Community Planning Steering Group has been augmented by a member from each Council in preparation for developing the LSP.
- 4.3 The Plan has been discussed on two occasions by the Broxbourne/County Council Joint Member Panel.

5 The Plan's Priorities

In more detail the priorities are:

- **Health**
 - Ensure health services meet the needs of the population
 - Improve the connections between mental health services
 - Improve hospital transport
 - Reduce teenage pregnancy rate

- **Maintaining a safe Borough**
 - Working towards safer town centres
 - Tackling community problems and focus on other special areas such as parks and open spaces
 - To reduce vehicle crime
 - Develop diversionary activities for young people and improve their awareness of local facilities
 - Reduce levels of domestic and commercial burglary
 - To tackle violent crime
 - To tackle drug and alcohol misuse

- **Striving for a Learning Borough**
 - Improve levels of educational attainment, which are low compared to other areas in Hertfordshire
 - Extend and improve facilities for lifelong learning and encourage the community to take up educational opportunities
 - Address the lack of certain skills in the employment base
 - Widen and strengthen the local economic base
 - Identify the impact of levels of out commuting

- **Meeting the need for homes**
 - Increase the limited number and widen the narrow range of social housing, which is the consequence of a lack of land for development
 - Increase general hostel provision for homeless people
 - Increase the availability of private rented accommodation
 - Cope with the high cost of housing

- **Improved Liveability**
 - Review concessionary public transport fares scheme for older residents
 - Identify and address issues of integration and linkage of services for older people (meals on wheels, community alarm services, welfare payments)
 - Work with the local voluntary sector to increase external funding and encourage volunteering
 - Increase recycling services take up
 - Improve the management of open space

- **Social Facilities**
 - Address current accessibility problems with public transport
 - Increase day nursery provision
 - Improve availability of out of school hours childcare provision
 - Address the lack of take up of non-sporting activities for young people
 - Recognise and address the future role of town centres in the community

6 Implementation

- 6.1** An action plan in anticipation of the community plan being accepted with little modification by the Borough's citizens, is being developed.
- 6.2** The constitutional and working arrangements for the LSP have been agreed by most partners including the County Council by means of the Joint Member Panel. Within the constitution there is provision to second other partners or agencies as necessary.

7 Public Consultation

- 7.1** The draft plan was made available electronically and in paper, in large print and in Italian.
- 7.2** There is also a helpful summary which has been distributed to all households.
- 7.3** The Borough Council has consulted with its local Citizens Panel, and uses its links with local organisations to consult on the plan.

7.4 It is also placing the summary in Post Offices and other places willing to hold stocks, including the joint Borough/HCC

7.5 **‘One Stop Shop’**. The consultation period began in April, and will continue until late summer. It is intended to publish it formally in Autumn 2003.

8 Internal Consultation

8.1 All departments have been consulted twice (January and April 2003). There is a reference in the Plan to the part it plays in determining priorities for section 106 Agreement benefits. There is a difference of opinion between the Councils on how this should be operated in practice. This issue has been discussed internally between relevant departments within the County Council and further discussions are now planned with the Borough Council to resolve the difference.