

Implementation Executive

25 April 2008

Sustainable Community Strategy



Report of John Richardson, Chief Executive, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the preparation of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for County Durham.

Background

2. The development of the SCS has taken place alongside the development of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008 -11. The County Durham Partnership has engaged with a wide range of stakeholders to agree the priorities and outcomes for both the long term SCS and the LAA, which is the shorter term delivery plan for the most pressing priorities.
3. The SCS focuses on developing sustainable communities as places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. It reflects an outcomes framework that is based on a range of evidence, and which has the following key themes and high level outcomes (goals):

| Themes | High level outcomes |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Health and well being | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All residents lead long and healthy lives |
| Safe | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People are safe and feel safe |
| Enjoy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture, leisure and sporting opportunities meet the needs and aspirations of the community |
| Economic well being | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A modern, dynamic and diverse economy• Make the most of our tourism potential• Reduction in poverty• An enterprising and entrepreneurial society |
| Achieve | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased attainment in learning and work• Good facilities are provided for learning and work |
| Positive contribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A vibrant and sustainable voluntary and community sector• Strong cohesive communities |
| Physical place | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A high quality clean, green and attractive and accessible environment• Creation and maintenance of a high quality local built environment• Provision of sustainable residential accommodation across all tenures• Enhanced choice and access to sustainable and integrated transport networks• A balanced natural environment with a reduced impact on climate change |

4. A consultation draft of the SCS, based on the above, will be considered at the County Durham Partnership Interim Board meeting on 24th April. If agreed, this will be the basis for a consultation exercise with the County Partnership Interim Board members and a wider range of organisations and stakeholders.

Recommendation and Reasons

5. The Implementation Executive is recommended to note the current position in the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy

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Appendix 1: Implications

Local Government Reorganisation

(Does the decision impact upon a future Unitary Council)

The new unitary authority will need to meet the statutory requirement to have a Sustainable Community Strategy.

Finance

The Council will need to address the financial implications of its contribution to meeting the goals and outcomes in the SCS

Staffing

Staffing resources are required to support the County Durham Partnership.

Equality and diversity

Key issues related to equalities and diversity have been taken into account in the SCS.

Accommodation

The County Durham Partnership support staff occupy accommodation at Rivergreen

Crime and disorder

Key issues related to addressing crime and disorder have been taken into account in the SCS.

Sustainability

A sustainability assessment of the SCS will be undertaken.

Human rights

None

Localities and Rurality

The needs of specific localities and rural areas will be addressed through work to achieve priority outcomes.

Young people

Priorities of the Children's Trust have been taken into account in the SCS.

Consultation

The outcomes set out in the SCS have been influenced by public consultation during the development of the 8 district level community strategies and the views of citizens gathered via surveys.

Health

Key issues related to addressing health problems in County Durham have been taken into account in the SCS.