

Date of Meeting	14th December 2006
Title of Report	A Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire
Portfolio	Partnership Working
Link to Corporate Priorities	Partnership Working
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	N/A
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

The latest draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire includes a long list of potential outcomes for inclusion in the emerging Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire. Officers across the Council are involved in work to revise the strategy and the various blocks within the Local Area Agreement have commented on the content of the draft strategy and the long list of outcomes.

Members are invited to endorse the submission prepared by Officers and to give consideration to how future invitations for consultation will be managed and when the Executive will consider the draft Local Area Agreement.

Officer Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the following

- 1. That Members of the Executive approve and endorse the response that Officers prepared to the consultation draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire.**
- 2. That the Executive considers the first detailed draft of the Local Area Agreement at the January meeting.**
- 3. That Members delegate authority to the Community Partnerships Team Leader in consultation with the Lead Member for Partnerships to submit consultation responses relating to the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire.**
- 4. That the final Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire be submitted to the Executive for approval.**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides a short overview of the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire alongside the production of a Local Area Agreement. The appendices to this report include the consultation draft of the Sustainable Strategy at Appendix 1, the response prepared by Officers at Appendix 2 and the cover letter addressed to Wiltshire County Council stating that the endorsement of Members is still required at Appendix 3.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1. **Option One** It is recommended that Members approve the following
 - 2.1.1. That Members of the Executive approve and endorse the response that Officers prepared to the consultation draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire.
 - 2.1.2. That the Executive considers the first detailed draft of the Local Area Agreement at the January meeting.
 - 2.1.3. That Members delegate authority to the Community Partnerships Team Leader in consultation with the Lead Member for Partnerships to submit consultation responses relating to the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire.
 - 2.1.4. That the final Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire be submitted to the Executive for approval.
- 2.2. **Option two** Members do not approve the recommendations listed in paragraph 2.1 above.

3. Background Information

- 3.1. Wiltshire Strategic Board, the Local Strategic Partnership for Wiltshire is currently developing both a Sustainable Community Strategy for Wiltshire and the first Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Wiltshire. The LAA is a Government requirement that affects all Local Authorities. Wiltshire is in the third and final wave of the development of LAAs.
- 3.2. A Sustainable Community Strategy or a Sustainable Strategy is a follow on from a Community Strategy. In Wiltshire this will examine priorities and trends to identify the things that will need attention if Wiltshire is to continue to be a good place to live for the longer as well as the short term. Wiltshire Strategic Board will agree the final community strategy and will monitor the achievement of the improvements set out in the LAA and in the other action plans that will deliver on issues identified within the Community Strategy.
- 3.3. There is an opportunity for many agencies across Wiltshire to work in partnership with the community to help address quality of life issues identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy, the LAA provides one framework to enable this.
- 3.4. An LAA can be described as an agreement between government and local areas which strikes a balance between the priorities of central Government, and those of local government and their partners. It involves negotiating a joint commitment to deliver services within a framework of measurable and accountable outcomes (or goals).

- 3.5. Wiltshire's LAA is being developed in line with a template provided by central Government which uses 'blocks' or 'themes' to identify the relevant areas of service delivery under the agreement. These are:
- *Children and Young People*
 - *Economic Development and Enterprise*
 - *Environment*
 - *Healthier Communities*
 - *Older People*
 - *Safer and Stronger Communities*
- 3.6. Within each of the blocks there are a number of mandatory outcomes that each LAA in the Country must include. Other outcomes are being developed as the result of work in each of the block areas. The LAA can be viewed as one of the delivery mechanisms for the community strategy, as such many of the outcomes that are being put forward are relevant to issues within the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.7. Measurable actions and resources including nominated lead agencies for the work and accountable partners will be included in the detail of the Local Area Agreement.
- 3.8. The process for agreeing the LAA involves negotiations with Officers from the Government Office for the South West (GOSW). There is a strict timetable by which all LAAs must be negotiated and agreed. Work included in the LAA is effective from April 2007. Key dates in the development and negotiations for Wiltshire are;
- 30th November 2006:** Wiltshire Strategic Board Executive will consider the first draft LAA. If accepted the first draft will be formally submitted to GOSW as the first draft in the negotiation process.
- 24th January 2007:** Wiltshire Strategic Board will consider a second draft LAA after comments have been received back from GOSW.
- 21st March 2007:** final document submitted to GOSW ready for sign off by Whitehall.
- 3.9. There will be opportunities for this Council to comment and feedback on the draft versions of the LAA within the timeframe listed above. Officers are recommending that Members give consideration of the first draft at the Executive meeting on January 18 2007.
- 3.10. The current draft Community Strategy included at Appendix 1 and the response prepared by Officers at Appendix 2 represents the latest opportunity for this Council to comment and contribute in an ongoing consultation process. Members are invited to endorse the response prepared by Officers and to add any further comments or observations that can be forwarded to County Officers revising the draft.
- 3.11. Members may wish to consider giving delegated authority to the Community Partnerships Team Leader in conjunction with the Lead Member for Partnerships to submit consultation responses on behalf of NWDC where the timescale does not allow a fully informed report to be brought to this Committee.
- 3.12. Formal endorsement of a finalised Strategy or LAA and commitment of resources and agreement to any governance structure would be subject to Executive approval.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There is no requirement or request within this report for Members to commit financial resources.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report however this Council will need to give consideration to any Governance framework that is developed as a part of the Local Area Agreement.

6. Community and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There is a great opportunity for issues and priorities that affect North Wiltshire to be addressed within the Sustainable Community Strategy and in turn actioned within the LAA.
- 6.2. A good working relationship and contributions from Officers and Members will serve to ensure that North Wiltshire issues are championed through both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA.

7. Human Resource Implications

- 7.1. Officers from across the Council are working at block level on the development of outcomes for each of the LAA blocks. Similarly Officers are contributing to the continuing development of the Sustainable Strategy. This work is included within team workplans. The implications of actions that are approved against outcomes within the final LAA will need to be considered as a part of the Council's Business Planning process.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 8.1. The very nature of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA puts issues of equality and diversity at its centre. There are opportunities for inequalities to be addressed as a result of the actions of many partners within the LAA.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – a Sustainable Strategy for Wiltshire consultation draft Sept 2006• Appendix 2 – NWDC draft response to a Sustainable Strategy for Wiltshire• Appendix 3 – Cover letter to WCC
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAA and Community Strategy working files