

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Agenda Item No

3

DACORUM COMMUNITY PLAN

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

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Executive Member: - Michael Janes

Local Members: Ken Coleman, Julian Taunton, Peter Channell, Fiona Guest,
Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, Gary Cook, Elam Singam, David Lloyd,
Richard Roberts, Stan Mills.

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Summary

The Borough of Dacorum Community Plan (2003/04) has the main priorities of:

- ◆ Improving health and social care
- ◆ Reducing crime and feeling safe
- ◆ A cleaner and healthier environment
- ◆ Accessible local employment
- ◆ Life long learning
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Meeting housing needs
- ◆ Community involvement
- ◆ Culture, arts and leisure
- ◆ Children and young people – new theme

Dacorum Community Plan 2003/04 is both strategic and action orientated bringing together work under the previous plan and does not include any major re-evaluation of the priorities

3. Conclusion

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

4. **Background**

This is the second Dacorum Community Plan covering year 2003/04 (one year). It includes an update of the original plan plus an action plan.

5. **The Plan's Priorities**

In more detail the priorities are:

- **Improving Health and Social Care**
 - Tackling unplanned teenage pregnancy
 - Implementing the National Service framework for Mental Health
 - Accident prevention and reduction in falls amongst older people
 - Medicine management for older people with more than 4 medicines
 - Reducing coronary heart disease e.g. exercise referral scheme, healthy fruit scheme etc.
 - The social targets with these health priorities are:
 - To promote and develop Highway Lodge Residential Home
 - To develop fire prevention work with the Fire Service
 - To increase the number of direct care payments
 - Continue development of joined-up working with District Nurses
 - Develop a single equipment service
- **Reducing Crime and Feeling Safe**
 - Reduce burglary
 - Reduce motor vehicle crime
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour
 - Reduce violent crime
 - Reduce drug and alcohol related crime
 - Reduce the fear of crime
- **A Cleaner and Healthier Environment**
 - Establish an Environmental Partnership
 - Hold a major environmental youth conference
 - Gain certification to the international environmental standard ISO 14001 for Dacorum Borough Council's Waste Services
 - Complete environmental reviews for Dacorum Borough Council's landscape and recreation and housing maintenance
 - Continue to roll out new wheeled bin recycling service
 - Monitor and update Local Agenda 21 and Biodiversity Action Programme
- **Accessible Local Employment**
 - Finalise membership of the Dacorum Business Partnership
 - To brand and widely publicise the Business Contact Centre
 - To monitor service level agreement (SLA) with WENTA Business Services
 - Identify potential new sources of funding
 - To seek to change the perception of businesses within the council

- **Lifelong Learning**
- To support individuals and communities and local prosperity by enabling those who live and work in Dacorum to maximise their potential through lifelong learning
- By working in partnership, we will encourage and enable people of all ages to access learning and create new opportunities to help fill the gaps in provision. We will tailor courses specifically to the needs of hard to reach groups to encourage their participation in learning

- **Transportation**
- To aim to meet travel needs in the most effective and least environmentally damaging way
- Dacorum Borough Council in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, transport providers and the voluntary sector will aim to meet travel needs in Dacorum in the most sustainable way eg:
 - ◊ the Transportation Plan for Hemel Hempstead has been adopted and the development of the Transport Plans for Tring and Berkhamsted will take place during the next 2 years, in advance of the preparation of the West Herts Area Plan.

- **Meeting Housing Need**
- To maximise affordable housing for those that cannot meet market housing costs
- Dacorum Borough Council and its partners will seek to maximise the number of new affordable housing units for all groups of the community in need eg:
 - ◊ To expand the pilot scheme to provide the further housing for rent for key workers in the health sector by the end of 2003
 - ◊ Extra care housing for the elderly is being developed in Dacorum in partnership with Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council

- **Community Involvement**
- Identify, motivate and empower a diverse range of people across the Borough to enable and sustain their involvement in community activities
- Provide training and development opportunities for existing voluntary and community groups
- Build sustainable and cohesive communities

- **Culture, Arts and Leisure**
- To improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Borough through the provision of a diverse range of accessible arts opportunities and activities

- **Children and Young People**
- To develop a partnership of all agencies working in Dacorum and providing services and support to children and young people
- To undertake specific consultation with children and young people to contribute to the vision and priorities of Dacorum 2015

6. Implementation

This is Dacorum's updated Community Plan, which builds on the first plan. It seeks to reflect the key needs, aspirations and priorities of the people who live and work in Dacorum. Targets related to these key needs are contained within this plan.

7. Public Consultation

- 7.1 Previous consultation undertaken by members of the partnership identified the key theme areas for the plan, which along with specific targets have been agreed with local residents (via Dacorum's Citizens' Panel). The key priorities identified during consultation with the community have formed the basis of many of the actions contained in this Community Plan.
- 7.2 Many of the targets and objectives in this Community Plan are derived from statutory plans. These have been amalgamated with local aims and priorities currently being implemented. Work is now taking place on how these targets and objectives are monitored and reviewed.

8. Internal HCC Consultation

- 8.1 All Departments have been consulted throughout June/July and all amendments have been included in the plan.
- 8.2 Since this is an update of the 2002/03 plan we believe that the current level of internal consultation is sufficient to merit endorsement of the Dacorum Community Plan.

9. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for this budget year. Any new activities will be part of the normal budget setting process.