

TITLE:	Action Packed Futures Event 2006
TO/ON:	Executive – 5th December 2005
BY:	Director of Environmental Services
PORTFOLIO:	Environment
STATUS:	Report

STRATEGIC FACTOR CHECKLIST

The Council's Corporate Management Team has confirmed that the Strategic Factor Checklist has been applied to the development of this report, and there are no key issues, over and above those set out in the body of the report, that need to be brought to Members' attention.

1 SUBJECT MATTER AND PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members about 'Action Packed Futures 2006' an annual Local Agenda 21 project and to seek support from Derwentside District Council to host the next event.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 'Action Packed Futures Event 2006' - is a partnership project between the County, District and Borough Councils of Durham, Groundwork East and West Durham and the County Durham Strategic Partnership.

2.2 It will be a free, public, one-day event, which will aim to provide a fun, interactive day for the whole community, whilst delivering key messages and actions on adopting a more sustainable lifestyle, providing the opportunity to find out more about green and modern living in the 21st Century. Based around a 'Virtual Village', visitors will be able to find out how they can lead more sustainable lives, at home, at work, at school and in their local community. A 'Village Green' area will provide a focal point for a full programme of entertainment throughout the day.

2.3 Hands-on activities and interactive displays will offer information and advice for those who want to find out more on a wide range of themes including the home, travel and transport, shopping, food, healthy living, energy efficiency, waste and recycling, leisure, 'the great outdoors' and the environment. A range of local organisations and agencies will be involved in delivering the different aspects.

2.4 Within each of these themes, the partnership hope to raise awareness of the range of sustainable activity that is going on across the district and county and enthuse members of the community to get involved, encouraging them to undertake and adopt practical action, which will enable them to help create more sustainable communities.

2.5 An integral part of the project will be the involvement of local community groups. This will be an ongoing process, with continual community engagement from the outset and throughout the event planning process. At the event a marquee will be dedicated to the 'Community Zone' and will provide an area for County Durham community groups/organisations to demonstrate the range of activities they are involved in and encourage wider participation within their local community. It will also provide networking opportunities between community members. The zone will include a virtual community centre, where groups will be able to deliver a 'taster' of activities their local centre can offer.

2.6 The event has run successfully in 2003, 2004 and 2005 in Chester-le-Street, Durham City and Sedgefield Borough, respectively. The Action Packed Futures Steering Group made the decision to tour the event around County Durham, year to year, to provide an opportunity for new communities to benefit annually, widening involvement across the county each year. The project aims and objectives are shown in the appendix, together with photographs and press releases from the previous years.

2.7 It is proposed that next year the event should take place in Stanley, at the Kings Head Playing Fields, on Sunday 18th June from 11am-5pm. Derwentside District Council would need to be the lead partner in the event and co-ordinate the event budget. There is a site visit planned late this year or early next year to consider the suitability of the site. This will include accessibility and car parking.

2.8 The Stanley Fun Day event is normally held on this site and it will be prudent to link with this, if feasible.

2.9 Funding support in the previous years has been received from NPower, EAGA, the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership, the County and District Councils, and in-kind support from the Groundwork Trust, including various local grants that may become available. The steering group are currently looking for grants and funding sources for the event. The expenditure for the event will depend upon the success of the funding bids. This is to make certain there is no shortfall in the funding available. DDC will not be responsible for any short falls. An approximate budget for the event will be £25,000.

3. RELEVANT MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS/ OPTIONS

3.1 For the event to be a success there will need to be top-level commitment from both members and officers. Although the Sustainability Officer will be the lead officer co-ordinating the project, help will be needed

from other Divisions, on health & safety, risk assessment and finance matters. Therefore early commitment would enable the project to be integrated into relevant officers work programmes for next year. A consultant will be employed to organise the event to minimise the workload away from DDC. Three quotes will be obtained early next year, with a maximum fee pending on the success of the funding bids.

4 OPTIONS

4.1 Members have the option of whether or not to support the holding of the 2006 event in Stanley.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The project aims to increase the level of understanding and awareness of sustainability and generate action across Derwentside to help create sustainable communities. It is also hoped that the project will help improve quality of life, through the adoption of new habits and lifestyle changes, following the event and encourage new links across the Durham community.

5.2 The event will help endorse the Council's commitment to Local Agenda 21 and add to the work already undertaken by the Council's Sustainability Officer, Recycling Officer, Local Nature Reserves Officer and Energy Management Officer. The event will promote the authority, stimulate the local economy and get local people involved in a great day out.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to consider the content of this report and agree to hold the Action Packed Futures event in Stanley next year.

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Project aims and objectives:

- To raise awareness of Sustainable Development and 'Local Agenda 21' to communities in the District
- To contribute to the development of sustainable communities across the District and the County
- To effectively involve and engage communities in 'Action Packed Futures 2006'
- To develop networking opportunities, information sharing and joint working between the community groups involved
- To promote the various projects/initiatives taking place that communities can get involved with/benefit from
- To promote a sustainable vision for the future