

ST. ALBANS AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

Author: Community Strategy Officer: Gill Clutterbuck
Tel: 01727 755335

Lead Officer: Mike Collier

Executive Member: Michael Janes

Local members: Bernard Lloyd, Iris Tarry, Geoff Churchyard, Roma Mills,
Derek Hills, David McManus, Aislinn Lee, Rosie Sanderson

1. Purpose of report

To present to Cabinet the St. Albans and District Community Strategy, produced by the St. Albans and District Local Strategic Partnership, of which HCC is a member. The Cabinet is asked to consider this first St. Albans and District Community Strategy.

2. Summary

St. Albans and District Community Strategy is a strategy spanning October 2003 – April 2007. It will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Five key themes are identified in the plan:

- On the move - working and travelling in St Albans and District
- A safer St Albans and District
- Safeguarding our environment and heritage
- A healthy, well housed, caring community
- Learning, leisure and the arts

3. Conclusion

That the Cabinet consider the St. Albans and District Community Strategy

4. **Background**

St. Albans and District Community Strategy will be published in November 2003 and identifies priorities for the District until 2007. (Strategy attached as an Appendix). This final strategy has been agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership Board on 1 October and is expected to be endorsed by St. Albans and District Council on 26 November. The strategy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

The strategy has been developed over the last twelve months through the Local Strategic Partnership five themed sub groups and agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership Board. The vision and themes outlined in the strategy were identified through various local consultations at the end of 2002. Each theme is led by an LSP Board member and supported by officers from the LSP member agencies. The priorities in each theme have been developed by the themed sub groups in consultation with local partnerships and agencies, and detailed work plans are being developed.

Members or officers of Hertfordshire County Council are involved in each of the themed sub groups, and all departments in the County Council have had an opportunity to comment on the first draft, through the internal consultation process.

5. **Key Themes of Community Plan**

St. Albans and District Community Strategy sets out a vision for the District, identifies priorities, and actions planned to address these priorities. The emphasis is on how the LSP member agencies can work together to improve quality of life in the District and actions focus on partnership working, to ensure the Local Strategic Partnership 'adds value' to the work already being achieved by member agencies. For HCC, contributions to each theme are drawn from its current priorities and strategies, given as appropriate in the local context. The key themes, and priorities for each theme are given below.

On the move - working and travelling in St Albans and District

- Improve roads, signs and pedestrian footways, with minimum disruption to local people
- Easily accessible and integrated transport for residents and businesses
- Encourage sustainable development of business in line with needs of local economy

A safer St Albans and District

- Cut crime
- Tackle anti-social behaviour
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce road casualties
- Reduce drug misuse

Safeguarding our environment and heritage

- Promote and implement environmental good practice within the district's green spaces, for example the "Ver River Park Project"
- Improve tourist and heritage attractions within the city and district
- For the public sector to lead by example, by using more environmentally friendly, 'green' forms of transport
- Develop a pollution reduction scheme within Watling Chase Community Forest to reduce pollution along M1 and M25
- Improve the environmental performance of the Local Strategic Partnership member agencies

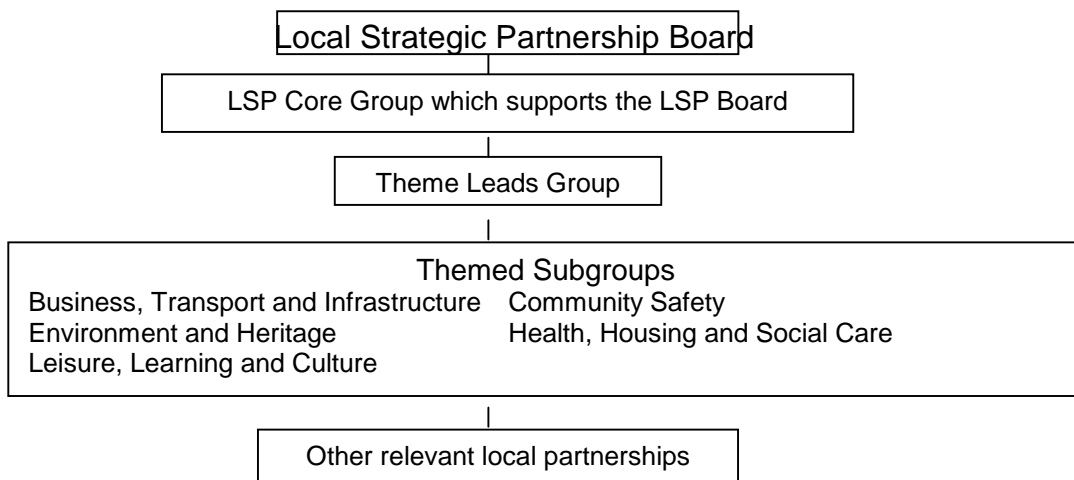
A healthy, well housed, caring community

- Maximise the supply of affordable housing
- Improve access to services
- Promote independence and a healthy lifestyle
- Support the Voluntary Sector
- Integrate services and promote joint working to improve service provision
- Improve services for young people

Learning, leisure and the arts

- Improve health and well-being by increasing participation for all groups in sport, leisure and arts activities
- Develop sports, leisure and arts facilities in partnership across the district
- Ensure everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their own potential through education and training – whatever their age
- Encourage schools and communities to work together more closely

6. Structure of the Local Strategic Partnership



7. Membership of the LSP Board

Hertfordshire County Councillors - Cllr Michael Janes (Cllr Derek Hills as nominated representative), Cllr Jill Gipps, Cllr Chris White	Groundwork Hertfordshire
St Albans City and District Councillors – Cllr Brian, Peyton, Cllr Malcolm Macmillan, Cllr Julian Daly	Churches Together
Council for Voluntary Service for St Albans District	Disability Access Group
St. Albans District Chamber of Commerce	Environment Forum
St Albans Churches Housing Association	Primary Care Trust
Association of Local Councils	University of Hertfordshire
Ethnic Minority Community Forum	Oaklands College
St. Albans City Centre Management	Hertfordshire Constabulary

8. Public consultation

Consultation events were organised by the District Council in late 2001 and early 2002, inviting a wide range of representatives from local community groups, partnerships and organisations. This consultation identified initial priorities, the main themes and made recommendations about who should sit on the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

Once the draft Strategy had been written it was put to public consultation in the District during July and August 2003. A summary leaflet and survey were developed for the public consultation process, which included a series of road shows in different locations in the District, circulation to ethnic minority groups, distribution points in local GP surgeries, libraries and shops, and making the summary, questionnaire and full strategy available on the internet. In addition the priorities were tested with local residents through a workshop for members of the St. Albans and District Community Panel. The feedback from this consultation was considered by each theme and amendments were made.

9. HCC internal consultation

The first draft of the Strategy was circulated to all receiving officers in June 2003, and cascaded through the departments for comments. Comments were noted, considered by the theme sub groups for each chapter, and agreed amendments were made prior to public consultation. Further comments were received and considered as part of the public consultation process.

10. Financial Implications

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.