

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

4

EAST HERTS COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

Author: David Hughes, Community Strategy Officer for East Herts
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Executive Member: Michael Janes

Local Members : Mary Bayes, David Beatty, Nigel Copping, Tony Dodd, Bernard Engel,
Bryan Hammond, Jane Pitman, Duncan Peek, Peter Ruffles.

1. Purpose of report

To present to Cabinet the East Herts Community Strategy, with a recommendation for endorsement

2. Summary

The East Herts Community Strategy 2003-2015 (East Herts Together) has as its main themes:

- High Quality Environment
- Traffic and Transport
- Affordable Housing
- Safe and Secure Homes
- Crime Prevention
- Combating Drugs
- Vulnerable Young People
- Supporting Vulnerable Adults
- Older People
- Parenting
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

In addition there are two cross-cutting themes - Social Inclusion and Sustainability.

3. Conclusion

The Cabinet needs to consider whether to endorse the East Herts Community Plan.

4. Background

This is the first East Herts Community Strategy and covers the period up to 2015. It will be supplemented by an Action Plan to be prepared in 2004. Community planning in East Herts has been based around 5 locality community strategies in Buntingford, Hertford, Ware, Sawbridgeworth and Bishops Stortford. Each locality is linked with the surrounding parishes and the process has included a rural parishes community planning conference held in July 2003. The results of this work have informed the themes in the District-wide strategy as have the priorities of the main agencies making up the East Herts LSP (including the County Council's "Promises").

5. The Plan's Priorities

High Quality Environment

- Protecting the District from over-development
- Parish Plans
- Biodiversity
- Renewable Energy

Traffic and Transport

- Rural Transport Services
- Transport for vulnerable people (Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride)
- Safer Routes to School

Safe and Secure Homes

- The State of the Estates
- Handyperson Scheme

Crime Prevention

- Burglary
- Car crime
- Violent crime

Combating Drugs

- Diversionary activities for young people

Vulnerable Young people

- Projects from the Preventative Strategy
- Youth diversionary activities
- Identifying young people for health interventions

Vulnerable adults

- Homelessness prevention
- Learning opportunities
- Supporting People

Parenting and Family Support

- Projects from the Preventative Strategy
- Provision for parenting classes and support to parents

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

- GP exercise referral scheme
- Healthy walks
- Exercise classes for older people's groups
- Smoking prevention

6. Implementation

The themes will form the basis of an action plan to be launched in June 2004.

7. Consultation

While there has been no public consultation on the draft plan, the themes have been informed by the outcomes of the five locality strategies (which themselves provided opportunities for public involvement) and the rural parishes community planning conference. The intention is to produce a popular version of the Plan in the East Herts Link (newspaper) and to take account of responses in preparing the Action Plan.

8. Internal HCC Consultation

All departments have been consulted and a number of amendments suggested, the majority by CSF to the sections on Vulnerable Young People and Parenting. Some of these have been agreed by the LSP and are now included. Others were not accepted on the basis of space constraints, that they were more appropriate within the Action Plan or that they would "unbalance" the Strategy (in the sense that it is everyone in East Herts, not just those suffering disadvantage). While it would have been preferable for all the comments to be included, it must be remembered that the Strategy is "owned" by the LSP and it is for them to decide the final content. However the Strategy does not conflict with any County Council Plans or Strategies and the majority of the adopted themes are consistent with and reflect the County Council's responsibilities and "Promises".

9. Financial Implications

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