

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET REPORT
MONDAY 12 JULY 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

13

DACORUM COMMUNITY PLAN

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

Author: Sue Bolton, Community Strategy Officer for Dacorum

Lead Officer for Dacorum: John Wood - Tel: 01992 555200

Executive Member:- Michael Janes

Local Community Strategy Board: Cllr Julian Taunton

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Summary

The Borough of Dacorum Community Plan (Dacorum 2015 – A Better Borough) has the main priorities of:

- Reducing Crime and Feeling Safe
- Creating a Cleaner and Healthier Environment
- Improving Social Care and Health
- Ensuring Accessible Local Employment
- Delivering Lifelong Learning
- Meeting Housing Needs
- Promoting Culture Arts and Leisure
- Encouraging Community Involvement
- Responding to Children and Young People

Dacorum 2015 – A Better Borough is both strategic and action orientated and does not include any major re-evaluation of the priorities of the last plan. However, this Community Plan has a different approach with new action plans, which are aimed to make a difference for the community.

3. Conclusion

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

4. Background

This is the third Dacorum Community Plan covering up to year 2015. It includes how the Community Plan was evolved, progress and achievements since the first Community Plan was published and the link to Herts Together.

5. The Plan's Priorities

In more detail the priorities and objectives are:

Reducing Crime and Feeling Safe

- Further improving relationships between the community and the police
- Raising awareness of the measures already in place and those proposed
- Reducing drug abuse and address alcohol related issues
- Improving our street scene by designing out crime

Creating a cleaner and healthier environment

- Changing human behaviour and educating people
- Creating more sustainable choices for people in terms of food, diet and environmentally friendly awareness
- Improving rivers, wetlands and water
- Prioritising environmental issues in all of our activities
- Better public transport in order to reduce atmospheric pollution

Improving social care and health

- Identifying existing inequalities by talking to skilled people, collecting and analysing information
- Providing integrated service delivery through one-stop shops, multi-tasking teams and sharing learning across organisations
- Prioritising current issues by involving the community – particularly young people
- Providing more care in the community

Ensuring accessible local employment

- Attracting and retaining a range of diverse businesses to the Borough
- Encouraging the best conditions for business in terms of infrastructure – Logistics, transport and utilities
- Raising Dacorum's image and identity by improving the physical environment, celebrating success and increasing pride in local identity
- Improving business/education links by establishing a formal partnership between schools and local companies
- Affordable housing to match the level of jobs created

Delivering lifelong learning

- Changing perceptions of learning and teaching and valuing **all** learning, including non academic learning
- Providing access to learning for all communities and encouraging the support and use of school resources in the process
- Sustaining the provision of learning opportunities by maintaining funding, flexibility and joined-up thinking
- Providing a variety of learning styles to appeal to a wide range of communities and individuals
- Involving and engaging the community in the decision-making process
- Involving businesses in addressing skills shortages

Meeting housing needs

- Creating and maintaining communities by creative design in new build, financial support for voluntary and community groups and expansion of the choice-based housing lettings scheme
- Providing housing types that meet changing social patterns by re-examining hard to let property and building adaptable homes
- Better use of existing housing stock
- Encouraging creative use of urban areas for housing
- Sustainable and less environmentally damaging housing stock

Promoting culture, arts and leisure

- Improving opportunities by working with other local authorities and agencies
- Identifying what people want
- Improving accessibility across a whole range of activities and opportunities
- Making activities affordable for everyone
- Safer places to play

Encouraging community involvement

- Creating an inclusive culture through volunteering and community activities
- Finding out what already exists and what people want
- Improving networks, information and communication to build a higher level of community participation
- Adequate resourcing and funding
- Valuing the differences in communities
- Increasing community engagement

Responding to children and young people

- Hold a Young People's Forum to explore their housing needs
- Create new out of school opportunities
- Explore young people's expectations of a 'Teen Clinic' and create a model
- Promote personal development for young people through lifelong learning

- Explore young people's expectations of a 'Teen Beat' and create a model
- Produce an age appropriate directory of services for children and young people

6. Implementation

The Dacorum Community Plan – Dacorum 2015 A Better Borough, builds on the previous two plans. Each subgroup's action plans will be based on the objectives in the Plan. Board and steering group meetings are to be held five times a year and will be responsible for monitoring and directing the action plans.

7. Public Consultation

At a conference in the Spring of 2004 delegates and experts looked at ways of working together more effectively. Residents were also invited to have their say through the Citizens Panel Survey. Those views have been incorporated into the plan.

8. Internal HCC Consultation

All Departments have been consulted during late May and early June 2004 and all amendments are currently being included in the plan and we believe that the current level of internal consultation is sufficient to merit endorsement of the Dacorum Community Plan.

The following number of responses were received:

- Fire and Rescue Service (1)
- Children Schools and Families (5)
- Corporate Services (1)
- Community Information (1)
- Environment (3)
- Adult Care Services (0)

(The Community Strategy Officer is the current Chair of the Health, Care and Community subgroup and the Acting Area Manager EPD also attends these meetings)

9. Financial Implications

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