

REPORT

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Cllr Cole-Morgan Cabinet Member for Community & Housing

'Building Strong Communities' – A Community Development Policy for Salisbury District

1. Purpose of the Report:

To adopt the Council's new Community Development Policy – 'Building Stronger Communities' (Appendix 1)

2. Background:

2.1 A Community development policy working group was established in April 2003. The group consisting of The Portfolio Holder and Vice Chair of Community & Housing, Chief Executive, Policy Director, Head Of Community Initiatives and the Principal Community Development officer who has prepared the document and action plan.

2.2 The policy has been written to:

- raise awareness and understanding of the term 'Community Development' and its key principles and values which the council as a whole is committed too;
- set out a three year programme of action
- ensure each of the 5 Policies and the 18 priorities reflect the councils pledge to a way of working with the local community, statutory partners, and the voluntary and community sector organisations in the next three years.

3. Key Points within the Policy

3.1 There are 5 key Policies and 18 priorities which reflect the differing values and benefits of community development which will provide the framework for the Councils services and provisions over the next three years:

Policy 1: Raise awareness of community development principles within the council

Policy 2: Encourage participation in decision making through consultation and 'hands on' support to ensure communities, groups and local people have an opportunity to influence decisions that affect their quality of life.

Policy 3: To promote Fairness and Opportunities for all.

Policy 4: To work with Key Voluntary Sector organisations to ensure the sector can:

- Contribute more effectively to SDC policy development and decision making processes;

- Develop its services to local people
- Improve its campaigning, representation and advocacy role.

Policy 5: To support the development of community provisions.

3.2 Each Policy Issue has a number of priorities that will provide the focus of community development to be supported and/or directly provided by the Council.

4. Promoting the Policy

4.1 The policy will be published and distributed widely across the district and beyond.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 The Cabinet adopts the Community Development Policy.

6. Financial Implications:

6.1 Costs for delivering some of the Priorities can be met from within the current Community Development Budget held by the Principal Community Development Officer. However, bids to budgets held within other units of the Council and external Partnership funding will also need to be made to deliver the Community Development Policy in its entirety i.e. training for staff and officers.

7. Legal:

7.1 The development of new partnerships and management of external funding streams may require legal support as and when required and the powers for entering into such new partnerships will be considered at the time.

7.2 The use of three-year service agreements with organisations funded by SDC and the COMPACT and its Codes of Good practice may require legal support and guidance from time to time.

8. Human Rights: None in relation to this report although some of the outcomes, such as the subject matter of any new partnerships, may do but these will be considered at the time.

9. Personnel:

9.1 The recruitment of trainers, consultants and volunteers may be required dependant on the development of new/existing projects/partnerships.

10. Community Safety: None

11. Council's Core Values:

- Being fair and equitable
- Supporting the disadvantage
- Communicating with the public
- an open and learning council

12. Wards Affected : All of Salisbury District Council