

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date of Committee 2nd September 2009

Report Title Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Summary This paper submits the agreed vision and outcomes for Warwickshire and summarises key issues for the partnership which may warrant scrutiny in 2009/10

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Would the recommendation decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) PSB Members - Involved in Consultation Process
- Other Elected Members PSB Members - Involved in Consultation Process
- Cabinet Member Cllr Timms ,
- Chief Executive
- Legal x Sarah Duxbury, Michelle McHugh
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers Involved in the Consultation Process
- District Councils Involved in the Consultation Process
- Health Authority Involved in the Consultation Process

- Police Involved in the Consultation Process
- Other Bodies/Individuals Involved in the Consultation Process

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council Full Council will be asked to endorse the Strategy at its meeting on 8th September 2009

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No 4

Overview and Scrutiny Board

2nd September 2009

Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendation

The Board:

1. Notes the Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy as agreed by Cabinet on 9th July 2009.
2. Identifies suggested areas for Scrutiny during the 2009/10 year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Sustainable Community Strategy was agreed by all partners in Warwickshire in June by the Public Service Board and the Public Service Board Advisory Forum. It was subsequently agreed by Cabinet on 9th July and will be submitted for the consideration of Full Council on 8th September 2009. This report contains the Sustainable Community Strategy and outlines key issues for the partnership which may provide the basis for potential scrutiny topics for 2009/10.

2. The Development of the Sustainable Community Strategy

- 2.1 A Visioning Event held at the Nuneaton Town Football Club on 13th January 2009 provided the basis for the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Warwickshire. An outline of the proposed strategy was subsequently endorsed by the Public Service Board (PSB) at its meeting on 3rd March 2009 with the 1st Draft Strategy approved subject to comments. Full Council also considered the document at its March meeting.
- 2.2 Drafts of the report were subsequently circulated and the culmination was approval of the document by the Public Service Board on 25th June 2009 and by Cabinet on 9th July 2009.
- 2.3 At the time of writing this report the public facing summary document has been finalised and is attached for the information of the Board. The full strategy is currently being finalised and will be either emailed to members in advance of the meeting or tabled depending upon the nature of comments

received and work required to produce the final document. There is now a need to embed the Strategy within the respective partner organisations and Full Council will be receiving the document on 8th September 2009 for onward publication to communities.

3. Delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy through the LAA

- 3.1 Government Guidance is clear that the LAA will act as the three year delivery mechanism for the achievement of the longer term aspirations within the SCS. Accordingly a delivery document is currently being prepared by partners which will seek to encapsulate the key actions that will be required to ensure delivery of the SCS. It is anticipated that this document will be completed in October 2009.
- 3.2 The matter of delivery also raises issues about the capacity of the partnership to deliver on its objectives. This has particular relevance with respect to Comprehensive Area Assessment and an exercise to examine partnership effectiveness was conducted by the Public Service Advisory Forum on 29th June 2009.
- 3.3 The key issues that were identified will form the basis of an Improvement Plan that will guide partnership effectiveness over the coming year. It will also be supplemented by an IDeA peer review in early March 2010.

4. Key Issues

4.1 Key Issues for the Partnership to address during 2009/10 are:

- CAA and Partnership Effectiveness: There is a need to ensure preparedness for forthcoming inspections by building on our strengths and addressing our weaknesses.
- Reviewing Governance Arrangements: A review of partnership governance arrangements is currently underway. The remit of the Group is to conduct a robust examination of the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements (within the contexts of previous and future inspection arrangements) with particular focus on:
 - a) Current Partnership Theme Group at a county level across the six Blocks
 - b) Links between the PSB, LSPs, county, district and locality arrangements
 - c) How we should pursue joint scrutiny arrangements
 - d) Streamlining the way in which all groups operate
- Improving Delivery Arrangements: There is a need to address delivery arrangements and to reinforce and improve accountability in terms of delivery, risk, resources and performance. This is particularly true in areas where partner engagement is in need of improvement with Health and specifically the PCT being an issue.

- A Medium Term Financial Strategy for the LAA: Recent experiences have demonstrated the need for greater clarity around the resourcing of LAA activity.
- Communication and Engagement: There is now an LAA Communications Framework which seeks to improve internal and external communications in respect of the LAA in particular and partnership working in general. Notwithstanding this there is a recognition that more work needs to be undertaken with Members in terms of information, capacity and support.
- Narrowing the Gaps: The underlying vision of the partnership is a Narrowing of the Gaps that exist within the County. The extent to which this will be achieved is very much dependent upon the extent to which partners are willing to act upon the myriad of data that is available to target and prioritise resources in an innovative manner that addresses the cause as much as the consequence. This is the ultimate challenge and an important barometer of the extent to which partnership working is a success or not.
- Developing an effective Sub-Regional partnership: Work is underway on Total Place which will seek to explore efficiencies of scale with Coventry and Solihull. The SCS identifies specific work that will need to be undertaken with our partners on economic development, housing and transport.

5. Summary and Suggested Topics

- 5.1 Scrutiny of partnership working in Warwickshire has by and large focussed on performance information and task and finish resource investigations of Area Based Grant. Whilst both are valuable and should be continued there is added value for Scrutiny to examine aspects of partnership working where impact and value added are issues and where the absence or barriers to partnership working are resulting in an adverse impact on communities.
- 5.2 In the light of this and the issues for the partnership above some potential areas could include:
- **Improving Member Engagement and Accountability of Partnerships**
 - **Ensuring Effective links between partnership working and communities**
 - **Narrowing the Gaps**
 - **Cross Cutting Issues**
 - **Tackling Underperformance & Lack of Engagement**

Monica Fogarty
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 Warwick
 August 2009



warwickshire together

The Warwickshire we all want in 2026 -
Sustainable Community Strategy

Our Vision for Warwickshire

In 2026, Warwickshire will be a fair, safe and prosperous place where:

- Inequalities that exist by geography or within communities are reduced;
- There is good access to services, choice and opportunities;
- Sustainability is pursued through balancing our current needs with those of future generations.

We will achieve our Vision through nine outcomes under the three themes of: People, Places and Prosperity

People

We belong to safe and strong communities where people get on together

We all live healthy, active and independent lives

We all have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve

Places

Our environment is clean, green and sustainable

Our housing is appropriate and affordable

Our places are connected through transport, technology and services

TACKLING INEQUALITY

ACCESSIBILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

Prosperity

Our economy is innovative, competitive and entrepreneurial

Our workforce is diverse, trained and highly skilled

Our economic well being is continuously improving

You can help us achieve this through:

- **Taking Responsibility** - for areas such as your health, environment, community and for those you look after
- **Getting Involved** - in your local community through volunteering and community/area forums
- **Contacting Us** - when you need advice, help with access to services or have views on how things could be improved in your area
- **Being Proud and Aspiring** - about the Warwickshire you live in and the Warwickshire you want. Think about how, together, we can remove the barriers to you and your community as we strive to build a better Warwickshire together

Warwickshire Together is a partnership of councils, police, health, other public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations who are working together to deliver better services for the people of Warwickshire.

This document outlines the vision of what Warwickshire will look like in 2026 and the focus of activity for 'Warwickshire Together'.

A more detailed version of this Strategy has also been produced which, together with the Local Area Agreement, provides the framework for delivery and how we, as partners, will work together and with you - the public - to achieve our Vision. Both documents are available through the contact below.

If you would like this information in a different format, i.e. large print or audio, or a language other than English, contact the Interpreting & Translation Services Unit on 01926 412698.



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Directorate:
Contact:
E-mail:

August 2009
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/laa>
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Produced by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of Warwickshire Together