

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET**  
**MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No

**2**

## **NORTH HERTS COMMUNITY PLAN**

### Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

Author: Fiona Breaker-Rolfe, Community Strategy Officer for North Herts  
Lead Officer for North Herts: Chris Sweeney - Tel: 01992 555303

Executive Member: - Michael Janes

Local Members: David Billing, Nigel Brook, Derrick Ashley, Robert Ellis,  
Lorna Kercher, Nigel Agar, Keith Emsall, Ian Simpson, Doug Drake

#### **1. Purpose of report**

To present the Community Plan for North Hertfordshire to Cabinet with a recommendation for endorsement.

#### **2. Summary**

The North Hertfordshire Community Plan has the main priorities of:

- ◆ Planning, Environment and Town Centre
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Community Safety
- ◆ Leisure, Community Development
- ◆ Children & Young people
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Education & Life Long Learning

2.2 The North Hertfordshire Community Plan is both strategic and action orientated bringing together existing work of statutory and voluntary agencies in planning to deliver priorities raised by the community. The plan will be reviewed annually.

2.3 The final document is due to be published and launched by North Hertfordshire District Council in late November 2003.

#### **3. Conclusion**

Cabinet is invited to consider whether to endorse the Community Plan for North Hertfordshire.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1 The aim of this plan is to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in North Hertfordshire by ensuring all public service organisations prioritise their work around the areas of importance to local people.
- 4.2 The community planning process has been led by North Hertfordshire District Council on behalf of the emerging LSP, comprising Primary Care Trusts, Hertfordshire County Council, Police and the voluntary sector.
- 4.3 Consultation with local people in each area of North Hertfordshire by means of a 'visioning' process, has led to action plans which will help local public services to respond directly to local needs.
- 4.4 A local Strategic Partnership has been formed, comprising an LSP Core Group, consisting of key decision makers from each of the partners who will drive the process. HCC is represented by Cllr. Keith Emsall and is supported by the Lead Officer Chris Sweeney.
- 4.5 The Steering Group representatives have been taken from each agency. It will develop the action plans from both the consultation and the themes that have emerged from the process.
- 4.6 Phase 2 of the LSP's work will take place in early 2004. This will be to establish a formal structure for the LSP, bring together the appropriate strategic strands from each agency's work plans and establish the monitoring process.

## **5. Implementation & Monitoring**

- 5.1 A key principle behind the development of the Community Plan is to ensure services meet the needs of local priorities of local communities
- 5.2 The Community Plan will be monitored through the Local Strategic Partnership, by Area Visioning Local Steering Groups and by organisations and partnerships involved in the delivery of action plans.
- 5.3 Parish and Town Councils will be encouraged to monitor and review performance, especially projects that will be delivered in their local area.
- 5.4 Targets related to the key themes will be developed as phase 2 of the development of the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 5.5 Quality of Life Indicators will be used as widely as possible where the data gathered can reflect district boundaries. The Audit Commission has developed a set of 38 indicators for use by LSP's throughout England.

## **6. Public Consultation**

- 6.1 The Local Area Visioning process is the basis for developing the Community Plan, resulting in a final plan strongly reflecting the views of local people.
- 6.2 Separate visioning consultation has taken place in Hitchin, Baldock, Letchworth, Royston and in the rural areas.
- 6.3 The North Hertfordshire District Council district wide survey, citizen panel surveys, combined with economic, social and demographic data from the Council's geographical information system has further refined the Community Plan.
- 6.4 The consultation process has sought to be as inclusive as possible, Much work has been undertaken to ensure the views of hard to reach and socially excluded groups have been listened to.
- 6.5 Draft copies of the community plan (attached) have been sent to all partners and interested residents. The community plan summary / questionnaire has been sent to all partners, voluntary sector and is also available from front line services in community venues The plan will signpost readers to strategic plans for each organisation where they address issues or actions stated.

## **7. Internal HCC Consultation**

- 7.1 HCC's representatives on the Local Strategic Partnership and the portfolio holder have engaged in the process and commented on the plan as set out in the 'Simply done' process.
- 7.2 Officers for each department have been consulted with and commented on the plan as set out in the 'Simply done' process.
- 7.3 Comments from HCC, where relevant have been incorporated in the plan. The close of consultation is 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- 7.4 Internal consultation has show that the key themes in the plan reflect those of Hertfordshire County Council and Herts Together.

## **8. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for this budget year or 2004 /2005. Any new activities arising from the Action Plans will be part of the normal budget setting process.